

# 7 Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a key reason why we operate differently from other business models. We believe in putting the needs of our members first.

## 1. VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP



Membership in our cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use our services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, gender expression, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or economic circumstances.

## 2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors) are elected among members and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member = one vote).



## 3. MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of our cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of our co-op. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the co-op; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-op; and supporting other activities approved by our membership.



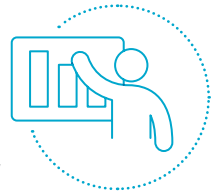
## 4. AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If we enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, we do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as our own unique identity.



## 5. EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of our cooperative. Communications about the nature and benefits of co-ops, particularly with the public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.



## 6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, regional, national and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with the needs of our communities.



## 7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



Our cooperative works for the sustainable development of our communities through policies supported by the membership.

Learn about the cooperative difference online at [www.pvrea.coop/gocoop](http://www.pvrea.coop/gocoop)



Scan the code and complete the form to enter for your chance to win your very own electric bicycle.  
**Winner announced November 1!**



## Last Chance to Win

Or go to [www.pvrea.coop/enter-win-e-bike](http://www.pvrea.coop/enter-win-e-bike)

## Member Credits Mean

# Investing Back into Our Communities

Member credits are your cooperative's way of returning investments back to the membership. We have a return on service, not a return on investment. We operate at cost, not to make a profit for shareholders. We give profits back to you, our members, to support the communities we serve.

So far, we've given back over \$75 million to those we serve through member credits. This year alone we've paid back over \$3.6 million.

Learn more about the cooperative difference at [www.pvrea.coop](http://www.pvrea.coop)



**\$3.6 MILLION**  
Returned back to our members this year alone



**\$33+ MILLION**  
Paid back to members over the past 10 years



**\$75 MILLION**  
Returned to members since 1939

### SAFETY CORNER



## Do You Know What to do **in an Outage?**

During a storm, your safety depends on how well you know how to keep safe and prepare for when the power goes out.

The quickest way you can report an outage is through your online account or the PVREA App. Make sure you're signed up for real-time outage updates through the app. Details for this can be found at [www.pvrea.coop/outage-alerts](http://www.pvrea.coop/outage-alerts)

You can learn valuable safety tips and ways to stay informed by visiting us online at [www.pvrea.coop/storm-safety-tips](http://www.pvrea.coop/storm-safety-tips)

## Teacher Roll Call!

APPLY FOR OUR

# EMPOWER GRANT PROGRAM

Teachers in Larimer, Weld or Boulder County can **earn up to \$2,000** for projects in their classroom!

Applications deadline  
**November 1, 2021**

Program details & application requirements available at [www.pvrea.coop/empower-grant-program](http://www.pvrea.coop/empower-grant-program)





Center image: Matt Truelove, US Navy veteran and PVREA employee

**The 20-year anniversary of the tragic events that occurred in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. brought a much-needed reminder that patriotism is still alive and well. Local nonprofit, Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing (PRVFF), has supported vets since 2011 by hosting an annual Honor Float for twenty of our nation's veterans to experience the socialization and camaraderie that comes with fly fishing.**

"The patriotism on the Honor Float is palpable," says Ken McCoy, Poudre Valley REA Information Technology & Business Process Director and Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing Board Vice President. "From the minute we load up our trucks, though the many miles we travel, in all the fish that are landed, and to the final goodbyes, you feel a deep sense of camaraderie. Not only are we giving these veterans an opportunity to heal, we're also giving them a part of ourselves. Every single one of them deserves at least that."

Twenty post-9/11 combat veterans were honored with an all-expenses-paid three-night, two-day guided fishing trip on the San Juan River hosted by PRVFF and sponsored by Poudre Valley REA (PVREA). The motorcade of vets, guides, and staff left PVREA headquarters Friday, September 10, to a cheering crowd, led by the Weld County Sheriff's Office, and under a flag flown by Windsor Severance Fire Rescue.

The Honor Float was modeled after the Honor Flight, which transports American's veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country. The Honor Float aims to take past and present soldiers on a journey of physical and mental healing, social integration, and family reunification through the sport of fly fishing.

**Their moto:**

**The Water Holds No Scars.**

"Words can't express the gratitude I felt during the trip. Everything Platter Rivers did and planned was

overwhelming," said Vietnam Veteran and 2019 Honor Float participant Fred Ramaker. Asked about his favorite memory of that trip, with a grin Ramaker replied, "Fighting that huge rainbow. Other than that, I seem to have increased my circle of fishing friends by twenty-five."

Past participant and Purple Heart recipient Clyde Brewer reminisced, "As veterans, we just didn't expect that kind of VIP treatment. It felt really good being recognized now for our efforts from back then. To be with veterans that experienced the same displeasure that I did, it's easier to have a conversation because they understand."

The Honor Float is the marquee trip for Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing, although several day trips and overnight trips occur throughout the season. In the office veterans learn about bug entomology, fly tying techniques, how to build fly fishing rods, casting basics, and other skills they can use in pursuit of their underwater quarry.

**As McCoy says,**

**"It's not about the fishing, it's because of the fishing."**

If you would like more information about the Platte River Veterans Fly Fishing, how to recognize our veterans, or if you would like to donate, please visit them online at [www.platterivers.com](http://www.platterivers.com).



# National **Electric Vehicle Week**

**September 26  
to October 4**

**Electric Vehicles (EV) are becoming more and more popular across the Front Range. As we find ourselves in the National Electric Vehicle Week early this month, let's take some time to discuss ways to learn if an EV is right for you.**

As a source of information you can trust, we're here to provide the resources and expertise to help you make an informed decision about the ways in which you consume electricity. If you're in the market for a new car, check out these resources to help you make an informed decision about the type of vehicle that could be right for you.

If you'd like to hear from a member who recently purchased an EV, read this story with PVREA member Don Morris. His interview can be found online at [www.pvrea.coop/ev-right-you](http://www.pvrea.coop/ev-right-you)



Or if you'd like a deeper dive into the technical side of what goes into an EV, find our ChooseEV tool online at [www.pvrea.coop/ev](http://www.pvrea.coop/ev). Here you'll be able to get details on EV facts, savings calculators, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction estimates, offers and more!

Or don't hesitate to reach out to us directly by calling **800.432.1012** and asking to speak to one of our Energy Resource Experts to find out if an EV is right for you.

P.S. We also offer rebates for chargers too! Details at [www.pvrea.coop/ev](http://www.pvrea.coop/ev)

**Our lobby will be closed / Monday, October 11th, for a team training day.**

**We'll resume normal office hours Tuesday. Thanks for understanding!**



## **PVREA FALL FEST**

## **COME JOIN THE FUN**



**Saturday, October 2 | 1pm to 4pm**  
**7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins**  
**Parking is available on**  
**N. Hathaway Ln. off CO Rd. 5**

- Enter to win an E-Bike
- Grab a snack and treat yourself
- Get competitive at the games
- Paint your face or a pumpkin
- And more! So much more!

Details at [www.pvrea.coop/fall-fest](http://www.pvrea.coop/fall-fest)

## OCTOBER 2021 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH**



### **OLD, UNINSULATED, AND IMPROPERLY INSTALLED EXTERIOR DOORS CAN WASTE ENERGY AND MONEY.**

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

