

Power Lines



INSIDE ...

- * Trees Trimmed for Safety
- * Mark Your Calendar
- * Keep Your Meter Accessible
- * Ride Snowmobiles With Care
- * Do You Need a Scholarship?

Green Power Conservation Receive PVREA Board Support

BY RON CAREY, GENERAL MANAGER

The Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association Board of Directors recently approved several policy changes that underscore its awareness of environmental issues and the need to promote energy conservation. Here is a summary of those changes.



Ron Carey
general manager

ed load growth, community economic development and new jobs. However, at a time when PVREA's power supplier is having to invest in new power plants that will, for a period of time, drive up power rates, the board decided to adopt a development-to-pay-its-own-way philosophy.

Net metering

Several members had requested that the board revise PVREA's policy on buying back renewable energy from small renewable energy systems to a more friendly rate design. To that end, the board approved a new net metering policy for qualifying systems of 10 kilowatts or less.

Green Power rates

The board approved a reduction in the rates for members to purchase renewable energy through PVREA from \$2.75 per 100 kilowatt-hours per month to only \$1.25 per 100 kWh per month. This reduction to members is a combination of lower cost for PVREA to obtain renewable energy and the elimination of the charge used to cover PVREA's extra administration costs for the program.

Facilities investment incentives for developers

The board eliminated the development incentives for commercial and industrial developers. In the past, PVREA provided incentives for commercial and industrial developers to build on the cooperative's system. The benefits includ-

Declining rate blocks narrowed

As long as PVREA's power supplier is in a tight supply market, the board felt it was an important conservation signal to slightly narrow residential declining rate blocks. In the new rates, the board approved a narrowing of .001 cents per kWh. While this is a small amount, it does reflect the reality of the market.

Compact fluorescent lightbulb giveaway

As a gift for members at PVREA's annual meeting on March 10, 2007, the board approved distributing a 100-watt-equivalent CFL to all attendees. CFLs only consume about 25 percent of the energy of an equivalent traditional incandescent bulb. You can save some money, and the power company can save some coal.

Clearly, none of these changes will save the world. But they point out that the board has noticed that PVREA's members have serious concerns about the environment and the cost of energy. It is an important responsibility that your board doesn't take lightly.

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 272550
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550

STREET ADDRESS

7649 REA Parkway
Fort Collins, CO 80528

970-226-1234 Phone
800-432-1012 Toll free
970-226-2123 Fax

www.pvrea.com Web
pvrea@pvrea.com Email

NEXT BOARD MEETING

January 31



Photo courtesy of Marylynn Gillaspie



Dakota Blonde will entertain members at PVREA's annual meeting in March 2007.

Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendar to attend Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's annual meeting on March 10, 2007. This year's entertainment is Dakota Blonde.

Dakota Blonde is a vibrant new acoustic trio made up of the sweet, strong vocals of Mary Huckins, the smooth steady guitar playing and cool harmonies of Don Pinnella and the charming acoustic bass work and humor of Tony Raddell. Also performing with Dakota Blonde is special guest Ernie Martinez.

Performing original songs that are a unique combination of folk, bluegrass and country with a little Celtic tinge, the group nails tight harmonies that are a crowd favorite. All the members of Dakota Blonde come from musical families, and their charm stems both from the music they play and from the family feeling they bring into any concert hall or venue. The group is sure to be a hit at the 2007 annual meeting.



What Is Electricity?

Electricity occurs when electrons — tiny particles that orbit on the outside of atoms — jump from one atom to the next. Visit <http://cipco.apogee.net> and click on Fundamentals of Electricity to learn more about the basics of electricity.

Trees Trimmed for Safety

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association has always strived to keep utility poles clear of trees. PVREA works to keep a line clearance of 10 feet from the center of the pole outward for a total of a 20-foot wide path from pole to pole. PVREA utility arborists cut dead or excess branches from trees or shrubs to maintain safe, effective line clearance in rights-of-way. The width of the path that is cleared also depends on the situation.

Talking with consumers and landowners is the first step that the arborists take when trimming trees. When arborists get to a job site, they perform a hazard assessment of the work area before starting the work. Because trimming trees around utility poles is hazardous, the arborists use extreme caution when moving equipment around the area that they are working in.

Once the work is complete, the tree crew does a final cleanup of the work area. The arborist crew makes sure the area is clear of anything that could become a safety issue.

PVREA arborists remove more than 1,200 trees and prune more than 900 a year in the co-op's 2,881 miles of overhead power line service area. The arborists help ensure safe and reliable electric service and



PVREA's arborists trim trees before they interfere with electric power lines.

reduce the risk of fire by pruning trees near utility lines. PVREA spends approximately \$500,000 annually on tree service.

The arborists at PVREA have more than 25 years of experience each and are International Society of Arboriculture certified arborists who can also help consumers with strategically planting shrubs, bushes and trees. Perhaps a tree's health is suffering from a cause unknown to you, requiring professional help. Or an old tree could be towering dangerously over your power lines, requiring tree service. PVREA tree trimmers can help.

PVREA STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Electric Programs, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Myles Jensen, the manager of member, employee and customer services. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feel that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Keep Your Electric Meter Accessible

Although it may be inside your fence, inside your backyard or even on your porch, your electric meter is Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's cash register. It is important that co-op employees have easy access to it.



PVREA needs access to the meter for monthly meter reading and in case of emergency. Please consider the following tips.

- Trees and bushes can obstruct the meter. Don't plant them near the meter. If they already grow near the meter, keep trees and bushes trimmed so the face of the meter is plainly visible.
- Don't enclose your meter inside your house during remodeling. Call PVREA at 970-226-1234 or 800-432-1012 if you need your meter moved.

• Dogs present a special challenge to our meter readers. We normally read meters within a day or two of last month's reading. Check your bill to determine your meter-reading date from last month. Maybe you can keep an eye out for your meter reader or confine your pet on those days.

If our regular meter readers can't access your meter, we may have to send an employee out to get a reading. This creates additional cost for us, which ultimately affects all of our customers. If access is a continual problem, an additional \$10 monthly fee will be added to your bill until the problem is resolved. Help us keep our costs as low as possible by keeping your meter accessible.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE COLORADO FARM SHOW

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association invites you to stop by its safety demonstration booth at the Colorado Farm Show, January 23-25, at Island Grove Park in Greeley. The booth will be located in the farm equipment area.

Our safety display has won the "most educational" award from the farm show for the past several years. Our exhibit features a miniature electrical system, which is used to demonstrate the hazards of electricity. It is a true crowd pleaser for kids and adults alike.

The Colorado Farm Show is an opportunity for those in the farming business to see what's new in equipment, products, services and techniques. It is also an excellent opportunity for "city folks" to get an education on what it takes to put food on the table. See you there. (Winning Account Name: Kim Bennett)

"Failure is success if we learn from it."

— MALCOLM S. FORBES JR.

RIDE SNOWMOBILES WITH CARE

Snowmobiles can be handy — and loads of fun — when the flakes are falling. But they can be treacherous in the hands of careless drivers. Practice safe snowmobiling by following a few tips.



- Alcohol and snowmobiling don't mix. Drinking alcohol before or during any kind of driving can impair judgment and slow reaction time. But poor driving isn't alcohol's only impact. It makes body temperature drop quickly, and that increases the likelihood of hypothermia — a contributing factor in most fatal snowmobile accidents.
- Take it slow. Nearly all fatal snowmobiling accidents involve speeding. Drivers should be aware of how slippery a snow-covered path can be. Drive slow enough to allow ample time for stopping or reacting to the unexpected.
- Stock your snowmobile with a first aid kit, flashlight, knife, compass, map and waterproof matches.
- Stay away from frozen lakes and ponds if you're uncertain of how thick the ice is or how strong

the underlying water currents might be. Quick changes in the weather and moving water in streams and lake inlets can affect the thickness and strength of ice without notice.

- Dress with safety in mind. Wear a helmet and goggles or a face shield to keep flying debris out of your eyes. Layer water-repellent clothing that fits tightly so no loose ends can catch in the machine.
- Stay on marked trails or, where allowed, on the right shoulder of the road. Be alert for fences, tree stumps and stretched wire that may be concealed by snow.
- Travel with a pal. If you do get hurt, you'll be glad you're not alone. If you must travel solo, tell someone your destination, your planned route and when you will return.

Do You Need a Scholarship for College?

Each year six scholarships are available through Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association for high school seniors and college undergraduate students. Basin Electric and Tri-State Generation and Transmission offer scholarships in addition to the funds Poudre Valley REA has established.

Applicants must be dependents of parents or guardians, or consumers themselves, who currently receive electric service from PVREA. If the PVREA consumer is a business, that business may appoint a candidate of its choice. Previous winners may reapply if they still qualify.

Applications are reviewed to make sure that 1) each is complete, 2) the applicant is eligible, 3) the required documentation has been submitted and 4) the deadline has been met. If all the requirements are met, the winners' names will be drawn at random with one winner and one alternate for



each scholarship.

By completing the following application, students are applying for all scholarships. Scholarship information and applications are also on PVREA's website at www.pvrea.com. (Click on the Scholarship, Etc. tab on the home page.)

Following are the scholarships that are awarded through PVREA:

- One \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship, for use at any U.S. college or university
- Three \$1,000 Poudre Valley REA scholarships, for use at Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College or the University of Colorado
- Two \$500 Tri-State G&T and Poudre Valley REA scholarships, for use at Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College or the University of Colorado

All entries must be submitted by February 15, 2007. No applications will be accepted with a postmark later than February 15.

Scholarship Application Form — Deadline: February 15, 2007

Please read the information and instructions before completing this form. Type or print clearly.

1. At what school and during what school year will the scholarship be used?

2. Student's name: _____
Social Security number (**applicant must be a U.S. citizen**): _____
3. Home address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
County: _____
4. Telephone number (including area code): _____
5. Name of high school attending: _____
Month and year of high school graduation: _____
6. ACT score (**must be 22 or above**): _____ or SAT score: _____
GPA (**must be 3.0 or above**): _____
7. Parents' or legal guardians' names, or business sponsor: _____
8. Name that PVREA account is under: _____
PVREA account number: _____
9. Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail to Poudre Valley REA, PO Box 272550, Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550
or bring to 7649 REA Parkway in Fort Collins.

CHECKLIST

Please enclose the following with your application form.

- Your most recent official academic transcript, whether it be from a high school, college or trade school. An undergraduate student with less than one full year of college must also submit his or her high school transcript, including ACT or SAT scores.
- High school seniors must submit a copy of their college entrance examination (ACT or SAT) scores.
- A statement written by you (no longer than one page) outlining your achievements and career goals.
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a school faculty member (or recent or current employer) and one from someone you have worked with or for in the community. Please include full names and addresses of these individuals.