



April 2011

FALL RIVER FLASHES

Providing safe, reliable and renewable power at the lowest possible cost to members.

Save the Date for Annual Meeting

Join us for the Annual Meeting of Members on June 11, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Start your Saturday with a pancake breakfast, then visit with local health providers at our annual health fair. Bring your kids to enjoy a jumping castle, blow-up obstacle course, and cotton candy.

Vote on three board spots and find out how to save energy in your home. As always, you will leave annual meeting with freebies and perhaps even a door prize!

Go Paperless!

Save trees and make sure you get your electric bill even when you are out of town. Sign up for E-bill. We will deliver your electric bill and your Fall River Flashes to your e-mail inbox. You choose how to pay your bill. Call us or visit www.fallriverelectric.com to sign up.

Preparing Future Leaders at ICUA Youth Rally

Fall River will sponsor nine high school students to attend Idaho Cooperative Utility Association's Youth Rally the week of July 11-16.

Applications are due in Fall River's Ashton office by April 28.

Call us or visit www.fallriverelectric.com/youthrally.html for more information or to download an application.

Easy to Round Up

For about 50 cents each month, you can make a big contribution to other Fall River members who are struggling to make ends meet. Enroll in Helping Hands today! Call us or visit www.fallriverelectric.com for more information or to enroll.



Energy From the Sun

If you have ever wondered how much energy a small photovoltaic system on your home would produce, you can now get a fairly good idea. Just visit www.fallriverelectric.com and click on the Solar 4R Schools widget (shown at right). You can find out how much energy is generated by the photovoltaic system at the Teton Valley Campus of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).



Last year, the NOLS campus, located just south of Driggs, joined more than 100 schools nationwide in receiving funds through the Bonneville

Environmental Foundation's Solar 4R Schools program. The program educates students, teachers and community members about the science and benefits of renewable energy technology. Your Cooperative contributed approximately \$10,000 to the project.



The project includes a touch-screen kiosk in the building's common area. The kiosk shows how much energy is generated by week, month, year-to-date, and in real-time. The same information is shown online.

Creative Energies installed 33 solar panels that comprise the 7.59 KW photovoltaic system on the Teton Valley Campus of NOLS. The system generated just over 513 kWh during the this past February.

Fall River allows members with small renewable energy systems to bank excess energy they generate and use it throughout the year. Contact us for more information about our net-metering policy.

Energy from Water

As a member of Fall River, you share in the ownership of two hydroelectric projects that are certified as low impact by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute. The Island Park Hydro and Buffalo River Hydro were the first two facilities certified low impact in the State of Idaho. In addition, the Chester Hydro project will be completed this summer. All projects include features to enhance the fishery of the Henry's Fork River.

You can support renewable projects like these by joining the Cooperative's Green Power program. Call us or visit www.fallriverelectric.com to enroll!





Right Tree, Right Place



Planting trees is a great way to increase your home's energy efficiency and its value, but the wrong tree in the wrong place could threaten your family's health. Save energy and keep your family safe when planting new trees by following these guidelines:

- **Choose your site carefully.** Plant deciduous trees on the south and west side of your home to benefit from shade in the summer and sun in the winter. If you live in a particularly rural area, consider creating a defensible space around your home to prevent damage from wildfires. For more information about defensible spaces, visit www.firewise.org.

- **Choose an appropriate tree for your site.** When fully grown, the canopy of a tree should be at least 20 feet away from overhead power lines. For large trees, such as spruces and maples, this means planting a tree more than 50 feet from a power line. See figure below. Plant bushes and trees at least 12 feet away from pad-mounted equipment. Visit your local nursery or www.arborday.org for more information about choosing the right tree.

- **Have utility lines located before you even touch your shovel.** Hitting an underground utility line could be dangerous and very costly to repair. Call your state's utility line locator service at 811 at least 2 days before you dig to have lines located.

- **Look up before you prune your mature tree.** Any time you perform routine pruning or maintenance, make sure you keep yourself and any equipment at least 10 feet away from an overhead power line. Accidents can happen even without coming into direct contact with a power line.

When fully grown, the canopy of trees should be at least 20 feet away from overhead power lines.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Ashton, Driggs &
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Open Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
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DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
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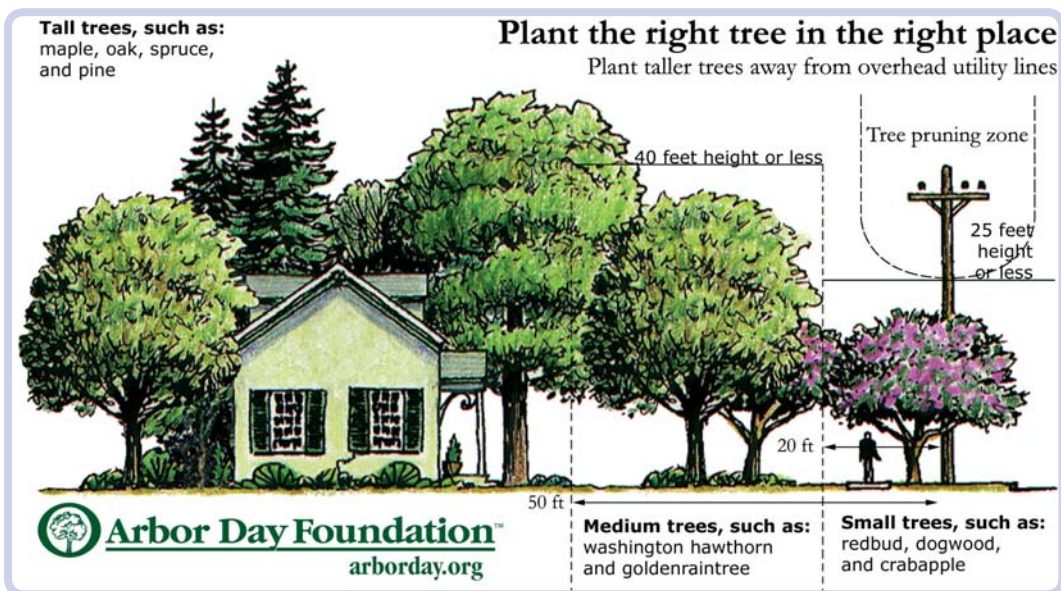
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Get Help Saving Energy

Energy efficient investments help you save energy and money over the long-term. Jump start your energy projects with a little help.

Fall River offers commercial and home energy rebates. Home energy rebates cover some new programmable thermostats, Energy Star appliances, replacement windows and doors, and additional insulation. Commercial rebates cover replacement lighting.

Call us or visit www.fallriverelectric.com to learn more.

Federal tax credits have also been renewed for 2011, though at lower levels. Find out more at www.energystar.gov.