



Get the Broadband Speed You Need



When first ordering broadband service, most people are excited about the speed boost they're going to experience. They dream about spending less time waiting on downloads and video buffering or dealing with unexpectedly being disconnected from the internet.

But, for some people, that excitement turns to frustration when they discover they're still experiencing lagging or buffering issues — the very things they wanted to get away from. *What's up with that?!*

UNDERSTANDING BANDWIDTH

The important thing to remember is that, while fiber bandwidth is not shared among neighbors, it is shared within your home.

To make that a little clearer, let's use a 25 megabits per second plan as an example. If you have a family using five different

internet-connected devices in your home at the same time, and the bandwidth required to operate those devices averages out to 5 Mbps each — you just maxed out your internet plan. Connecting even one more device will hinder your internet experience on all your devices. You may experience lag and buffering, or the device may disconnect from the internet.

In this case, there's absolutely nothing wrong with your internet speed. Your plan promises 25 Mbps delivered to your home, and that's what you receive. It just gets used up quickly by the devices you use.

What you need is a faster plan that offers greater bandwidth — Luminate can help with that!

ADDING IT UP

How fast should your internet be? That depends on three key factors: the number of devices you have in your home, their

bandwidth requirements, and the number of these connected devices that use the internet simultaneously.

It's worth noting that the average home currently has 25 internet-connected devices, including phones, laptops, tablets, smart TVs and smart speakers (like Amazon Echo).

See below for a quick guide to how much each of your devices might be using.

When you consider the number of your internet-connected household devices — and how and when they're used — you can make the smart choice about whether you have the bandwidth speed you need.

At Luminate Broadband, we're happy to help you determine which speed is right for you. Contact the friendly, hometown staff at 970-870-4320 with your questions. We'd love to hear from you.

Feature	Devices/Apps	Bandwidth
Streaming Video	Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Apple+, YouTube TV, Sling, -Fubo	Low-Def: 1.5 Mbps Standard: 3 Mbps HD (1080p): 5 Mbps 4K: 25 Mbps
Streaming Music	Spotify, Pandora	HD: 2 Mbps
Online Games	Xbox, PS4, PS5, Nintendo Switch	2 – 10 Mbps
Video Calls	Skype, Zoom, GoTo Meeting, Facebook	Standard: .5 Mbps HD: 1.5 Mbps
Large Downloads	HD movies, music, video games, photos, documents, torrents	Slow: .5 Mbps Fast: 50 Mbps
Email, Browsing, Social Media	Gmail, Google, Facebook, ShapChat, TikTok	.5 – 5 Mbps

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2022



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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.

Rays Up Community Solar Garden Accepting Applications



YVEA's Rays Up Community Solar Garden (formerly known as the GRID array) is now accepting applications for income-qualified members. Members participating in this program will receive a bill offset from the energy produced by their portion of a community solar array.

For more details, visit yvea.com/rays-up-community-solar-project.



RATE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Effective April 1, YVEA's board of directors made changes and additions to Colorado and Wyoming electric vehicle charging rates and Wyoming's net metering rate.

For more details, please visit yvea.com/yvea-rates-colorado-and-wyoming.

SPRING & SUMMER CONSTRUCTION

This spring and summer, you will see YVEA and Luminate crews working on various construction projects.

From Lynx Pass to North Routt, and in Hayden, Craig and Baggs, teams and contractors will work to improve the reliability of service you receive.

We know construction can be frustrating, and we thank you for your patience as we make improvements throughout our territory. Please give crews space while they are working and contact YVEA at 970-879-1160 with any questions about the ongoing construction.

YVEA begins a capital work project running from Tamarack to Steamboat Blvd. on May 1.

This project will be a combination of excavating and boring roads and driveways to run underground conduit to improve reliability.

UTILITY
WORK
AHEAD

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BOARD Q&A



▲ Sonja Macys,
Dist. 7 Representative

This section is dedicated to giving our members a chance to get to know their representatives. Below is our interview with Sonja Macys, who represents District 7 — Steamboat Springs.

Tell us about your professional background.

I've been involved in natural resource management for the past three decades, starting with migratory bird and sea

turtle conservation on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Since moving to the Yampa Valley 15 years ago, I've worked to connect youth to the outdoors through environmental education at a nonprofit organization and served two terms as a city council member. I currently work for the Division of Water Resources.

Tell us about your personal/family life.

My husband, Chuck Willard, and I live on what we call an "urban farmstead," growing produce in our greenhouse and raised bed gardens. We love to hike, camp, ski and generally enjoy the outdoors year-round. I grew up riding horses competitively but have settled into trail riding and just having fun with my horse Tango Joe.

What inspired you to run for the YVEA Board of Directors?

YVEA has grown and changed over the last decade and the pace with which it will need to grow and change will only continue to accelerate. I embrace change and have enjoyed helping YVEA seize the opportunities that change has presented.

What strengths do you bring to the YVEA board?

Throughout my career I have consistently demonstrated my commitment to fiscal responsibility, transparency, good governance and local control. These are important qualities for a board member. In addition, my experience with energy, public policy and community outreach has prepared me to help YVEA negotiate the rapidly changing world of energy.

What major challenges do you believe YVEA will face in the next 5–10 years?

YVEA will need to invest in its distribution system to ensure continued reliability, given the influx of renewable energy we have

seen throughout the service territory and the significant growth and change in land use patterns. In addition, we need to lead the charge on beneficial electrification, including electrification of vehicles and homes, to ensure that the addition of this load has a positive impact to the distribution system.

What are your thoughts on the status of the electric industry in Colorado?

Many of Colorado's member-owned electric cooperatives, like YVEA, have stepped up to meet the infrastructure needs of their member-owners. We are no longer just an energy provider, having helped launch Luminare broadband to bring high-speed fiber internet to our service territory. As energy sources change, we must continue to innovate and collaborate with like-minded cooperatives in Colorado to provide affordable clean energy.

What changes do you believe will have the most significant effect on the electric industry in the next 10 years?

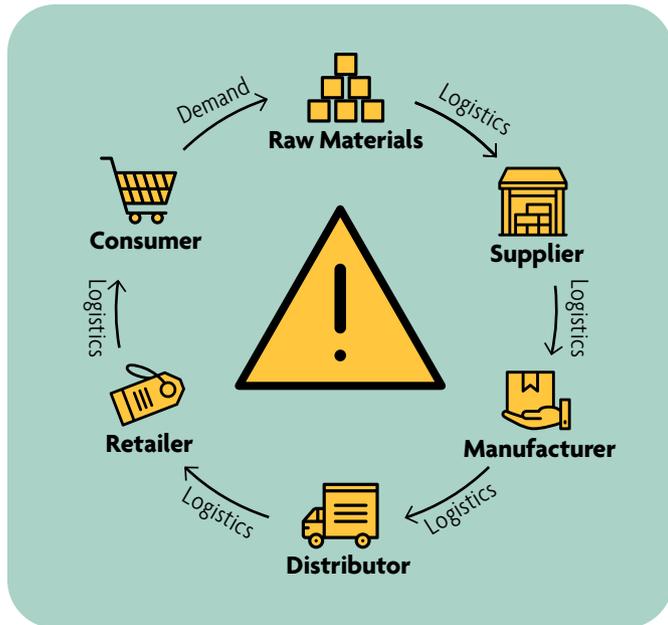
In the next 10 years we will see many of our coal-fired power plants retired, creating uncertainty as to what our future energy sources will look like. The cost of renewable energy has gone down to the degree that it makes financial sense to invest in it, but we need more than just renewables. As we navigate this transition, energy users will need to become more engaged in understanding their electrical use and making informed choices about how much electricity they need during what times of the day and night.

What is the greatest concern you have for the electric industry and how it will impact our service territory?

My greatest concern is how YVEA will become more resilient and less subject to fluctuations in energy costs, given the unpredictable weather events we see nationwide. Who would have thought that a storm in Texas could cost little old YVEA \$6.4 million dollars? This represents 30% of what we budget annually for our purchased power. We are pushing to put rules and regulations in place to try and prevent something like this from happening again. But for now, we are contractually obligated to continue to purchase power from the source that "surprise-billed" our member-owners \$6.4 million.

SUPPLY CHAIN LEAD TIMES HIGHER THAN NORMAL

Yampa Valley Electric Association is alerting contractors, builders and members that lead time on materials is longer than normal. This may impact line extension, service upgrade projects and programs in 2022. YVEA is working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their project estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our engineering department regarding any changes in your project timeline.



BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Would you like to represent your district on the YVEA Board of Directors? There are three seats up for reelection this year:

- **District 4, Elk Springs:** (Dean Brosious, incumbent)
- **District 5, Hayden:** (Patrick Delaney, incumbent)
- **District 7, Steamboat Springs:** (Sonja Macys, incumbent)

Petitions for nominations of directors must be returned by **April 29, 2022**. For a nomination packet and more details, please visit yvea.com/annual-meeting-election.

PCA Line Item on Monthly Bills

As a not-for-profit cooperative, YVEA does not collect margins on certain costs. Instead, we pass them through directly to our members. One of these costs is the Xcel Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). These PCA costs charged to YVEA by Xcel can and do frequently fluctuate in response to market pricing conditions.

Instead of changing our members' base rates throughout the year in response to these dips and rises, the differences are reflected in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) line item on your bill, which can be a positive or negative rate. Historically, YVEA has accrued these fluctuations over several months before passing them on. Beginning April 1, YVEA will keep this line item on member bills to make member bills as consistent and predictable as possible.

SOLAR POWER



Making the Solar Switch: Common YVEA Member Solar Installation Considerations

YVEA regularly works with co-op members and solar contractors to transition to solar power through our net metering program. As the demand for solar power increases, so does the number of calls we receive from members with concerns about solar company sales tactics, costs and logistics.

Thoroughly investigate the company: Is it backed by the Better Business Bureau? Is it contracted to do business in Colorado? Important note: If a representative from a solar company contacts you claiming to be "with YVEA" or that they are "part of YVEA's solar efforts," please know that is a sales pitch (but not a 100% truthful one). YVEA does not have preferred solar installation contractors at this time, but YVEA is working on a qualified installer program which will be rolling out later this year.

Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation. In addition to equipment and labor, there are also pricey "soft costs" that can cost more than the system itself, according to energy.gov. Soft costs include permit acquisition; financing charges; and "pass-along" marketing, advertising and research costs. Be cautious of companies that are making claims that sound too good to be true.

How will the installer work with YVEA to meet interconnection requirements? Does the installer have experience coordinating and integrating solar systems with the electric grid? How much energy will the system provide and is it enough? Too much? Solar is a substantial investment and we encourage members to contact us prior to purchasing a solar system to ensure that it can fully integrate and connect with YVEA's system. Learn more at yvea.com.