

PRECorp News

SEPTEMBER 2018

Budget Billing can shave the seasonal peaks

Do you remember the high power bills during last winter's extended cold spell? You likely aren't looking forward to going through that again. Consider Budget Billing to smooth out the peaks and valleys of seasonal high bills.

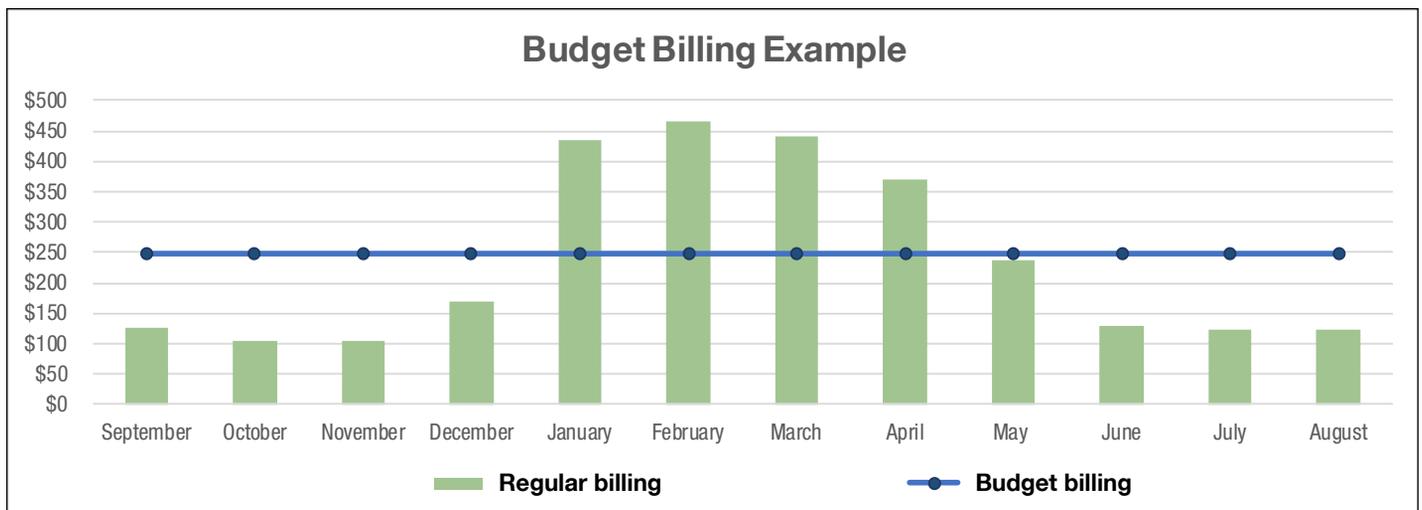
PRECorp offers a Budget Billing program for residential members to help even out seasonal spikes in power usage over an 11-month period. Your account must be current and have at least 12 months of service history to enroll.

Annual billing is averaged - with a 5% buffer built in - to enable members to budget and pay a fixed amount for their power bill each month. The monthly budget amount needs to be paid for 11 successive months with the final, or 12th month's, payment being a settlement (or clearing) amount equal to the difference between the total payments made

during the prior 11 months and the actual amount due for the 12-month period. The clearing month will always be the October-dated billing for September usage, regardless of what month the plan was made effective. The October statement will reflect the new monthly budget amount, which is recalculated based on the average usage over the past 12 months.

October is a great time to sign up, before the next winter sets in. Below is an example of a real PRECorp residential account, showing the **regular billing with winter peaks in green** and the **monthly budget payment in blue**.

If you are interested in signing up for Budget Billing, please contact a Member Service Representative at 1-800-442-3630 to help get you set up.



In This Issue

Pg. 2: CEO Straight Talk

Pg. 3: Calendar

Pg. 4-5: Community involvement

Pg. 6: LED lighting tips

Pg. 7: Hunting safety

Pg. 8: Newcastle crew visits preschool



MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

PRECorp Moonshot
Drive down costs so that the first megawatt hour of energy usage is at or near zero by 2050.

The day before a breakthrough, it was a crazy idea.

During last month's Annual Meeting, the membership saw for the first time a new video illustrating our Vision, Purpose, and Moonshot and how it benefits the membership. It is now available for viewing on our website at: www.precorp.coop/strategy-map

I hope you agree that the vision story is inspiring and presents a bold and positive outlook for our future. We believe it is doable. We have been working hard to create the future we envision.

PRECorp's 2030 vision is to be pioneers of excellence in the Cooperative Network while delivering extraordinary value to our members, embracing a visionary outlook, leveraging accelerating technologies, empowering our team and engaging our membership.

Each and every year between now and 2030 we will be guided by our Vision to get us closer and closer to our Moonshot – delivering the first 1000 kWh of energy usage at or near zero cost by 2050. The moonshot is a crazy idea. All huge breakthroughs in any industry were crazy ideas...just before the breakthrough. Ours is no different.

Imagine with me just for a minute.

What would your life look like as we move closer and closer to our Moonshot? How could at or near zero cost for the 1st MWh of energy impact your life? This is the current average usage for a residential member.

Imagine if our work at Wyoming's Integrated Test Center results in new technologies that create valuable products out of CO₂. Imagine if Wyoming's coal research efforts develop valuable products that use coal.

What would it look like if electricity became a by-product of these processes?

What would it be like if we could capture that by-product to help us meet our Moonshot of the 1st MWh of energy being at or near zero cost by 2050?

Currently the unsubsidized cost of wind generation is approaching parity with the fuel cost of a base load power plant. Some of the sunniest places in the country are seeing solar power compete against other energy

sources. In today's markets there are times where energy is being priced at costs below zero.

What would it look like if these trends continued and we were prepared and able to take advantage of these market opportunities, and continue to leverage our base load coal resources?

These are not opportunities available to us today, but should we let today be what sets the limits for our tomorrow, for our future?

We have taken a huge first step in preparing ourselves for our future Vision by starting our Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. This project will position the cooperative to improve billing, provide you better usage data and have a more reliable and efficient distribution system. By end of 2019 we will have two-way communication capabilities with nearly all our meters and many other points within our distribution system.

I know that rates and reliability continue to be priorities for you, and we have been doing well in those two areas. I can say confidently that rates will remain stable for 2019 as long as our member base stays intact, however, I am very concerned that the viability of the Coal Bed Methane industry is being challenged by continued low natural gas prices. We are already looking ahead at 2020 through our sales and revenue forecasting tools. Financial challenges in other areas of the energy industry could impact our rates in 2020.

At PRECorp we are trying to expand our thinking beyond what has been traditional and prepare for the rapidly increasing rate of change. Much like Wyoming, we are diversifying the way we think about things. Our goal is to be ahead of the curve, and not behind it.

Your Board and many employees on the PRECorp team are cooperative members just like you. It is our commitment to the community that drives our activities and long-term strategies.

Our future vision is one of abundance. Abundance of energy and quality of life. Together, we are on that journey.

As a cooperative our business model and culture is truly, the Power of Many, for the Benefit of All.

Achieving our Moonshot

Fulfilling our Purpose

Making our Vision a reality

Providing a truly cooperative member experience

Ensuring stewardship and financial strength

To successfully deliver the Strategic Processes

We will empower our Team

Guided by what matters most

Mike

Dates to remember from now through December:

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. rotating between the Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan offices. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative remaining dates for 2018 are as follows:

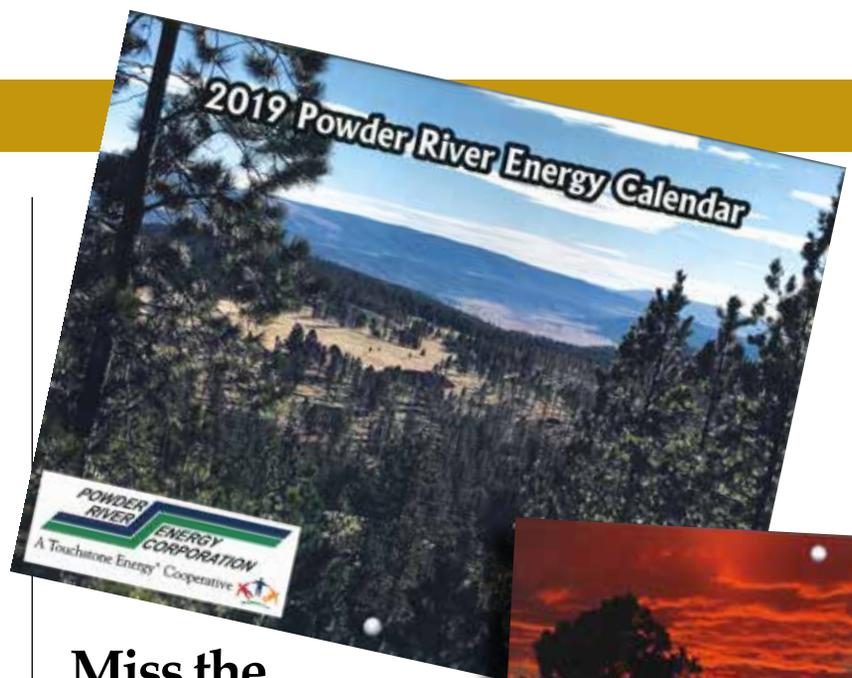
- September 18 - Sheridan
- October 15-16 - Sundance
- November 20 - Gillette
- December 18- Sheridan

Other events to remember:

- **Monday, November 12:** Veterans Day observance, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Wednesday, November 14:** Telephone Town Hall, 6:30 p.m. Dial toll-free 855-312-2107.
- **Thursday and Friday, November 22-23:** Thanksgiving Day holiday, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Monday and Tuesday, December 24-25:** Christmas, PRECorp offices closed.



For flat monthly payments, enroll in **Budget Billing**



Miss the Annual Meeting?

You can still pick up a 2019 PRECorp Calendar while supplies last at any of our offices in Sundance, Gillette, or Sheridan. The calendars feature the photographic talent of PRECorp employees and the natural beauty of northeast Wyoming.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov





Rally Booth helps local library

PRECorp employees volunteered during the 'Wyoming Wednesday' activities in Sundance August 8, during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, to sell walking tacos. The sales raised funds for the Crook County Library in Sundance for a mobile library service in the community.

Photo by Tim Velder/PRECorp

PRECorp greets members at the State Fair

PRECorp Lineman Benito Maya, Kaycee, directs Liberty Cook, left, in the fine art of pole climbing at the Wyoming Electric Cooperatives booth at the Wyoming State Fair. PRECorp and other Wyoming electric coops greeted fairgoers with gifts and prizes throughout the week to connect with member-owners from across Wyoming.





Courtesy photo

Foundation donation assists emergency responders

The Powder River Energy Foundation recently donated \$5,000 to the Weston County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (WCSSR), to assist in providing communications radios for its personnel. Pictured from left are: Tim Velder, PRECorp; Connie Tooman, WCSSR; Jeff Bumgarner, PRECorp Foundation Executive Director; and Michael Tooman, WCSSR.

1 OF 900

We are one of more than **900 ELECTRIC CO-OPS** in the United States.

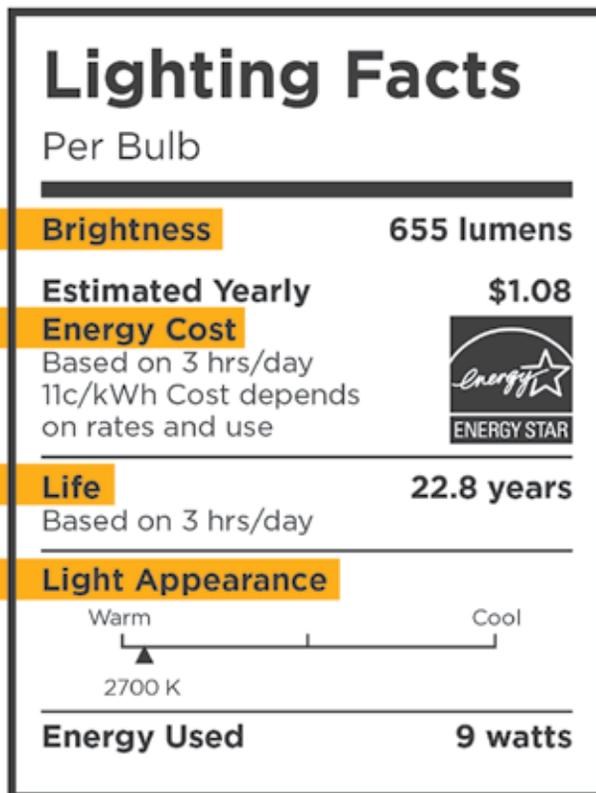
Together, we collaborate to solve complex challenges to meet the energy needs of our local communities.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance** and **energy used** (wattage).

Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.



Incandescent
100 watt
1,600 lumens



LED
14 - 20 watt
1,600 lumens



Photo by Luke Blakeman/PRECorp

Be aware of safety while hunting

Be aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks.

Thousands of PRECorp members' dollars are spent every year repairing equipment and power lines that have been struck by a stray bullet. As a not-for-profit cooperative owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

This doesn't even include the damages and hazards to members down the line that require power for medical equipment or other needs while a lineman does some hunting of his or her own looking at spans of line trying to locate the problem.

Hunters and other gun-owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles, and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could create a safety issue, and potentially interrupt electric service to members.

Sometimes the damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, and is only discovered when an unexplained outage occurs. Linemen even discovered an arrow stuck in an overhead wire on one occasion.

Landowners are also encouraged to take note of non-members who are hunting on their property, and remind them to be aware of power lines.

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use utility poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity, such as tree stands or targets.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not climb or place deer stands on utility poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction - and a serious hazard - to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.

Linemen visit Newcastle preschool and daycare



Some readers have inquired about the July WREN Magazine cover photo of PRECorp Lineman Ty Schmidt pictured with youngsters from the Weston County Children's Center in Newcastle. Schmidt, above right, and fellow PRECorp Lineman Jason Fouch, above far left, visited the center at the end of March (when there was snow

on the ground) to show the children and staff the special equipment electric linemen use to do their job of safely keeping the power on in all conditions. Children had the opportunity to stand inside the bucket, wear a hardhat and gloves, and take home some electrical safety items of their own.

Photos by Tim Velder/PRECorp



Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.