



## OUTAGE INFORMATION: HELP US HELP YOU

BY LOGANN LONG

# GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*Powering Possibilities*

MARCH 2022



### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 180  
Gunnison, CO 81230-0180



### STREET ADDRESS

37250 West Highway 50  
Gunnison, CO 81230



**ph** 970-641-3520

**tf** 800-726-3523

**fax** 970-641-7333

**web** gcea.coop

**email** gcea@gcea.coop

### We want to be social with you!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to find out about GCEA events, energy efficiency tips, safety tips and so much more.



facebook.com/

GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@gcea\_news

Has this happened to you before? You are at home and suddenly the power goes out. Why does this happen? There are many different reasons why your power can go out. Windy conditions or heavy snow accumulating on power lines can cause an outage. Though we place barriers between wildlife and electricity equipment, squirrels, birds and other small animals may still cause an outage. Sometimes underground power cables are disturbed by digging. This typically happens when someone doesn't call 811 before a project, and they dig into a buried cable.

Many outages are unpredictable, but we can always use your help when they happen. Please report any outage to Gunnison County Electric Association at 970-641-3520, even if you think others have already called. Your call can help us pin down the trouble spot.

### When you call to report an outage, be prepared to tell the dispatcher the following:

- Your name and phone number
- Your service address
- How long you have been out of power
- Any unusual events on or near the property that might have caused the outage.

### OUTAGE SAFETY

Power outages may occur on a warm summer day or the middle of a cold winter night. Here are some tips to help you stay safe when the power goes out.

- Never approach a downed power line. Call GCEA at 970-641-3520 to report the location of the downed line and wait until the utility crew repairs the area.
- During the winter, keep windows and doors closed to retain heat, close blinds at night, and dress in additional layers to keep warm. Never use a cooking appliance such a gas stove to keep warm.
- Have a safety kit easily accessible that includes a flashlight, batteries, drinking water, food, blankets, prescriptions, phone, external phone charger, cash and credit cards, basic toiletries, first aid supplies, baby supplies and pet supplies.
- Unplug electrical items and appliances except refrigerators and freezers to protect them from surges.
- Avoid opening and closing refrigerators and freezers to keep food cold as long as possible.

GCEA is always working to keep your lights on, but outages can happen. These tips on outage reporting and outage safety help us help you and will help keep you and your family safe.



# SAFE DIGGING – CALL 811 – DON'T BE THE CAUSE FOR AN OUTAGE

Springtime is upon us, and that means thoughts of skiing and snowmobiling are coming to an end and digging, planting and building are now on our minds. You may have dreams of beautiful landscaping or moving ground for a new foundation, but before you dig, it's wise to think first what might be underground. Here are some helpful tips for safe spring digging:



**▲** GCEA Lineman Ty Percival performs a line locate for underground power lines.

- STEP 1 LINE LOCATE REQUEST:** Visit [colorado811.org](http://colorado811.org) or call 811 to submit a line locate request. Line locators from all utilities will be notified of your request to have the underground cables, wires and utilities marked before you begin excavating so that you are safe and do not destroy important underground facilities.
- STEP 2 PLAN AHEAD:** Submit your request on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- STEP 3 CONFIRM:** Make sure all lines are marked before starting a project. Gunnison County Electric Association Line Locator Lisa Lucas marks electrical lines, cables and conduits with red paint. Other utilities are marked with different colors. If you provide your email address to 811, you will be notified when the work is completed by each utility. When working with a contractor, confirm with them that lines are identified before they begin their work.
- STEP 4 ALTERNATE PLANS:** Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- STEP 5 ALLOW FOR MARKING TOLERANCE:** Locators are given an 18-inch grace on each side of their paint. Allow for extra tolerance and opt for hand digging in those areas.

Remember, you can be seriously hurt if you dig into an electrical line, so call 811 every time you dig. Underground utilities are extremely dangerous and having paint on the ground in many instances can prevent major harm or fatalities. It is always better to know before you dig. Call 811 before you dig to have your electric lines identified.


## Outage Management System Update

Our new Outage Management System (OMS) provides internal communication to our employees via text and email, as well as outage notifications to our members via SmartHub and an external web map.

In the last couple of months, OMS was integrated into dispatch. This new part of the system will help streamline the way that dispatch records and manages outage information. Instead of writing down a caller's information, they can now enter an address and the caller's information into OMS. Then they call the lineman on duty to give them a brief description of the information given to them. The lineman is able to pull up the map on their iPad to see where the outage is just from the information dispatch entered. This is a new procedure and will require some adjustments along the way, but overall it is going to make after-hours outage calls easier to track and manage for everyone involved.

**To view the outage map or learn more about outages, please visit [gcea.coop/outages-safety/outage-center](http://gcea.coop/outages-safety/outage-center).**





### SMARTHUB

Access your account at home or on the go. Manage all aspects of your GCEA electric account from your computer, tablet, or phone. You can make a payment, check your energy use, and report an outage. All users must register their account with their account number and name on the account exactly as printed on the bill statement.

# GCEA REBATES

## 2022



Gunnison County Electric Association offers rebates for home appliances, outdoor electric power equipment and electric bikes.

### HOME APPLIANCES

To help you save money and energy, GCEA offers rebate incentives to help electrify your homes and businesses efficiently.



- \$50 for new Energy Star refrigerator or freezer
- \$60 for proper recycling of old appliance (limit of two recycles per member per year)
- \$50 for new Energy Star top load clothes washers
- \$60 for new Energy Star front load clothes washers
- \$30 for new Energy Star electric clothes dryer
- \$90 for new Energy Star electric hybrid heat pump clothes dryer
- \$100 per unit for electric-to-induction replacements
- \$350 per unit for gas-to-induction replacement or new construction

### SMART THERMOSTATS



Providing comfort and cost savings



- \$25 per thermostat
- \$50 per thermostat if enrolled in GCEA's time-of-use rate

### E-BIKES



Biking season is upon on us. Do you have dreams of a new bike on your mind? Buy electric.

- 25% of cost up to \$150 rebates on new e-bikes.



### OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

LOW NOISE. LOW MAINTENANCE. ZERO EMISSIONS.

Spring is right around the corner. Mow down your cost of new lawn equipment with the outdoor power equipment rebate through GCEA.

- 25% of cost up to \$1,000 for riding mower
- 25% of cost up to \$150 for snowblowers, walk-behind mowers, and e-bikes
- 25% of cost up to \$100 for chainsaws
- 25% of cost up to \$50 for trimmers, leaf blowers, and power washers
- 50% cost up to \$25 for additional batteries with original purchase/application
- Rebates must be applied for within 90 days of installation to qualify.



**\*Outdoor power equipment and e-bikes: An aggregated maximum rebate of \$300 per member account (excludes riding lawnmowers)\***

**\*All rebates must be submitted within 90 days of installation\***

**To view all the rebates we offer, please visit [gcea.coop/energy-efficiency](http://gcea.coop/energy-efficiency).**





**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

▲ Creekside Spa owners Andi Goodnough (left) and Mary Larson.

**CREEKSIDE SPA, CRESTED BUTTE**

Nothing beats the winter blues like a good massage or luxurious spa treatment, and March is a great time of year to relax and unwind. Overlooking Coal Creek in Crested Butte, Creekside Spa is a premier spa featuring a variety of soothing treatments. The spa offers facials, body wraps, scrubs and a variety of massage options. There's an experience for anything that ails you or if you just want to treat yourself and be pampered. Creekside Spa was started in the fall of 2011 by Andi Goodnough and Mary Larson, who met while sharing a small studio on Elk Avenue. The two licensed massage therapists saw a need for a downtown spa that offered convenient and consistent hours as well as quality treatments. The quality of their services comes not only from the talented therapists they have on staff, but also the locally sourced product ingredients that come from neighboring towns including Ridgway and Telluride. Clients' individual needs are also taken into account when customizing each therapeutic experience. Andi tends to find connection with what each body needs by listening intuitively and bringing in her knowledge of how the body works. Mary enjoys creating spaces for healers to practice, in addition to facilitating wellness for others. Andi and Mary took a break from healing others to take a short trip to Denver a couple of years ago in GCEA's Chevy Bolt EV. They loved the electric vehicle experience and were impressed by the quiet, smooth ride. To learn more about the spa, visit [crestedbuttespa.com](http://crestedbuttespa.com).



▲ Town of Crested Butte staff Mel Yemma and Shea Early receive their GCEA rebate check.

**TOWN OF CB LIGHTING REBATE**

The Town of Crested Butte recently completed an LED retrofit project at 29 different spaces throughout town-owned buildings. With almost 1,500 LEDs of various shapes and sizes installed, the Town will see more than 35 kilowatts in anticipated energy savings, and it received a total rebate of \$11,162.34.

**MARCH WORK ANNIVERSARIES**

**Erica Soerensen**  
GIS Administrator, 27 years

**Sherry Shelton**  
Executive Assistant, 16 years

**Alantha Garrison**  
Energy Use Specialist, 15 years

**Tracy Wheeler** Crested Butte  
Member Support Specialist, 12 years

**Antoinette Wilson**  
Member Support Specialist, 6 years

**Brent Boyce**  
Lake City Lead Lineman, 6 years



**MAKE THE CHOICE.  
TAKE THE PLEDGE.  
BE POWERWISE.**

**Join the hundreds of GCEA members who have made their PowerWise Pledge™!**

GCEA invites members to take the PowerWise Pledge™ and help support local efforts to reduce harmful carbon emissions through beneficial electrification, renewable projects, and more.

**MAKE YOUR CHOICE:**

☀ **OPT-UP** - Visit [www.gcea.coop](http://www.gcea.coop) to contribute any monthly amount

☀ **OPT-OUT** - Visit [www.gcea.coop](http://www.gcea.coop) waive your participation

\*On March 1, 2022, all GCEA members who did not make their choice early were automatically enrolled in the PowerWise Pledge™ and \$1 has been added to their bill.

Visit [www.gcea.coop/powerwise-pledge](http://www.gcea.coop/powerwise-pledge) or call 970-641-3520 to learn more details!