

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2020



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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.

MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH RATES



STEVE JOHNSON

PART TWO OF A THREE-PART SERIES

BY STEVE JOHNSON
GENERAL MANAGER & PRESIDENT

As your member-owned electric cooperative, Yampa Valley Electric Association's primary objective is to provide safe and reliable electrical service to you at a reasonable price. That is why YVEA continually analyzes all of its costs, including everything required to deliver electricity to our members 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Among these system costs we are also maintaining, inspecting and repairing/replacing the utility poles, wires, transformers and substations that carry the electricity. We also maintain the trucks and heavy equipment that is needed to work upon the system. We need a trained staff of engineers, linemen and other craftsmen who build and fix the system; the computer systems that support almost everything we do along with cybersecurity systems that are required to protect your information. Our inside staff who utilize these systems to serve our membership. Finally, all of the materials needed to get this work completed, from the fuel that runs our fleet, to the tools necessary to complete the work by our staff. These costs account for nearly half of all YVEA costs.

By the numbers, YVEA maintains the following within its 7,113 square mile territory in northwestern Colorado and southern Wyoming:

- 37,319 distribution poles and transmission structures
- 2,871 miles of power lines
- 11,423 electric transformers

- 1,626 street and premise lights
- 27,269 electric meters

In 2019, YVEA used an independent company to conduct a cost-of-service study. This study analyzed all costs of constructing, operating and maintaining the system to serve our members. This analysis showed that the current system access charges and energy rates needed an adjustment to ensure consistent and fair recovery of these costs. We are also continuing to bring a fair and consistent method to how different rate schedules are structured to recover costs without subsidizations between rate classes.

As discussed last month, beginning April 1, a recently approved rate adjustment will be implemented by Yampa Valley Electric Association. The adjustment will increase the small and medium general service access charge and a slight adjustment to the energy charge. This rate adjustment will also increase the associated energy charges for rate classes 10D, 81 and 82.

YVEA management and YVEA board of directors met in November 2019, reviewing and approving the April rate adjustment. The need for increases in infrastructure and system improvement spending was a large part of the discussion. This is essential to improving system reliability and providing services at a reasonable rate.

Cen\$ible Energy rebate program is now **YVEA Energy Hero Rebates**

YVEA brought the former Cen\$ible Energy rebate program in house and revised, aligned and renamed it the Energy Hero rebate program to better fit the current and future strategic direction of the cooperative and manage it through YVEA energy services department. The new rebate program launched January 1, 2020.

The New Energy Hero rebate program offers rebates to YVEA members on LED lightbulbs, appliances, heat tape timers and programmable electric thermostats. **Learn more at www.yvea.com/rebates.**



The clocks spring forward one hour Sunday morning on **March 8, 2020**, at 2 a.m. You'll lose an hour of sleep, but the daylight will last longer in the evening.

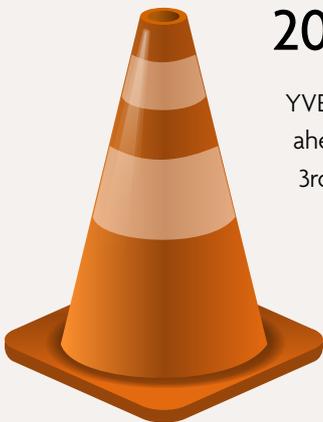
YVEA Transformer Safety & Obstructions

For the safety of our members and to comply with the National Electrical Safety Code, we are asking our members to follow this safety code:

Buildings or other structures shall not be constructed within utility easements. If the member does construct or requests to build inside allowed NESC clearance, the line will be moved at the member's expense. Landscaping within an easement is permissible but shall not violate YVEA's Right-Of-Way Maintenance Policy. A minimum of 10-foot clearance is required around all equipment doors and a 3-foot clearance from the back and sides of

all YVEA transformers, switch cubicles and switch gear cabinets. This clearance requirement includes any landscaping. If these clearances are not met, YVEA will request removal of the clearance violation. In some instances, the clearance requirement will be increased for the safety of YVEA personnel. In emergency situations, YVEA will remove the obstruction and has no responsibility for its replacement.

For more information on National Electrical Safety Code clearances, visit yvea.com/construction-service-guidelines.



2020 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

YVEA is busy planning for the 2020 construction season. Our contractor, Asplundh, is working to get ahead of the construction with vegetation management for the towns of Dixon and Baggs and for 3rd Street in Steamboat Springs.

For the public's safety and the safety of our crews, we ask that you use caution near our work sites 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 the YVEA 2020 construction plan, including maps and when we will be in your area, please visit yvea.com/current-construction or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Our Youth Power Our Future Yampa Valley Electric Scholarship Program

What is the Yampa Valley Electric Association scholarship program?

This program is designed to encourage the academic achievements of the high school seniors or current undergraduate students who live in the YVEA service territory. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year in which the scholarship is given. Checks will be made payable directly to the college at the beginning of the fall semester. All returning scholarship recipients must maintain academic status to be eligible to re-apply in subsequent years. For more information on the program and eligibility requirements, and to get an application, please visit www.yvea.com/scholarships.

Deadline for scholarship applications is April 3, 2020.

Watt's Up With Heat Tape

Remember to turn off all your heat tape circuits at the breaker this spring.

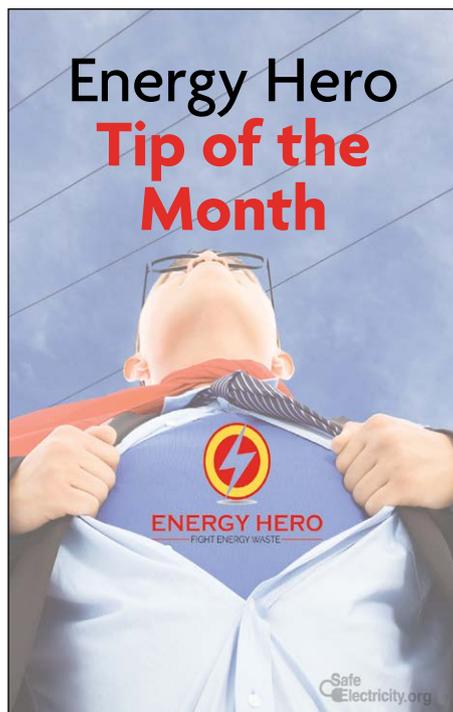
HEAT TAPE KWH USAGE

One hundred feet of heat tape can use up to 30 kilowatt-hours per day. That equals 900 kWh per month, which is \$84 on your bill.

YVEA Is “Luminating” Craig With Ultra-Fast Broadband Service

Luminate Broadband is lighting up its fiber optic network in Craig, and the new high-speed internet company is currently installing service for customers in this area. Luminate is also excited to announce that construction crews are beginning the work of building out its high speed, fiber internet in Hayden. Luminate continues to add infrastructure in Craig, while construction to North Routt county

will begin in Spring 2020, and Luminate has applied for grants to build into South Routt county and additional areas. To learn more, please visit www.luminatebroadband.com



Be Energy Aware Electric Resistive Heating

Space heating uses more energy and costs more money than any other system in your home, typically making up about 45 to 55% of your utility bill.

Follow these tips to help you manage the amount of kilowatt hours your electric resistive heaters use.

- Use programmable thermostats.
- Limit the use of space heaters and turn them off when you are not home.
- Make sure you seal all air leaks and your home is well insulated.
- Install window film, honeycomb blinds or drapes on all windows.
- Visit: <https://www.yvea.com/be-energy-hero-your-home> for more tips.



Small Change, Big Difference:

Be a Difference Maker in Your Community

Since 2015, Yampa Valley Electric Association and the nonprofit Operation Round Up organization have been improving lives and communities thanks to YVEA members who round up their bill to the next dollar through Operation Round Up. The pennies members donate each month average only \$6 a year per member but have contributed more than \$345,000 to nonprofit organizations in the YVEA service territory to date.

Signing up for Operation Round Up is easy. Simply call 970-879-1160, email OperationRoundUp@yvea.com or visit www.yvea.com/operation-roundup. **Application deadline for nonprofits is May 15, 2020.**

Notice of 2020 Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election Process

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Yampa Valley Electric Association is held annually for the purpose of electing directors, passing reports covering the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. The 2020 Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2020, at the Valley Community Center, 255 W. Osborne St., Baggs, WY 82321.

Director districts up for election are:

- District 2, Craig: Larry Ellgen
- District 3, Craig: Jean Stetson
- District 6, Steamboat Springs: Tom Fox

The area served by the association is divided into nine districts. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who is not a bona fide resident in the director district for which they are elected or appointed. Legal descriptions of each district can be found in Article XVI, Director Districts, in the bylaws of the association, or at www.yvea.com.

A nomination for director may be made only by written petition signed by at least 15 members of the association. The nominating petition and director qualification affidavit may be found at www.yvea.com or picked up at the YVEA offices in Steamboat Springs or Craig on Friday, April 17, 2020. All petition materials must be filed at the Steamboat Springs office no later than Friday, May 8, 2020.

Directors are elected for a three-year term by the members of the association. Each member of the association is entitled to vote in the election of all directors, excluding appointments. Ballots will be mailed on Friday, May 22, 2020. To be valid and counted, each ballot must be signed by the member whose name is on the label and the ballot must be received at the location of the third-party ballot counter by Thursday, June 18, 2020. If you are unsure if your ballot will be received at the location of the third-party ballot counter by Thursday, June 18, 2020, please plan to attend the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at the Valley Community Center, 255 W. Osborne St., Baggs, WY 82321, where you will receive a replacement ballot to be completed and submitted at the meeting.

STAY IN THE KNOW

At Yampa Valley Electric Association we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for you, our consumer-members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most current and accurate contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of

service you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

We want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by us to send

important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by emailing billing@yvea.com, logging in to your SmartHub account, going to www.yvea.com/contact-us or by calling member services at 970-879-1160. To sign up for a free SmartHub account, visit <https://www.yvea.com/download-smarthub-app>. By doing so, you will help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.