

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”  
— Nelson Mandela

## INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER

Shortly after Mountain Parks Electric's annual meeting, I attended the high school graduation of a friend's granddaughter. Not a highly unusual ceremony for May, except in this particular case it was. This 2022 graduating class has plans to become business owners, engineers and journalists; and one student even planned to pursue a medical degree. Impressive aspirations. But what they already achieved was rather extraordinary:

- Accepted to 107 colleges
- An acceptance rate of greater than 70%
- \$5.3 million in financial aid awarded

It reminded me somewhat of a high school in our own community: a similar class size located in a community with an economy based on tourism and agriculture. Many of the graduates' families were small business owners of modest means and were similar to families in Grand and Jackson counties.

It's easy to focus on the amount of scholarships per student, an average of \$240,900. Another way to think of it is the price tag of the next generation's dreams. According to Educationdata.org, the average cost of college in the United States is \$35,331 per student per year, including books, supplies and daily living expenses.

- That cost has more than doubled in the 21st century, with an annual growth rate of 6.8%.
- The average in-state tuition for a student attending a four-year public school is \$25,487 per year.
- The average private school annual tuition is \$53,217 per year.

In a 2020 article titled “History of College Scholarships,” Richard Pallardy explained how this financial aid practice began. At the University of Bologna (est. 1088), students from different countries formed organizations known as “nations.” This concept soon spread through the European university system. These organizations granted loans and scholarships to fellow countrymen. Eventually, loan chests or endowments were established. These endowments allowed students unable to pay their full college costs to deposit collateral items in exchange for loans.

Currently, philanthropists invest \$6.1 billion in private scholarships for more than 1.6 million students every year. Many of these scholarships were created to help level the playing field for first-generation and underrepresented students.

I know there are those people who say, “Kids should work and save for their education like I did.” That got me thinking: At \$15



MARK JOHNSTON

per hour of work, what would it take for a student to earn the average cost of a single year of tuition? Not taking in to account paying taxes, it would require 2,355 hours of work. That's more than a full-time job. That's why many students seek financial aid in the form of loans, grants or scholarships.

This is precisely why MPE established an education fund. It began with modest means and goals with only a couple of scholarships funded through unclaimed member capital credits. The fund supports education needs, including academic and technical scholarships. Since 2004, MPE has awarded deserving students more than \$520,000. In 2022, 28 scholarships totaling approximately \$69,000 will help students pursue four-year degrees and technical certificates, including one student working toward electric lineworker certification.

**Mountain Parks Electric is proud to help local students pursue their dreams.**



MPE 2022 scholarship winners

## HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED AT MPE'S 2022 ANNUAL MEETING:

- A free hot breakfast
- 11 giveaway prizes for quarters of beef, electric outdoor power equipment, gift cards and cash
- Free EV test drives — Ford e-Transit cargo van, Ford Mach-E, Nissan Po-Leaf (police fleet vehicle), Tesla Model 3, Kia EV6
- District 2 director election winner: Cray Healy
- Members approved two bylaw changes and one article of incorporation change
- Audience polling
- Scholarship announcements
- ... and MORE! (catch the video highlights on MPE's YouTube channel)



MPE consumers stay after the meeting to test drive EVs

Hughie Corkle, ACCT 940326012

# Mountain Parks Electric to Diversify Wholesale Power Supply by 2025

Change will increase renewable energy mix and stabilize energy costs

As part of its Responsible Energy Plan, Tri-State Generation and Transmission — Mountain Parks Electric's primary power supplier — is undergoing a clean energy transition by adding renewables and reducing emissions. This transition also features increased power supply flexibility for MPE, giving it the option to secure a portion of its wholesale power from alternate sources.



"At the May board meeting, our directors passed a motion to diversify future power purchases," said Mark Johnston, MPE's general manager.

Starting in January 2025, MPE will purchase approximately one-third of its wholesale power from Scottsdale, Arizona-based Crossover Energy Partners. CEP's generation will be at least 80% renewable, increasing MPE's overall renewable power mix to 60%. Currently, MPE's power supply is just under 40% renewable.

"This is exciting news for members," Johnston said. "It affords us the opportunity to become greener and to reduce our wholesale power costs."

"Together with our members, including MPE, we are working to find win-win solutions that increase clean energy resources," said Tri-State CEO Duane Highley. "Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan is delivering the power supply flexibility that ensures our members and their communities meet their individual goals."

## There's still a chance to win!

ENTER MPE'S 2022 BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION DRAWINGS ON FACEBOOK



Mountain Parks Electric, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, kicked off its beneficial electrification giveaway in June. There are still two more chances to win! **MPE will give away one solar generator and one electric chainsaw. Enter the drawing on our Facebook page.**

**Why electric?** Because the grid is becoming increasingly renewable. Replacing fossil fuel-powered tools and tech with their electric counterparts can reduce your carbon footprint. For more details and to enter, just visit MPE's Facebook page and comment under the drawing prize post which prize you most hope to win. **Good luck!**



Pamela Rieke, ACCT 216267

# MPE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY MIX 2022

**TODAY, MORE THAN 30% OF MPE'S POWER SUPPLY IS FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES. BY 2025, WE PLAN TO BE APPROXIMATELY 60% RENEWABLE. LOCAL AND REGIONAL RENEWABLES INCLUDE:**



## WIND

**Net-metered residential wind** is purchased from 4 MPE customers. Wind turbines produce approximately **2X THE POWER** in Jackson County as in Grand County.

The **Kit Carson, Colorado Highlands, Carousel Wind and Twin Buttes II** sites produce around **200 GWh** of electricity per year.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**MORE THAN 2% OF MPE POWER SUPPLY** is from other miscellaneous small renewables



## SOLAR

Whiskey Hill (Walden) & Sifers (Fraser) Solar Arrays generate around **2 MILLION kWh PER SITE**

Regional solar capacity **186 MW PER YEAR**

MPE purchases **Net-Metered Residential & Commercial Solar** from **250 OF ITS MEMBERS**



## HYDRO

**Granby Dam** generates around **5 MILLION kWh PER YEAR**

**Williams Fork Hydro Plant in Parshall** (owned by Denver Water) generates **12 GWh PER YEAR**

**2.3 GWh PER YEAR** from plants in Ridgway, Durango, Boulder, Mancos and other regional hydro.

- The average U.S. home uses approximately 10,716 kWh each year (source: U.S. Energy Information Administration).
- 1 MWh is enough energy to power approximately 11 homes each year.
- 1 GWh is enough energy to power approximately 93 homes each year.

## STATE PROGRESS

Tri-State Generation and Transmission, MPE's primary power supplier, is in compliance with the Colorado renewable portfolio requirement and currently generates more than 30% of its power supply from renewable resources. 50% renewable by 2024. Approximately 70% by 2030.



For more information on MPE's Renewable Energy Portfolio, visit:

**[MPEI.COM/RENEWABLE-ENERGY-PORTFOLIO](https://mpei.com/renewable-energy-portfolio)**



## WAYS TO \$AVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST

### STAY COOL

To minimize the need for using the air conditioner this summer:

- Open windows at night and close them in the morning to keep cool air in
- Keep blinds and shades on sun-facing windows closed during the day
- Instead of using the oven, use your grill or microwave oven to cook your dinner
- Hand wash and air dry dishes

Craig Brueske, ACCT 300328002

## PETS OF THE MONTH



Dorothy and Chica

Adopted from separate shelters, they became fast friends, always using the buddy system when going outdoors. Dorothy the cat loves to eat.

They both love cuddle time and belly rubs.

Owners: Paul and Christa, Kremmling

Email your pet photos and pet bio to [rtaylor@mpei.com](mailto:rtaylor@mpei.com)



## Find Your Name Win \$5

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.

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## TIPS FOR BETTER OUTDOOR PHOTOS

BY RAYMOND GABRIEL DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENT COORDINATOR

### 1. Leverage “The Golden Hour”

Timing is everything. Just after sunrise or just before sunset, sunlight is infused with red and gold tones. Taking photographs at these times is arguably the best way to enhance any outdoor photo.

**Pro Tip:** Try to take more shots after the sun has fully set past the horizon. Sometimes the lighting is equally incredible.

### 2. Photo Composition

This is the artistic arrangement of parts of a photo. Some people may have a natural eye for it, while others may need a little help. **Pro Tip:** Note the color of your subject and background. Make sure your colors don't blend into one another.

### 3. Night Photography

Did you know most smartphones allow you to adjust your shutter speed and aperture? Yep! By slowing your shutter speed and lowering your aperture numbers, more light passes over the sensor. This is a great way to snap a shot of the Milky Way. **Pro tip:** Try to keep the moon out of your starry night shot. A full moon casts more light disturbance in a clear night sky.



Make sure the subject color stands apart from its background.



Take advantage of the “golden hour” for outdoor photos.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND GABRIEL