

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Powering Possibilities

OCTOBER 2021



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[gcea_news](https://www.instagram.com/gcea_news)

POSSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

Gunnison County Electric Association employees keep our members in mind when powering possibilities and opportunities. GCEA is here to make sure the power is on and our members are happy with their electric service.

Back in the day, keeping members happy meant delivering power to the rural areas of Hinsdale and Gunnison counties. In 2021, it means so much more. Our involvement now goes far beyond the power line and looks into ways to provide safe, reliable, responsible energy to our members. You, our members, are first on our priority list.

October is National Cooperative Month, and we are celebrating the benefits and values that co-ops bring to their members and communities.

During October, GCEA honors you as a GCEA member and wants to celebrate with you during Member Appreciation Month. Visit either the Crested Butte or Gunnison office to receive your complimentary gift: a GCEA reusable tote. Thank you for being a member of GCEA.

REBATES

Gunnison County Electric Association's rebate program provides members with more choices for qualifying energy-efficient products they purchase. By receiving a financial incentive, members can more affordably purchase electric equipment for their homes and businesses.

EV EXPERIENCE

Over the past couple years, GCEA has allowed its members the opportunity to take one of the co-op's electric vehicles on loan for a week to check the features and benefits of EV ownership. The loaner program has been a huge hit with members. We offer daily test drives in our Tesla Model 3 and Chevy Bolt.

GCEA owns and operates 13 charging stations throughout its service territory. Check out the stations at www.gcea.coop before your next EV trip.



PATRONAGE CAPITAL

In 2017, GCEA rolled out a new option for your annual patronage capital allocation. You can either receive the current value of your allocation or leave it invested in your cooperative.

[continued on page 8]

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS

If you want more green power, GCEA offers our members several different ways to voluntarily support clean energy through our Green the Grid programs. You can easily reduce your carbon footprint by simply signing up for one or all of the options.



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.

Local renewable fund

If you want to support future development of local renewable projects, you can sign up for a monthly contribution. Together, GCEA members' contributions will be used when needed to overcome a financial hurdle to a local renewable project.

Community solar garden

The community solar garden is a way for you to offset your electric consumption with solar energy. Members are eligible to lease solar shares on a month-to-month basis or participate in a 20-year lease agreement. All short-term shares are currently leased out. Please call 970-641-3520 to be put on the waiting list, or consider a long-term lease.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Camp and tour for high school students

GCEA offers leadership opportunities for 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 congressional delegations and fun-filled activities.

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, electric cooperatives in 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 2022 Youth Tour and Leadership Camp applications are due Friday, December 3, 2021.



Scholarships

GCEA has provided students scholarships for decades, thanks to unclaimed patronage capital; the generosity of members; the Allen, Somrak and Drake families; Tri-State Generation and Transmission; Basin Electric Power Cooperative; individual directors; and GCEA employees. A student is eligible to receive a scholarship if the student and their parent, legal guardian or foster home receive electrical service from GCEA. In 2021, GCEA awarded 84 student scholarships. The 2022 scholarship application deadline is March 1, 2022.

This list could go on and on about how we are powering possibilities and opportunities for our members 82 years later. We are thankful for the past and present dedicated members who helped GCEA get to where it is now. The co-op's devoted employees will continue powering possibilities for its consumer-members.

For more information on the programs GCEA offers, please visit www.gcea.coop.

..... Crested Butte Community School Shines Bright



▲ Alliy Sahagun (left) and Alantha Garrison (right) present Paul Morgan with the Crested Butte Community School with a \$2,100 rebate for a recent upgrade to LED lighting in the school gymnasium.

NEW EMPLOYEE: LISA LUCAS, LINE LOCATOR



GCEA wants to welcome Lisa Lucas as its new System Locator/Inspector. Lisa grew up in Gunnison and earned a Bachelor's of Science in Construction Management at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Lisa has prior experience as a millwright, ironworker, structural fitter, pipe fitter, and field and project engineer for multiple companies. Lisa's hobbies include designing, building and fabricating her own outdoor equipment that she then uses to enjoy the Gunnison area.

We are excited to have Lisa as a part of our GCEA team.



OCTOBER WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Holly Palmer – Member Relations & Billing Supervisor – 23 years

Sarah Taramarcz – Billing Assistant – 3 years

TRI-STATE REBATES UPDATE

Starting January 1, 2022, all rebates must be submitted within 90 days of installation.

WINTER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Monday, November 1, GCEA office hours will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

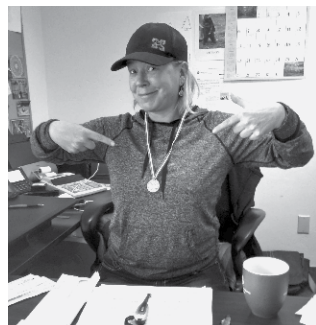
**October is
Cybersecurity
Awareness Month.**

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

MEET OUR **MEMBER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS**

GCEA is lucky to have an awesome and diverse group of women on the member support specialist team. When you call or visit either office, you are in good hands. If this team can't figure out your question or issue, they will get you to the correct person who can help.

CRESTED BUTTE CREW



Marni Joslyn

Marni is our veteran Crested Butte member support specialist who has taken care of GCEA members for over 15 years. Marni cares deeply for our members, and most who walk through our door are friends or neighbors. She puts others' needs before her own and has helped several members through tough times. She's a "steady eddie" and brings tremendous value to our GCEA team.



Tracy Wheeler

Tracy started as a member support specialist at the Gunnison office 11 years ago. In the winter of 2019, she moved up north to join Marni at the Crested Butte office. Tracy enjoys getting to know members on a personal level and loves to help however she can. She keeps members' best interest in mind when helping them and makes them feel at ease when they come to her with an issue. When you walk into the Crested Butte office, you are greeted with her smiling face.

GUNNISON CREW



Antoinette Wilson

Antoinette is the first friendly face you see when you walk into the headquarters' front door. She has been a hard worker for GCEA since March 2016. She is always eager to get things done correctly for the co-op and members. In Antoinette's free time she enjoys being outside and spending time with her grandchildren.



Ali Ackley

Ali started her job as a member support specialist with GCEA in January 2019 and has been a great asset to the team. She is a hard worker who makes sure her job is done in a timely manner. When members work with Ali, they know they are in good hands. She brings a laid-back feel to the office that keep members relaxed when they are discussing issues with her.



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST

October is National Energy Awareness Month, and to celebrate, GCEA is giving away one \$25 bill credit. To enter the contest, post a photo or video on Facebook showing your energy efficiency efforts and tag GCEA. Or put your photo or video in the comments section of one of GCEA's energy efficiency posts throughout the month.

Winner will be announced November 1.



KIDS COLORING CONTEST

October 6 is National Energy Efficiency Day and to celebrate, GCEA is asking kids to draw a picture of what it means to be energy efficient. **Enter for a chance to win ice cream for two kids plus one parent, and ride in style to your ice cream date in GCEA's Tesla Model 3.** Submit child and parents' names, member account number and contact information. Please email the drawing to memberrelations@gcea.coop, drop off at the Crested Butte or Gunnison office or mail to PO Box 180, Gunnison, CO 81230. Deadline is October 31.

