

# YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2019

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**Yampa Valley Electric Association** is a cooperative that provides value to its consumer-members by delivering safe and reliable electric service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COLORADOCOUNTRYLIFE.COOP

## UNDERSTANDING THE WHY OF YVEA

### Part 5: Technology's Role in Improving System Reliability

BY STEVE JOHNSON GENERAL MANAGER



STEVE JOHNSON

Yampa Valley Electric Association is using advances in technology to better serve members by improving service, safety, efficiency and reliability. These advanced technologies allow us to find and fix outages faster, better shape and protect our electric grid, make work safer for our YVEA staff and give members the opportunity to live comfortably while using energy more efficiently. Because there are so many advanced technologies being used by YVEA to better serve you, this column isn't long enough to explain them all. Instead, I will highlight specific technologies.

#### **AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure)**

YVEA completed its deployment of AMI technology in 2018. AMI allows near real-time communication between home and business meters and the central station, as well as allowing the monitoring of control devices on YVEA's distribution system, enabling better and faster oversight of system operations. Now, instead of meter readers going house to house, AMI allows the readings to be done remotely.

#### **SMARTHUB**

Designed specifically for your benefit, the free SmartHub app (IOS and Android) provides convenient account access and two-way communication to YVEA via your mobile device or computer, allowing you to make payments, notify YVEA of power outages, monitor your energy usage and more.

#### **SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)**

SCADA helps YVEA quickly spot and solve

power outages, providing safer, more reliable electricity for you. The components of a SCADA system use both hardware and software to quickly process and display data in a graphical format for easy interpretation. The sensors collect data and transmit it in near real-time for analysis, allowing safe, reliable and stable operation of the grid.

#### **FIBER**

These technologies rely on the ability to share large amounts of data between our meters and substations and the central office at extremely high speed. YVEA has invested in high-speed fiber optic cabling to connect our infrastructure and transmit the required data. To increase the benefit to our members, YVEA, through Luminate Broadband, LLC, will soon offer high-speed broadband capability to our residential and commercial members. Learn more about this opportunity at [www.LuminateBroadband.com](http://www.LuminateBroadband.com).

#### **GIS (Geographical Information System) MAPPING**

YVEA is also using GIS to better serve you. The digital mapping system gives us detailed information about our electrical network, allowing us to restore power more efficiently during outages. It also gives members a visual map of existing outages and can be found at [www.yvea.com](http://www.yvea.com).

In addition to these technologies, YVEA has updated various internal technologies so that communication from member services to operations to accounting

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### Standby Generator Program

YVEA is now offering a residential and commercial standby generator program to qualifying members. Under the new program, members may purchase an American-made Briggs & Stratton standby generator for 50% down, with the remaining 50% paid monthly as part of the member's monthly power bill from YVEA, or obtain funding for up to 10 years through YVEA's Briggs & Stratton finance partner, a bank or other third-party financing. The generators will be installed by YVEA.

**For more information about participating in the program, email [generators@yvea.com](mailto:generators@yvea.com) or call Mike Beyer at 970-871-2267.**

## YVEA Awarded Grant for Two Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

YVEA is proud to be one of the grant recipients for the **Charge Ahead Colorado** grant recently awarded by the Colorado Energy Office. YVEA was awarded a total of \$18,000 toward two electric vehicle charging stations that will be installed at its Craig and Steamboat Springs campuses for employee and public use. The chargers are expected to be ready by July. The EV charging station in Craig will be the first publicly accessible charging station in Moffat County.



### Surge Protection Program

Protect your home electronics, appliances and other important property with YVEA's whole home, meter-based surge protection, which is warranted to protect your household's major appliances and electronic devices. This affordable protection is available for only \$5 per month and is added to your electric bill — a small price to pay to ensure you are protected.



**For complete information on the surge protection program, visit our website, email [surge@yvea.com](mailto:surge@yvea.com) or call Mike Beyer 970-871-2267.**

### YVEA Wants to Advertise Your Business for FREE!

Let YVEA promote your local businesses for free through its new YVEA Co-op Connections program. YVEA does all the advertising for FREE, all it asks is that you provide a discount for members.

We will do the promoting to get our 20,000 members through your doors. We also have a mobile app that "geo locates" the discounts, so our members know the businesses to visit. To learn more, go to <https://www.connections.coop/323-landing.aspx> to watch a short video. From there, you can sign up your business to participate or request more information.

Sign up today and grow your business with the free help of YVEA and more than 20,000 of your fellow members.



### Making a Difference: Join Operation Round Up

YVEA members can help local nonprofits by adding a few cents to their monthly electric bill. When rounding the bill up to the nearest dollar, the added pennies go to the YVEA Operation Round Up Foundation. Operation Round Up has given over \$200,000 to 100 local nonprofits. These pennies, combined with pennies from other members, benefit local communities, and the average yearly cost is only \$6.

Be a difference maker. Call YVEA at 970-879-1160 or 970-824-6593 and ask a member service representative to help you get started. Members can also visit <https://www.yvea.com/content/sign-me-operation-round>.

**Attention Nonprofits!** The application deadline for the May grant cycle is May 15. Visit <https://www.yvea.com/operation-roundup> for application and guidelines.

## Spread the Word: **Luminate!**



Visit [www.LuminateBroadband.com](http://www.LuminateBroadband.com) to declare your interest in fiber broadband internet service, track our construction progress and sign up for service when it's available. Check out the packages and pricing on the Luminate website this month.

We look forward to bringing you streaming, telecommuting, conferencing and other tools at up to gigabyte speed. Luminate your life at [www.LuminateBroadband.com](http://www.LuminateBroadband.com)!

**H**igh-speed broadband is on the way! Powered by Yampa Valley Electric Association, Luminate Broadband is in the process of building its fiber optic broadband network, which will deliver high-speed internet to improve your quality of life.

## YVEA to Begin 2019 Underground Construction Work in May

**Y**VEA works year-round to keep the power flowing for members. YVEA's 2019 underground construction work plan will include replacing direct buried cable with new conduit and cable that is equipped for YVEA's fiber rollout.

### Work locations for 2019 will include:

- Riverside subdivision in Steamboat Springs (May)
- Steamboat II subdivision west of Steamboat Springs (May)
- Country Green subdivision south of Steamboat Springs (July)
- Ski Ranches subdivision in Steamboat Springs (August)

- Eagles Watch subdivision in Stagecoach (September)

YVEA will continue its injection project beginning in May.

For the public's safety and the safety of our crews, we asked that you use caution near our worksites and whenever you see a YVEA or contracting crew working near the road. We want you, our crews and contractors to get home safely.

For more information about our 2019 construction plan and when we will be in your area, please visit <https://www.yvea.com/current-construction> or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## Understanding the Why of YVEA

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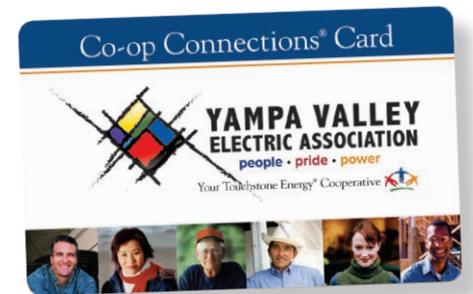
function at 100% so our staff can better serve you. We also constantly monitor and implement various layers of cybersecurity to protect the grid and our members' personal

information and data.

By investing strategically in proven technologies, we are preparing YVEA now and for the future to continue our mission of both powering and empowering the people, businesses and communities we serve.

### Work Safely

If you are on equipment that makes contact with a power line, stay put. Do not attempt to climb off the equipment because you do not want to become the path to ground for the electricity. Call for help and warn others in the area to stay back until help arrives and the line is de-energized.



## It's Here!

### Start Saving With your Co-op Connections Card

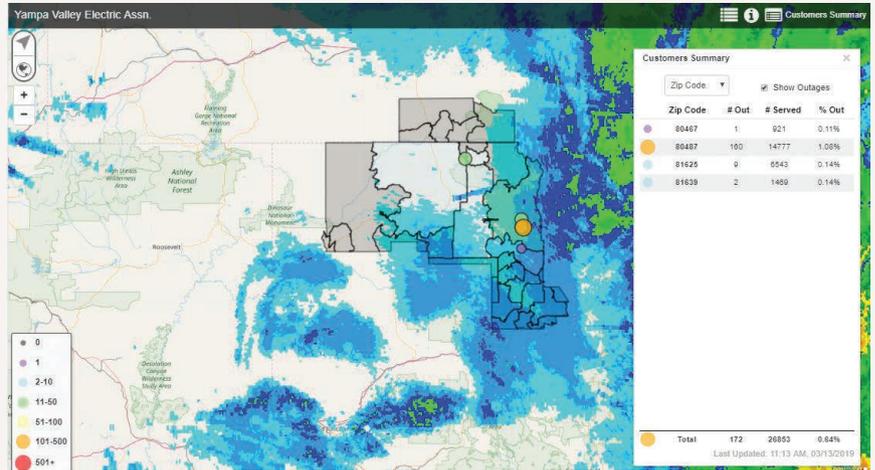
YVEA is proud to offer members the free Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Co-op Connections program. Members should have received their cards in the April issue of *Colorado Country Life* magazine. This free program will provide you with a simple card and phone app that you can present to participating businesses to help you save money and live a healthier life, while also promoting local and national business discounts and other discounts on prescriptions, dental, vision and other medical services, as well as hotels, car rentals, cash back shopping, event tickets and more. Local businesses can join the program for free and have their businesses and discounts promoted for free, while members achieve significant savings year-round.

**Download the Co-op Connections app** on your mobile device today! For more information, visit [yvea.com](http://yvea.com) or email [coopconnections@yvea.com](mailto:coopconnections@yvea.com).



## Notice of Annual Meeting

Yampa Valley Electric Association's 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on June 25, 2019 at Steamboat Springs High School. Registration begins at 3 p.m. with meeting to follow.



## NEW YVEA.com Website

Visit the newly revamped YVEA website at [www.yvea.com](http://www.yvea.com) and give us feedback. The new website was streamlined and designed with members' needs in mind. A new feature is a detailed outage map, which can be viewed at [yvea.com/outage-center](http://yvea.com/outage-center).

### Energy Hero Tip of the Month:

### New SmartHub Usage Alert Available!

**SmartHub has a new feature:** usage alerts on your mobile device or tablet. You can:

- Set alerts for high or low usage. For property managers or second home owners, this is a valuable tool.
- Set alerts to view daily usage.

For instructions to set up these alerts, visit our website at <https://www.yvea.com/download-smarthub-app>.

### CLARK TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Due to several hazardous occurrences this winter, Yampa Valley Electric Association will be clearing the transmission line right of way from State Highway 40 in Steamboat Springs to our Clark Substation, in Clark, for public safety and wildfire mitigation. The project is estimated to start June 1, 2019.

For more information and a map of the project visit [www.yvea.com/clark-transmission-project](http://www.yvea.com/clark-transmission-project).

## Energy Hero Program

Yampa Valley Electric Association is proud to offer Energy Hero, a new program designed to help members manage their energy costs by fighting energy waste through tips and information on improving energy efficiency in their homes and businesses. Information about how you can become an Energy Hero can be found online at <https://www.yvea.com/energy-hero> for residential and business information.

At the Energy Hero website, you can discover ways to fight energy waste. These include an energy calculator to calculate your costs on certain energy users like refrigerators and space heaters, the Home Efficiency Analysis Tool (H.E.A.T), and detailed projects for upgrading your home. Energy Hero also has a DIY resource library, videos and a library of relevant articles on energy efficiency. Residential customers



can also request a home energy evaluation appointment with a YVEA energy advisor by calling Mike Beyer at 970-871-2267.

YVEA's goal is to help members become aware of their energy usage and understand that even small adjustments can save them money while reducing energy waste.

**To learn more about Energy Hero and other programs and services offered by YVEA, visit [www.yvea.com](http://www.yvea.com).**