

# GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. HIGHLINER

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GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## GLACIER ELECTRIC

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### OFFICES

**Cut Bank (406) 873-5566**  
410 East Main Street  
Cut Bank, MT 59427

**Browning (406) 338-5400**  
P.O. Box 609  
Browning, MT 59417

### GENERAL MANAGER

**Jasen Bronec**  
(406) 873-5566

## All-of-The-Above Energy Strategy

Electric cooperatives are disappointed—but not surprised—that in September the Administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation's fuel mix in the future.

Glacier Electric delivers electricity that is generated predominantly by hydroelectric dams; there is no coal in our power mix. However, national energy policy does have an affect on the cost of power across the nation, and we stand behind NRECA's efforts to influence federal energy policy.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal or natural gas plants. Trouble is, the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology.

For several years cooperatives across the nation

have tested carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn't make financial sense. It has never been used at a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The Administration's switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans' access to a plentiful and affordable resource. We don't think we should gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy.

Already worried about making ends meet, many co-op member-owners, across our nation, cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills that this policy

would trigger.

Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 37 percent of the nation's electricity—our biggest energy source by far.

It seems the Administration lets history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one game in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. This act banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas—the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner fuel option. With gas off the table, many electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few options, they invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thankfully Congress repealed its mistake, but not for nine years.

Let's not repeat past mistakes. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable for everyone. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop). Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

### Upcoming Office Closures

The GEC offices in Cut Bank and Browning will be closed as follows:

December 12- for Employee Safety Meeting

December 25- Closed for Christmas

January 1- Closed for New Year's Day

Glacier Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
is currently accepting  
applications for the

## 2014 MECA Memorial Scholarship

The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship from Glacier Electric and will be entered into a state-wide competition for an additional \$500 scholarship.

Applications are available at your school's counseling center, at [www.GlacierElectric.com](http://www.GlacierElectric.com) and at your local GEC office.

**Deadline is January 17, 2014.**

Parents or guardians must be members of Glacier Electric Cooperative.

## GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Board Room Report

The Glacier Electric Board of Trustees regular meeting is held on the last Wednesday of each month.

### Action items from the October Board meeting:

- Approved donation to the Festival of Trees
- Approved renewal of contribution to Energy Share of Montana for Energy Assistance
- Approved additional \$6,000 for Glacier Electric Crisis Fund for Energy Assistance
- Approved retirement of 1993 Capital Credits.
- 60 Plus winner was: **Tom Moulton.**

	9/30/2013	9/30/2012
kWh Sold	123,928,094	125,024,954
Revenue	\$10,936,634	\$10,977,919
Cost of Power	\$4,282,956	\$4,368,400
Margins	\$403,784	\$595,740

# Green Giving

*Have an energy efficient Christmas*

*By Christina Sawyer*

Hosting a "green" holiday takes a little planning and effort, but the payoff can help your budget stay out of the red. So go ahead and deck the halls with energy savings by following these tips for energy-efficient shopping, baking, and decorating.

### Green Shopping

Before buying a gift, most folks check the price tag to make sure it's a good deal. Smart consumers also check the product and manufacturer. Greenpeace International's Greener Electronics Guide rates manufacturers on the full life cycle of products.

Investing in a big gift? ENERGY STAR TVs and appliances save a bundle on power use. They feature a lower standby-mode consumption than an average device and generally use less energy in all functions.

Include a smart power strip as part of your gift. Most electronic devices consume energy, even when turned off. In fact, such standby power consumption ranges from 5 percent to 10 percent of a household's total energy consumption.

### Deck the House in LED

A high-quality LED has a life expectancy of 50,000 hours or more. Consider recycling your older strands at [HolidayLeds.com](http://HolidayLeds.com) and get a 25 percent off coupon toward the purchase of LED holiday lights.

More isn't always best. A small, thoughtful display stirs warm holiday feelings and you'll be grateful when your January power bill doesn't

put a dent in your budget. Consider using timers for holiday lights, too. Set lights to turn on when it gets dark and off once viewers are snug in their beds.

### Green-Baked Goodies

Cooking accounts for about 4 percent of a home's total energy use. Add energy costs for refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing and you've got a hefty kitchen price tag. This Christmas, keep efficient cooking tips in mind.

Cut baking temperatures by 25 degrees with a ceramic or glass pan; which retain heat better than metal. Cook in large batches, and fit pans into all available oven space. Keep the door closed. Each time you peek into the oven you let out hot air, causing the oven to have to bring the temperature back up. Insert a stainless steel skewer through meat or baked potatoes to speed the cooking process.

Have a convection option on your stove? It helps reduce cooking time and temperature. Turn your electric oven off ten minutes before the end of the cooking time; it maintains the temperature that long. And last but not least, if you're planning some kitchen time, lower your thermostat. The heat generated in your kitchen can help heat the entire house, especially if you leave the oven door open after you are done.

*Sources: Greenpeace International, U.S. Department of Energy*

*Christina Sawyer writes on safety and energy efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



# Earn Cash Back from Online Purchases with your GEC Co-op Connections Card

Glacier Electric Cooperative supports local businesses and encourages all our members to shop locally. Through the GEC Co-op Connections Card you can receive local discounts on prescriptions at Albertson's Osco Pharmacy and at several local business like Ben Franklin, High Wynn's Video, the Hairport, Mrs. Olson's Pre-School, Glacier Village Cafe, and Glacier Gateway Inn. However, more and more people are shopping online for items they cannot find or order

locally; so Glacier Electric Cooperative is offering a new benefit to members who make online purchases. Now your GEC Co-op Connections Card gives you cash back when you make online purchases from more than 5,000 of your favorite stores.

With Co-op Connections' Cash Back Mall, you can earn cash back on purchases of more than 300,000,000 products. To start earning your cash back, visit [www.GlacierElectric.com](http://www.GlacierElectric.com) and click on the Co-op Connections Card link. Once you are on the Co-op Connections page, click the link to

"Cash Back Mall."

By clicking the "Download Now" button and following the instructions, a free shopping assistant tool bar will appear at the top of your internet browser. This tool bar will keep track of the cash back you have earned. As you make online purchases at Best Buy, Walmart, Target, Old Navy, the Apple Store, and other big name retailers, watch the money in your account pile up. All of your on-line purchases from more than 5,000 online stores really add up!

When setting up your account you choose how you

would like to receive your cash back, whether it is directly deposited into your account or a printed check, mailed to your address. You can also decide at what dollar amount you would like to receive your cash, \$15, \$25, \$50, or \$100.

Whether you are buying gifts for loved ones, booking a trip, or treating yourself, Cash Back Mall can put money back in your pocket. It's just another member benefit brought to you by Glacier Electric Cooperative.



**Earning cash back is as easy as 1-2-3!**

**1. Register 2. Download Shopping Assistant 3. Surf & Shop**



GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



Wishing All of Our Members a  
**BRIGHT**  
CHRISTMAS.

GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

# Ductless Heat Pump Rebates

*Glacier Electric offers a new \$1,500 rebate\* to our members*

*By: Virginia Harman*

Glacier Electric offers a variety of rebates for residential energy efficiency measures. We offer rebates for new EnergyStar washing machines, refrigerators, and freezers, we offer rebates for new EnergyStar manufactured homes. Now we are offering a \$1,500 rebate\* for Ductless Heat Pumps (DHPs). Ductless Heat Pumps are a proven alternative to outdated heating systems and can lower your heating costs by 25-50%. Energy-efficient DHPs are inverter-driven, variable-speed systems that can ramp up or down to meet the heating or cooling needs of your home, even when outdoor temperatures fall below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Since DHPs do not distribute heating or cooling through ducting, a duct system is not required. Installation is relatively easy; with only a three inch hole in an exterior wall to connect the indoor and outdoor components.

## Ductless Heat Pumps provide a range of benefits:

- Reduces energy use by 25-50% compared to electric resistance heat.
- Comes standard with cooling functionality for year-round comfort.
- Uses ultra quiet fans, eliminating noise common to other HVAC.
- Have built-in air filters that result in improved indoor air quality.
- Provides even, consistent heat, eliminating hot and cold spots common to baseboard heaters (zonal).
- Work as a supplement to an existing heating system, handling the majority of the home's heating, calling the existing system into service less frequently.
- Are easy to install with minimal disruption to the home.

## How Ductless Heat Pumps Work

Ductless Heat Pumps operate the same way as a traditional split system heat pump or a standard refrigerator. Using a compression cycle and refrigerants, heat pump extracts heat from outdoor air, concentrates that heat, and delivers it via the indoor air handler. Heat pumps also have the ability to operate in reverse and extract heat from indoor air and send it outside, cooling the home. Since moving heat is less energy intensive than creating heat via electric resistance, heat pumps are 2 to 3 times



*This is an example of a typical inside unit of a Ductless Heat Pump. The register is installed close to your ceiling and delivers heat and air conditioning at the touch of a button!*

more efficient than an electric resistance heater.

Ductless heat pumps are an affordable, easy to install, technology that can dramatically reduce the energy wasted in your home. Since DHP include AC as well as heat, they provide year round comfort. If you have electric baseboard, wall heat, or an electric furnace, a DHP can reduce the energy you are wasting when you heat your home and lower your electricity bill. Glacier Electric is here to help with information on how you can qualify for significant rebates to help you make the switch

## How Can You Get a Ductless Heat Pump

In order to receive the Glacier Electric rebate for your new Ductless Heat Pump, your home's primary heating source must be electric, you must be a member of Glacier Electric, and you must use a BPA qualified installer. You can find a complete list of qualified installers, qualified products, and a lot of additional information, at [www.goingductless.com](http://www.goingductless.com). You can also pick up a list of qualified installers throughout Montana at the Glacier Electric offices. Many installers will provide you with information about federal and state incentives for DHPs to help decrease your expense. If you have any questions about this new program or to find contractors who are currently working in our area, please call Glacier Electric at 406-873-5566.

*\*Homes must use electricity as the PRIMARY heating source to qualify for rebate, homes must also be served by Glacier Electric.*