

# FOUR THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TIME-OF-USE RATES

BY CHRISTMAS WHARTON COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



CHRISTMAS WHARTON

Time-of-Use is an electric rate schedule that adjusts the price of your electricity based on when you're using it. During hours of our system peak, between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m., the cost of using electricity is higher, which more accurately reflects the cost of electricity on the grid at that time. Time-of-Use pricing is intended to encourage you to use electricity during times of the day when power is cheaper and demand is lower, helping to alleviate high power supply costs. This creates savings we pass onto you. Here are the top four things you need to know about Time-of-Use rates:

## 1. All single-phase residential and irrigation members will move to Time-of-use pricing in March 2022.

Starting in March 2022, Grand Valley Power residential and irrigation members will change to a Time-of-Use rate classification. Resources and tools are available online, including an appliance or equipment cost calculator, Power Usage Alert, peak indicator, and your near real-time hourly energy use

through SmartHub. Previous rate classifications that are moving to a TOU rate are: FH-1, FH-2, NRG, TOU-1, TOU-2, I-1.

For other rate classes, including Commercial Small Power and Large Power, please refer to our dedicated demand rates page at [gvp.org/demand](http://gvp.org/demand) for tools and resources available to you.

## 2. The cost of energy will change based on when you use electricity.

Time-of-Use pricing more accurately reflects the cost of electricity at the time you consume it. This rate change is not meant to penalize members for using electricity during peak hours, but instead is meant to more closely align the price paid for electricity with the costs to produce the electricity. In the evening hours, electric demand goes up as we turn on our lights and cook dinner, resulting in higher, or "peak," prices for energy. During the daytime hours, consumption and demand are lower, resulting in lower, "off-peak" energy costs. When you compare our new TOU rates with our old rates, you see that the

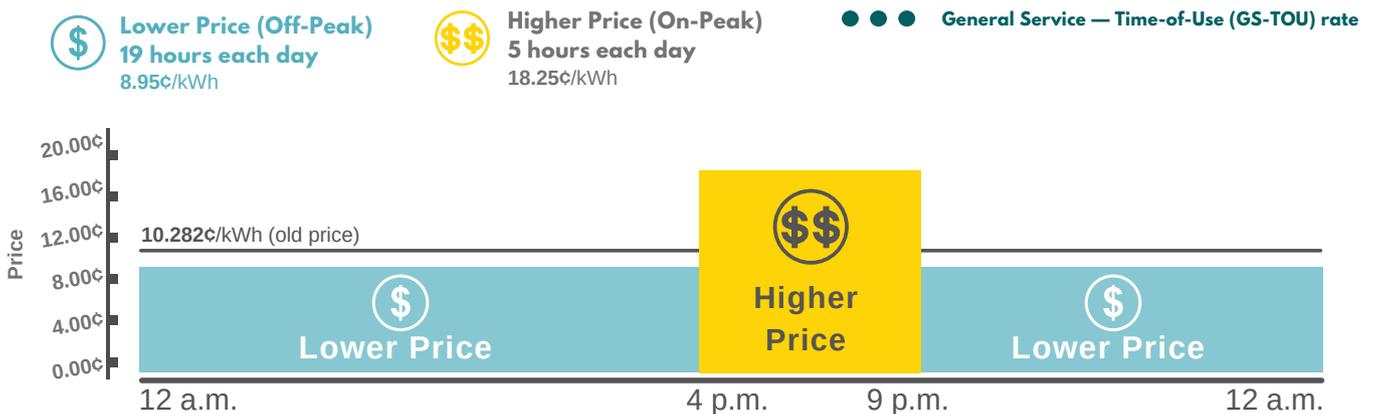
kilowatt-hour charge for the 5-hour on-peak period has gone up. However, don't forget that for 19 hours of each day, our off-peak kilowatt-hour charge has gone down. Depending on if you're a General Service member or Irrigation, your kilowatt-hour rate price will differ. Please refer to our rates section for detailed information at [gvp.org/rates](http://gvp.org/rates).

## 3. Time-of-use pricing can help you save money.

Running appliances like your washer and dryer during the lower-priced, off-peak hours is a simple way to start reducing your electricity bill. In addition to saving money, minimizing large appliance use during peak hours can also help reduce the strain on the power grid in your community. During the course of the year, we will be providing more tips and ways to save with our Time-of-Use rate, so follow our social media pages on

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## The Time-of-Use rate plan has two periods:



Year-round, 24 hours, 7 days a week

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Facebook or Twitter and read our monthly issue of *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

Find new ways to save energy and money by visiting [gvp.org/energy-efficiency](http://gvp.org/energy-efficiency).

### 4. Most members use approximately 75% of their energy during lower-priced, off-peak periods

A common misconception is that members' households use 50% or more electricity during on-peak periods. This is simply not true. Throughout the year, most member households use approximately 75% of off-peak energy and 25% of on-peak energy in a given month. You can pull your own metering data through our secure SmartHub portal to find how much on-peak energy you use (between

the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.) to help guide you. If you have greater than 25% of on-peak use (on average) you have the potential to save by shifting or adjusting some of your use to off-peak time periods. Another option is to call us at 970-242-0040 and our member services team can provide you an estimated percentage of on-peak use and off-peak use based on your account history.

### COMMENTS TO THE CEO

You are a member of a cooperative and your opinion does count. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please write *Ask the CEO*, P.O. Box 190, Grand Junction, CO 81502, or send an email to [twalch@gvp.org](mailto:twalch@gvp.org). Check our website at [gvp.org](http://gvp.org)

### BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to the members, consumers and public, but due to current COVID-19 health concerns, please call us at 970-242-0040 if you are interested in attending our meeting remotely. Regularly scheduled board meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website. If anyone desires to address the board of directors, please let us know in advance so we can place you on the agenda.

## Director Petitions Available in April

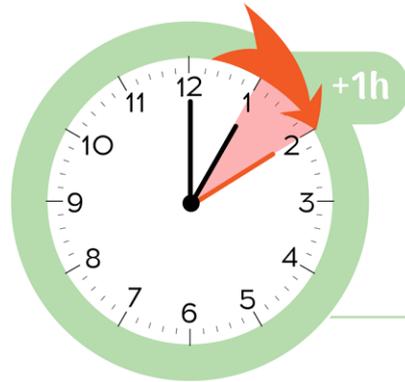
The election process for the Grand Valley Power Board of Directors is approaching. The nominating procedure begins in May with the election in August. There are three director positions up for election every year.

Board seats up for election this year include positions presently held by Rod Martinez, Carolyn Sandeen-Hall and Sylvia Spangler.

**Nominating petitions** will be available to be picked up beginning **April 25, 2022** at the Grand Valley Power office. Petitions must be signed and returned no later than by the close of business on June 3, 2022.

The **Annual Meeting** of Grand Valley Power and the election of directors will be held on **Thursday, August 4, 2022**, at Colorado Mesa University Meyer Ballroom. Mark your calendar.

More details on the election process will be published in the May issue of this newsletter and can also be found at [gvp.org/bylaws](http://gvp.org/bylaws).



**SPRING FORWARD**  
**Daylight Saving Time**  
**March 13, 2022**

## Did You Know?

Throughout the year, most Grand Valley Power residential consumers use approximately **75% of their electricity during the lower-priced, off-peak hours.**

**25%**  
**ON-PEAK**

**75%**  
**OFF-PEAK**



# Ways to Save Energy

in every room of your home.



## OFFICE

Unplug electronic devices and charging cords while not in use.

## BEDROOM

Set your ceiling fan to spin in a counter-clockwise direction to create a wind chill effect.

## BATHROOM

Switch to LEDs for a more efficient & brighter lighting solution.

## KITCHEN

Consider running your dishwasher or electric stove during off-peak hours (9 p.m. to 4 p.m.).  
**PRO TIP:** Use a slow cooker to cook delicious meals and save energy!

## LIVING ROOM

Set your thermostat to 68°F in the winter and 78°F in the summer as your normal setting. You can save as much as **10% a year** on heating and cooling costs.

## BASEMENT

Set your water heater temperature to 120°F to save energy & money!

Source: energy.gov

For more ways to save visit [gvp.org/energy-efficiency](http://gvp.org/energy-efficiency)

# THE STORY BEHIND THE SWITCH

BY DANA POGAR COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Many of us don't think twice when we power on our electric stove or plug in our phone charger, but behind every switch (or outlet) is the story of a lineworker who has dedicated their career and life to learning how to safely deliver reliable electric service to our homes and businesses. This is the story of GVP Operations Manager Bill Barlow.

As a young boy, Bill was always up to "no good," as he puts it. Whether he was playing in the dirt with his brother and sister or deconstructing a radio to engineer different frequencies, Bill was always tinkering with something. "I remember the day when I moved the connections in my radio just right and I could hear the pilots transmitting from the airport. This is really when my interest in electrical engineering sparked," Barlow remembered.

Eighteen years later, Bill was fresh out of high school and moved from his childhood home to a new house east of Loma where he met the neighbor who would change his life: Dan Shaffer, father of current GVP Operations Supervisor Mark Shaffer. "One day I noticed Mr. Shaffer hauling hay bales

on his trailer. My brother and I went outside to help him, and needless to say he was not going to be outworked by a couple of high school boys," Bill said. **"Once we got to talkin' he asked me what I was planning to do with my life after graduating from Fruita Monument High School. Dan then suggested that I should think about going into linework."**

It wasn't long before Bill was on his way to pursuing his neighbor's suggestion of becoming a lineman. In 1989, Bill graduated from Western Colorado Community College (WCCC) where he earned his electric lineworker certificate. Soon after graduating, he was offered an apprenticeship at Grand Valley Power where he's now served co-op members for over 33 years. "I remember countless nights of studying, learning the ins and outs of transformers, electrical circuits and most importantly, knot tying," Bills recalled. Even after 33 years in the industry, Barlow's old-school textbooks still hold their place on the shelf of his office as a reminder of where he started and where his story began as a lineman.

## WRITE YOUR STORY — APPLY FOR GVP'S ELECTRIC LINeworker SCHOLARSHIP

You just read one of the many stories of the people behind your power. Now, it's time for you to write your own story and apply for Grand Valley Power's WCCC Electric Lineworker scholarship. Each year, GVP awards over \$20,000 in scholarship funds to students aspiring to continue their post-secondary education, and we're looking for students like you — yes, YOU — to apply.

The Western Colorado Community College Electric Lineworker Scholarship is open to any applicant who currently resides in Mesa County (at the time of application). Applicants must plan to enroll as a full-time student at WCCC for the upcoming academic year. The WCCC Electric Lineworker Scholarship is a \$2,000 one-time award.

**Applications for the GVP WCCC Electric Lineworker Scholarship will be accepted through June 1, 2022,** and can be submitted by mail, dropping hard copies at GVP's main office or online. For additional information about GVP's scholarship program and application requirements, please visit [gvp.org/scholarship-program](http://gvp.org/scholarship-program), email [scholarships@gvp.org](mailto:scholarships@gvp.org) or call us at 970-242-0040.

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**\$2K**

**LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP**

**GVP**  
GRAND VALLEY POWER  
Empowering lives with hometown service  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
A Division of Colorado Mesa University

Apply by June 1, 2022  
[gvp.org/scholarship-program](http://gvp.org/scholarship-program)

\*\*Applicants must currently reside in Mesa County at the time of application.\*\*