





HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

July 2024



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

CEO MESSAGE

HCE Rate Increase



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

I joined Hill County Electric (HCE) eight years ago. During my time here, the board, myself and employees have worked very hard to try and operate as efficiently as possible while still maintaining a high level of reliable power. HCE has focused on preventative maintenance and pole change outs, which

have proven to be effective in limiting our outages.

The financial pressures exerted by rising interest rates, inflation and the cost of power continue to go up for HCE. For example, energy costs have increased and are projected to increase at least another 8% over the next three years. Over the past few years, HCE has been absorbing these costs. As your cooperative, we were

doing our best to avoid a rate increase. HCE hired a firm to conduct a rate study to evaluate the current structure and what HCE needs to do to remain financially sound in the future. The recommendation from the study confirmed what HCE board members determined, that it is time for rate increases. From December 2023 to February 2024, our residential member's average bill was \$125. The average increase to accounts will be about ten percent and will go into effect September 1, 2024.

There are programs available to help with energy costs through HRDC and HCE Energy Assistance programs. More information can be found at <https://hcelelectric.com/my-account/energy-assistance>

This decision was not made lightly by our board of directors. This adjustment will allow us to continue to improve our electric systems' reliability, pay our employees fairly and provide members with the highest level of reliability that they have come to know and expect.

Additional information can be found at www.hcelelectric.com.

Rate Schedule	Old Monthly Recurring	New Monthly Recurring	Old Demand	New Demand	Old Energy	New Energy
Rate Class 11 Rural Service	\$30.00	\$40.00			\$0.05000	\$ 0.05185
Rate Class 15 Annual Service	\$30.00	\$40.00			\$0.05000	\$0.03908
Rate Class 11 Irrigation Service			\$20.11	\$24.11	\$0.09250	\$0.09958
Rate Class 41 Small Commercial Service	\$50.00	\$60.00			\$0.05000	\$0.05859
Rate Class 45 Large Commercial Service			\$10.00	\$12.00	\$0.05000	\$0.05580
Area Lighting						
40 Watt LED	\$8.00	\$10.00				
250 Watt HPS	\$8.00	\$10.00				
175 Watt MV	\$10.00	\$10.00				

EPA's Final Rule: Flawed Regulations for Power Providers

The EPA's final ruling is the wrong plan at a critical time for our nation's energy future. The rule is beyond repair, and it is:



- **Unlawful.** It violates the law, exceeds EPA's authority, and disregards Supreme Court rulings.
- **Unachievable.** The technology is not ready. The rule relies on the widespread adoption of technology for carbon capture and sequestration that does not currently exist. Which may be promising but is not ready for prime time.
- **Unrealistic.** The compliance timelines endanger the construction of new natural gas plants and all but ensure coal units will have to shut down.

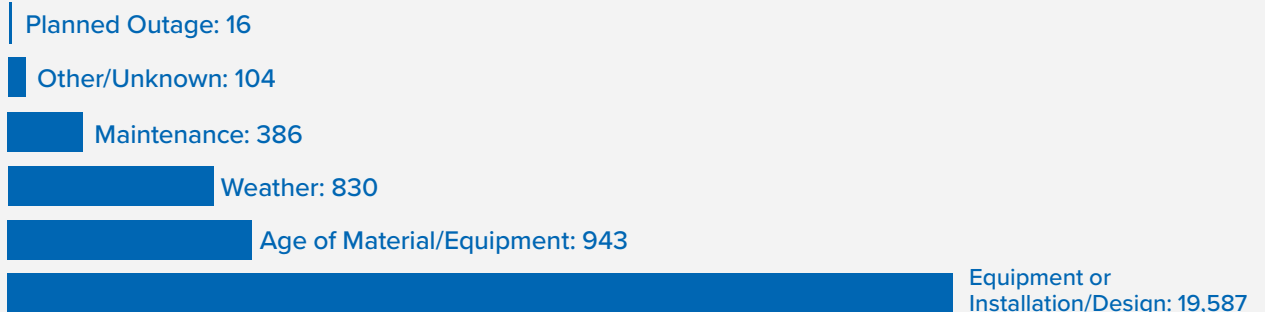
The American economy cannot succeed without reliable electricity. Smart energy policy recognizes that fundamental truth and works to help keep the lights on and homes heated. The new EPA rules ignore important issues such as our nation's ongoing reliable and affordable electricity. It is also the wrong approach at a critical time in our nation's energy future.

This unlawful power plant rule will increase the risk of blackouts. There is more energy growth forecasted than our grid can provide today, this new rule is not going to make that happen in the future. This will result in higher costs for families and businesses. The EPA cannot ignore the growing reliability challenges across the nation. Especially now with the new data centers and manufacturing facilities coming online.

This new U.S. energy policy is a major threat particularly when it does not adequately consider impacts on grid resiliency, reliability and cost to the American people.

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately - account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



HCE Annual Meeting Wrap-up

Thank you to the sixty-two members who attended Hill County Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting of Members, and to the 303 members who voted by mail. It is a time to celebrate the successes of the past year and look forward to our future.

We would like to thank Gerald Rutledge for his 30 years of service on the Hill County Electric Board of Trustees and Congratulate him on his retirement. We wish Gerald the best!

At the meeting, there were elections for two trustees of the Cooperative. Voting occurred via mail-in ballots and was dispensed with for in person voting at the meeting. This year there were two Districts up for election and one candidate for each district; Kelly Rutledge was elected to serve District 4, and Nick Siebrasse will continue to represent District 5.

The Annual Meeting was a time for us to recognize the dedication of our team and celebrate the successes of the previous year. We encourage our members to attend and actively participate in future annual meetings to help us foster growth and continue to serve our members.

Trevor Standing Rock



Board Trustee Trevor Standing Rock of District 2 recently received the Board Leadership certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Hill County Electric bylaws require that Trustees gain their credentials in order to remain a board member. Trevor not only completed the required Director Credentials a few years ago, he exceeded his requirement by obtaining his Board Leadership certificate.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative trustees, requiring knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business models.

All of the Trustees at Hill County Electric have their Director Credentials, with Trevor Standing Rock exceeding the Director requirements.

Congrats to Trevor for obtaining this next level of certification! We appreciate his dedication to all HCE members.



Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

**Denotes photo available on website*

2009 GMC 2500HD*

Duramax 130,000 miles, TDK bumper, bed liner, complete rubber floor, aftermarket wheels, more than I can list. Call 406.399.2803.

Motorized Tow Behind DR Rototiller

Like new DR 36" motorized pull behind rototiller, used less than 15 hours. Asking \$1,500. Call 406.378.3226.

Taking pre-orders for September 2024 processing

Farm raised in Havre, processed at the Saco Pay and Save. Whole pork \$450 plus processing fees, half pork \$250 plus processing fees. You receive approx. 150 lbs of meat per whole hog. Delivering processed meat locally and between Saco and Havre on pickup day. Contact Josh or Twyla Knudson by email: noneckfarms@gmail.com or call or text 406.230.2281 or find Twyla Knudson on Facebook.

Flex Coil 51 ft Drill Cultivator

5,000 culv, no cart. Asking \$5,000, call 406.376.3215.

1998 Carelift Telehandler ZB8040*

1998 Carelift telehandler ZB8040, call 406.390.1362.

Oak Cabinet with TV and Sony Sound System*

Oak cabinet with Sanyo TV & Sony Sound System (sell as a unit). Call 406.390.1362.

1986 Ram D50*

1986 Ram D50. 2.0 Mitsubishi, 2wd, 5 manual, 140k miles, no rust, recent service, starts instantly, 27mpg, all switches, lights and radio work. Never towed anything. Call 406.390.3522. Asking \$3,500 obo. Price reduced.

Quick Release Towing System

Stow Master 5000 quick-release towing system. Asking \$225.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Walker Bay Boat

10-foot walker bay boat with rigid inflatable tubes, 6hp mercury, 4 cyler motor, includes trailer. Asking \$1,500.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Heavy Duty Car Dolley

Dexter axle, electric brakes, new tires and wheels, asking \$400.00. Call 406.547.2184.

2003 Subaru Imprezza

All wheel drive 5-speed, new motor parts. Has 181,000 miles. Asking \$1,500.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Wanted Single Barrel Shot Gun

Single Barrel Shot Gun. Call 406.326.2287.

Wanted 1955-1959 Chevy or GMC Parts

Pickup parts or whole pickup. Call 406.326.2287.

Jeep Wrangler For Sale*

1997 Jeep Wrangler with 134,000 miles. Asking \$6,800. Call 406.366.0653.

F150 4x4 Parts Truck 85 ft.

It might be something minor, was running before they fixed fusible links, new coil, map sensor, voltage regulator, new tires and mags. \$1500 or best offer, call 406.357.5442.

Antique Monarch Wood Cookstove*

Antique Monarch wood cookstove for parts or restoration. Asking \$200/OBO, call 540.624.0502.

Two Folding Arched Steel Ramps

Ramps suitable for ATC, UTC, or small tractor. Ready to use, factory made, traction surface. Make reasonable offer. Call 406.390.3522.

IH Cadet 1450 Hydrostatic PTO*

400 hours, one bottom plow with 40-inch rototiller, 44-inch mower deck, 44-inch push blade and Trac-vac and attachments. Call 406.390.3522.

2014 Massey Ferguson Heston 2956A*

2014 Massey Ferguson Hesston 2956A baler with twine and net. 11,486 bales, well maintained and shedded. Asking \$20,000, call Don at 406.799.4131 or 406.357.4131.

Tires For Sale

Three Continental 235/54 R18 106 T Cross Contact LX Sport All Season, less than 1000 miles. Asking \$200, call 406.397.3236.

For Sale or Trade

300 Rem. WinMag, 26" Barrel, Timney trigger. Trade for youth model 7mm08 or 308. Call 406.932.4057.

2001 Dodge Dakota

Cab and half pickup, 2-wheel drive, air and 148,000 miles, asking \$2,000. Call 406.378.3131.

Big Foot Pickup Camper

10-foot camper with overhead over pickup cab. Includes queen size bed, sleeps 4. Also has air conditioning, a refrigerator, stove and shower. Asking \$1,500, call 406.301.4035.

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.