

BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC NEWSLETTER

YOUR CO-OP NEWS & INFORMATION

January 2020

In this issue

INTRODUCING THE NEW BEARTOOTHELECTRIC.COM
p.03

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC WEBSITE
p.04

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE
p.05

CALL FOR TRUSTEE CANDIDATES DISTRICTS 1, 3, AND 7
p.05

GENERATOR AND CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY
p.06

LAST CALL! SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 24, 2020
p.06

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov

LAUNCHED DECEMBER 30, 2019

INTRODUCING THE NEW BEARTOOTHELECTRIC.COM

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*Make a payment? It's fast. Find information? It's easy.
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The new Beartooth Electric website is designed with all device types in mind.



We built the new member website for speed. You know what you want—we make it easy to find. Navigation is a breeze and web apps make information just a click away. Try the new BEARTOOTHELECTRIC.COM today!

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC WEBSITE

WWW.BEARTOOTHELECTRIC.COM

SAME ADDRESS—ALL NEW DESIGN, NAVIGATION AND MORE

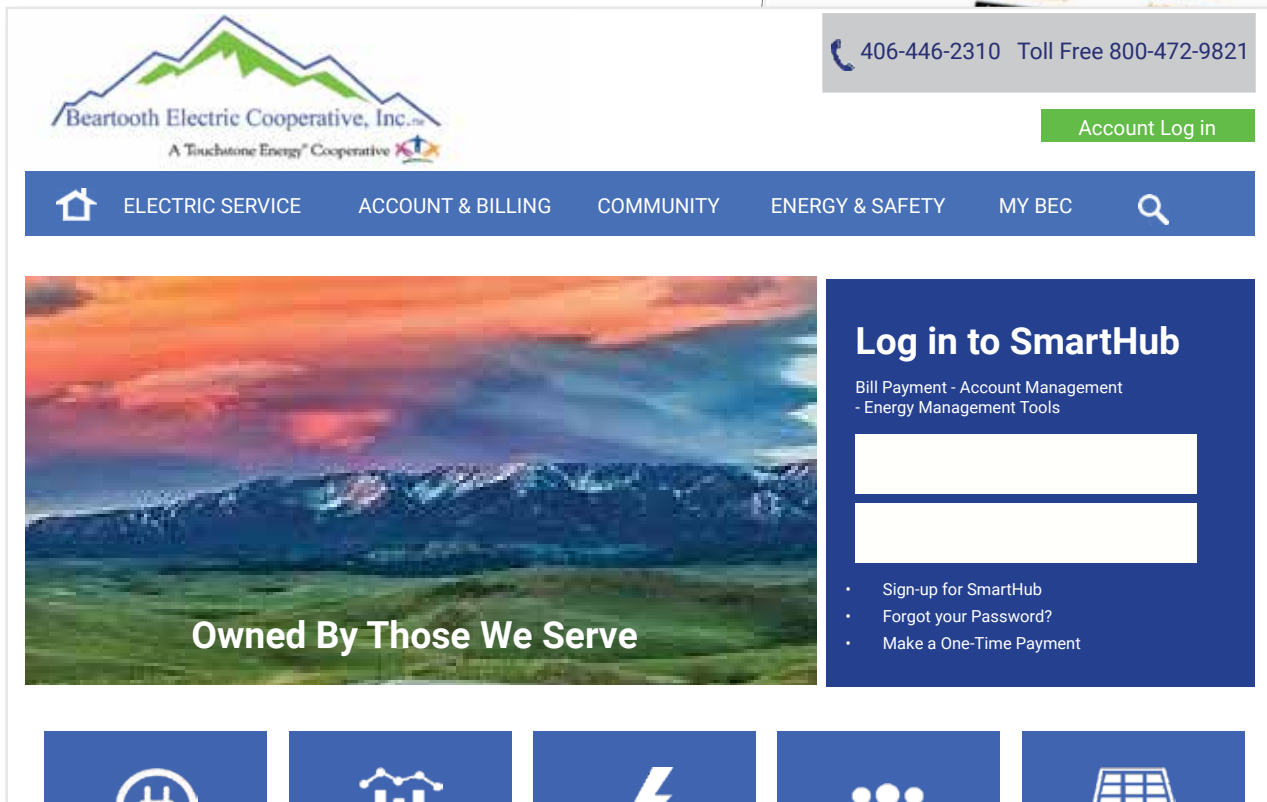
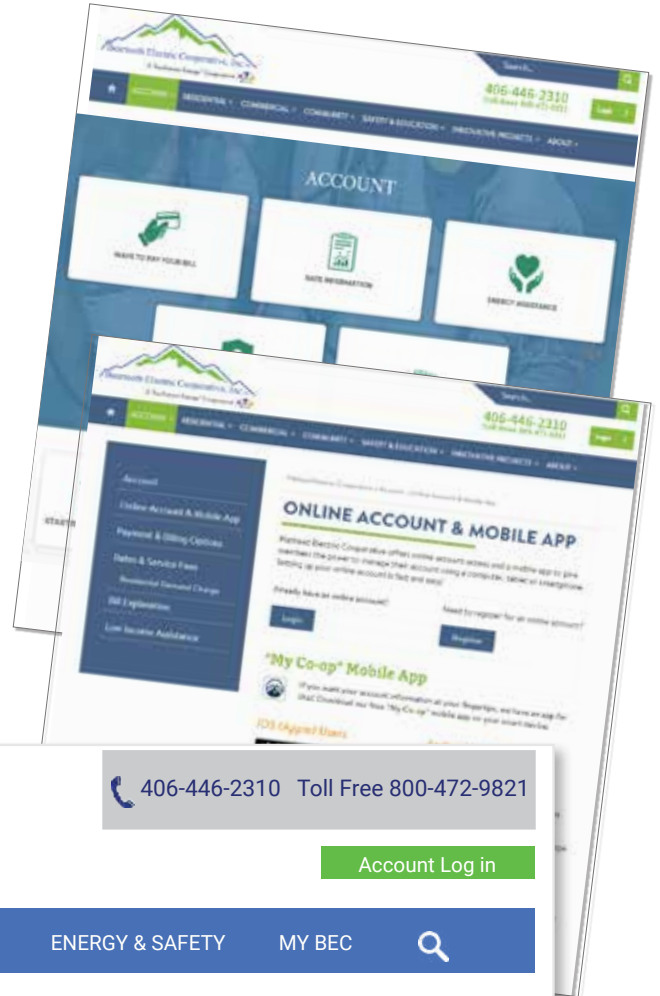
Beartooth Electric Communication and Member Services is proud to launch our newly redesigned website, www.beartoothelectric.com. The new site was built with you in mind, streamlining menus, simplifying navigation, building a responsive layout for all platforms and providing more resources and information on our services and operations.

We encourage everyone to visit and explore the site, discovering the full spectrum of informational as well as educational information. While exploring the new site, take a moment to sign up for SmartHub—BEC's online account and energy management tool. Just click the *Signup for SmartHub* link in the, Log in to SmartHub box. SmartHub allows you to pay your bill, setup autopayments, manage your electricity usage and much more! Android and iOS smartphone users, download the free SmartHub app from your store.

We will continue to expand our resources to deliver the most updated and relevant information for our member-owners. To receive our monthly newsletter, sign up on the home page under *Get on the List*. To stay connected on social media, follow us on Facebook and YouTube.

If you have any questions or feedback you would like to share with our team, please do so by filling out the form on our *Contact us* page, email us at bec@beartoothelectric.com or give us a call at 406-446-2310.

We look forward to staying connected.



GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Find out who's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings!

As we close out 2019, there is much to be thankful for at the Cooperative. I am blessed with an incredible staff that has never embraced the word "NO" in their vocabulary. I recognize our staff as the most valuable asset of the Cooperative. They completely espouse the old saying, "Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings at a single bound!" The best part is, I get to work with them every day!

In wrapping up 2019, I look back at the work we accomplished on behalf of our members. Our meter upgrade project wrapped up this past month. Over the past two years, our linemen replaced over 6,200 meters along with their regular duties.

2020 will focus on improved back-office applications that will bring real value to our members, i.e., Outage Management System, PrePay Billing Option, the new user-friendly website, a new billing statement and SmartHub that will provide more data and information to assist our members with better energy management. BEC also completed the first community solar project in its

service territory. It truly exceeded expectations in all respects. It provides a strong signal that BEC and its members fully embrace renewables. We'll start assessing member interest for the next offering.



Kevin P. Owens, PE,
General Manager

We will have a new budget in place by the first part of January. That budget includes a number of capital projects directed at improving the safety and reliability of our electric grid. Our vegetation management program (tree trimming) will be in its third year of implementation and is showing real results. This program certainly reduces outages but also reduces our exposure to range fires.

I wish you all nothing but the best in 2020. I am excited about all of the new projects that will continue to offer greater value to our members.



CALL FOR TRUSTEE CANDIDATES DISTRICTS 1, 3 and 7

ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2, 2020

The Beartooth Electric Cooperative (BEC) Board of Trustees consists of seven co-op members who each represent one district within the territory served by BEC.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining a stable yet competitive position in the industry by setting rate structures—while establishing, reviewing, and revising corporate policies to ensure that service to the BEC membership is foremost in mind.

Each trustee serves a 3-year term and is limited to serve a maximum of five terms. Elections are held annually by the membership during the annual meeting in May.

The upcoming election will be for District 1 (current Trustee, Daniel Dutton), District 3 (current Trustee, Julie Lindgren) and District 7 (current Trustee, Ralph Lewis).

District 1

Rockvale, Edgar, Fromberg, Bridger, and Belfry, MT and Clark, WY

District 3

South Red Lodge, Bearcreek, Roberts

District 7

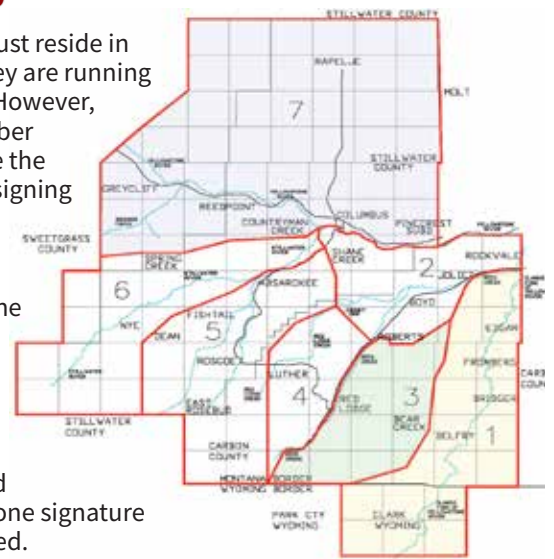
Columbus, Rapelje, Reed Point

(If you recall, District 7 was on the 2019 ballot to elect a Trustee to fulfill the remainder of the term (through 2020). The 2020 elections are for full-term (3 years) in all districts.

How to run for a board seat

The election process begins with a nomination petition. Any active BEC member who resides in Districts 1, 3 or 7, that wishes to be considered as a 2020 trustee candidate may pick up the required petition from the Red Lodge Office or download the form from the Beartooth Electric website www.beartoothelectric.com, under the My BEC tab, Annual Meeting.

Candidates must reside in the district they are running to represent. However, any BEC member may nominate the candidate by signing the petition. Please remember, as with voting, one membership equals one signature. Joint memberships are considered a single vote, one signature will be accepted.



The deadline to submit completed petitions is Friday, March 13, 2020.

Each petition will be verified, and candidates that meet all requirements will be placed on the ballot. The official ballots will be mailed to all members in early-April.

The elected trustees will be announced at the annual meeting to be held Saturday, May 2, 2020, ANIPRO Event Center, Absarokee, Montana. Mark your calendars now. Please join us for this year's Annual Member Meeting.

Questions? Give us a call at 406-446-2310.

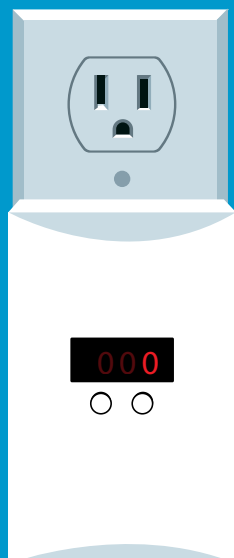
Generators and Carbon Monoxide SAFETY

Poisoning from CO (carbon monoxide) is a very common and serious accident that can happen if generators are used improperly.

Portable generators should never be used indoors. This includes: basements, crawl spaces, garages, carports, and any enclosed or partially enclosed space.

Portable generators should not be used near open windows or inlets that may allow for exhaust fumes to leak in.

CO is odorless, and invisible. If while using a generator, you begin to feel sick, dizzy, or light headed, get to fresh air fast. You can be overtaken by CO very quickly, don't delay. To add extra safety you may want to purchase a CO detector to warn you of rising CO levels.



Beartooth Electric Cooperative, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 24, 2020

last call

Beartooth Electric Cooperative (BEC) is excited to offer scholarship opportunities from both BEC and the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) to graduating seniors within its service territory. Any high school or home-schooled senior graduating in 2020, whose parents or guardians are members of BEC with their primary residence served by the Cooperative, is eligible to apply for the 2020 scholarships. An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a college or technical/trade school in the fall of 2020.

Beartooth Electric \$1,000 Scholarship

BEC awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one senior at each of the eleven service area high schools. Scholarship recipients are selected based on a combination of weighted criteria, including financial need, personal statement, academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service.






The Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association's (MECA) \$500 Memorial Scholarship

The MECA Memorial Scholarship opportunity is also open for application. The Beartooth Electric membership criteria applies for eligibility, and a single candidate to represent BEC in final judging at MECA will be selected by the Beartooth Board of Trustees. Applications must be received at the BEC office by January 24, 2020.

For scholarship application forms, and detailed information on the eligibility requirements and application process, please go online to www.beartoothelectric.com, click the Community tab, Scholarships then select the scholarship information of choice. If you have questions, please call Kaaren Robbins at the BEC office 406-446-2310, email to bec@beartoothelectric.com or contact your high school counselor.



Connect with Us!

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