

Because it is December, and the holidays are almost upon us, I am going to keep this short. I will start out with some happy news from Powder River Basin Resource Council. We have had some very generous members pay for lots of gift memberships. I am excited to be able to offer everyone who receives this email a free year of membership. Since there are a lot of you, I have decided that opt-out will be the easiest way to do this on my end.



Please let me know if you DO NOT want a free membership. Otherwise, consider this a notice that you are now a Powder River member. We may contact you for your address and phone information. These are kept strictly confidential. Nobody knows you are a member unless you tell them and only our staff (there are seven of us) can see your information. You don't have to do anything, but you will receive our bi-monthly publication (the *Powder River Breaks*) and we will send you occasional updates on our work. Beyond that, you decide how involved you want to be in anything we do. It's almost as simple as solar energy.

In the darkest days of the year, I am taking a moment to appreciate the solar cells on Powder River's office roof. Even now, as we move toward winter solstice, our solar panels generated 161,464 watt hours of electricity during the past month. Most of the time, I don't think about our panels all that much. Being a solar panel is a thankless job, but they don't seem to mind. They keep working, summer and winter, day after day, whether I pay attention to them or not. Today, I am paying attention to them, and thinking about them chugging along, converting sunlight to electricity so that I can send this email, is giving me a dose of cheer!



The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) is adding even more cheer to the holiday season (at least for me). REAP receives funding through the Farm Bill, and its continued existence was in jeopardy earlier in the year as the House and Senate debated over details. In the final version of the Farm Bill, however, the program received \$50 million a year in perpetuity. Since most Wyoming businesses that install solar use the REAP grant to help cover costs, this is a huge win for Wyoming solar!

On a different solar financing note, the clock is running down on the 30% Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit. Next year is the last year to claim the full incentive. If you have been thinking about installing and are just waiting for the right time, installing in 2019 could save you a lot of money. In order to claim the credit, you have to owe enough in taxes. This is not a rebate, so it only reduces what you owe. Still, for many planning to become solar owners, this opportunity could make a system a lot more affordable.

At the risk of letting you know how much I think about this stuff, I am going to talk about solar funding even more. Attached is our list of solar funding options from Wyoming credit unions. There are no strictly “solar loans” being offered at this time, but there are many loan products available that could be used to finance installation.

As always, if you have ideas for the newsletters, or solar news you want to share, please let me know and I will include it in the next newsletter.

I am looking forward to more Wyoming solar in 2019! Happy holidays.

Solar Power is growing in Wyoming! It is growing because of your interest. If you have ideas or resources (funding, installers we may not know about, programs, etc.) please let us know. Your ideas help to move solar forward, and none of our progress during the past year could have happened without people just like you!

You are receiving this email because you came to one of our solar events and because of your interest in solar energy.