



**Improving Quality Of Life
In Our Communities Since 1937**

Electricity and Telecommunication Services



PSREC eNewsletter

November 2017

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Manager's Message

Dear Members:

While our crews work year-round to prevent outages, being prepared for an emergency and knowing what to do during an outage are vital for personal safety and quick restoration of power.

We are doing all we can to prepare for major storms. You should also be prepared and know what to do if the lights go out.

If your lights start to flicker, turn off and unplug sensitive electronic equipment immediately, and reduce any unnecessary load. Visit our website at www.psrec.coop for more information on outage preparedness and safety. To receive updates on major, system-wide outages via text message, text "PSREC" to 95577.

Rates

At the Annual Meeting, we received a question on the cooperative's overall long-term goal to modify rates in a way that collects more in the fixed charges and possibly lowers the kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate by an overall equal amount. One of the reasons we cited was the growth of distributed power. Some members thought that we were picking specifically on solar energy and I wanted to reassure the members that this isn't the case. The growth of distributed or rooftop solar is impacting the utility business across the country and most electric utilities are modifying their rates in response. The issue is that the electric utility business collects most of its costs through the variable charge (the kWh rate), but most of our costs are fixed.

There are no plans for implementing any specific rate or fee on solar customers. We plan to treat all members the same. Our overall goal is true cost-of-service rates, both between rate classes and between users inside a rate class. The same issues we face with members with solar are also there with seasonal customers, as well as customers who have all propane appliances and heating compared to members using mostly electric. Many of the members are using super-efficient ground source and air-to-air heat pumps and we do not want to penalize members using these technologies which are good for the member, for the cooperative, and for the environment.

We will proceed on future rate design with caution, but we want to make sure that if any member is contemplating distributed generation such as solar, that they understand the future savings will most likely not be at the current retail rates, but instead be at the cooperative's avoided cost of wholesale power.

Telecommunications

PST has recently opened two new access points covering the Valley Ranch area and Kristen Way on C Road. We are also now open for sales in Whitehawk and are targeting late-November to start installations in Graeagle proper.

For more information about PST broadband services or to get on our interest list, please fill out an interest form at www.pst.coop, or call (530) 832-4126.

Winter Rate Assistance Program

We are accepting applications for the Winter Rate Assistance Program, which offers a discounted rate for November through April use to income-qualified members.

WRAP provides information to help members conserve energy and offers a discounted electric rate during the heating season.

For more information and an application, visit our website at www.psrec.coop, or call (530) 832-4261 or (800) 555-2207.

Youth Opportunities

Plumas-Sierra and its subsidiary offer many life-changing opportunities to local young people, including scholarships and the Washington Youth Tour.

These programs provide enriching experiences to help young people discover themselves and their roles as citizens. They also introduce them to the cooperative way, teaching the value of involvement and commitment to their communities.

Application deadlines are fast approaching. Don't let your children miss out on these opportunities. Please see page 8 for more information about our youth programs.

Applications and information are available on our website at www.psrec.coop, or by calling the Member Services Department at (530) 832-4261 or (800) 555-2207.

If you have any questions, please call me at (800) 555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!

Bob Marshall
General Manager

Electric News

Take Charge of Your Future with Youth Programs Offered by PSREC

Win an All-Expenses-Paid Trip to Washington, D.C.!

Enter the 2018 Washington Youth Tour Essay Contest

Each summer, PSREC sends exceptional student delegates from high schools in our area to represent the co-op on the prestigious Washington Youth Tour. The trip brings together more than 1,600 highly talented, ambitious young people from across the country for an incredible week in the nation's capital to further develop their leadership skills and ambitions.

The all-expenses paid leadership trip to Washington, D.C. gives students the opportunity to watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments with other students. Students will meet their U.S. Representatives and Senators, listen to dynamic leaders and develop lifelong friendships with other students.

This year, one student from PSREC's service territory will be chosen to join high school students from every corner of the nation to tour Washington, D.C., in June, 2018.

To qualify, a high school sophomore, junior or senior's residence in Plumas, Lassen or Sierra counties must be supplied with either electric power through Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative or Internet service through Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications.

The 2018 trip application process is now open. You can find all the details through your high school leadership/guidance counselor's office, or by visiting www.psrec.coop/scholarships.php.

Students complete the application and a typed or legibly-written essay. The topic for this year's essay is: "How do cooperatives benefit the community?"

The essay should be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,000 words.

Essays will be judged on creativity and content (with consideration given to spelling and grammar) by the editorial staff of Ruralite magazine in Oregon.

The deadline is approaching fast! **Applications must be returned to Plumas-Sierra REC by Friday, November 17, 2017.**

The Washington Youth Tour was inspired by former president Lyndon Johnson who, in 1957, encouraged electric cooperatives to send our young people to the nation's capital where they could experience government in action.

More information on the Washington Youth Tour can be found at www.psrec.coop and www.azwyf.coop.

PSREC Citizen-Scholar Scholarships Help with Continuing Education

The cost of higher education can be a daunting thought for most parents.

As a concerned member of the community, Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative has a vested interest in the children and families who live in our service territory. That is why we offer opportunities that will help our children grow and enhance their learning experiences.

PSREC and Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications are offering two \$1,000 scholarships in 2018, and applications must be returned to PSREC by **Friday, March 9, 2018**.

The Plumas-Sierra Scholarship programs are designed to enhance the education and resulting careers of deserving rural students. These programs are open to members of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative and customers of Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications who are a minimum of a senior in high school with no upper age limit.

All interested students are invited and encouraged to apply. To qualify, the student or their parent/guardian's residence in Plumas, Lassen or Sierra counties must be supplied with either electric power through Plumas-Sierra REC, or telecommunications services through Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications.

Applications are available at www.psrec.coop, and by calling the Member Services Department at (530) 832-4261 or (800) 555-2207.

Energy Services News

Be Empowered! Prepare For Power Outages

Planning ahead for unexpected power outages can help make the best of a bad situation. Equip your home with a power outage kit that includes:

- A flashlight, battery-powered lamp or lantern, and extra batteries.
- Candles and matches.
- A battery-powered radio with extra batteries.
- Easily accessible emergency phone numbers for your utility, doctor, fire and police.
- A telephone connected directly to the phone jack. Cordless phones need electricity to operate.
- Blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes.
- A one-week supply of drinking water and non-perishable food.
- A cooler for storing frequently used foods. Food spoils more quickly if the refrigerator door is opened.
- A manual can opener.
- An alternative cooking source.
- Firewood, if you have a fireplace or woodstove.
- A deck of cards, board games and books, which can make a power outage more tolerable.



If someone in your home depends on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, make a plan for backup power.

Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane or charcoal-burning device inside a home or garage. Locate the unit away from doors, windows and vents to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide.

Please install surge protectors on any sensitive electronics and appliances. Be sure to buy surge protectors that have a warranty for your connected load.

During a power outage, please disconnect all nonessential electrical loads. Every light and appliance turned off will help PSREC re-energize more of our system. If our power transmission system is constrained, conservation helps keep our electrical system stable and enables us to serve both you and your neighbors.

If you would like to receive major, system-wide power outage updates via text message, text "PSREC" to 95577.

Updates are also posted on our home page at www.psrec.coop, our [Facebook page](#) and through our [Twitter feed](#).

Save Energy and Money this Holiday Season!

Light up your holidays with LED (Light Emitting Diode) holiday light strands! You'll save energy and money on your electric bill this holiday season by replacing your old incandescent light strands with ENERGY STAR LED light strands.



Purchase LED holiday light strands and receive a rebate of \$3 per strand! Strands must be ENERGY STAR rated to receive a rebate. For more information and a rebate application, please visit our website at www.psrec.coop.

Other Energy- and Money-Saving Rebates From Your Cooperative

Appliance Rebates

When shopping for appliances, members should purchase ENERGY STAR labeled models. Make sure to obtain proof of ENERGY STAR compliance, often denoted on the yellow Energy Guide label on large appliances.



For a product to carry the ENERGY STAR symbol, it must meet or exceed federal energy efficiency and quality guidelines. Visit www.energystar.gov for more information.

An application for PSREC's Appliance Rebates is available on our [website](#). Rebates include purchase of ENERGY STAR® refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, and LED lighting. A rebate is also available for the disposal of a secondary refrigerator or freezer (without replacement).

Weatherization Rebates

By retrofitting a home to R-values below, and upgrading windows to double-pane high-performance windows, members will not only realize the added comfort, but also gain increased home values and curb-side appeal.

Weatherization Measure	Minimum Standards	Rebate Amount
ENERGY STAR windows	U-factor 0.32 or lower & SHGC 0.40 or lower	\$3.00/sq. ft.
Low-E Storm windows	Emissivity of 0.22 or lower, solar transmittance > 0.55 & minimum glass thickness of 3mm	\$1.50/sq. ft.
Ceiling/attic insulation	R-0 to minimum R-49	\$0.35/sq. ft.
Ceiling/attic insulation	Some insulation to min. R-49	\$0.25/sq. ft.
Wall insulation	R-0 to minimum R-13	\$0.25/sq. ft.
Floor insulation	R-0 to minimum R-19	\$0.25/sq. ft.

HVAC Rebates

Upgrading to an energy-efficient heating and cooling system will contribute to increased comfort in your home or business while helping to reduce overall energy use.

Type of HVAC System	Minimum Requirements	Rebate Per Ton
Air-source heat pump	14.0 SEER/8.0 HSPF	\$100
Air-source heat pump	16.0 SEER/9.5 HSPF	\$250
Air-source heat pump	18.0 SEER/9.5 HSPF	\$350
Ground-Source Heat Pump (GSHP)	Energy-Star-rated	\$600

Business Owners:

Incentives are available for lighting retrofits and custom energy efficiency building retrofits that produce verifiable energy savings. Please contact us to discuss whether you would be eligible for a rebate.

For more information on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, contact us at (530) 832-4261 or visit our website at www.psrec.coop.

Plumas-Sierra REC Winter Rate Assistance Program Encouraging Energy Conservation

PSREC is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 Winter Rate Assistance Program (WRAP).

Call or visit www.psrec.coop for an application today; once approved you can receive a discount on your kilowatt-hour rate during the heating season!

This program is available to PSREC income-qualified members for electric service at their permanent residence in Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Washoe counties. Income qualifications and restrictions do apply.

Call today for an application and program details, (530) 832-4261 or you may access the information on our website at www.psrec.coop.

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Quote of the Month

You can tell more about a person by what he says about others than you can by what others say about him.

- Anonymous

Upcoming Events

November 4 & 5, Harvest Festival & Holiday Open House. Every Blooming Thing, 705-670 U.S. 395, Susanville. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Holiday Preview! Fall decor and more. Drawings, libations and treats await. For more information, call (530) 251-2330.

November 9, Words & Music. Patti's Thunder Cafe, 557 Lawrence St., Quincy. 7 to 9 p.m. A monthly series of acoustic music and the spoken word. Sign up for open mic at the door. \$3. Sponsored by Plumas Arts. For more information, call (530) 283-3402.

November 11, Dancing with the Stars. Plumas County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairground Road, Quincy. 6 to 10 p.m. Don't miss the one night event featuring ten Plumas County big shots and dance coach partners competing for the gold! Ballroom dances are featured with fancy costumes, great entertainment from local groups and delicious food and beverages, all benefiting the FRC Foundation—which provides direct support to students through programs, scholarships and mini grants. Cost is \$15 for adults, and \$10 for children under 12. Special tables: \$25 per seat, including appetizers and one drink. For more information, call (530) 283-9900 or (775) 232-9536.

November 15, Portola Community Supper. Father Burns Social Hall, 108 Taylor Ave., Portola. 6 p.m.

November 18, Craft Fair. Sierra Valley Grange, 92202 Highway 70, Vinton. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendor spaces \$20. Beef stew lunch \$7. For more information, call (530) 993-4508.

November 18, Plumas Hospice Benefit Concert. Town Hall Theatre, 469 Main St., Quincy. 7 to 9 p.m. Dr. Jeff Kepple and friends share their musical gifts to benefit a worthy cause: Plumas Community Hospice. This will be an evening not to be missed!

November 23, Turkey Trot. Loyalton City Park. One or two-mile fun run/walk. 9 a.m. start. For more information, call (530) 993-4182.

November 23, Free Thanksgiving dinner. Loyalton Senior Center. 3 pm. For more information, call (530) 993-4770.

November 24 & 25, Mohawk Community Art Faire. Graeagle Fire Hall, 7620 Highway 89. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Mohawk Community Resource Center. A Graeagle holiday tradition for over 30 years! For more information, call (530) 836-0446, or email jpolson@plumasruralservices.org.

November 25, Shop Small Saturday. A nationwide movement to bring attention to the importance of supporting small businesses in your community. So grab a friend and get out to SHOP.DINE.PLAY.STAY in Graeagle and beyond. RAFFLE: Make a purchase at participating Graeagle merchants and enter for a chance to win Graeagle Bucks. Winners will be notified by November 26, 2017.

December 1, Portola Tree Lighting and Light Parade. Gulling St., Old Towne Portola. Parade 6 p.m., with tree lighting following the parade. Santa will be taking pictures with the children and passing out stockings. Bon fire, refreshments, bake sale and old fashioned Christmas market. For more information, call (530) 836-6811.

December 1, Main Street Sparkle. Downtown Quincy, 6 to 9 p.m. Join your friends and neighbors for a celebration of small town life and the holiday season as merchants open their doors late for shoppers. There will be a light parade, music, Santa visit, and of course the big tree lighting at the courthouse. Support your community while having a great time at one of Quincy's signature events.

December 2, Magical Country Christmas. Historic Uptown Susanville. 5 to 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Lassen County Chamber of Commerce and Historical Uptown Susanville Association. The celebration will feature live entertainment, a Christmas parade, food, a 'Toys-for-Tots' drive and fireworks to ring in the Christmas season. Main Street will be closed to through traffic during the celebration. For information on the parade and vendor applications, call (530) 257-4323, or visit www.lassencountychamber.org.

December 2, Graeagle Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting. Downtown Graeagle. 1 to 5 p.m. This family event is a premier event for the downtown merchants to kick off the holiday season. Open houses, refreshments and unique offerings at the participating businesses. Enter to win the Graeagle Bucks by visiting each participating merchant. Must be present to win. Winners will be announced after the 5 p.m. tree lighting. Horse-drawn trolley/sleigh rides, pictures with Santa, carolers and a bonfire complete the event. For more information, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @graeaglemerchants.

December 2, Santa Trains. Western Pacific Railroad Museum, 700 Western Pacific Way, Portola. Museum gates open at 4 p.m. Trains run 5 to 8 p.m., or until everyone has had a ride. Admission is \$10 per car load, or \$5 per car load with donation of 3 non-perishable food items, which will be forwarded to EPCAN.

December 8, Legends of the Celtic Harp present A Winter Gift. Town Hall Theatre, 469 Main St., Quincy. 7 to 9p.m. Plumas Arts is delighted to bring storyteller and Celtic harpist Patrick Ball back to the stage with Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter (and their Celtic harps) to serenade, beguile, and enchant you with myth and music to celebrate the season. For more information, call (530) 283-3402.

See a full list of events at our website, www.psrec.coop.