

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Powering Possibilities

MARCH 2020



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LOOKING TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

BY LOGANN LONG
COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR



LOGANN LONG

With the help of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Gunnison County Electric Association is looking forward to a cleaner future. In January 2020, Tri-State revealed its Responsible Energy Plan to its 43 electric cooperatives and the public. The Responsible Energy Plan will implement a clean energy transition that will expand renewable generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring reliable, affordable, responsible energy for member cooperatives. Now, this is something to be excited about.

The plan starts with reducing 100% of emissions in New Mexico by closing the coal-fired Escalante Generating Station by the end of this year. By 2030, all emissions from Colorado coal facilities will be eliminated by closing the Craig Station Units 2 and 3 and the Colowyo Mine. Although we will not feel a direct impact locally, we at GCEA send thoughts to the many Tri-State employees, their families and communities who will be affected by these closings.

The next step of the plan is to increase clean and responsible energy. Tri-State will be bringing over 1 gigawatt of wind and solar resources on line. These projects will be located across Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. By 2024, 50% of GCEA's power will be generated from renewable resources. GCEA's members have been asking for local renewable energy generation and, although it is not local to the co-op service territory, much is being produced and generated in the state of Colorado.

Tri-State is also looking at more flexible contracts for its member cooperatives. In November 2019, the Tri-State board

approved an additional 2% allowance for member community solar generation. Now the membership is working on recommendations for partial requirements contracts and additional self-generation, which will be considered by the board for implementation by April 2020. Tri-State also has plans to collaborate with a solar and energy services provider to make local renewable projects easier and more affordable to build. Our members have been asking for more local renewable resources and we hope to be able to meet those requests in the future. Until then, the Green Power program provides two easy and convenient ways for members to participate in the support of renewable energy. Please visit www.gcea.coop/GreenPower to learn about the options we have available.

Tri-State is looking toward a brighter future by striving for 100% clean energy in Colorado by 2040. It also hopes to maintain or reduce rates for members in all states as it begins implementing the Responsible Energy Plan. GCEA is excited about the direction Tri-State is headed towards with implementing more renewable energy into its portfolio and reducing emissions. "We're not just changing direction, we're emerging as the leader of the energy transition," said Duane Highley, Tri-State's chief executive officer. "Membership in Tri-State will provide the best option for cooperatives seeking a clean, flexible and competitively-priced power supply, while still receiving the benefits of being a part of a financially strong, not-for-profit, full-service cooperative."

If you want to learn more about Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan, please visit www.tristategt.org.

WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR STUDENTS

Two students from GCEA's service territory were selected to represent the co-op on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this June.

Sophia Truex from Crested Butte and Grace Hearn from Lake City were chosen to represent the cooperative.

What an exciting time to visit our nation's capital. They will visit the capital with 1,900 other students from across the country. Their trip will begin at the Colorado Capitol before heading to Washington, D.C.

In Washington, D.C., Sophia and Grace will meet members of Congress and visit national monuments, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian museums and much more.

We are excited to have these two young people represent your co-op in Washington,



Grace Hearn



Sophia Truex

D.C., as Youth Tour participants. We can't wait to share their experience with you later this year.



Beware of the Hidden Costs of Heating Cable and Heat Tape

Heat tape on your pipes in the winter and heating cable on your roof to melt snow and ice can have a profound effect on your electric bill.

Most heat tape on pipes uses an average of 9 watts per foot, so a 10-foot long section of heat tape can use 90 watts while running and up to 65 kilowatt-hours per month, at a cost of \$8.40 at GCEA's current residential rate.

Most members have relatively short lengths of heat tape on the pipes in their crawl spaces, but some people may have much more. Heat tape that uses 1,000 watts and runs for the entire month will add 720 kWh to your monthly bill, costing \$93.01.

Heating cable on a roof can use as little as 5 watts per foot, but some heating cable is installed in greater lengths on larger homes.



A heating cable rated at 220 volts can use over 3,000 watts in total. Even connected to a thermostat, these cables can run constantly during the cold winter months, leading to high monthly usage costing \$300 or more just to run the heating cable.

When installing heating cable and heat tape, review the wattage listed and total it so you are aware of how much energy is being used and how much that can contribute to your bill. When having heating cable installed professionally, ask the installer for the energy information so you know how much energy it will use when it's turned on.

To control the usage of your heating cable, consider turning thermostats on heating cables down, perhaps from 45 degrees to 40 degrees.

When your roof is clear of snow and ice, and no new snow is forecast, consider turning off the heating cable. You can have a switch installed after the breaker so you do not need to turn the breaker on and off each time you want to turn off the heating cable.



LAKE CITY CHARGING STATION

Due to communication issues with the GCEA-owned Level 2 electric vehicle charging station in Lake City, free charging will continue to be offered at this location for the time being.

In order to communicate, the station requires stronger cell service and GCEA expects to upgrade the station when 4G cell service becomes available in Lake City. Once the upgraded station is installed, fees will be implemented for electric vehicle charging sessions. GCEA intended to implement fees for EV charging sessions starting January 1, 2020, but those fees will be delayed until communication is restored to the station.

For more information, please contact GCEA at 970-641-3520.

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

GREEN POWER PROGRAM



The Green Power Program provides a way for members to support renewable energy. You can offset your energy consumption by purchasing the renewable attributes of wind energy produced in eastern Colorado.

When you subscribe to RECs through the Green Power Program, the fee is for the renewable attribute and is in addition to the retail rate you pay for electricity. You can choose one of three participation levels.

25% of the fee charged for any of these options is put into a local renewable energy fund to help with the development of future projects.



GREEN CHOICE

12 cents per 100 kWh block used. GCEA will purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) for these members. 25% of the contribution goes to the local project fund.



GREEN 100 – 100% OFFSET

8.4 cents per 100 kWh block used. GCEA will purchase RECs for these members to cover 70% of their kWh usage. The other 30% is renewable energy already in Tri-State's mix. 25% of the contribution goes to the local project fund.



GREEN POWER PLUS – 130% OFFSET

12 cents per 100 kWh used. GCEA will purchase RECs to cover 100% of the participating member's kWh usage. An additional 30% is renewable energy already in Tri-State's mix. 25% of the contribution goes to the local project fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

www.gcea.coop/Green-Power



CO-OP CONVERSATIONS

Conversations with your Directors

Thursday, March 12, 6 PM-7:30 PM
Crested Butte Heritage Museum



▲ Mike Pandy

Apprentice to Journeyman

Congratulations to Crested Butte Lineman Mike Pandy on his journeyman certification. Mike has been a part of the GCEA family since August 2015. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into the four-year long certification. Congratulations to Mike on this big accomplishment!

MARCH WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Erica Soerensen

GIS administrator, 25 years

Sherry Booth

Executive assistant, 14 years

Alantha Garrison

Energy use specialist, 13 years

Tracy Wheeler

Crested Butte member support specialist, 10 years

Antoinette Wilson

Member support specialist, 4 years

Brent Boyce

Lake City lead lineman, 4 years

NO 2020 RATE INCREASE

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & GCEA'S EXECUTIVE TEAM ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT NO RATE INCREASE IS EXPECTED FOR 2020!



GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

LOCAL RENEWABLE PROJECT FUND



GCEA is working with members to bring renewable energy to the valley. Help us grow the fund by contributing to one of the options below.



LOCAL RENEWABLE PLUS

Match your usage to your contribution. 12 cents per 100 kWh used will be added to your bill.



LOCAL RENEWABLE ADVOCATE

Choose an amount to be added to your monthly bill.

100% GOES TO THE LOCAL PROJECT FUND



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ACCOUNT #: _____

Local Renewable Plus

Local Renewable Advocate \$ _____

If you choose to participate, please mail to:
GCEA, PO Box 180, Gunnison, CO 81230