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## RENEWABLE ENERGY

We hear a lot this day and age about renewable energy, but what exactly is it and how does it affect us? Renewable energy is energy from sources which are naturally replenished and sustainable, two common types are solar and wind energy. There is increasing pressure on our industry to find ways to use carbon neutral energy sources. Lofty goals are out there such as having a carbon-free electricity grid by the year 2035.

Currently, a bipartisan infrastructure bill has been approved by the Senate which proposes a \$65 billion investment to upgrade the power infrastructure to support the expansion of renewable energy and also invest in research for technologies such as nuclear energy. The State of Wyoming is leading the charge on coal to nuclear energy transition by partnering with the Department of Energy and others to build a small modular reactor (SMR) at a retiring coal plant in Wyoming, if successful this is a win/win scenario as it is carbon free and reliable.

Renewable energy is considered intermittent power meaning it cannot be stored, therefore when mother nature doesn't cooperate we can find ourselves without power if we are relying solely on renewable sources. When this type of situation happened February mass rolling blackouts were required to bring the supply of electricity back into balance. That incident served as a harsh reminder that we are not yet ready to let go of coal energy production and rely solely on renewables.

NEA in conjunction with other Wyoming Co-ops have been working diligently to let our voice be heard regarding these issues. While we realize the need to be environmentally responsible, we as co-ops also have a responsibility to you, our members, to ensure you have reliable and affordable power. We believe a good balance of multiple energy sources is a common sense path to follow and will continue to do our best to be proactive regarding this important issue.



Work on the Manning Tie Line is moving swiftly.

Hydro-vac, potholing and plowing have been accomplished on a couple miles of the underground line.

This line is meant to give us a loop feed so we can take excess load off of Lusk Rural Substation.

Heavy equipment owned by Littrel Construction, 2 D6 caterpillar dozers seen in the pictures, are used to plow in and move the 5000 pound reels of 500 MCM wire.

Our goal is to be operational by October. Once operational, we will start a single phase overhead conversion to the Douglas Booster Tie.



Portable or permanently installed standby generators can come in handy during long-term power outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous. Contact a qualified vendor or electrician to help you determine what generator is best suited to your needs. Before using, read and follow manufacturer's instructions.

If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch. The transfer switch prevents energy from leaving your generator and going back onto the utility electrical equipment, when it could be dangerous to a lineman or others near downed power lines, a process known as "back feed." A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.

Safe Electricity has the following tips to use portable generators safely:

- Operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide.
- Do not plug a generator into the wall to avoid back feed. Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Turn the generator on before plugging appliances to it. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage; prioritize your needs.
- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.
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Safe Electricity suggests these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.



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Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup>

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am—4 pm

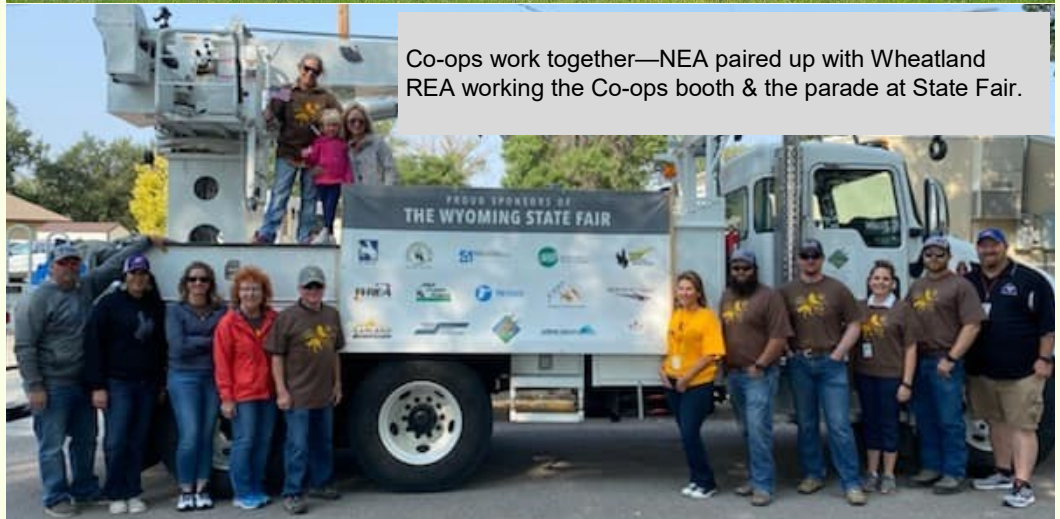
**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544 or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24 hours a day.

Phones will be answered by Niobrara Electric Association during office hours and SRS will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.



A few of the NEA family representing the Association at the Niobrara County Fair and accepting our SUPER HERO AWARD.



Co-ops work together—NEA paired up with Wheatland REA working the Co-ops booth & the parade at State Fair.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Neal Wurdeman	2	Lusk, WY	
Bradyn Bruegger	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

### Board Minutes

Guidelines 030 and 512 reviewed. Donation request reviewed and approved.

Discussion on operating margins, Homestead Funds and equipment repairs.

Director Wilson report on Tri-State business.

Director Keener report on NREA business.

Director Wasserburger replaced Andy Greer on WREA Board.

We are a member of

