

2017 Telephone Town Hall Meeting dates set

PRECorp members are invited to participate in quarterly Telephone Town Hall meetings with CEO Mike Easley.

The meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 15;
- Wednesday, May 24;
- Wednesday, August 16;
- Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Mike will be live on the phone to take your questions and explain the cooperative's activities for 2017.

Members will receive a telephone call at the beginning of the meeting. If you would like to call in to join dial 855-312-2107.

Energy audits a tool to win energy efficiency

Energy efficiency does not mean you have to do without the things you love. Many energy efficiency measures can empower PRECorp's residential and commercial members to remain comfortable and productive, by changing the time of use or maximizing the benefits of electricity.

PRECorp has tools available to help its membership find low-cost to no-cost cost ways to manage their energy costs. From time-of-use rates that reward members to shift their usage for activities like washing dishes and drying clothes to hours of the day when energy costs are low; to access to low interest loans to help pay for increasing levels of insulation to the purchase of more efficient Energy Star appliances.

Continued on the back...

Events calendar

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at rotating locations in Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative dates for 2017 are as follows:

March 21 - Sheridan

April 18 - Sundance

May 16 - Gillette

June 20 - Sheridan

July 18 - Sundance

August 15 - Gillette

September 19 - Sheridan

October 17 - Sundance

November 21 - Gillette

December 19- Sheridan

Other events to remember:

- **Friday, March 31:** Application deadline for *PRECorp Scholarship* and *Swanda Scholarship*. Swanda Scholarship applicants must be Crook County high school seniors entering ag-related studies in post-secondary schools.
- **Saturday, April 22:** Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet, fundraiser at Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall, 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner and auction.

Energy audits...

From front page.

Oftentimes members will request help in understanding why their power bill changes drastically from month to month. They rightly call PRECorp's member service number at 1-800-442-3630 and start asking questions.

One tool available to help identify ways to save is a home or business energy audit. An expert from PRECorp's wholesale power supplier Basin Electric conducts the audits at no charge to the member.

The audit team will do an onsite walk-through of your business, home, or other buildings to learn more about where high energy usage or places where heat is escaping a building.

One of the visual tools is thermal imaging devices that can show the amount of heat being lost through leaky windows, doors, or roofs. These imaging devices work best during temperature extremes when your house is heated and it is cold outside.

During the walk-through, the auditor gives special attention to electrical systems such as lighting, water heaters, furnaces, air conditioning, heat pumps, and motors. The audit also encompasses insulation, weather seals, and analysis of usage.

One example for a commercial member that closes its doors on weekends might show usage for heating remains the same even when closed. The auditor will offer some solutions of how the business can turn down the heating/air conditioning systems when the doors are closed.

Another area homeowners might have an opportunity would be the temperature of the water heater. Oftentimes the heat settings are standard and could be running hotter than necessary.

Lighting systems are rapidly changing technology. The LED technology is becoming more affordable every year. Research shows a PRECorp member could save about \$80 per bulb over the

15-year life of a single light bulb. This savings is a combination of not having to replace an LED bulb for at least 15 years. Incandescent bulbs barely last a year and use considerably more electricity than LED's.

Other options

If the audit or your own personal research reveals certain energy efficiency purchases will make a difference in your usage, PRECorp has a program available to assist with up-front costs. It is called H.E.L.P. (Home Efficiency Loan Program). This program offers zero-interest loans of up to \$2,500 for members – commercial or residential – to lower energy use.

Some areas where loans may be applied include:

- Purchase of Energy Star appliances
- Replacing old appliances with Energy Star appliances;
- Replacing older windows with energy efficient windows;
- Purchase of an energy-efficient HVAC system (heat pump, geothermal heating, off-peak heating, electrical thermal storage);
- Installation of renewable power systems (solar, wind, hydro generators);
- Increasing insulation.

Residential Heat Rate

The Residential Heat Rate is a program that separates the power used for heating from the rest of the home's usage. By measuring electric heat only, PRECorp incorporates the cheaper rate into the monthly bills from October through April. Members with all-electric homes can see up to \$100 savings per month.

There is special metering equipment an electrician must install, which has an up-front cost to the member. However, that cost is most likely to return in the form of electric bill savings in less than a year.