

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Powering Possibilities

DECEMBER 2021



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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Another eventful and exciting year has come and gone. 2021 was a busy time, full of accomplishments and growth for Gunnison County Electric Association, due in large part to its hard-working employees and board of directors.

Even though the world was still in the midst of what feels like a never-ending battle with COVID-19, the employees still made projects happen. In March 2021, we were able to have all employees back in the office.



^ GCEA members enjoy being back in person for the co-op's 82nd Annual Meeting.

was held with limited in-person attendance as well as virtual participants. Board President Tom Carl and CEO Mike McBride gave great speeches and even had time to



^ Gunnison County Electric Association staff

At the beginning of 2021, members who signed up for the Gunnison Community Solar Garden started reaping the benefits of the program. In February, solar share generation details began reporting on members' monthly bills. The short-term lease option is currently leased out. Please call to be put on the waiting list for the next project. At this time, we encourage members to sign up for a 20-year lease option. GCEA is excited to develop another solar project in our service territory soon.

With COVID-19 calming down in the valley, we were eager and excited to meet face to face with members. We held a couple of successful in-person events around the area during the summer and fall months.

82ND ANNUAL MEETING

The 82nd Annual Meeting was a little different from previous years, but we still had a great time. The hybrid-style meeting

do some Q&A. In an uncontested election this year, Mark Daily in District 7 and Polly Oberosler in District 6 both kept their seats for the next three years.

EV RIBBON CUTTING

On Thursday, July 15, GCEA celebrated the installation of its 13th EV charging station, located in Crested Butte South, with a ribbon-cutting event. Neighbors and EV enthusiasts turned out in support of the Level 2 station, which will give them the opportunity to charge closer to home.



^ July 15 EV charging station ribbon-cutting event in Crested Butte South.

[continued on page 8]

[continued from page 7]

GCEA offers special thanks to the Crested Butte South POA for hosting the charging station site, and to the Charge Ahead Colorado grant and Tri-State Generation and Transmission rebates for funding most of this project.



Energy Use Advisor Alantha Garrison talks with a member at an August event.

We had electric vehicle pop-up events, attended the Gunnison Car Show and held two heat pump workshops for contractors in August. In September, we had a great time visiting with members about beneficial electrification and renewable energy at Brats and Kilowatts. Thank you to Tri-State Generation and Transmission and to Gunnison's Fullmer's Ace Hardware for bringing electric outdoor equipment for members to try. Members test rode e-bikes thanks to Crested Butte Sports and Wheelies and Waves. We are excited to see more of you at events in 2022.

POWER EQUIPMENT REBATE

GCEA and Tri-State offered a new outdoor power equipment rebate in 2021. Members received rebates for their purchases on new



Members try outdoor power equipment at the Brats & Kilowatts event.

outdoor electric equipment and e-bikes. Since e-bikes are the hot items this year, many members took advantage of the e-bike rebate. Starting January 1, 2022, all rebates must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Visit gcea.coop to learn more about the rebates GCEA offers.

EXCITING THINGS

We said goodbye to our friend and Chief Operations Officer Roger Grogg as he retired after 33 years of service at GCEA. He was an exceptional leader, friend and co-worker and will be missed greatly. Roger's retirement created an operations department shuffle. Former Line Superintendent John Stoeber started his new role as chief operations officer on September 2. Todd Fuller took over the line superintendent position; Dustin Cadwell filled the Gunnison working

foreman position; and Ty Percival occupied the Gunnison lineman opening. We are also excited to welcome Lisa Lucas as the new system locator/inspector. We are excited to see everyone in their new roles at GCEA.

In August, we launched our new website. It features a sleek, clean design, a custom footer illustration and a mobile-friendly platform. We hope everyone enjoys the new look and finds it easy to navigate.

These are just a few of the exciting things that happened this year, and we are ready for a great 2022.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and check our monthly publications and bill inserts to stay up to date on all the exciting projects happening at GCEA. If you have questions or comments, contact us at 970-641-3520 or stop and chat with us at community events.



SmartHub allows you to manage all aspects of your electric account from your computer, tablet or phone.

- Make a payment
- Check energy use
- Report an outage



To register, you will need your account number and the name on your account exactly as printed on your bill statement.

For more information, please call 970-641-3520.

Winter Bill Shock

How to stop the surprise high bills before they happen

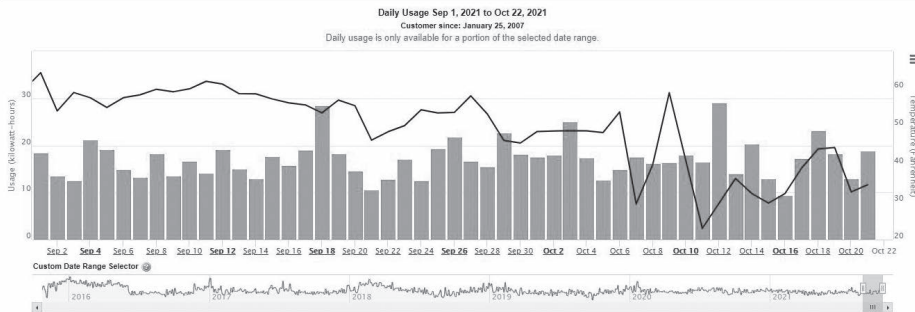
BY ALANTHA GARRISON ENERGY USE ADVISOR

One of the most common concerns we hear from our members is a surprise high bill. There are many reasons that a bill can increase, and finding the source of a high bill can be challenging. But GCEA has tools to help you. One of these tools is an energy evaluation where we will come to your home or business and investigate potential causes of higher-than-normal usage.

Once we identify the cause of high usage, members know which steps to take to lower their usage. This may include replacing an appliance or changing settings to heating systems.

Temperatures in a breaker panel

The images below show temperatures in a breaker panel at a member's home. In the top image, you can see a breaker on the bottom left that went to an electric heater in an attic space; the thermostat was set to almost 80 degrees. The heater had been running almost constantly for close to a year. When we shut off the attic heat, the breaker cooled down, as is shown in the image on the bottom.

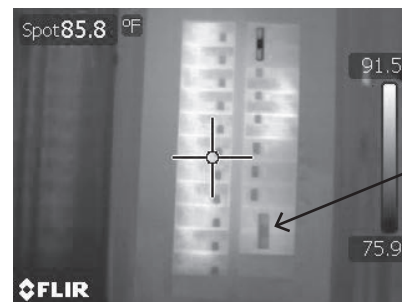
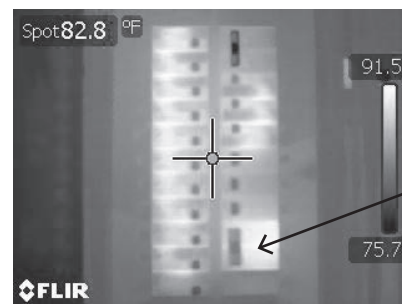


Each evaluation is different, but generally includes the following:

- Review of monthly, daily and hourly usage to find changes in usage and pinpoint when the changes began
- A look around the property for items using electricity that may be the cause of high usage and taking inventory of those items to determine energy use
- Use of an infrared camera to look for warm or cold spots around a building and in the breaker panel

Reasons for high bills include:

- Pressure switches that stay on instead of turning off when water is not being used
- Electric heaters set at a higher-than-necessary temperature
- Water heaters with leaks that cause the water heater to run constantly
- Furnace fans set to run constantly instead of automatically
- Bad thermostats that keep heaters running above the set temperature
- Well or sump pumps that are failing or have failed



MEMBER FEEDBACK ABOUT THEIR HOME ENERGY EVALUATION

"We bought our first home November 2020 and received our first shocking bill in January 2021. After reviewing our daily and hourly usage through SmartHub, we were able to pinpoint the issues. With help from Energy Use Advisor Alantha Garrison, we created new habits and replaced some old appliances to help cut costs. A little bit of an upfront cost, but in the end, this has and will save us money. We also took advantage of GCEA's appliance rebate program." New homeowners, if you have questions about your heating system, call Energy Use Advisor Alantha at 970-641-3520.

SmartHub

Another tool is SmartHub, where members can view their usage and identify changes in patterns. You can access your GCEA account at any time to keep on top of how you use electricity. Click on the Usage Explorer tab to view the details of your usage in monthly, daily and hourly intervals. Keeping track of when you made changes to your account (such as adding a hot tub) will help you understand how the changes affect your overall energy use. This valuable tool puts you in control of your usage and will give you a better understanding of how you use electricity.



10 Years of Service Award

Congratulations to GCEA Energy Use Advisor Alantha Garrison on her 10 Years of Service Award to the government of the United States of America. Her recognition is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Alantha reports the weather from GCEA headquarters every day. Pictured above with Alantha is John Kyle, data acquisition manager at NOAA/NWS.

SCHOLARSHIP TIME

Do you need financial assistance to help further your education?

GCEA is here to help students pursue their dreams of continuing their education.

Scholarship details and applications for new and returning students may be found at gcea.coop.

A student is eligible to receive a scholarship if the student, their parent, legal guardian or foster home receives electrical service from GCEA.

**Application deadline:
Tuesday, March 1, 2022.**

Have questions? Please visit gcea.coop or call 970-641-3520.



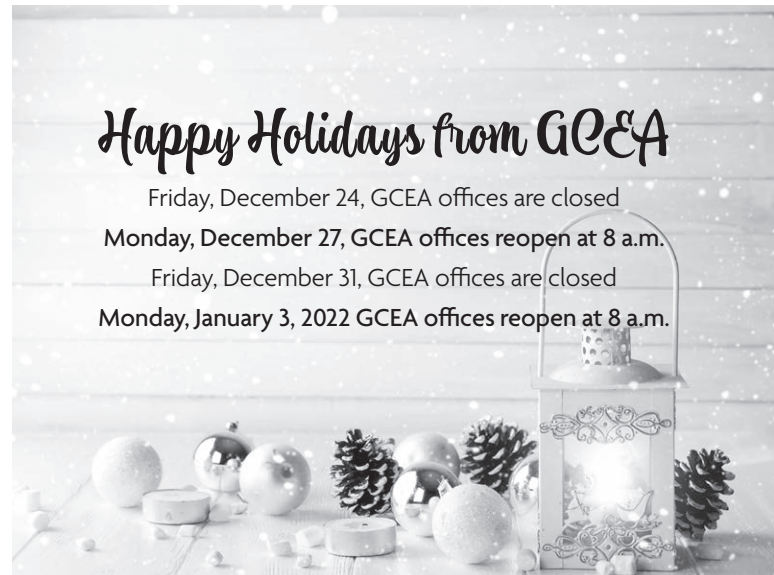
Dustin Cadwell fills Working Foreman Position

Please join GCEA in congratulating Dustin Cadwell on his new position as Gunnison working foreman. Dustin is a Gunnison local who has worked his way up the ranks here at GCEA. He

graduated from the Mesa State College Power Lineman Program and in 2008 was hired as an apprentice lineman in Crested Butte. After a couple of years, Dustin transferred to the Gunnison office where he earned his journeyman lineman certification in 2012. We are excited to see Dustin as a leader of the Gunnison crew.

Happy Holidays from GCEA

Friday, December 24, GCEA offices are closed
Monday, December 27, GCEA offices reopen at 8 a.m.
Friday, December 31, GCEA offices are closed
Monday, January 3, 2022 GCEA offices reopen at 8 a.m.

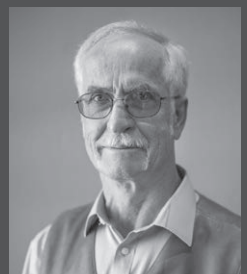


BOARD OF DIRECTORS EARN CO-OP CERTIFICATIONS

Two GCEA board members were honored for earning education certificates during the September 29-30 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Regions 7 and 9 meeting. These certificates recognize the completion of courses on foundational co-op knowledge and skills.



Morgan Weinberg,
District 2
Credentialed
Cooperative
Director
Certificate



Tom Carl,
District 5
Board Leader's
Certificate