

JUNE 2017

SPARKS

Focused on people. Built on power.

HIGH WEST ENERGY



*You're
Invited!*

High West Energy Celebrates the 80th Annual Meeting

The High West Energy, Inc. 80th annual meeting of the members will be held at High West Energy headquarters in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2017, to take action upon the following matters:

1. Officers, directors, and committees reports
2. Elections for directors in Districts 12 and 15

In addition to the election of two directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated by the Nominating Committee, which is appointed by the Board of Directors of the corporation, under the bylaws:

District 12: Gary Smith
District 12: Jim Taylor
District 15: Dan Acheson

Agenda for the evening:

Craft Fair:	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Dinner:	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Annual Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We're also looking for craft fair vendors. There are a limited number of free booths available for crafters and other vendors. Each vendor will receive one table and two chairs at his/her location

Reservations must be made by June 14, 2017, Call Susan McGaugh at (307) 245-3261.

www.highwestenergy.com

Efficiency Tips for Outdoor Shops and Barns

There are many benefits to having an energy efficient outdoor shop or barn. Aside from saving energy, an efficient outdoor building can keep the environment around your structure healthy and safe; save money on your water bill; keep your animals happier and healthier; and save you from costly structural repairs.

Whether you are looking to build a new structure, or make changes to an existing structure, there are many ways you can make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient.

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Location matters. If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- If you are hiring a contractor to help build your structure, make sure you look for companies who specialize in “green” buildings and energy efficient practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

Follow these tips to make energy efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and

install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.

- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2 degree Fahrenheit temperature increase for every one-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria from building and will keep insects at bay.

To learn more about how to make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient, contact the energy experts at High West Energy.



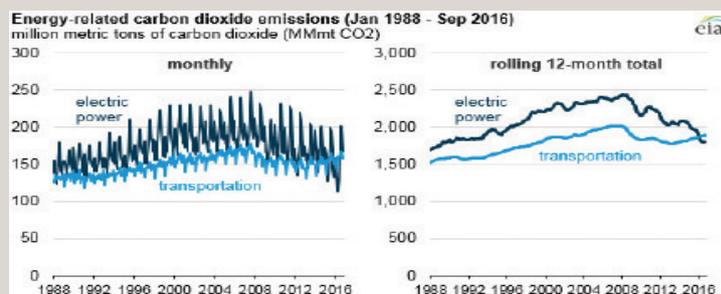
Carbon Footprint of Power Plants Now Lower Than Vehicles

Carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation in the United States last year fell below those from the transportation sector, the first time that had occurred since the late 1970's, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). From October 2015 through September 2016, carbon dioxide emission from transportation came in at 1,893 million metric tons, compared with 1,803 million metric tons for power plants.

Overall, EIA adds that power sector carbon dioxide emission dropped an average 2.8 percent annual between 2007 and 2015 - due to greater amounts of natural gas, hydropower, wind and solar generation coming on-line and a decline in coal use - while those from transportation rose an average of 1.8 percent per year as increased travel and shipping, due to cheap oil prices, outpaced efficiency gains.

The United States has made remarkable progress in greening its electricity sector since 2005. Whenever you see exciting headlines about renewable energy growth or the plunge in US emissions, those articles are usually talking about electricity.

Power plants are only one-third of America's CO2 emissions. Transportation, another third (and now the biggest source), remains



tougher to address as there aren't other readily available substitute's for oil. In fact, since 2013, transport emissions have been creeping upward again. As power plants are (roughly) one-third of US greenhouse-gas emissions and transportation is another third so that leaves a lot of other stuff, such as industry (cement and steel plants both emit a lot of CO₂ directly), fossil-fuel consumption for heating in homes and buildings, livestock and agriculture (a big source of methane), as well as forestry. If we really want to decarbonize the US economy, we'd need to tackle all of these areas. (Copied from: CFC Solutions News Bulletin and Vox.com Brad Plumer)

Landscaping Near Padmount Transformers

“Gee, it sure would be great to camouflage that green metal box in my yard,” you think to yourself while planning your landscaping project.

Wait! That green metal box, called a padmount transformer, is a vital part of your electric service. And there are specific guidelines to follow when planting near them.

A padmount transformer is a locked steel cabinet mounted on a concrete pad that contains a securely grounded energized connection for one or more customers. These transformers are used with underground distribution lines at service drops to step down the primary voltage on the line to a lower voltage used in your home.

Like most equipment, padmount transformers require periodic maintenance. They also may need attention when OPPD crews are working to restore service during a power outage.

To that end, in order to work safely on these units, OPPD crews need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked). They also need three feet of clearance on two sides and at least one foot of clearance on the fourth side.

This space is needed because crews use an eight-foot-long “hot stick” to disconnect the power source on padmounts that are energized. The other clearances are needed to perform other repairs.

Fences, shrubs and trees located too close to the padmount transformers can slow restoration or create a serious safety hazard. If these items are in the way, crews may have to remove them to gain access. Avoid that situation by taking time to plan before planting shrubs or installing a fence near a padmount.

You can place fences near a padmount transformer as long as minimum clearances are met. Just remember to avoid blocking the front side. If a fence runs along that side, a gate that swings away from the transformer front must be installed.

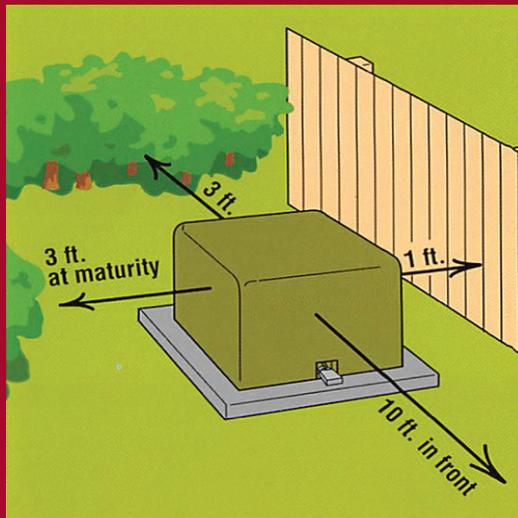
When planning what to plant near the transformer, consider the mature size and spread of a shrub or tree, which varies by species. This list includes compact varieties of popular shrubs that can be safely planted near a padmount transformer.

Deciduous shrubs

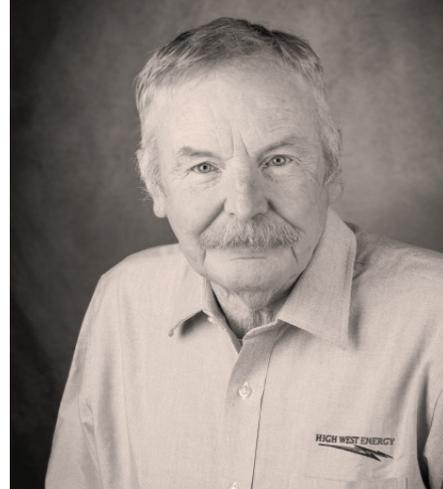
- Dwarf American cranberry bush (viburnum) – flowers and fruit
- Bronx forsythia – yellow spring flowers, can be cut back to rejuvenate
- Emerald mound honeysuckle – can be rejuvenated, but aphids can be a problem
- Dwarf winged euonymus – fall color
- Kelsey redosier dogwood – colorful winter stems
- Dwarf Korean lilac – spring flowers, can be rejuvenated
- Anthony waterer (spirea) – can be rejuvenated
- Spreading cotoneaster – fall color

Evergreen shrubs

- Densiform yew
- Runyon yew
- Armstrong juniper
- Seagreen juniper
- Compact mugo pine



Used with permission from Omaha Public Power District from their website, oppdthewire.com.



FEATURED PERSON

Doug Elgin Engineering Aide

Doug came to High West Energy with surveying experience that goes all the way back to when he served in the United States Air Force in the 1970s. Since, he has worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Defense Mapping Agency, Wyoming Department of Transportation and was a hydrographer for the Wyoming State Engineer Office. When he worked for the Defense Mapping Agency, Doug spent six months in Paraguay working on a major GPS project for World Bank. Now, he does surveying, staking and mapping at F. E. Warren Air Force Base and some throughout the High West territory.

In his spare time, Doug enjoys amateur radio and two-way radio repair, as well as restoring antique surveying instruments. His interest came from needing to repair equipment while in the field, and eventually turned into a hobby. He taught himself Morse code at a young age and earned his General Class Amateur Radio License. Doug also has volunteered at Cheyenne Frontier Days for over 30 years, and served as the Security Chairman in 2009-2011.

He says that, “High West Energy is a very friendly place to work. It’s employee oriented and member-focused.”



Local Phone Repair

Now offering mobile phone screen repair, updates and configuration serviced by our expert technicians.
Offices in Cheyenne & Pine Bluffs | (307) 245-4333 | hwds.com



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

WHAT YOU'RE MISSING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING



Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Did you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important business information, occasionally vote on other matters such as by-law changes and of course—the great door prizes!

High West Energy's annual meeting is a community gathering where neighbors

can meet new neighbors—or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the “errands of life” and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like High West Energy to bring together all members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors (in part because we need too), it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking a hand truly lifts both parties.

Our country and community face many challenges. Our economy feels like it has been stagnant for years. Overcoming these challenges will only happen if we come together.

High West Energy's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense

of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable and competitively priced energy and services that meet the needs of the membership is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to be with your fellow co-op members.

We get out of life what we put into it. High West Energy is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting. High West Energy's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, from 4:30 -8:00 p.m. at the office in Pine Bluffs. Please join us for the annual member dinner (4:30 – 6:30 p.m.), craft fair (4:30 – 6:30 p.m.), and business meeting (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.).

www.highwestenergy.com

HIGHWESTENERGY, INC. • PO BOX 519 • PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082-0519 • LARAMIE COUNTY (307) 245-3261 • TOLL FREE (888) 834-1657 **OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS A DAY**

OFFICE HOURS • MONDAY – FRIDAY • 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

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THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday of each month.

District 11 – Michael Lerwick | (307) 630-1277

District 12 – Gary Smith | (307) 649-2375

District 13 – Ed Prosser | (307) 632-6068

District 14 – Jerry Burnett | (970) 895-3386

District 15 – Dan Acheson | (308) 235-2300

District 16 – Jamie Fowler | (307) 214-9191

District 17 – Kevin Thomas | (308) 879-4396

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Ken Haas, Operations Manager

Dave Crouse, Chief Information Officer

Lindsay Forepaugh, Chief Financial Officer

Konnie Keehnen, Member Services Manager

Curtis Lund, Marketing Manager

Carol Macy, High West Wiring Manager

Marv Powell, WAFB Operations Manager

Lloyd Sisson, Engineering Manager