

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2021



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MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

■ This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

What Renewable Energy Looks Like for MCREA

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID FRICK

Our industry has seen rapid advancements in the development of renewable energy technology in response to state legislation and guidelines. Wind energy, solar energy, hydropower: The alternative ways in which power can be harnessed and delivered to homes and businesses is truly phenomenal. With renewable energy systems constantly adapting and improving, some of our consumer-members may wonder how a rural electric provider like Morgan County Rural Electric Association is able to incorporate such technologies into its service to consumer-members. The answer is simple: cooperation among cooperatives.

MCREA is proud to be a cooperative member of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, which provides power to 42 electric distribution cooperatives and public power districts across four states. Through this cooperative model, resources are pooled to develop larger, utility-scale renewable energy projects such as wind farms and solar arrays. This allows MCREA and other electric cooperative members to enjoy the benefits of renewable energy without shouldering the cost and responsibility for development alone. Currently, approximately one third of energy consumed by Tri-State members' retail customers comes from sustainable energy.

In January 2020, Tri-State released its Responsible Energy Plan. One of Tri-State's main goals is to have 50% of the electricity its members use come from renewable energy resources by 2024. By 2030, Tri-State aims to supply 70% of energy to Colorado member co-ops through renewable resources. The cooperative made progress toward that goal in 2020, as it started receiving power from the first of its 1,000 megawatts of new wind and solar projects, which will double Tri-State's renewable resources by 2024.

The following projects comprise the 1,000 MW of renewables that Tri-State plans to bring on line by 2024:

- 2021: Crossing Trails Wind (CO), 104 MW
- 2021: Niyol Wind (CO), 200 MW
- 2022: Spanish Peaks Solar (CO), 100 MW
- 2023: Spanish Peaks II Solar (CO), 40 MW
- 2023: Dolores Canyon Solar (CO), 110 MW
- 2023: Coyote Gulch Solar (CO), 140 MW
- 2023: Axial Basin Solar (CO), 145 MW
- 2023: Escalante Solar (NM), 200 MW

Through membership with Tri-State, MCREA will be able to distribute a portion of that clean energy to our consumer-members. MCREA values Tri-State's efforts to incorporate renewables into its energy sources because, in turn, our consumer-members are able to receive the benefits of evolving technologies in the power industry.

MCREA'S DIRECTOR ACHIEVES CREDENTIAL IN TODAY'S ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPETENCIES

Morgan County Rural Electric Association Director Jim Bostron recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



^ MCREA Board President Cary Wickstrom (left) presents Jim Bostron with the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate.

An ever-changing business environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Jim and the rest of the board at MCREA have a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-members.

The NRECA Credentialed Director program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies in the five core courses:

- Director duties and liabilities
- Understanding the electric business
- Board operations and process
- Strategic planning
- Financial decision making

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives — with over 7,200 directors — that provide electric services to more than 42 million people in 47 states. Morgan County REA serves 4,668 members.

MCREA WELCOMES NEW APPRENTICE LINEMAN



^ Andron Brown, apprentice lineman

Morgan County REA is excited to welcome **Andron Brown** as its newest apprentice lineman. Originally from Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Andron became interested in a career as a lineman after discussing the trade with another lineworker attending his church. He then completed line school at Pratt Community College in Kansas.

Coming to us from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Andron has lots of experience on transmission lines across a vast service area. Though able to see large amounts of country while traveling with Tri-State, Andron is looking forward to working at MCREA and the opportunity to stay close to his family. He also looks forward to meeting new people and learning more about how MCREA operates. (NOCO Equipment Co. LLC acct. # xxx7500)

After hearing about the job from MCREA area serviceman Travis Varelman, Andron pursued the chance to continue a career that he enjoys.

"I like being outside all the time and running large equipment," he said. "Also, I like helping people. Being a lineman is kind of like volunteer work ... but you get paid for it."

We are happy to welcome Andron to the team at MCREA.



MCREA's offices will be closed Monday, September 6 in observance of the holiday.

WATCH MCREA'S NEW GRASSROOTS VIDEO

Morgan County REA is excited to show consumer-members its new grassroots campaign video. Tri-State Generation and Transmission came to Morgan County to film and produce the video the last week of May. MCREA hopes it will encourage more consumer-members to sign up for the grassroots effort to make their voices heard when decisions regarding the power industry are being made.

The video highlights the rich, agricultural tradition that has driven this area of the state for generations. Viewers might notice familiar faces, as individuals from Christensen Ranch appear throughout the video. Brian Allmer of Barn Media was kind enough to do the voiceover for the entire video as well. MCREA is proud to have been able to include locals in a video that promotes local participation in its grassroots program.

The video is available for all to watch on the Grassroots page of MCREA's website. The video campaign also ran before each showing at the Cover 4 Theatre throughout the month of August. MCREA's social media followers were encouraged to engage with the video in order to win prizes. The grand prize was a Family Night at the Movies giveaway, which included a gift card to Cover 4 Theatre. MCREA swag bags were awarded to two other winners as well.

Go to www.mcrea.org/GrassrootsSignup to watch the video and sign up for the grassroots effort today.

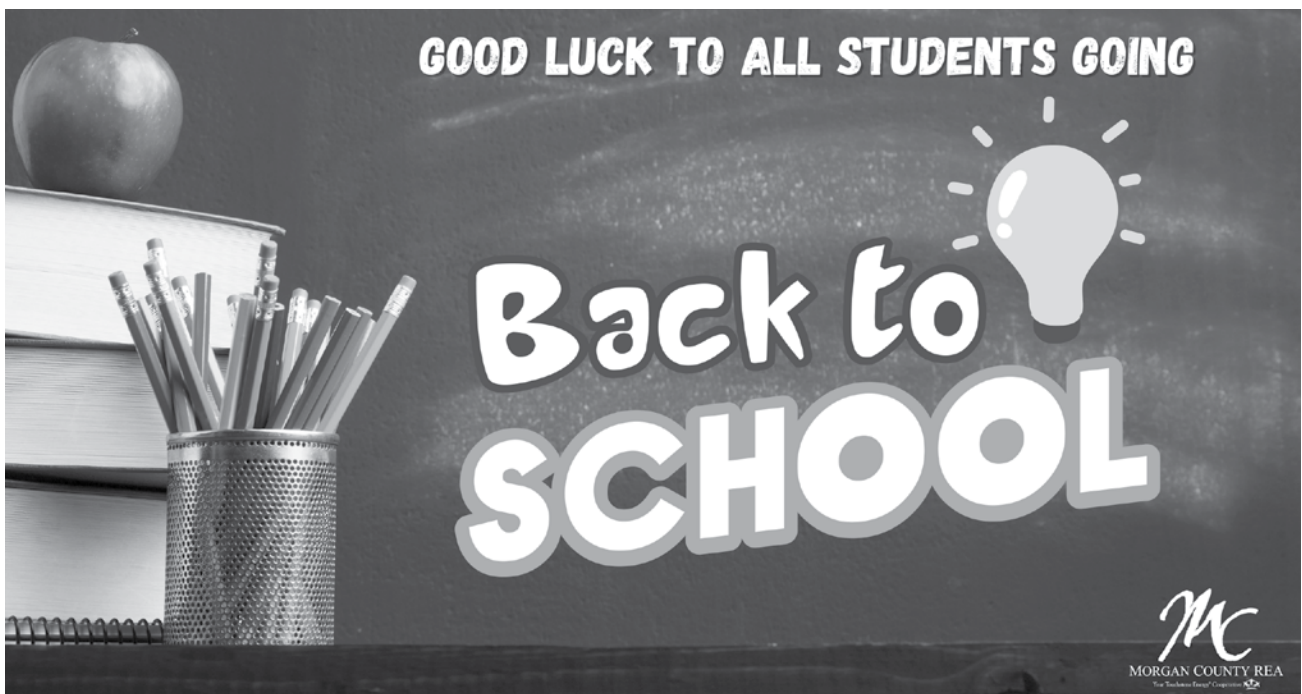
MCREA Welcomes New Communications & Public Relations Coordinator



▲ Maddie Pollart, communications and public relations coordinator

Morgan County REA welcomes **Maddie Pollart** as its new communications and public relations coordinator. Maddie is a lifelong resident of Morgan County and a recent graduate of the University of Wyoming, where she obtained her degree in agricultural communications, with a minor in public relations.

Since starting in June, Maddie has enjoyed being part of MCREA and looks forward to learning more about rural electric cooperatives. As a part of MCREA's member services department, Maddie is primarily responsible for writing for publications such as *Colorado Country Life*, running MCREA's social media channels and helping maintain the website.





MCREA MEETS MEMBERS AT THE “WORLD’S FAIR”

Morgan County REA was happy to visit with some of its consumer-members at the 2021 Northeast Weld County Fair & Rodeo in New Raymer on July 23. Affectionately named the “World’s Fair,” the event draws crowds from the Grover, Briggsdale, New Raymer and Stoneham areas, making it a prime spot to touch base with consumer-members in MCREA’s service area.

Kids and adults alike enjoyed the various branded swag offered at the booth, including sunglasses, Frisbees, gloves, hats and more. (Kathy Wecher acct. #xxx2300) The member services department discussed MCREA’s grassroots program with those who visited the booth, and various consumer-members signed up to join the effort.

Multiple consumer-members also shared stories of the prompt service they recently received from MCREA to restore power after unexpected circumstances caused outages in their area. This association is proud of its employees who work hard to ensure the membership is satisfied.

MCREA enjoyed the World’s Fair, as well as meeting consumer-members at other community events this summer.

MAKING YOUR HOME SAFE & EFFICIENT

Whether you’re working from home, learning from home or just spending more time at home, it is important to make sure your home is electrically safe, secure and efficient. Learn how the internet of things and smart devices can improve your quality of life and make your home safer.

HOME ENERGY USE

Average energy use by item:

- Air-conditioning: 17% of total home energy use
- Space heating: 15% of total home energy use
- Water heating: 14% of total home energy use
- Lighting: 10% of total home energy use

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT ENERGY USE

- Use a smart plug or power strip to turn off power when devices are not in use
- LED lightbulbs last longer than traditional bulbs and use 25%-80% less energy
- Heat only the area you’re in with energy-efficient space heaters
- Utilize home automation to control heating, cooling and lighting systems while not at home

HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY DEVICES

- AFCI breakers and outlets protect against arc faults, which could lead to fires
- Grounded outlets protect against electric shocks
- GFCI outlets and breakers are required where water and electricity may come into contact to protect against ground faults
- Surge protective devices protect against damaging power surges that can destroy electrical equipment



Win \$25 Off
Your Electric Bill

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Sorry, Rachel and Vackery Gillham (acct. #xxx1600) and Diana Barton (acct. #xxx7900). Your names were hidden in the July issue of *Colorado Country Life* but you did not call to receive your \$25 credit. There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by September 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your bill.