

PARK SPARKS



MARCH 2021

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

NEW REBATES!

Park Electric is pleased to share our new and expanded energy efficiency rebate program! Have you been thinking about replacing one of your major appliances? How about finally getting that programmable thermostat you've been thinking about? We would like to offer you a rebate to help!

This year, we have expanded our rebate program to include washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, and programmable thermostats. We will still be offering rebates for electric water heaters as well. All rebates will be issued in the form of a bill credit. When you are making a buying decision about new appliances, we encourage you to find the most energy efficient one for your

needs. The new rebate program offers rebates to members who purchase Energy Star rated appliances from any retailer. All you have to do is fill out a form from our website and send it in with proof of purchase. We encourage you to visit www.energystar.gov for a comprehensive listing of all

Energy Star rated appliances available in many price ranges. All details of the program can be found at our website www.parkelectric.coop under the Energy Efficiency menu. When visiting our website, don't forget to check out all our other energy saving tips!



Available Rebates:

Water Heater - Depends on Size

Clothes Washer - \$75

Clothes Dryer - \$50

Refrigerator - \$50

Freezer - \$50

In Line Thermostat - 50% of cost up to \$20

Programmable/Smart Thermostat - 50% of cost up to \$75



Managers Comments *by* Matt Haggerty

Reliability is something that Park Electric strives for, but there are conditions that happen that are out of our control. Our maintenance program prevents many outages, and the ones that we do experience are short in most situations. In 2019-2020 NorthWestern Energy replaced transmission lines in Paradise Valley to our Pine Creek and Chico substations. These upgrades have noticeably increased our reliability in this area over the last year. Sure, during the construction and replacement of these lines NorthWestern had to take several power outages to complete the upgrades, but this will benefit our members for the next 40-60 years with increased reliability. Park Electric will also be making some upgrades to our system in 2021 in this area that will require a power outage. In the near future we will let members know about what these required upgrades are and when the necessary outages will take place.

During 2020 our crews replaced a large amount of underground cable that had been causing power outages. In general, underground cable has a life expectancy over 40 years. In 2020 we replaced 11 sections of bad cable across our service territory. This is not the only maintenance work we need to



complete on a yearly basis, we also trim trees, install avian protection, pole testing, OCR testing, and other



maintenance repairs needed on our lines. We are currently making a schedule of cable replacements, and other maintenance work for 2021. As you could imagine maintenance is a never ending job, each cable replacement helps, each tree being trimmed helps, but each year that passes we have more trees growing, and cable aging that will need replaced. We are always up to these challenges, and continually working to improve our reliability

to our members.

Some weather events cause large outages. As I am sure everyone knows we were hit with high winds around 93 MPH last month causing many areas to see blinking lights, and in some cases power outages. This made for busy times at the Park Electric office, and even more so for our crews. Our crews were out working around the clock at times to restore power. They had to replace several poles that broke, and splice out wires that were taken down from the winds blowing trees through the lines. Since we have no control over what the weather does, we simply respond as quickly as we can to restore the power during these major storms. Our goal is to have 100% reliability, but I am sure mother nature will make sure we never continuously have that.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on March 14! Set your clocks forward by one hour.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

Source: www.energy.gov

