

PARK SPARKS

JANUARY 2020

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

A New Resolution:



The new year brings the season of resolutions. This year, make a resolution to not only use your power more efficiently but to understand what might impact your peak demand and make changes to reduce it. Peak

demand is the maximum amount of power being used during a set interval each billing period. Park Electric uses a one hour interval to calculate demand. Think about all the electric devices you have running concurrently during any given hour. More than likely you have the most things turned on in the morning when getting ready for work or school and in the evening upon getting home. What might you do to stagger the use of your electric appliances throughout the day to reduce that demand?

Here are some ideas to get you started:

-Does your dishwasher have a delay start feature? Set it to come on a few hours after you leave the house or go to bed. You will still have clean dishes! Also, many washing machines have a delay start feature as well.

-If you heat with electricity using programmable thermostats may help to reduce demand if you program them to come on before you get up. That way the house is warm before you start turning on other electric appliances.



-For smaller changes, think about using a Crock pot or Instapot to prepare your meal while you're at work. These could reduce demand as you no longer need to start dinner after getting home, with the added bonus of having a hot meal waiting for you when you arrive!



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 30TH!

Park Electric offers two scholarships for the 2020/2021 school year.

- The MECA Memorial \$500 scholarship is awarded by the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association, one for each of the four districts.
- The BEPC-PEC \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by Park Electric to one deserving winner.

Scholarship information and applications available at www.parkedelectric.coop, in the Park Electric office, or at your high school guidance counselors office.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov



Manager's Comments *by Matt Haggerty*

Have you ever wondered what your directors' duties and expectations are? According to one of our policies, "the Board will direct the activities of the cooperative by their consideration of broad policy areas. It is the duty of each member to be well informed about the cooperative's business and the electric utility business in Montana." Another way to say that is the board governs your electric cooperative by setting policy that dictates the way we conduct business.

The board and our management team work continuously to ensure a bright future for Park Electric. A few of our many areas of focus are: 1. Reliable service. This means providing electricity 7 days a week 24 hours a day. We work with our power providers regularly to ensure accurate load forecasts. This helps ensure that we do not get into the situation that we see all too often in the news in other regions of the US where utilities have to use brown outs. Brown outs are used when there is not enough electricity during peak loads. These can be caused by not having enough stable generation resources. 2. Providing service at the lowest possible cost. This is an area that all of Park Electric's team has worked very hard at. We have been able to maintain our rates without an increase since 2012. This is amazing, I would like you all to think of other goods and services you purchase. I would expect that there are very few that have stayed the same cost for the last seven years.

In order to make sound policy decisions the board needs a great deal of information and knowledge concerning the electrical industry. After all, the decisions they make now will likely impact the co-op for years to come. Topics the board is well versed on are managing electrical demand in your home, zebra mussels, Pallid sturgeon, wholesale

power supply, renewable energy, energy efficiency programs and many other topics. These are the things we discuss in the board room as well. In addition to board meetings your directors are expected to attend classes to provide themselves with continued education. In the last few years members of your board have attended classes on rate making, communicating with members, how the power grid works and the list goes on. These classes are also great for networking opportunities. Networking is a great way to find out what things are working well for other co-ops. Then the Board can decide if these things are the right fit for Park Electric.

Your directors devote a great deal of their personal time to make sure they are able to act as the regulators of your coop in your best interests. In fact four of the directors have volunteered to represent Park Electric in our statewide MECA meetings in 2020 as members of specialized committees. They are also expected to be educated on legislative activity that impacts you, the members they represent. Frequently coop directors from across the state participate in the rule making process by heading off to Helena or Washington, DC in order to be a voice for the electric cooperative membership they represent.

All of these duties and expectations are fulfilled by your directors without a salary. The board works to ensure your co-op is financially healthy and provides the best service at a very reasonable price. Remember, the seven directors of Park Electric Cooperative are your representatives in the co-op. Please thank them for the services they provide the membership the next time you cross paths. Also, we have a link on the Park Electric website of how our board members can be reached if you do not already know them.

Happy New Year!



Park Electric would like to wish you a happy and prosperous 2020.

