

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2021



MAILING ADDRESS

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Yampa Valley Electric Association

is a cooperative that provides value to its member-owners through technology that delivers safe and reliable electrical service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

BY STEVE JOHNSON PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

At Yampa Valley Electric Association, our eyes are always on tomorrow. No matter if that's the future of our power supply or adding electric vehicles to our fleet, we are always looking further down the road to find ways to make our co-op relevant with the changing times. One of the many ways we have our eyes on the future is by looking to our youth and finding ways to help them grow.

YVEA empowers our youth in so many ways — granting yearly scholarships and community donations, and sponsoring camps and youth events. This summer alone, we have sponsored local fairs, sporting events and several other programs that help support our youth with their endeavors. With a new year already on the horizon, I want to take the time to speak about some exciting opportunities coming up that we want to see our local youth apply for and take advantage of.

The first opportunity we offer is in partnership with the Colorado Electric Educational Institute, called the Youth Leadership Camp. Students who attend the camp gain skills to improve their leadership potential through group activities, learn about cooperative governance and participate in board simulations. Several demonstrations and presentations enhance students' knowledge on the cooperative model and on operations at their electric cooperative. In previous years, campers competed to build a model transmission line out of craft supplies, toured Trapper Mine and Craig Power Plant, watched a high-voltage safety demonstration and learned about the Energy Trails mission to electrify rural towns in Guatemala.

Another amazing opportunity for our youth is the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. In 1957, President Lyndon B. Johnson developed the program to introduce students to the nation's capital where they can gain a



STEVE JOHNSON

better understanding of what the American flag stands for and represents. What started out as a focus on rural youth grew into a nationwide effort to send students on a trip to the nation's capital. Students who go on this trip will tour a Colorado co-op, tour the Colorado state capitol and have dinner with a state legislator on day one. Then they travel to Washington, D.C., for other exciting opportunities such as visiting Ford's theater, meeting with U.S. senators and representatives, participating in a congressional simulation, touring the Holocaust Museum, and many other meaningful sites in Washington, D.C.

The final program we're proud of is our scholarships for local students to attend college. In 2021 alone, we gave over \$30,000 worth of scholarships to local students for them to continue their education. This scholarship program is open to all students in our service area and is an amazing opportunity. We are proud to support students to encourage them to further their futures.

To us, our youth are incredibly important and the more we can do to help them grow into leaders, the brighter our future looks.

Steve Johnson

General Manager



We highly encourage anyone who has even the slightest interest in any of these opportunities to **visit www.yvea.com** and click on the **My Community** menu. There you will find ways to apply for scholarships or camps.

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH



Kimberly Gray of Hayden is the second place winner for lightweight cross at the Colorado's Electric Cooperatives Junior Livestock Sale at the Colorado State Fair.



Michelle Gray of Hayden takes second place in other breeds for market lambs at the Colorado's Electric Cooperatives Junior Livestock Sale at the Colorado State Fair.



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— Steve Johnson
YVEA General Manager



YVEA sends two local students to Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs.



Energy Solutions Manager Megan Moore-Kemp speaks to youth at Yampa Valley Sustainability Committee's first-ever Careers and Leadership in Sustainability event.



Students sponsored by YVEA and Colorado's electric cooperatives visit the nation's capital during the Washington D.C. Youth Tour.



Katie Jo Knez dismounts her horse on the approach for girls' goat tying during the short go round of the state finals for Colorado Junior High Rodeo Association. Photo courtesy of Andy Bockelman of the *Craig Daily Press*.



Chance Knez competes in the team roping event at the Moffat County Rodeo. Photo by Andy Bockelman of the *Craig Daily Press*.



Cale Howard competes in the Mutton Bustin' contest at the Hayden Fair. YVEA has been a proud sponsor of the Routt County Fair for many years. Photo courtesy of Wendy Howard, YVEA Member Services Supervisor.

Attention Nonprofits: Grant Application Deadline is October 15



Nonprofit organizations within the YVEA territory that continue to provide much needed programs and projects that are important to our local communities are encouraged to apply for

Operation Round Up funds. Applications are accepted two times per year: May 15 and October 15. For application and more information, visit www.yvea.com/operation-roundup.

GREEN CHOICE

Green Choice is an attainable renewable energy program that allows our local community to set renewable portfolio goals that are reachable within a short period of time. Green Choice is designed for members on the small or medium general service rate who want to offset their energy usage with renewable energy certificates. Because the YVEA power mix is already 40% renewable, our members only need to offset 60% of their usage to become a 100% clean energy user. As we add more renewables to our power mix, we will adjust the percentage Green Choice participants need to purchase to reach 100%. To sign up, please visit www.yvea.com/green-choice-program.

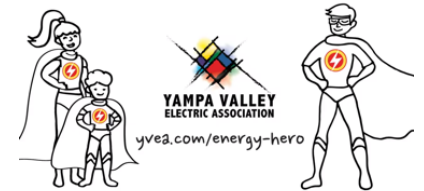


ENERGY SAVINGS TIP: Smart Thermostats

A smart thermostat is a Wi-Fi enabled device that automatically adjusts heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance and savings.

- Set your schedule:** Smart thermostats aim to learn your schedule, but you can help it out by setting your schedule via its interface or web app.
- Start saving:** The Department of Energy estimates savings of about 1% for each degree of thermostat adjustment per 8 hours.
- Go low:** Smart thermostats steer you toward energy efficient temperatures, but you can save even more money by bundling up and enjoying the savings.
- Adjust your temperature:** When you're not following your typical weekly schedule, remember to adjust your temperature accordingly.
- Use the companion app and web portal:** Use the app to lower temperatures when your schedule changes.

- Set up vacations:** Use the vacation feature on smart thermostats to easily lower the heat while you're away. (Be careful — if frozen pipes are a risk in your area, keep your “away” temperature around 55 degrees).



- Analyze your energy use:** Look at the monthly reports to see how you did.
- Get a rebate:** Take advantage of YVEA's Energy Hero Rebates and save money on the upfront costs of your smart thermostat. Visit www.yvea.com/rebates.

New Level 3 EV Charging Rates



Effective October 1, our Level 3 electric vehicle charging rates changed. These rates are specific to YVEA-owned chargers in Colorado. Currently, YVEA owns one Level 3 charger in the Town of Yampa. Instead of charging a parking fee,

we changed to charging an idle fee to encourage users to free up the charging space for other users after their car has completed charging. Additionally, we changed from a fixed rate to a dynamic rate to ensure our fueling prices encourage charging, recover costs, and are fair. For more details, please visit www.yvea.com/yvea-rates-colorado-and-wyoming.

CURRENT CONSTRUCTION

Here are a few updates to our current construction plan:

- **North Steamboat Blvd:** this project is ongoing due to materials delay
- **Construction on the Brooklyn substation in the Old Town area:** This work is continuing in October
- **Ski Trail Lane:** This work is continuing in October

You can expect to see YVEA employees, locate contractors, city and utility employees, surveyors and YVEA contractors on or around these sites. For any questions, please visit www.yvea.com/current-construction

For the public's safety and the safety of our crews, YVEA asks that you use caution near our worksites and whenever you see a YVEA or contracting crew working near the road. YVEA wants you, our crews and contractors to get home safely.

LUMINATE CONSTRUCTION: WHAT TO EXPECT

We have been hard at work the past few months — working day and night to bring you the best internet experience. You may have seen us around town and wondered how this whole thing works. We are here to answer your construction questions and keep you in the loop. We want you to be informed every step of the way.

As our teams construct the fiber network in your neighborhood, we'll be reaching out by phone, email and even knocking on your door to keep you updated. Our website map for your area (found on our Service Areas webpage at www.luminatebroadband.com/service-areas) will always show the most up-to-date information on areas in which we are working. Here are the steps we take to ensure you have the best and easiest experience during our fiber construction.

DESIGN

Before you even hear about Luminat in your neighborhood, we work to engineer and design the fiber cable paths throughout your community as well as procure materials. Contractors, city officials and Luminat collaborate on the fiber path design and submit it to the city for approval where applicable or we utilize the existing public utility easement. Once approved, we partner with contractors to begin the construction process.

CONSTRUCTION

In an effort to provide advanced notification of construction, Luminat utilizes various communication avenues such as social media, signage, website updates, neighborhood association meetings, email communication, direct mail communication, phone communication and a notice placed directly on your front door.

The main fiber pathways are constructed to the distribution points located throughout the area, which generally follow the existing electrical path of overhead or underground power lines.

We contact 811 and contractors and utility employees arrive in your neighborhood to mark the locations of existing lines.

SPLICE/TEST

Our splicing team accesses each splice case and pedestal throughout the area to fuse the individual fibers that will eventually connect to your home or business. Then we test the speed and integrity of the light as it passes through the fiber to make sure your connection is gig-fast.

Our team parks a splice trailer near the splice case in your neighborhood to separate the individual fibers that will eventually connect directly to your home or business.

The fiber is tested to ensure a clean, continuous path for the light to travel down.

When splicing and testing are complete, the cables are sealed in an air-tight splice case and coiled back into the splice vault, ready to be accessed for individual installations.

READY FOR INSTALL

Your Luminat technician will arrive at your home during your scheduled timeframe. They will bring the direct fiber connection into your home or business and connect it to our commercial grade Wi-Fi 6 modem and router.

Standard installation for overhead electric lines: Installers will start at the pole and run the fiber to the house. A small hook will be drilled into the house for the fiber cable drop to hang. It will then run to a network interface device which will be attached to the outside of your home. Inside your home, a jack, similar to your existing jacks or outlets, will be aesthetically mounted to the wall where the fiber is coming in and connect to your commercial grade Wi-Fi 6 modem and router.

Standard installation for underground electric lines: We will plow a small opening to place a protective conduit in



the ground which will be approximately 8 inches to 12 inches deep and 1 inch to 2 inches wide. The installer will drill a small hole where the fiber will enter your home. It will then run to a network interface device which will be attached to the outside of your home. Inside your home, a small box will be mounted to the wall where the fiber is coming in and connect to your commercial grade Wi-Fi 6 modem and router, identical to standard installation for overhead electric lines.

Once the installation is complete and our technician has tested your wireless range, answered your questions and finished cleaning up, buckle up because it's time to experience the Luminat difference. Our technician will introduce you to the myLuminat app which will provide you great, but limited, network controls to assist you with managing your home Wi-Fi network. The best part is myLuminat has enhanced controls to keep all your network devices safe and secure — these include built-in parental controls and a network-level security service with notification features to protect your kids and loved ones. Ask us about myLuminat's ProtectIQ and ExperienceIQ features to see how you can experience the complete Luminat difference.

We hope this helps you understand our construction and installation process better. If you have questions or want more details on our process, please give us a call at 970-870-4320.

