

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JULY 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.

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DETECTING OUTAGES FASTER WITH TECHNOLOGY

BY STEVE JOHNSON GENERAL MANAGER

As part of our six-part series on the “Why of YVEA,” in May I shared with you how technology is being used by YVEA to improve system reliability. I want to share with you in more detail how power outages are detected and repaired. The ordeal of losing electricity is frustrating, but Yampa Valley Electric Association, like other electric cooperatives, strives to get the power back on as soon and safely as possible.

Whether it's severe weather like the heavy snow, storms and high winds that we experienced in late May, a tornado, blizzard or fallen tree, as soon as an outage is detected by our system, YVEA is working to correct the problem, often before you know there is a problem. Thanks to the new and more advanced technologies I previously shared with you, we can often restore power outages faster than ever.

Powering up after an outage starts on a larger level and ends up in local areas. First, high-voltage transmission lines are examined, next distribution stations and finally the main distribution lines. If the outage can't be pinpointed to these areas, tap lines and individual homes are inspected. This process allows your YVEA crews to efficiently help the most members in the shortest amount of time, and we are working to make this process move even faster.

One of YVEA's biggest advancements in technology was our deployment of the advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) we completed in 2018. These AMI meters allow for two-way communications, sending information back to the our YVEA operations center. This helps to distinguish between events that affect a single home or multiple outages, which is important because solving each of these issues requires a different process. The same two-way communication also provides a way to verify that power has been restored after an outage.



STEVE JOHNSON



▲ Crews work to get the power back on.



▲ Trees and weather can take down power lines.

When coupled with AMI, our outage management system (OMS) can predict the location of an issue and how many members are impacted. As the AMI collects and sends data, the OMS then analyzes the data using mathematical functions and models the electrical network to assess the impact of the outage.

Our SmartHub app, in addition to being a convenient way to pay your power bill, can also be used to monitor your energy usage and to report power outages to us.

One of the major benefits from improved technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather, is understanding where the outages are located, which helps to reduce risk for our YVEA crews out on the road during the weather events.

These technologies clearly benefit our members and our crews that serve them. Power outages happen, but as technology continues to improve, disruptions are becoming shorter and easier to resolve.



Lift Up of Routt County continues its mission of providing charitable assistance to meet basic human needs while promoting personal growth and self-sufficiency. Yampa Valley Electric Association consumers who donated to Operation RoundUp supported the Rocket Pack program with \$5,000 that serves low-income, school-age children by providing healthy, low-sugar snacks during the school day and summer lunches. The goal of the Rocket Pack program is to support the health, well-being and performance of Routt County's children in need by ensuring that these children are not preoccupied with hunger.

"All of us at LiftUp are incredibly grateful to Yampa Valley Electric Association, and to the YVEA members who donated to Operation Round Up, for supporting our Rocket Pack program. This meaningful support helps us greatly in our effort to ensure no child in Routt county goes hungry," said Sue Fegelein, Executive Director of LiftUp of Routt County.

Thanks to participating YVEA consumer-members rounding up their bills, more than \$300,000 has been donated through Operation RoundUp to organizations making a difference throughout the YVEA service territory.

Be a difference maker for your community. Join Operation RoundUp by visiting www.yvea.com/operation-roundup, email OperationRoundUp@yvea.com or call 970-879-1160.

ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

The Yampa Valley Electric Association 2019 Annual Meeting was held June 25 at Steamboat Springs High School. Prior to the annual meeting, YVEA celebrated Member Appreciation Day with food, prizes and informational booths on new and existing programs. The results of the election for the board of directors will be shared in the August edition of *Colorado Country Life*.

Operation Round Up

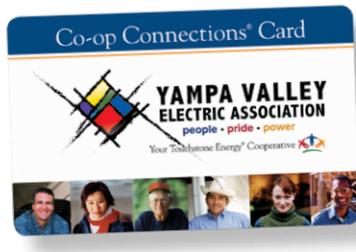
Operation RoundUp grants provided \$54,000 to help nonprofit organizations around the YVEA territory this year. The Operation RoundUp Board of Directors allocated funds to the following organizations for the funding period ending May 15, 2019:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Advocates of Routt County | Main Street Steamboat |
| Chief Theater | Moffat County United Way |
| Community Budget Center | South Routt Recreation Association |
| Community Clinics at Memorial Regional Health | Routt County United Way Routt to Work |
| Junior Achievement | Routt County Foundation for Senior Citizens |
| Hayden Heritage Center | Routt County Riders |
| Little Rascals Preschool and Daycare | Yampatika |

For more information on Operation RoundUp, please visit our website at <https://www.yvea.com/operation-roundup>

Start Saving With Your Co-op Connections Card

YVEA is proud to offer members the free Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Co-op Connections program. The free program provides you with a simple card and phone app that you can present to participating businesses to help you save money and live healthier, 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 or email coopconnections@yvea.com.**

Luminate Update

After much studying, planning and several months of field-engineering and prep work, the fiber construction contractor for Luminate Broadband started work in Craig June 12. The crews will first be placing anchors and pulling strand. The fiber installation will generally follow YVEA's current electric lines and construction of the main fiber broadband lines are expected to continue through the summer months. Crews will then be assigned to attach service drops before an installer completes installation inside the home or business. As construction ramps up through the summer months members will start to see some activity in Steamboat Springs. Don't be left in the slow lane of the information superhighway.



Visit www.luminatebroadband.com sign up to declare your interest and learn more information including pricing plans.



Contractors Working Throughout YVEA Service Territory

YVEA contractors who are working in the service territory will be clearly identified with high-visibility vests emblazoned with the YVEA logo and "Contractor" on the front and back. They will also be wearing high-visibility caps marked "Yampa Valley Electric Association Contractor" on the front.



SURGE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Protect your home electronics, appliances and other important property with YVEA's whole home meter-base 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 at <https://www.yvea.com/surge-protection>, email surge@yvea.com or call 970-871-2267.

SPONSORSHIPS & EVENTS



YVEA staff at the Rotary Cornhole Classic in Steamboat.



Look for YVEA at the Steamboat Fourth of July parade and Hayden Daze parade.

YVEA 2019 Underground Construction Work

YVEA works year-round to keep the power flowing. YVEA's 2019 underground construction workplan includes replacing direct buried cable with new conduit and cable that is equipped for YVEA's fiber rollout.

Work locations for 2019 will include:

- Country Green subdivision south of Steamboat Springs (July 2019)
- Ski Ranches subdivision in Steamboat Springs (August 2019).
- Eagles Watch subdivision in Stagecoach (June and July 2019)

YVEA's injection project began in June and will continue through the summer.

For the public's safety and the safety of its crews, YVEA asks that you use caution near worksites and whenever you see a YVEA or contracting crew working near the road. YVEA wants you, its crews and contractors to get home safely.

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



Energy Hero Tip of the Month: Summer Energy Savings

While our YVEA service territory is known as an outdoor paradise with moderate temperatures and lots of sunshine, summers can get warm during the day. Stay cool and comfortable this summer with these no-cost and low-cost energy efficiency tips.

- Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.
- If you have air-conditioning, set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you are away.
- Turn off lights, ceiling fans and any portable fans when you leave a room.
- Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.
- Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. It's low maintenance and uses the sun to generate electricity.



CenSible Energy Program Closes for 2019

The CenSible Energy rebate program for Yampa Valley Electric Association members has been a huge success. The program for 2019 was made possible for YVEA members through founding partners Yampa Valley Electric Association, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and the city of Steamboat Springs. The program also received donations from Routt County for a combined total of \$26,000 for 2019.

Due to the program's success, the funds are near depletion, so program organizers are no longer accepting applications. Alternate funding opportunities for audits are available. For more information, contact YVSC at 970-871-9299.

For the 2019 rebate cycle, more than 200 rebates were issued in Routt and Moffat counties, saving families and small businesses both energy and money. Through purchases of appliances, lightbulbs and energy audits made in association with the rebate program, more than \$98,000 has gone back into the Yampa Valley economy, supporting local businesses and contractors.

YVEA Wants to Advertise Your Business for FREE!

Business owners: Promote your business for free through our new Co-op Connections program. We do all the advertising for FREE. All we ask is that you provide a discount for our members. We will do the promoting to get our 25,000 members through your doors. We also have a mobile app that "geolocates" the discounts, so our members know the businesses to visit. To learn more, go to <https://www.yvea.com/coop-connections-program> 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 25,000 of your fellow members.

Clark Transmission Project

Due to several hazardous occurrences this winter, Yampa Valley Electric Association is clearing the transmission line right-of-way from State Highway 40 in Steamboat Springs to the Clark substation, in Clark, for public safety and wildfire mitigation. For more information and a map of the project, visit www.yvea.com/clark-transmission-project.

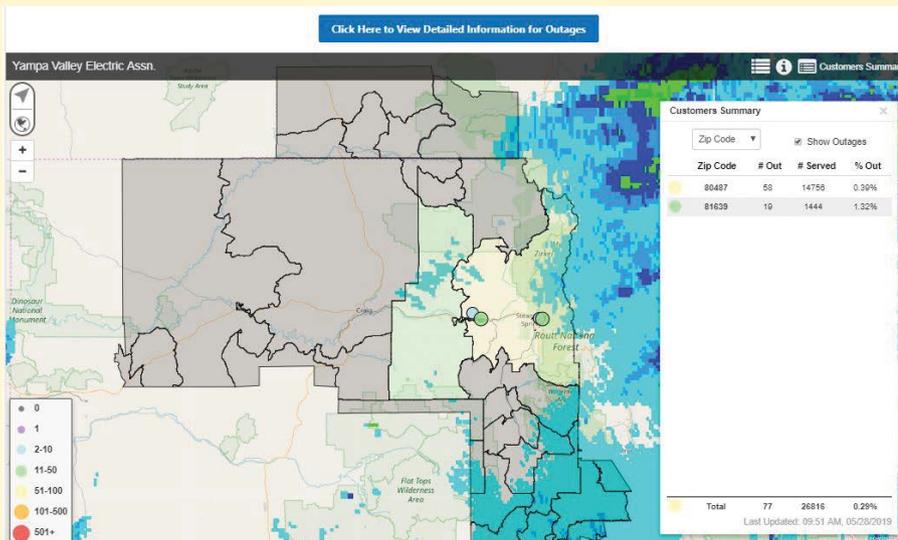


How To Track Outages at YVEA.com

YVEA has a new website and outage map that can help members view existing outage areas. **To view outages, visit www.yvea.com:**



- Click Outages in the top right corner



- Outages with viewable weather layer as well as detailed information can be found at www.yvea.com/outage-center.