



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

Ripples

DECEMBER 2024

Expectation for rates in 2025

A 5% rate increase is expected for the coming year

THE time of year to communicate the rate expectations for 2025 is upon us. I will unpack the news as to those expectations.

Will we have a rate increase? Yes. The amount across all rate classes will be 5 percent. What makes up this level of increase?

The wholesale power cost will increase by 8 percent in 2025 and will increase by a similar amount in 2026. The drivers for these increases with the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), are the low water levels in the Missouri River drainage (less generation) and increased operating costs.

The increases for Basin Electric Cooperative are being driven by the growth of the Basin region. \$7.2 billion dollars of new infrastructure (powerplants, transmission lines) are planned over the next 10-years. The wholesale power

MESSAGE

FROM THE MANAGER

COLUMN BY **BRAD BAUMAN**




costs make up approximately 45 percent of the Sun River Electric operating costs.

Other increases to operating expenses are: 7 percent interest on borrowing, 12 percent transportation increases, 9 percent inflation (higher on certain electrical equipment such as transformers, regulators, and electronic breakers), and 4 percent on labor costs. Putting all of these on top of each other means, for our cooperative to remain financially solid, we

need to ask the membership for the 5 percent increase.

Our mission statement says, "...we will maintain a financially sound cooperative with systematic maintenance and rate stability while promoting growth, board and employee education and maintaining good member/consumer relations."

Adhering to our mission statement allows us to continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable service to our members. The "in home" conveniences and work that electric service allows us to enjoy will continue. Our employees take our mission to serve you as something personal and work hard to meet your expectations.

Thank you for your continued support of our cooperative. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. 

HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

**406-467-2526 or
1-800-452-7516**

ALWAYS CALL | BEFORE YOU DIG



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Robert Pasha, President 406-799-2292
Mitch Johnson, V.P. 406-467-2109
Chris Music, S/T 406-600-8375

TRUSTEES

Russ Bloom 406-431-0168
John Burgmaier 406-463-2522
Bryce Johns 406-289-0730
Leonard Sivumaki 406-264-5482

MANAGER

Brad Bauman 406-467-2526

SCHOLARSHIPS

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

ATTENTION High School Seniors in the Sun River Electric Cooperative area: Augusta, Belt, Choteau, Conrad, Dutton/Brady, Fairfield, Highwood, Power, Simms and Valier. If your parents or guardians are SREC members you are eligible for scholarships!

For more information, check out our website, www.sunriverelectric.coop (under community and youth programs), visit with your high school guidance counselor or contact Leanne at Sun River Electric Cooperative at 406-467-2526. RM

AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS: AND APPLICATION DEADLINE

SCHOLARSHIP	APPLICATION DUE
\$1,000 SREC Scholarships.....	February 28, 2025
\$5,000 Lucas Fowler Memorial Lineman Scholarships.....	February 28, 2025
\$1,000 SREC Continuing Education Scholarships.....	February 28, 2025
Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Scholarship	January 24, 2025
Basin Electric Cooperative Scholarship.....	February 21, 2025



SIGN UP FOR FREE KIDS BOOKS

Preschool children, ages birth to 5, who live within the Sun River Electric Cooperative service territory, are eligible.

You can register online at <https://imaginationlibrary.com> or scan the QR code below.



WE OFFER ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCE REBATES

HAVE you recently purchased new appliances?

Sun River Electric Cooperative offers rebates for household appliances to our members. If you purchase an Energy-Star-compliant clothes washer or dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator or freezer, you are eligible to receive a \$25 rebate. Just download the rebate form from the website: www.sunriverelectric.coop, fill it out, attach a copy of the receipt and send it to SREC. The application will be reviewed, and the \$25 credit will be applied to your billing



account. For a listing of Energy-Star-rated appliances, check out its website:

www.energystar.gov.

If you purchase an electric water heater, you may qualify for a \$100 rebate. The water heater must be at least 90-percent efficient, and at least 40-gallon capacity. The rebate form is also on the SREC website. Simply download it, fill it out and attach a copy of the receipt. 339777

Rebate forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. If you have any questions, call Christy at Sun River Electric, 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516. 229430 RM

REMINDER:

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.



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