Connections





Busy 2021 Provides 'Roadmap' for Meeting Demands of Growth

This summer was a great test for Idaho Power. A combination of unprecedented heat, severe drought and record population growth pushed our customers' electricity use higher than ever.

Our grid performed well throughout the heatwave. Customers helped by voluntarily reducing energy use during key peak hours at their homes and businesses.

"We expect people and businesses to keep moving to southern Idaho and eastern Oregon, so there's no reason to expect energy demand to go anywhere but up," said Adam Richins, Idaho Power's Chief Operating Officer. "This year's test of our system provides a roadmap for improvements to meet rising demand."

A diverse energy mix is key for reliability, especially if drought conditions persist. Reliable, affordable, clean hydropower is the backbone of our system. We ramp up hydro production when we need it. We can also preserve water by reducing output when demand falls. Our mix also includes solar, wind, natural gas, coal and other sources. We buy from regional energy markets, importing electricity over high-voltage transmission lines that connect us to nearby regions. Our system planners, who prepare for these scenarios year-round, did a great job this summer of finding the most affordable energy when we needed it most.

We'll rely on the same tools — and some new ones — as we prepare for more growth. We look at all available options every two years as we update our 20-year planning outlook in our Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

"Over the next decade, we expect more solar and wind energy to come on-line as the cost of renewable energy continues to drop," Richins said. "Battery storage technology is also something we're watching as costs come down. And we're planning to add new generation capacity in the next couple years to keep up with growth."

Jackpot Solar is a good example of falling prices for renewable energy. The 120-megawatt (MW) solar project is scheduled for construction south of Twin Falls next year. When it's finished, Jackpot Solar will deliver clean energy to Idaho Power customers at prices among the lowest on record.

Of course, solar panels and wind turbines don't produce energy if the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining. That's why Idaho Power is working on transmission lines like Boardman to Hemingway (B2H), a 500-kilovolt (kV), 290-mile transmission line that will allow us to import up to 500 MW in the summer — enough to power more than 175,000 homes during peak demand — from the Pacific Northwest. Much of that energy will come from clean sources like hydropower.

"Regional transmission lines are the key to moving clean energy from where it is produced to the customers who need it," Richins said. "These projects will set us up for success even as demand grows."

For more information about how Idaho Power keeps your power reliable yearround, visit **idahopower.com/reliability**.



Winter is Coming! Here's How Idaho Power Prepares for the Elements

As communities across Idaho Power's service area brace for winter weather, our crews are doing the same. Winter can be harsh in our region, and our employees stay prepared to ensure our customers continue to receive the reliable energy they count on.

Idaho Power keeps the lights on 99.96% of the time. Here are a few of the proactive measures our company takes to keep our crews safe and our customers energized through the winter months:

Safety First!

Safety is a core value at Idaho Power. During winter, our linemen always travel with extra layers of warm clothing, plenty of food and water, avalanche beacons, rescue equipment and traction devices for their vehicles and feet. Crews actively monitor weather and avalanche reports and patrol lines to look for any potential issues caused by accumulating snow.

Equipment at the Ready

Operations centers across Idaho Power's service area maintain supplies, including power poles, conductors and tranformers. If a heavy snowstorm damages equipment, our linemen will use this inventory to repair or replace it as soon as it's safe to do so.

Working in the Snow

Crews approach work a little differently in snowy conditions. Bucket trucks often can't get to remote or steep terrain, so linemen use snowshoes, snowmobiles or snow cats to reach equipment. Linemen do more pole climbing in snowy weather, and they might need a little extra time to restore an outage during extreme weather. We appreciate your patience!

> Nov. 2021 Side Dish

From the Energy Efficient Kitchen

Berry Good Sweet Potatoes

1 ½ lbs sweet potatoes or yams, peeled and quartered ½ cup canned whole-berry cranberry sauce

 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed brown sugar

- ¹/₄ cup raisins
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 2 tbsp butter

1 tsp grated orange rind ¼ tsp salt

Cook sweet potatoes in enough boiling water to cover them for 15–20 minutes. Drain. Combine potatoes, cranberry sauce and orange rind and whip until fluffy. Stir in raisins. Spoon potato mixture into two-quart casserole dish. In a small bowl, mix sugar and salt, cut in butter, then stir in nuts. Sprinkle over whipped sweet potatoes. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Makes six servings.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.



Sign up for Idaho Power's Electric Vehicle Network

Idaho Power recently launched an online Electric Vehicle (EV) Network for current EV owners and those interested in learning more. Customers who sign up for the network will hear about future EV opportunities and news from Idaho Power. By signing up, you can help us better identify the EV products and services our customers want most.

Idaho Power — a longtime supporter of EVs — continually monitors EV technology and works with customers across our service area to add new charging stations. We recently installed our first public EV charging station at Copperfield Park campground in Hells Canyon. Our company also has its own fleet of cost-effective, environmentally friendly EVs, which includes passenger cars, work trucks, forklifts and more. To learn more about owning an EV, visit **idahopower.com/EV**.

If you'd like to sign up to join Idaho Power's EV Network, visit **idahopower.com/evnetwork**.

