



Battle River POWER COOP

MEMBER OWNED • COMMUNITY POWERED



Tapping into Member Opinion

Battle River Power Coop will be initiating a member survey once again in 2023, which will be implemented by Illumina Research Partners, an independent research firm based in Calgary.

The survey will be administered by phone starting in April 2023 and will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

We encourage members to participate – your opinions and perceptions are very important to us to continue to offer you the most reliable service. Additionally, the question content is designed to confirm BRPC's compliance with the Alberta Utilities Commission, therefore it fulfills two goals with a single survey.

All responses are confidential, which means no specific person or account will be associated with any comments or ratings.

The information and analysis will be an important tool for Battle River Power Coop to continue being the 'smart choice for electricity delivery in rural Alberta.'



Government Energy Rebate Extension

The Government has announced that it will extend its energy rebate program into 2023. For sites which consume power, the current amount received is \$50.00 per month up until the end of December, 2022.

The rebate amount for January and February, 2023 will be \$75.00 per month.

The rebate amount for March and April, 2023 will be \$25.00 per month.

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Keeping Powerlines and Poles Clear

Why is it important to keep the land around powerlines and poles clear?

You have a power pole and transformer in your yard; you want to cover it up with some more attractive greenery, fence, or even adding a light or satellite dish to the pole. Power poles and transformers aren't the prettiest things, but they do help to power homes.

Yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, buildings, satellite dishes, lights, and birdhouses are all things Powerline Technicians find on utility poles. Not only is this dangerous, but it is also life-threatening to the professionals who maintain your electricity, and to those posting the items. For your safety and the safety of those who keep the power flowing, please do not post these items on power poles or have any structures too close to the power poles.

Anyone posting items on utility poles also is at risk of exposure to thousands of volts of electricity pulsing overhead. Always stay at least 10 feet away from utility lines. Unauthorized pole attachments also violate the National Electrical Safety Code.

If there was ever an issue and the power goes out around your home, crews and servicemen need access to the power pole and the transformer. It's important to make sure there is nothing in the way for them. That way Powerline Technicians can make sure that the power is on for you and your neighbours quicker. Whether it's a transformer or a power pole, having it clear of obstructions is necessary to help powerline crews.

It is also important to avoid tampering with or disrupting the guy wires that surround utility poles. Tell children not to play or swing on them and maintain your distance when performing yard work. If you see the poles or guy wires are disrupted in some way, please call your local utility company immediately.

For your safety and the safety of those who keep the power flowing, please do not post items on power poles or have any structures too close to the power poles.



Battle River Power Coop Scholarship Application

Deadline for Applications is
Friday, February 10, 2023



Annually Battle River Power Coop makes five scholarships of \$1000.00 available for dependents of Battle River Power Coop members.

If you are interested in applying for one of the five scholarship grants, you can obtain the scholarship requirements and download the application by visiting our website: www.brpower.coop/community/scholarships.

Don't delay – start collecting the necessary information for a February 10th, 2023 submission.



Announcement from ACCA's 2023 Summer Camps

ACCA is excited and proud about how the co-op youth leadership program positively impacted the lives of many over the last 63 years. We look forward to many more youth being impacted in the years to come. As strong partners, ACCA and the Goldeye Foundation Society wish to reiterate our commitment to exploring new avenues for promoting co-operative and community leadership for youth that is fun, innovative, sustainable, and inclusive. Together, we want to share that we will be using 2023 as a reset and exploration year, which will include focused outreach to alumni, sponsors, and other stakeholders to obtain feedback on innovative ways of engaging youth. We look forward to communicating with you as we build solid leadership experiences for youth at the Goldeye Centre (located near Nordegg) and across the province.

Please stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to provide your feedback.



Tips from the Line

When putting away outdoor decorations, watch for any overhead powerlines when moving ladders around your yard.

Thank you!



Thank you to member, Ross Skori from the Kinsella area; without his help in snow plowing a blind road in -50 temperatures, we wouldn't have been able to get our members power in a timely manner. Thank you, Ross, for your help!

Message from the Board of Directors

“Albertans have three options for buying electricity: The variable rate fluctuates based on market price, a fixed rate that’s predetermined based on contract term and the regulated-rate-option (RRO) where the utilities commission sets the price.” (Kaisar, 2022)¹ At Battle River Power Coop, our members have a choice between RRO and fixed energy contract.

When it comes to paying for electricity in Alberta, consumers with no other options and/or poor credit have little choice but to go on the RRO. Recently, the Minister of the newly formed Affordability and Utilities department, Matt Jones, proposed new legislation in Bill 2, Inflation Relief Statutes Amendment Act 2022, to help people on the RRO by proposing a 13.5 cents per kWh rate cap on RRO for January, February and March 2023. The Act passed legislation on December 15, 2022.

Minister Matt Jones said “Seniors, vulnerable Albertans, and rural Alberta, they can’t handle the bill shock that they may be getting in January and February, so we wanted to provide them some stability.” While this is a temporary solution to help the vulnerable in the first quarter of 2023, consumers on the RRO will be required to repay the margin between the Rate Cap RRO of 13.5 cents per kWh for the first quarter of 2023 over the following 21 months.

Battle River Power Coop inhouse rate analyst gathers energy related information for calculation and recommends an RRO rate to the Board of Directors. RRO rate development consists of analyzing the forward market price and risks based on forecasting consumption. The Board then approves or adjusts the rates to maintain the best interests of the membership.

Battle River Power Coop will always strive to give our members the lowest possible Regulated Rate Option possible.

¹ Kaisar, S. (2022, December 9). <https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/>. Retrieved from CTV News Edmonton: <https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/power-problems-why-alberta-may-ditch-regulated-rate-option-electricity-as-big-bills-loom-1.6189065>

REGULATED RATE OPTION



The RRO may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a ‘regulated’ rate, rather it is a default rate. If you do not have an energy contract, then you are on the RRO.

For December 2022, the RRO is priced at \$0.24598 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed blue bill. For January 2023, the REA monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.13500. Detailed information on the monthly RRO is available on: www.brpower.coop.

The Battle River Rural Energy Contract rate is \$0.0635 per kWh until December 31, 2023.

Members are free to purchase natural gas services or electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

BATTLE RIVER POWER COOP IS AVAILABLE FOR POWER TROUBLE CALLS 24/7/365 CALL TOLL-FREE: 1.877.428.3972



Stay Up to Date with Battle River Power Coop

If you have had any changes to phone numbers, email addresses, mailing address or wish to add other contact details to your account, please connect with us toll-free at 1.877.428.3972 or email: brpc@brpower.coop and we will ensure your account is updated.

Other ways you can stay in the loop with Battle River Power Coop:

- **Visit our website www.brpower.coop.** The website offers on-line account access for members to review their accounts.
- Battle River Power Coop also communicates on popular social media platforms – **Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.**
- **Download our Outage App** from the Google Play or Apple Store. Our Outage App is updated with the most current information on outages in our service area.

Want to help others learn about our Cooperative?

Scan the QR Code with your phone’s camera, click on the link, and leave us a review!

