



Winter Road Safety

Winter brings a unique set of challenges to road safety, with icy conditions, snow-covered streets, and plummeting temperatures. To ensure you arrive at your destination safely, it's crucial to winterize your vehicle and adjust your driving habits according to weather changes. In this article, we'll explore essential tips for preparing your vehicle for winter and driving responsibly in challenging weather conditions.

Winterizing Your Vehicle:

Tires: *The Foundation of Winter Safety.*

- ▶ Check tire tread depth and replace worn tires.
- ▶ Switch to winter tires for enhanced traction on icy roads.

Battery Health: *A Cold-Weather Concern*

- ▶ Test your battery to ensure it's in optimal condition.
- ▶ Carry jumper cables for emergencies.

Lights and Visibility: *See and Be Seen*

- ▶ Inspect and replace dim or burnt-out headlights and taillights.
- ▶ Clean snow and ice off all vehicle windows, mirrors, and lights.

Emergency Kit: *Prepare for the Unexpected*

- ▶ Pack a winter emergency kit, including blankets, a flashlight, and non-perishable snacks.
- ▶ Add a shovel and ice scraper to your vehicle.



Driving with Weather Changes in Mind:

Speed Control: *Slow and Steady Wins the Race*

- ▶ Adapt to reduced speed limits in icy or snowy conditions.
- ▶ Allow for increased braking distances.

Following Distance: *Give Yourself Room to React*

- ▶ Maintain a longer following distance to accommodate slippery roads.
- ▶ Avoid sudden maneuvers and sharp turns.

Stay Informed: *Weather Updates & Road Conditions*

- ▶ Check weather forecasts before embarking on a journey.
- ▶ Stay informed about road closures and conditions.

Plan Ahead: *Be Strategic with Your Routes*

- ▶ Choose well-traveled routes that are more likely to be plowed and salted.
- ▶ Inform others of your travel plans and estimated arrival times.

By taking the time to winterize your vehicle and adopting safe driving practices, you can significantly reduce the risk of accidents during the winter months. Remember, the key to winter road safety is preparation, caution, and a willingness to adapt to the ever-changing weather conditions. Stay safe on the roads this winter!

Understanding Alberta's Energy Market: High Prices and Your Cooperative

Over the last year, Alberta has been dealing with expensive energy, leading to a closer look at what's causing it in the province's energy market. Global dynamics, local rules, and changes in the industry have all played a part. Alberta is unique because it has a wholesale electricity market, where prices depend on how much power is available and how much people need. The cost of making electricity is then passed on to consumers through their monthly bills. In the last two years, both wholesale and retail electricity prices in Alberta have been going up.



Even though wholesale electricity markets are competitive, Alberta has faced high prices given there are few suppliers that can be available to supply power when the power is needed. The Alberta Electricity System Operator (AESO) runs the market for the province. It predicts how much power will be needed and allows producers to offer their supply at a certain price. The market price is set where demand crosses the supply curve. When there is a shortage of power to meet demand, the AESO calls on higher priced generators to produce the needed power. The power produced up to the demand is sold to distributors and then to consumers. Retail energy markets are also competitive, and companies selling retail energy must predict demand and buy enough supply to meet it.

These markets can be affected by “market power,” where participants with enough supply of power capacity can control prices. The Market Surveillance Administrator (MSA) reviews potential market power issues to make sure the electricity market is fair, efficient, and openly competitive.

In this challenging situation, Battle River Power Coop (BRPC), a not-for-profit group, stands out as an affordable and reliable alternative. BRPC buys power from the wholesale market and sells it to consumers in its area. The total cost for consumers includes transmission, distribution, electricity market prices, administration, and other charges, plus GST.

Understanding why Alberta's energy prices are high and knowing about Battle River Power Coop is important for consumers and our members trying to navigate the energy market.

Rising Energy Prices in Alberta

Alberta, known for its role in the energy sector, is affected by global market changes. The province's economy, linked to oil and gas, is sensitive to shifts in commodity prices. When global energy markets change, Alberta's energy prices go up, impacting consumers.

Regulatory factors and policy decisions also affect prices, creating a complex web of market dynamics. Government policies, environmental rules, and changes in supply and demand contribute to energy price volatility in Alberta. Balancing sustainability with affordable energy is a challenge for policymakers and industry players.



After the Ukraine conflict last year, natural gas supply was restricted, leading to higher global prices. Alberta's electricity generation relies on natural gas, causing electricity prices to rise. This year, natural gas prices stabilized, but electricity prices increased due to a shortage of base load generation capacity in Alberta. The province's shift to renewable energy, like solar and wind, is ongoing, but reliable capacity is still needed.

The Government of Alberta is responsible for overseeing the electricity market and is reviewing rates to ensure fair pricing. How long this review will take and what changes will be made for an affordable, fair, efficient, and openly competitive market is uncertain.

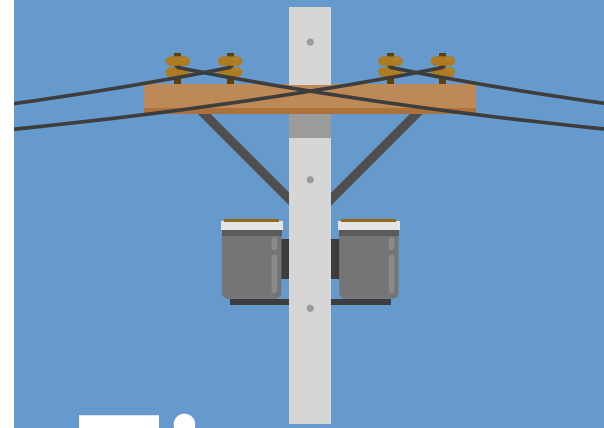
The upcoming winter in Alberta may impact electricity prices due to a shortage of generating capacity. Price volatility is still observed, and during the winter, increased power demand can lead to higher market prices. Consumers are encouraged to use electricity wisely during cold winter days.

The Appeal of Cooperatives in Rural Alberta

Facing challenges, Battle River Power Coop is seen as a promising option for rural consumers seeking reliable and affordable power. As a cooperative, it prioritizes community values over profit, providing tangible benefits for consumers. Community engagement is a key advantage, with active member participation ensuring their energy needs are met.

Battle River Power Coop's commitment to community involvement sets it apart from larger profit-driven corporations. This cooperative approach builds trust and accountability among members.

Understanding Alberta's energy market requires knowing the factors behind high prices. Battle River Power Coop, with its focus on community engagement and affordability, offers a cooperative solution in the evolving energy landscape. For rural consumers, it provides a voice in reliable and responsible energy.



Tips from the Line

By taking the time to winterize your vehicle and adopting safe driving practices, you can significantly reduce the risk of accidents during the winter months. Remember, the key to winter road safety is preparation, caution, and a willingness to adapt to the ever-changing weather conditions. Stay safe on the roads this winter!

Message from the Board of Directors

We are thrilled to share pivotal news regarding the growth and improvement of our cooperative. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the acquisition of a new property, marking a significant expansion of our yard and site. This strategic move is a testament to our dedication to enhancing our capabilities and ensuring the continued delivery of reliable power services to our valued members.

WSP Canada Inc, a trusted partner, has played a crucial role in the development of the crossing and yard layout. Their design aims to minimize traffic and parking congestion, aligning with our commitment to operational efficiency. Securing the approval to cross the ATCO right of way and finalizing the Municipal Reserve lease were essential steps in this process, and we are grateful for the collaboration and support we received.

In addition to the property acquisition, we are focusing on upgrading our existing building to meet the evolving needs of our cooperative. This includes implementing enhanced security measures, exploring the installation of a natural gas line for sustainability, and addressing necessary repairs to ensure the longevity and functionality of our facilities.

We appreciate your continued trust and support as we embark on this exciting phase of expansion. Together, we look forward to a future of increased efficiency, sustainability, and improved service for all our members.

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!



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 2023, the RRO is priced at \$0.17789 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed blue bill. For January 2024, the REA monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.13968. Detailed information on the monthly RRO is available on: www.brpower.coop.

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). Code of Conduct Regulation: Advertising Section 7(1).

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

