

# Sun River Electric Cooperative



**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](http://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

**FEBRUARY 2022**

# Already over 70% renewable now

**T**HE discussion regarding renewable energy needs to have more detail in the narrative than what congress and the national journalists are willing to divulge. The “switching” from legacy baseload generation to sporadic generation delivered by renewables cannot and will not be accomplished in the timelines that are being suggested.

In our region of the country let’s stop and consider the weather characteristics that we encounter. The wind seems to blow “all the time”! If we were to journal the days of wind “generation” availability (9 mph – 50 mph), the number is in the 150 days out of 365. By my calculations, that is less than half the days. The number of sun generation days is somewhere in the 300-day range, but from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Still less than half the time. I bring this up because even if we

## MESSAGE

FROM THE CEO

COLUMN BY **BRAD BAUMAN**

add battery storage, the discharge capabilities being suggested by the industry are only from 4-10 hours, depending on the capacity of the battery. The renewable option is not a stand-alone option. As it is now, it can be a portion of the all-of-the-above generation family, but not stand-alone.

My point is this: Coal may have some issues with the carbon dioxide byproduct. Natural gas has the same issue, but only half that of



coal. Nuclear has no climate-related threats, especially with the safety considerations in place today compared to previous generation facilities. Hydro generation has zero environmental implications regarding CO2. All are great sources of electricity. So why in the world are we in such a hurry to dismantle these legacy generation sources and rush to alternative sources that generate less than half the time? No argument that these alternatives can generate electricity, but let’s not lean on them too heavily. I appreciate being able to turn on the light switch and have the lights come on. That expectation may be in trouble if we move to the renewable options too quickly. Sun River Electric Cooperative has said we want to provide affordable and reliable electricity, let’s

*See MESSAGE, page 7*

## 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. 217089

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

ALWAYS **CALL** | BEFORE YOU **DIG**



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

John Burgmaier, President.....406-463-2522  
Robert Pasha, V.P. ....406-733-2028  
Mitch Johnson, S/T ..... 406-467-2109

### TRUSTEES

Russ Bloom .....406-431-0168  
Chris Music .....406-600-8375  
Leonard Sivumaki .....406-264-5482  
Bryce Johns .....406-289-0730

### MANAGER

Brad Bauman.....406-467-2526

# Annual Meeting is March 25, 2022

## District 1 and District 6 are looking for trustee nominations

**I**t is time to inform our membership of our upcoming annual meeting, and remind our members that cooperatives are democratic organizations that maintain their strength through member participation. Sun River Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is being planned for Friday, March 25,

2022, in the Fairfield Community Hall. We sincerely hope each of you will mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

This year, the two districts looking for nominations are: District 1, Lower Sun River, Fort Shaw and Sun River; and District 6, Choteau, Pendroy and

Bynum.

The language below is taken directly from the Sun River Electric bylaws. The first section explains the procedure for nominating candidates for trustee, and the second section specifies the qualifications necessary for a member to be a trustee. RAM

### FROM THE SUN RIVER ELECTRIC BYLAWS:

#### ARTICLE III, SECTION 7: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES:

The Board of Trustees shall appoint, not less than forty (40) nor more than seventy (70) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than three members from each voting district, in which a trustee is to be elected in accordance with Article IV Section 2. No member of the Board of Trustees may serve on such committee. Each such committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for trustee for their respective district, which shall include one or more candidates. Any fifteen (15) or more members, residing within their respective district, acting together, may make other nominations by petition, not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. No member of the cooperative can be nominated to become a trustee of the cooperative unless he or she has been a paying member for five consecutive years, and a resident and property owner in the district he or she is to represent. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting a statement of the number of trustees to be elected, and the names and addresses of candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee and the nominations made by the petition, if any. The

#### A TRUSTEE'S ROLE IN A COOPERATIVE IS:

- To act as a trustee for the membership's interest in the cooperative.
- To establish policies and procedures for the effective operation of the cooperative.
- To review and approve annual work plans and budgets.
- To receive periodic reports for conformity with the cooperative's objectives, plans and programs.

ballot to be used at the election shall list the names of the candidates nominated by the committee and the names of the candidates nominated by the petition, if any. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from each respective district from the floor, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate. Each member of the cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as trustee.

#### ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE:

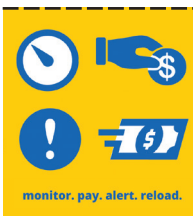
At the annual meeting of the members for the year 1940, the trustees from districts 3, 4 and 5 shall be elected for a three-year term, trustees from districts 2 and 7 for a two-year term and trustees from districts 1 and 6 for a one-year term. In the years thereafter, beginning with the board members'

next term, all trustees shall be elected for a three-year term. All trustees elected shall hold office during the respective terms for which they were elected, and until their successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who: (a) is not a member of the cooperative and a bona fide resident of the particular district which he or she is to represent or (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the cooperative, or is an employee of the cooperative. (c) upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, it shall immediately become incumbent upon the Board of Trustees to remove such trustees from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.

#### REMINDER:

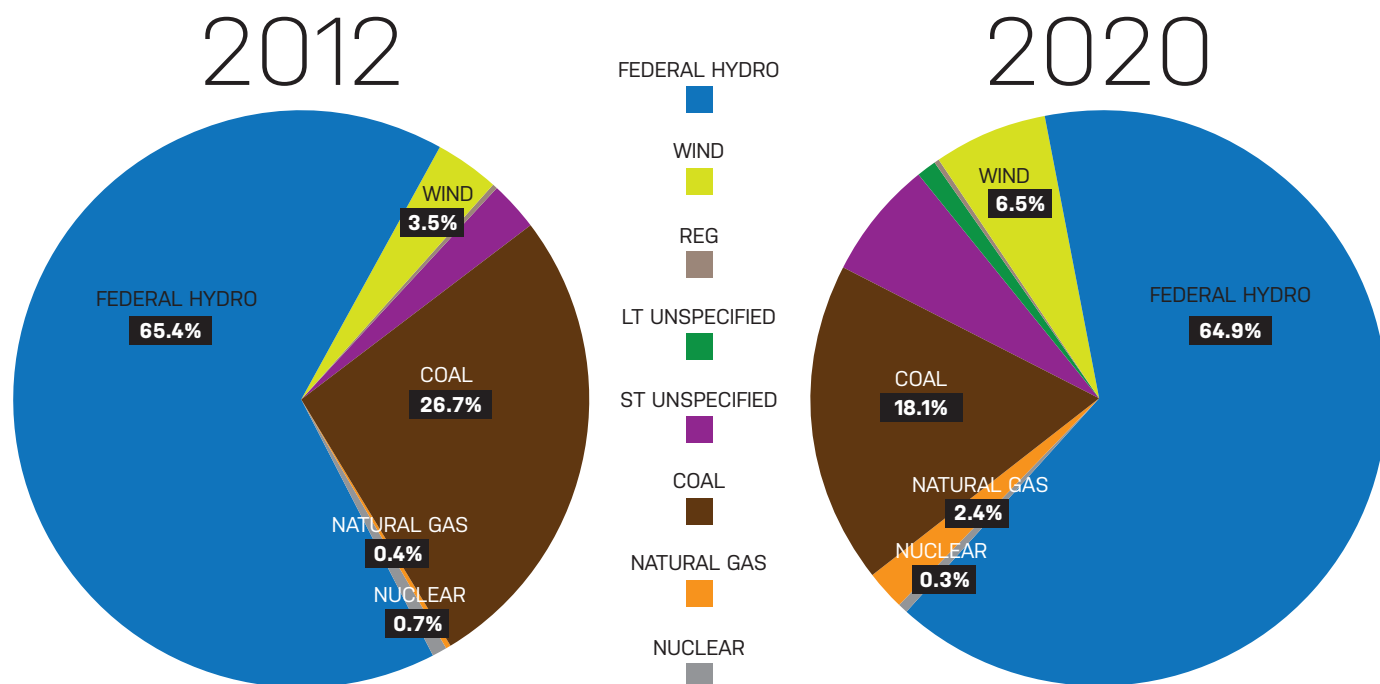
Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

Pay as you go with  
**prePAY**  
electricity from SREC. It is easy!  
Call SREC to get started.



# SUN RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ENERGY MIX

COMPARISON 2012 TO 2020



GRAPHIC BY NICK DANIELS/MECA

SOURCE: CENTRAL MONTANA ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE INC.

## MESSAGE

*Continued from page 5*

not let federal mandates and aggressive lobbying force these changes upon us. The “all-of-the-above” strategy is a much more positive solution to the energy problem.

Please look at the graphics above to see how your electric portfolio has changed from 2012 to 2020. Your electric providers are taking care of many of the environmental issues without a federal mandate. Also, look at how much of your portfolio is already non-fossil fuel, more than 70 percent!

Sun River Electric has all requirement contracts that guarantee electric delivery from WAPA (Western Area Power Authority) and Basin Electric Power Cooperative for 30 and 50 more years, respectively. The price is not

locked in, but the delivery of electricity is. These contracts allow for these entities to make long-term investments in generation sources, and the ability to negotiate favorable borrowing interest rates because of these secure contracts as collateral.


WAPA is 100 percent hydro in its generation, and supplements the back fill of its contracts with market power that may or may not have CO2 byproducts.

Basin on the other hand is owned by the cooperatives they serve, SREC being one of them. The coal power plants providing a portion of your electricity have not been fully depreciated. To force these plants to shutter prior to their life expectancy would be wrong, and will only make the cost of electricity go up because operating these facilities as backup sources to preferred-status renewable projects is not cost effective, and again puts

upward strain on the overall cost of electricity.

I offer you this perspective because it will not be long before our national congressional representatives and their opponents will be pleading for your vote.

Please ask these people where they stand on the electric generation mix of the country. Tell them how you feel about reliable and affordable electricity, and that it is important to you that we do not regress from the level of reliability that you have become accustomed.

It is important that you be heard because the side advocating for an all renewable energy platform seems to have captured the airwaves and you, as our members, need to be heard as well. Speak up, speak out and help us to bring some realistic discussions to the electricity generation abilities of this great nation. 

# WE HAVE APPLIANCE REBATES



**D**ON'T forget that Sun River Electric Cooperative has rebates for household appliances. SREC offers \$25 rebates on a clothes washer or dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator and freezer that are Energy-Star compliant. Just download the rebate form from SREC's website, [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop), fill it out, attach a copy of the receipt and send it to SREC. SREC will then review the rebate form and credit your account \$25 per compliant appliance. Energy Star rated appliances can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Also remember that SREC offers a \$100 rebate on electric water heaters. To be eligible, the water heater has to be at least 90 percent efficient. The water heater rebate form is also on SREC's website, download it and fill it out, send it in with a copy of the receipt and get the \$100 credit. The water



heater must be at least 40 gallon capacity.

All rebates must be submitted within 90 days of purchase.

If you have any questions about rebates, call Sun River Electric at 467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516.

## PRESIDENT'S DAY CLOSURE

Sun River Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21

## FREE children's books in the SREC service area

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a 60-volume set of books. Each month a new book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home.

- Preschool children ages birth to 5, who are residents of Sun River Electric Cooperative's service area, are eligible. (You don't have to be a member, just live in SREC's service area.)

- Register one of two ways:

1. Online at <http://imaginationlibrary.com/>

2. Fill out the registration form to the right, and send to SREC, Attention: Leanne Hall, PO Box 309, Fairfield MT 59436 or contact Leanne at SREC at 406-467-2526.

- Eight to 10 weeks after registration, your first book will arrive at your home and will continue until your child turns 5, or you move out of the SREC service area.



### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Official Registration Form

1st Preschool Child's FULL Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Preschool Child's FULL Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby explicitly consent to allow the Dollywood Foundation, Inc. to use the information provided herein for the purposes of participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library book gifting program. To measure the benefits of this program we may create datasets with the information provided herein and share them with research and educational advancement partners. You agree to review our full Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy by visiting [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com). By signing and submitting this form you expressly consent to the terms set forth herein.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED ADULT \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Code: \_\_\_\_\_