

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Powering Possibilities

OCTOBER 2019



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MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH

The staff at Gunnison County Electric Association is proud to serve almost 11,000 consumer-members, and we keep our members in mind with everything we do.

We find ways each day to provide value to your membership through the service we provide as you set up service or pay your electric bill. We take pride in our efforts to work safely to provide 99.98% reliability so you can enjoy the electricity that warms your home, cooks your meals and powers your electronic devices. We know that the environment is of utmost concern to you, and partner with our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, to power our local grid with the cleanest energy sources possible while keeping costs affordable. We go above and beyond by developing local renewable energy projects, signing you up for our Green Power program and offering our electric vehicles out on loan to help educate and sustain a cleaner future for the Gunnison Valley.

As we engage with you through our member forums, energy efficiency workshops, community events, EV loans and daily interaction with our member support staff, we have grown to truly care about you as our consumer-member. So, during the month of October, we honor you as our GCEA consumer-members and want to celebrate with you during Member Appreciation Month. Visit either our Crested Butte or Gunnison office to receive your complimentary gift: a 6-foot extension cord with safety tips attached. While there, enter to win either an energy efficiency kit or an outage safety kit. Thank you for being a member of GCEA, and we look forward to serving you soon.



▲ Energy Use Advisor Alantha Garrison (left) visits with member Vicki Vinson during an energy efficiency workshop at the Crested Butte Library.



▲ GCEA consumer-members Rita Bohm, Bob Wojtko and Betsy Laux enjoy some Tesla smiles during their test drive to the Elk Creek Marina charging station.



▲ Line Superintendent John Stoeber greets a GCEA member at the 2019 Annual Meeting.



▲ GCEA Line Superintendent John Stoeber (left) accepts an award from Dan Whitesides with the Colorado Rural Electric Association for no lost-time accidents in 2018.

LOSS CONTROL SEMINAR FOCUSES ON SAFETY

More than 80 representatives of Colorado electric co-op operations departments gathered July 23-24 in Denver for the annual CREA Loss Control Seminar. Speakers focused on information from Federated Rural Electric Insurance, safeguarding work spaces, forklift safety, the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, cranes and derricks, what to expect with Colorado Department of Transportation inspections, a substation app and more. There was also an opportunity to view new tools and gather information from vendors and network with crews from other electric co-ops. Gunnison County Electric Association was recognized for no lost-time accidents, and Line Superintendent John Stoeber was on hand to accept the award for GCEA.



LOREN AHONEN

GV-HEAT

LOREN AHONEN
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

GV-HEAT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

It's safe to say that most of us have toughed out winters when all we want to do is get inside to a warm and comfortable house. But what if that last part is not a reality at the end of the day? For many in our community, it's not. Maybe you're one of the many Gunnison County residents who are burdened by seasonal heating bills. Or the extra sweater in the evening is not cutting it anymore. Those drafts you feel aren't just stealing your warmth, they're also likely picking your pocketbook.

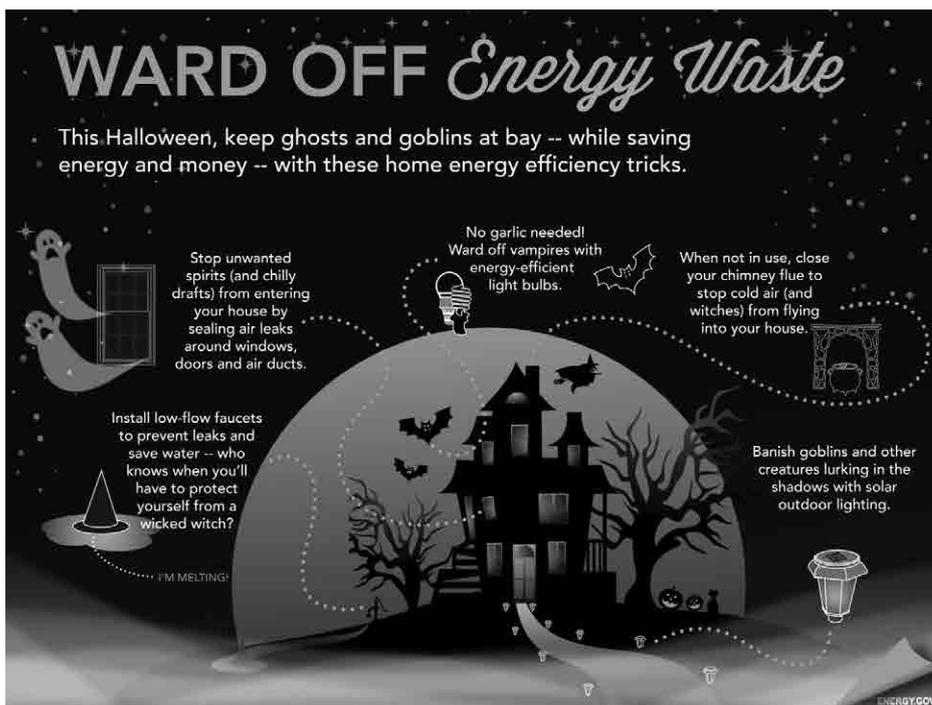
Fortunately, there is someone here to help.

The Gunnison Valley Home Energy Advancement Team is a resource brought to you by the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority, its utility and nonprofit partners. GV-HEAT programming works to connect all households in the community with resources to make their homes more energy efficient and affordable while also promoting safety and resilience. All GV-HEAT programs include both renters and homeowners.

GV-HEAT will work with your household to identify and implement home energy efficiency upgrades that will reduce your energy costs and improve comfort.

While all our programs begin with an application, the essential work is done through an energy assessment. To keep it simple, an energy assessment is

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Youth Tour & Leadership Camp

2019 Washington D.C. Youth Tour GCEA representatives Rena Elfenbein and Chris Myers visit our nation's capital this summer with 1600 other students.

GCEA offers leadership opportunities to high school juniors to help them prepare for the future. The Washington D.C. Youth Tour introduces students to the nation's capital with tours of museums and historic monuments, meetings with Colorado's congressional delegations and fun-filled activities. **The 2020 Youth Tour applications are due Friday, November 22, 2019.**

Another great way for students to prepare for their future is through the Leadership Camp. Every July, the camp is held at Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs. For nearly 40 years, the electric cooperatives of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming have provided this outstanding camp for students who are interested

in leadership and electric cooperatives. Although students learn a lot in one week, it's not all hard work. Each year, there is a float trip down the Colorado River, a trip to Fish Creek Falls and plenty of free time to swim, play volleyball and meet new friends. **The 2020 Leadership Camp application deadline is Friday, November 22, 2019.**

Applications are available in October at GCEA's Gunnison and Crested Butte offices, Crested Butte Community School, Gunnison High School, Lake City Community School and online at <http://gcea.coop/Scholarships>.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER FOR STUDENTS

Another school year is in session and it is time to start talking with high school seniors about the importance of higher education.

Each year it gets harder to pay for college, but GCEA helps students pursue their dreams of furthering their education. For decades, GCEA has provided scholarship assistance for graduating seniors to pursue an education beyond high school and offers a variety of scholarships to students residing in the service territory.

Funding comes from unclaimed capital credits and generous donations from the GCEA Board of Directors, Operation RoundUp®, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and GCEA consumer-members and employees. Last year, 85 students received awards.

Applications will be available in December at GCEA's Gunnison and Crested Butte offices, Crested Butte Community School, Gunnison High School, Lake City Community School and online at www.gcea.coop/Scholarships.



Scholarship application deadline is Friday, January 31, 2020, by 4:30 p.m.

LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP

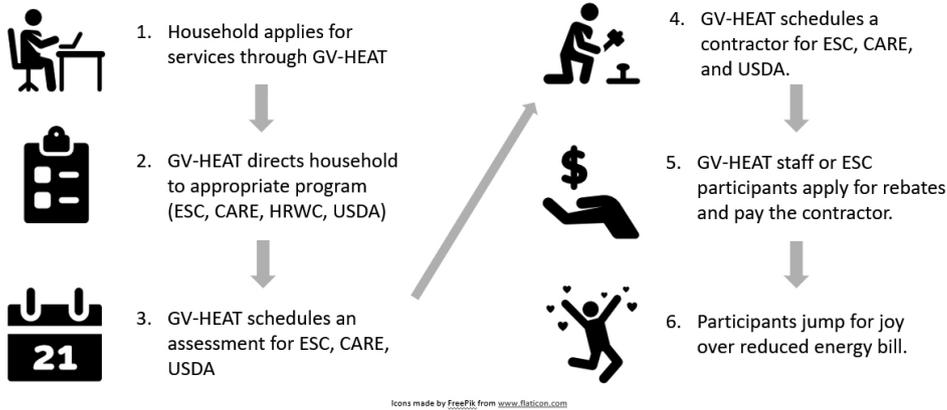
GCEA offers scholarships for students planning to pursue a career in the electrical industry. For more information on the lineworker scholarship, please contact GCEA at 970-641-3520 or visit www.gcea.coop/Scholarships.



OCTOBER WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Holly Palmer Member relations and billing supervisor, 21 years

Sarah Tamarcaz Billing assistant, 1 year



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a comprehensive analysis of your home completed by a qualified professional who has a Building Performance Institute certification. Our local analysts are not only certified but also experienced, with nearly a decade of identifying the best opportunities to improve the efficiency and function of homes in our high-altitude environment.

Depending on which GV-HEAT program your household participates in, the next step is a comprehensive home energy assessment report, energy coaching and

rebate information, or it may be free energy efficiency retrofit work. Yep, you read that correctly — FREE.

While our home energy assessments through Energy Smart Colorado are available to all households, we also connect qualified households to both the Weatherization Assistance Program or Colorado’s Affordable Residential Energy program.

Through ESC, clients receive a comprehensive report detailing opportunities to

improve the efficiency of the home, plus our assessors can install quick fixes before we guide you to rebate opportunities through GCEA and Atmos.

In both the WAP and CARE programs, households receive free energy efficiency upgrades ranging from air sealing and insulation improvements to new refrigerators. The work done at your home depends on the unique circumstances of your home because, as we know, with most good things one size does not fit all.

By this point, many of you may be thinking, “That sounds great, but I’m not sure I qualify.” And on that point, you might be wrong. Our income-qualified programs serve households all the way out to 80% of area median income. As a reference, that means a gross household income of \$56,800 for a family of four. If you want to check the income limits for your household, call GV-HEAT at 970-234-5613.

To learn more about our programs, call or send an email to info@gvrha.org.

OPERATION ROUNDUP®

College tuition keeps rising every year, and it gets harder and harder for families to pay for it. Luckily, Gunnison County Electric Association consumer-members have an opportunity to support the educational funds of youth in the service territory by participating in Operation RoundUp.

HOW IT WORKS*

Consumer-members who volunteer to take part in the program will have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar. For example, if your monthly bill is \$52.30, you would pay \$53. The extra 70 cents goes into a special account. Once you are signed up, GCEA will automatically round up the bill each month. Every little bit helps students with college expenses.

**Consumer-members are not required to participate, but GCEA would greatly appreciate the generous donation to the scholarship fund. These donations are not tax-deductible.*

OPERATION ROUNDUP ENROLLMENT FORM

Yes! I wish to contribute** to Operation RoundUp. Please add the amount to my monthly electric bill. I understand I may stop my contribution at any time.

- Round up my electric bill to the next highest dollar.
- I wish to make an additional monthly contribution of \$ _____.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____
 ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: _____
 SIGNATURE: _____

Please send completed form to: Gunnison County Electric Association
 Attn: Billing | P.O. Box 180 | Gunnison, CO 81230 **Not tax-deductible.