

# WILDFIRE MITIGATION

## Fire Protection Mode

During times of high fire danger and red flag warnings, YVEA is taking steps to ensure its equipment operates safely. Those steps include putting the system in Fire Protection Mode (FPM). YVEA will have two levels of FPM, which are outlined below.

### What does it mean when our system goes into Fire Protection Mode?

YVEA's system normally operates on a three-strike system, meaning it will automatically try to clear the line of interference three times before de-energizing. (This is what is happening when your lights blink.) YVEA's system will operate in two phases in FPM. First, on days of elevated fire risk, the system will attempt to clear the line, and you can expect to see lights blink only one time, rather than three times. When conditions are more favorable to help prevent a fire and keep your lights on after something contacts our equipment, this will be the first level we are in. Second, an immediate lockout (de-energizing) of the circuit will occur if a red flag warning has been issued. In this scenario, if there is a disturbance on the line, you will immediately lose power.

### What is a recloser?

A recloser is an automatic, high-voltage electric switch. Like a circuit breaker on household electric lines, it shuts off electric power when trouble occurs, such as a tree on the line, high

winds or lines rebounding after unloading snow, for example. As YVEA improves and upgrades its system, we install more electronic reclosures allowing more of the grid into FPM. We install more electronic reclosures every year, allowing more of the grid.

### Why would YVEA want to go into FPM?

The reason we want the system to lockout immediately is to operate safely during times of high fire danger. This is accomplished through our electronic reclosers and means an instantaneous power outage. The downside of this is that once this occurs, you will be without power until we can perform a full inspection of the line to determine if it is safe to turn the power back on to our members.

### What does this mean for me as a member served by this line?

When we move to FPM, it means members may experience more frequent and longer duration outages. We have the staff ready at all hours of the day (including weekends, nights and holidays), and as soon as there is an outage, we dispatch crews to assess the situation. To speed up the patrol and minimize outage times, we installed additional fault

indicators in areas that are prone to outages or are difficult to access. This helps us zero in on a potential problem area as fast as we can to get your power back on.

We are making these changes to ensure we stay as safe as possible. Please visit our outage center at [www.yvea.com/outagecenter](http://www.yvea.com/outagecenter) to learn how to prepare for unplanned power outages. The intent is to be able to use these resources to help reduce the wildfire risk across our territory and to help prevent a fire from starting. As always, if you see a fire or a downed power line, call 911 immediately to ensure local fire agencies can respond as quick as possible.

For more information about YVEA's fire mitigation plan, please visit [yvea.com/wildfire-mitigation](http://yvea.com/wildfire-mitigation)



## EV RIDE & DRIVE EVENT SATURDAY, MAY 14

Are you ready to take an electric vehicle for a spin?

Join Yampa Valley Electric Association and the City of Steamboat Springs for an EV Ride and Drive Event May 14 at Howelsen Rodeo Grounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



This event will give you an opportunity to experience EVs from the inside. Advanced sign-up is required — interested drivers may sign up prior to the event by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera and filling out the form. Note: Driver participants must bring a valid driver's license with them to the event.



## Small Change Big Difference:

Be a Difference Maker in  
Your Community

Since teaming up in 2015, Yampa Valley Electric Association and the nonprofit Operation Round Up organization have improved lives and communities thanks to YVEA consumer-members who round up their electric bill to the next dollar. **Application deadline for nonprofits to apply for a grant is May 15, 2022.**



# COST OF SERVICE STUDY

## SHOWS NEED FOR RATE CHANGE



STEVE JOHNSON

At Yampa Valley Electric Association, we work hard to achieve operating efficiencies and keep expenses down. We have been doing our best to limit cost (rate) increases, despite the cost of goods and services going up for all of us. This is our most recent rate increase for residential members since 2020. In 2022, YVEA performed a cost-of-service and rate study with the assistance of hired analytic firm Power Systems Engineering. **As a result of the study, the YVEA board directed staff to implement rate changes that will be billed on July 1 of this year.**



### What is a cost-of-service study?

Cost-of-service studies (COSS), which are utilized by many utilities, provide a methodology for validating whether the association's rates accurately collect enough revenue to cover electric service expenses and maintain sufficient margins to manage emergencies and maintain the distribution system. The COSS also shows us whether the rates for each customer class (residential, commercial, and industrial, for example) are adequately covering the costs of service, fuel, and equipment to serve those members in that specific class. For example, a member who uses large amounts of power requires more distribution equipment than a small user. Our goal is that everyone pays their fair share.

**Power Systems Engineering's study concluded that our rates must be adjusted to cover the rising cost of doing business and distribute the costs to our members on a more equitable basis.**



### Why is rate equity important?

Rate design is a balancing act between meeting our revenue needs while minimizing the overall financial impact to our members. As a not-for-profit organization, we must recover our costs of doing business, as well as maintain sufficient margins to reinvest in our electric distribution system. Costs must be allocated appropriately to each customer classification (residential, commercial and large power) based on the equipment and infrastructure that is required to serve them. In short, as a cooperative, the cost causer should be the cost payer.

**Remember that electric cooperatives were created by communities to provide a much-needed service, so everyone must pay their fair share of operating it. At the heart of rate design is the motivation that rates be fair, just and reasonable.**

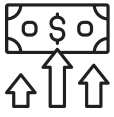


### Your investment in the co-op

As a member of YVEA, you invest in the co-op every time you pay your bill. This collective investment in the co-op benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So what exactly is this monthly investment and how do you benefit from it? The system access cost is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the basic costs associated with maintaining the overall electric system. Combating cybersecurity threats, and maintaining poles, wires, substations, and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The system access cost essentially ensures that all equipment operates properly, and staff is trained and ready so the lights turn on when you need them.

**As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all segments of our membership, depending on the size of equipment and level of electricity use.**

This is why every member pays a system access cost each month to cover basic operational costs of their service type. This monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable, and affordable power when you need it.



### How can we help members as bills go up?

The first way members can help control the costs of their bills is by conserving energy. If you visit [yvea.com/energy-hero](http://yvea.com/energy-hero), we have tips and tricks on ways members can help fight energy waste. The two biggest energy wasters we see are electric heat tape and space heaters. Our Energy Hero page offers advice on how best to use these two products while also helping to lower your bill. If you need assistance paying your bill, please call member services at 970-879-1160. They can work with you on paying your bill, advise you on our budget billing process, or help you get in contact with local agencies offering assistance.

**The bottom line is — don't wait to ask for help. We want to help our members, so please call us at 970-879-1160.**

Rate increases are not easy on anyone. Each of us here at YVEA realizes that our dollar is not going as far as it once was. We recognize the difficulties and hardships that a rate increase can bring to our members. However, we also know that keeping our system up to date is incredibly important. When we don't raise rates, we fall behind

on maintenance and system improvements, which has a negative impact on reliability and our ability to meet the power needs of our communities.

*The redline rate changes are available for examination at the office of the Association upon request. Anyone who desires to complain about the proposed changes shall file a written complaint with the Association at 2211 Elk River Road, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487 at least ten (10) days before the proposed effective date.*

*The Association may hold a hearing to determine what changes will be authorized. The changes ultimately authorized may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different than those tariffs proposed or currently in effect. Anyone who desires to receive notice of hearing, if any, shall make a written request therefor to the Association, at the above address, at least ten (10) days before the proposed effective date.*

OUTDOOR LIGHTING			
CURRENT CLASS NAME	NEW CLASS NAME	CURRENT MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE	NEW MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE
126W LED	> 125 W LED Area Light	\$24.23	\$26.40
230W LED	> 125 W LED Area Light	\$26.40	\$26.40
174W MV	≤175W Non-LED Area Light	\$12.91	\$14.50
100W HPS	≤175W Non-LED Area Light	\$12.91	\$14.50
250W MV	250W Non-LED Area Light	\$17.23	\$20.00
250 HPS	250W Non-LED Area Light	\$17.23	\$20.00
400W MV	400W Non-LED Area Light	\$22.03	\$24.94
400W HPS	400W Non-LED Area Light	\$22.03	\$24.94
*Outdoor Lighting users pay a per device rate, which is what the rates in this table represent.			

MEDIUM GENERAL SERVICE			
CLASS	TYPE	CURRENT	NEW
Medium General Service	System Access Cost	\$37.45	\$48.95
	RATE	\$0.09055	\$0.09639
*Typical medium general service member, using 1,654 kWh, will see a bill increase of \$21.16/month in 2022.			

SMALL GENERAL SERVICE			
CLASS	TYPE	CURRENT	NEW
Small General Service	System Access Cost	\$34.75	\$39.25
	RATE	\$0.0945	\$0.10192
*Typical small general service member, using 913 kWh, will see a bill increase of \$11.27/month in 2022.			

IRRIGATION			
CLASS	TYPE	CURRENT	NEW
Irrigation	Yearly System Access Cost	\$540	\$640
	HP Charge	\$6.30	\$7.58
	RATE	\$0.09361	\$0.09631
*Typical irrigation member, using 25,586 kWh, will see a bill increase of \$144.56/month in 2022.			



**For any questions you may have about the increase, please call member services at 970-879-1160 or by visiting [yvea.com/2022-rate-increase](http://yvea.com/2022-rate-increase).**



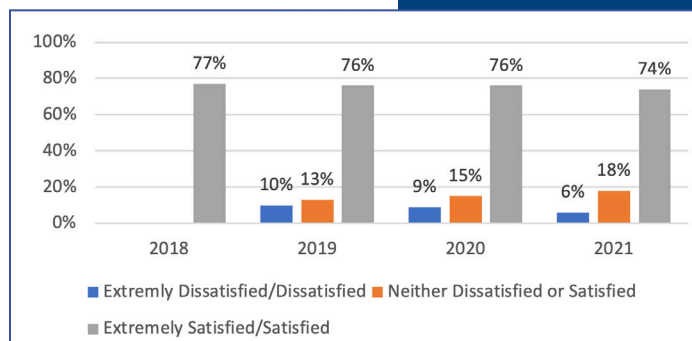
# MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS WE ASKED. AND YOU SPOKE UP.

Every year we reach out to our members to get feedback on how we are doing as a co-op. The goal of this survey is to help guide us when we're looking to add new programs to Yampa Valley Electric Association, discover opportunities that would benefit our member-owners and track how we are doing overall as a co-op. We look forward to seeing these survey results and comparing results year-over-year to learn where our members recognize we are doing a good job and where the areas for improvements are. Here are a few of the highlights we would like to speak to:

## Methodology

This year we sent the survey to 19,483 members, and 1,988 members responded. We sent the survey to 11,000 members in 2020, and in years before that, Touchstone Energy would conduct over-the-phone surveys by contacting 200–250 members. With a greater pool of respondents, we can discover the programs our members are interested in learning about, what members would like to see more of, and how we can use this information to make a bigger impact within our communities. We have limited survey results data from 2018 and 2019, but felt it was important to include these years so we could follow trends.

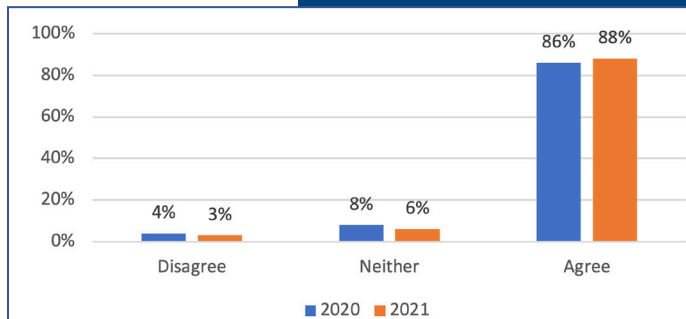
### YVEA OVERALL SATISFACTION



## Overall satisfaction

To see 74% of respondents say that they are extremely satisfied/satisfied is a win for us as a company and is an uplifting statistic to present to the company as a whole. We are out there every day and to know our members see us and the good work we do is incredibly positive.

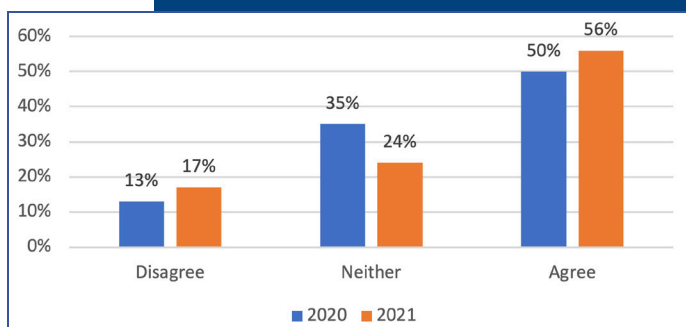
### DOES YVEA PROVIDE RELIABLE SERVICE?



## Provides reliable service

This score is a source of pride for us. Electricity is something you don't think about — until it doesn't work. We spend millions of dollars upgrading our system every year to keep our commitment to provide safe, reliable and affordable service so that you don't have to think about electricity every time you flip a light switch, plug in your phone or turn on your television. At YVEA, we will continue to invest in our system and people to ensure we maintain the reliable service you've come to expect and appreciate.

### YVEA PROVIDES ELECTRICITY AT AN AFFORDABLE COST?



## Affordability

YVEA rates have been historically low when compared to the prices across Colorado and the United States. We continue to evaluate rates as the markets change and costs to keep our system updated increase, and we will continue to utilize cost-of-service studies to avoid large fluctuations in electricity rates.

We want to thank all of you who took the time to fill out this survey. We appreciate all of the time and effort it takes to go through those questions and provide us with feedback. Without your participation over the years, we could not grow into the cooperative of tomorrow. These are just a few of the top points from the member survey; for a summary of the rest of the survey, please visit [yvea.com/cooperative-principles-vision](http://yvea.com/cooperative-principles-vision).



## ANNUAL MEETING • JUNE 28, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Yampa Valley Electric Association is held annually for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. **The 2022 Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2022, at YVEA's Craig Office, located at 3715 East U.S. 40, Craig, CO 81625.**

## DIRECTOR DISTRICTS UP FOR ELECTION ARE:

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