



# NEWS

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative  
The power of human connections

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

## Manager's Message

Dear Members: \_\_\_\_\_ by Jeff Hohn



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2010 Wyoming Appliance  
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*Don't forget  
your mom on  
May 9th, Mother's Day.*

**High Plains Power will  
be closed Monday, May  
31st in observance of  
Memorial Day.**

## Hub Thompson Retires

After 30 years of dedicated service, Hub Thompson has decided to retire as a member of the High Plains Power, Inc. Board. Hub began his career as a member of the Hot Springs REA Board in 1980. He was active in the study of the possibility of merging with Riverton Valley Electric, the neighbor Rural Electric Cooperative to the south. After many hours of study and discussion, the merger was finalized in 1998. The result of that merger was the creation of High Plains Power, Inc.

Hub's influence reached far beyond the Boardroom of High Plains Power. Hub was elected to represent his local Cooperative on Tri-State's Board, our power supplier, in 1981. In 1984 he was elected to serve as their Chairman, a position he has held for the past 26 years. This is surely going to be difficult for anyone to duplicate anytime soon.

There has been a lot that has transpired at Tri-State over the years that Hub has been President. Tri-State has grown significantly in terms of membership, operating responsibilities, resources, energy sales, assets,

and employee base. "Operationally, the acquisition of Colorado-Ute in 1992 and the merger with Plains in 2000 were two of the biggest milestones during my tenure," Hub said.

Hub was also instrumental in another milestone event in the mid 1980s, when Tri-State was forced to protect the sanctity of the all-requirements power contract when an investor-owned utility attempted to take over one of the G&T's Wyoming member cooperatives. "Our successful defense in that case was probably one of the most monumental and long-lasting triumphs, given its precedent-setting nature at the time," Hub explained. Not only was this the first-of-its-kind case to preserve the validity of the all-requirements contract for G&T's across the country, but to this day it serves as a cornerstone of the electric co-op business model.

Hub's contributions have been evident not only within High Plains' and Tri-State's service territories, but on the national stage as well, while serving for many years on NRECA's power and generation committee and in several other key roles. His

# Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program Announcement



Starting April 15, 2010, the Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program will be available to Wyoming residents. Funded by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the program's limited time-only rebates encourage energy efficient product purchases and help target energy savings throughout the state.

## REBATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR:\*

PRODUCT	Efficiency Requirements (Equivalent to ENERGY STAR)	Rebate Amount
High Efficiency Clothes Washers	MEF>1.80; WF<7.5	\$100
High Efficiency Dishwashers	< 324 kWh/year and < 5.8 gal/cycle	\$50
Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters	EF>2.0	\$150
Gas Tankless Water Heaters	EF > 0.82	\$150
Solar (Electric or Gas Backup) Water Heaters	SF > 0.5	\$150
High Efficiency Gas Furnaces	AFUE > 90%	\$250

\*Please note that rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis while funds last. The program website will be launched in the latter half of March; rebate applications will not be available until the program's launch on April 15.

## HOW RETAILERS AND CONTRACTORS CAN PARTICIPATE:

### Inform customers of eligibility requirements

Rebates are available only to Wyoming residents  
 Purchases must be made on or after April 15, 2010, while funds last  
 Online purchases are eligible  
 Purchases do not have to be made within Wyoming, but are encouraged

### Identify qualifying product models

All products in the table above that meet ENERGY STAR efficiency criteria qualify for rebates Specific qualifying model lists are located at: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

### Leverage program promotions to customers

Rebate applications and residue-free cling labels (for qualifying product floor models) are available at no cost, The program will mail program materials to all Wyoming retailers and contractors. To request a shipment of program materials, e-mail: [promotions@wyomingrebates.com](mailto:promotions@wyomingrebates.com)

For real-time updates on funding levels visit the program website at: [www.wyomingrebates.com](http://www.wyomingrebates.com) Encourage customers to recycle old appliances after purchase

Utility rebates may also be available for qualifying products. Customers may claim both statewide rebates and any additional utility rebates and federal tax credits. If you would like to coordinate customer promotional efforts, please contact [marketing@wyomingrebates.com](mailto:marketing@wyomingrebates.com).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What is the Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program?*

Funded by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program offers rebates to Wyoming residents to encourage energy efficient product purchases and help target energy savings throughout the state. Rebates are available for a limited time for qualifying ENERGY STAR appliances starting on April 15, 2010 (see below for more information).

### *Who is eligible to participate?*

Any resident of Wyoming who makes a qualifying product purchase on or after the April 15, 2010 is eligible for rebates. Contractors or other third parties are not eligible for rebates. Rebates are available only for the replacement of existing and operational appliances in existing homes. Rebates may not be used for appliances in new homes.

### *When will the rebates be available and how long will they last?*

Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis for qualifying purchases made on or after April 15, 2010 (while funds last). Purchases made before April 15 are not eligible.

Some ARRA-funded programs have run out of funding within a few days or weeks, while others are projected to last somewhat longer. We recommend that you make your qualifying product purchase and submit your rebate application as soon as you have decided on your high efficiency appliance purchase. Please check the program's website for a real-time update on program funding availability at: [www.wyomingrebates.com](http://www.wyomingrebates.com).

**What products qualify for rebates?**

Rebates are available for the following appliances that meet ENERGY STAR efficiency requirements, They are limited to one product per category per household:

Product	Efficiency Requirements (Equivalent to ENERGY STAR)	Rebate Amount
High Efficiency Clothes Washers	MEF > 1.80; WF < 7.5	\$100
High Efficiency Dishwashers	< 324 kWh/year and < 5.8 gal/cycle	\$50
Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters	EF > 2.0	\$150
Gas Tankless Water Heaters	EF > 0.82	\$150
Solar (Electric or Gas Backup) Water Heaters	SF > 0.5	\$150
High Efficiency Gas Furnaces	AFUE > 90%	\$250

**Where can I find a list of qualifying products?**

Any model in the product category above that meets ENERGY STAR'S efficiency requirements qualifies for rebates. You can find a list of qualifying models on the ENERGY STAR website at: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or via links on the Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program's website at: [www.wyomingrebates.com](http://www.wyomingrebates.com).

**How do I claim my rebate?**

After purchasing your qualifying product on or after April 15, 2010, you can submit the rebate application and required documentation by mail to the address below or online via the program's website at: [www.wyomingrebates.com](http://www.wyomingrebates.com).

Required documentation includes: 1) a signed, completed rebate application (or printout of the confirmation page if submitting online), 2) a copy of your sales receipt or contractor invoice showing the brand and model/item number of the product that you purchased, and 3) a copy of any utility bill showing the customer name and address to verify that you are a Wyoming resident.

Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program  
3800 Watt Avenue, Suite 105  
Sacramento, CA 95821-2672

**Where can I purchase my product?**

Most retailers sell qualifying clothes washers, dishwashers, and water heaters at their store locations. Sales associates can provide you guidance on how to select products that are eligible for rebates.

For water heaters and gas furnaces, we recommend finding a local plumbing or heating contractor to purchase and install them. You can work with your contractor to identify which qualifying model is right for you. Be sure to tell them you want an ENERGY STAR qualified model.

Reminder: When considering your purchase, please consult ENERGY STAR'S qualifying products lists to verify if the product model qualifies for the appliance rebates.

**Do I have to purchase my product in Wyoming?**

We highly encourage you to support Wyoming's economy and buy from a local vendor, However, no you do not have to purchase your product in Wyoming. Online purchases are eligible for rebates.

**What should I do with my old appliance once I replace it with the energy efficient model?**

Instead of discarding your old appliance, you can recycle it! Many major retail locations often provide recycling services. For more information, visit the program's website at: [www.wyomingrebates.com](http://www.wyomingrebates.com). Recycling your appliance ensures that the valuable materials like steel and other metals are recovered and reused, and that any hazardous materials are disposed of properly. Recycling also helps Wyoming save energy by making sure that your old, inefficient product is no longer using energy.

**Can I claim tax credits or a rebate from my local utility or the manufacturer in addition to the Wyoming Appliance Rebate?**

Yes, as long as the product qualifies for the terms of both programs.

For utility rebates, check with your local energy provider to verify product and eligibility requirements.

Federal tax credits are available for the Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program's qualifying gas tankless water heaters. While the Wyoming program requires natural gas furnaces with an AFUE >90%, you can obtain a tax credit and Wyoming program rebate if you upgrade the efficiency level to AFUE >95%. For more information visit ENERGY STAR'S website at: [www.enerRvstar.Rov](http://www.enerRvstar.Rov).

**What is the ENERGY STAR program?**

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help consumers save money and energy through energy efficient products and practices. All appliances and products with the ENERGY STAR label meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and DOE.

For more information or to apply for your rebate, contact the Wyoming Appliance Rebate Program's hotline at: 877-50-REBATES or visit the website at: [www.wyominRrebates.com](http://www.wyominRrebates.com).

## Hub Thompson Retires

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accomplishments have been duly recognized over the years, too, having been bestowed numerous national and regional awards – including NRECA’s highest honor, the Clyde T. Ellis award in 1993.

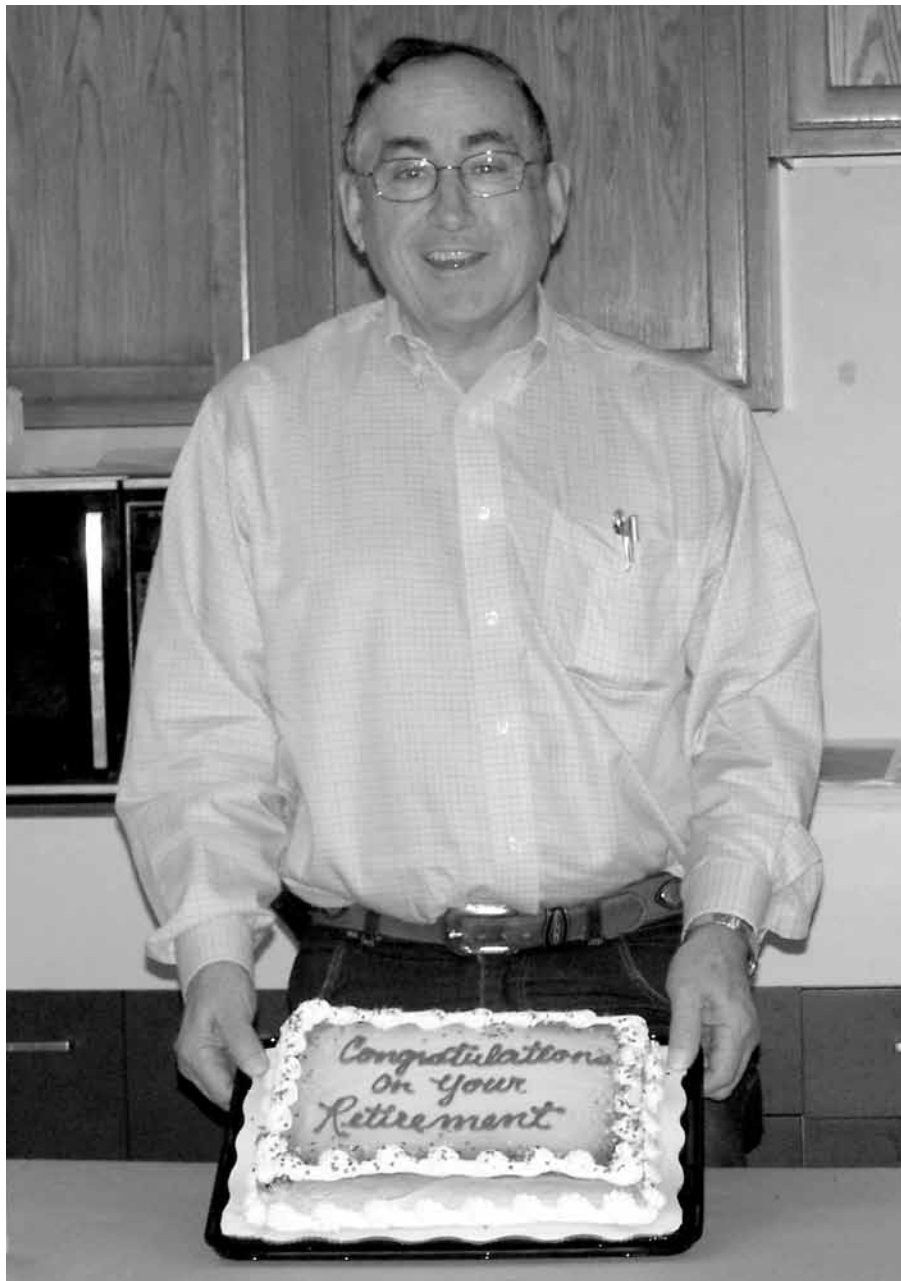
Despite all the achievements and accolades, Hub says the thing he’ll remember the most are the people he has come to know over

the past three decades. “By far the most rewarding aspect over the years has been the chance to work side-by-side with some of the finest people I’ll ever meet,” Hub said. “There is not enough gratitude to thank everyone involved for making my time at Tri-State a great experience for me and my family.

I hope that you were able to make it to our Annual Meeting to

thank Hub, and wish him well. His knowledge, business sense, loyalty, and dedication to the membership will be greatly missed. The management, staff, and employees of High Plains Power can’t express enough our thanks to Hub for everything he has done. He will be missed.

If you would like to contact me for any reason, my email address is [jhhpp@wyoming.com](mailto:jhhpp@wyoming.com).



High Plains Power

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This is a monthly publication made available by High Plains Power, Inc., with the Wyoming Rural Electric News. Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.