



GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

SEPTEMBER 2022



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BATTLE OF THE VEHICLES: EV VS ICE

BY ALLIY SAHAGUN MEMBER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

With the rise in gasoline prices over the last six months, you may have thought, “Hmm, maybe I should buy an electric vehicle.” I have heard this comment more than once from our members and my calculations show that EV adoption has grown 211% over the last two years in our service territory. That’s impressive! Rising gas prices may have had something to do with the growth in EV adoption. But how much can you really save by switching to electric, and is this one of the most compelling reasons why drivers are making the switch?

Enter my colleagues, Matt Feier and Sarah Tamarcaz. They were willing to be my guinea pigs to see the cost difference between charging an EV with electricity versus fueling an internal combustion engine vehicle with gasoline during a month of driving. Matt commutes to GCEA each day from CB South (8,560 feet elevation) in his 2020 Chevy Bolt EV and Sarah drives from Doyleville (8,090 feet elevation) in her 2017 Dodge Durango.

“Rising gas prices may have had something to do with the growth in EV adoption, but how much can you really save by switching to electric and is this one of the most compelling reasons why drivers are making the switch?”

They both have similar needs for driving out of town, so we had them start the month with a zeroed-out trip odometer and let them do their thing. Take a look at the results below:

Sarah’s cost of gas for the month was five times more than Matt’s cost to charge, and they drove close to the same number of miles during the month. Sarah’s miles per gallon was 26, while Matt’s MPGe (miles per gallon equivalent) was 158. Obviously, the energy efficiency of the Bolt, plus the lower cost to charge compared to filling up with gas, made Matt the winner here.

To drill down for further cost savings, let’s

look at Matt's charging stats: 46% of his charging was done at home, 36% at work, and 18% at a DC fast charger on the road. His charging costs were comprised of 51% fast charging, 32% at home, and 17% at work where he can charge during the day at an off-peak rate of \$0.08 per kilowatt-hour. One takeaway here is that Matt could save even more if he charged off-peak at home on GCEA's time-of-use rate. GCEA offers a generous rebate of 50% up to \$1,250 on Level 2 home chargers and electrician's costs when signed up on the TOU rate.

Bottom line: There are many ways to save money by purchasing an EV. Yes, EVs initially cost more than similar gasoline-powered vehicles, but the sticker price tells you only so much. Federal and state tax credits can help bring down the initial cost, and over time EVs cost 60% less on repairs, maintenance and charging the battery compared to an internal combustion engine vehicle. Buying used is another way to save money, and while used EVs do not qualify for tax credits, they do qualify for our new used rebate (EV PowerWise Pledge™) of 25% of the cost, up to \$1,000.

Still unsure about how an EV can fit into your lifestyle? Check out our EV loaner program and test drive a Chevy Bolt or Tesla Model 3 for free. Call 970-641-3520 and schedule a test drive today.

Matt's EV Charging Stats

Type of Charger	Energy Consumed	Amount Charged
DCFC Public	55 kWh	\$28
Level 2 Public	107 kWh	\$9
Level 1 Home	136 kWh	\$18

Matt vs. Sarah 30 days of driving: EV vs. ICE

2020 CHEVY BOLT EV	2017 DODGE DURANGO
1399 miles driven	1379 miles driven
298 kWh	53 gallons
\$55 total charging cost	\$290 total gasoline cost
158 MPGe	26 MPG



New Employee
– **Kevin Purkat**

W e at GCEA are pleased to announce that Kevin Purkat started as our new Gunnison apprentice lineman in July. Kevin grew up in Mancos where he attended Dolores High School. Before becoming a lineman, Kevin worked as a ranch hand and fence builder. He attended Mesa Hotline School and holds numerous certificates in the field from Western Colorado Community College.

Kevin enjoys everything outdoors and is looking forward to all the activities that the Gunnison area has to offer. It sounds like he is in the right place as his favorite hobbies are hunting and fishing. Welcome to the GCEA family, Kevin.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines.

When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are Energy Star-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy





USED EV REBATE

POWERWISE PLEDGE™



Are high gas prices getting you down but you don't have the budget to buy or time to wait for a new vehicle? Consider purchasing a used EV! Thanks to funds from PowerWise Pledge™, GCEA now has a used EV rebate to offset your purchase!

USED EV REBATE

- Used BEVs; 25% off purchase price up to \$1000
- Qualified used PHEVs; 25% off the purchase price up to \$500
- Used PHEVs must have an EPA rated all-electric range of at least 25 miles
- One rebate per VIN
- Rebate application must be received within 90 days of purchase

 www.gcea.coop 

2022 GCEA LINE INSPECTIONS

UAV Recon will be flying drones to inspect distribution power lines for Gunnison County Electric Association during the month of September, weather permitting. GCEA is using sUAS (drones) to complete a thorough inspection and to proactively address needed repairs.

Inspections will focus on the following areas:

- Gunnison and Antelope Hills area north to Crested Butte
- East Gunnison to Parlin Area
- Ohio Creek, Jacks Cabin, and Spring Creek Area
- Kebler Pass, Nicholson Lake, and Gothic Area

For more information, please call 970-641-3520 or visit www.gcea.coop.

Like us on Facebook at Gunnison County Electric Association to stay up-to-date on drone inspections.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER

CELEBRATING THE HUMAN SPIRIT

If you have ever skied at Crested Butte Mountain Resort, a common sight you will see are the adventurous men, women and children with disabilities who whoosh down the hill with their instructors from the Adaptive Sports Center. And they don't stop at the ski hill. Participants with the Adaptive Sports Center rock climb, bike, canoe, kayak, raft, hike, snowshoe, snowboard and more — wherever outdoor adventures await, the Adaptive Sports Center helps participants enjoy the challenge.



The Adaptive Sports Center staff are highly trained and extremely knowledgeable in the field of adaptive recreation. By incorporating the latest therapeutic recreation practices, professional facilitation and state-of-the-art equipment, they provide programming that has a lasting impact on the quality of their participants' lives. The successful programs the ASC provides are inclusive to families and friends, empower participants in their daily lives, and have a positive enduring effect on self-efficacy, health, independence and overall well-being.

On September 11, 2022, GCEA and Tri-State Generation & Transmission are proud to sponsor one of the Adaptive Sports Center's biggest fundraising events: the 18th annual Bridges of the Butte Townie Tour. This four-hour bike ride through Crested Butte gives you and your family the opportunity to pull out your bikes, dress up in your favorite costumes and join your friends and neighbors as you ride laps through town to support a great cause. If you are interested in participating and want to enter a drawing to win a free entry, please call 970-641-3520.

With each click of a ski and every snap of a helmet, participants hear an army of supporters whispering, "You can do this!" GCEA and Tri-State are excited to be part of that army of supporters, and we invite you to join us! For more information, visit adaptivesports.org/bridges

KEEP FOOD SAFE WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

BY ABBY BERRY

Severe winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out. We understand that power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your refrigerator is stocked with perishable foods. Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures needed to avoid illness. Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

BEFORE AN OUTAGE

A good rule of thumb is to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars in your emergency kit. If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice in case the outage spans several hours.

Having a cooler ready can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

DURING AN OUTAGE

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than 4 hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

AFTER AN OUTAGE

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than 2 hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor, or texture, they should also be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a 2-hour exposure to 40-plus degrees:

- Hard cheeses that are properly wrapped
- Butter or margarine that is properly wrapped
- Taco, barbecue and soy sauces
- Peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the 4-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming and remember: When in doubt, throw it out. To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [ready.gov/food](https://www.ready.gov/food).

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

CHARGE UP FOR FALL



Ready to road trip this fall?

Save money and treat the environment right by driving electric!

Be sure to charge up at one of GCEA's EV charging stations along the way. Download the Plugshare app on your phone to find station locations.

Want to test drive an EV? GCEA is happy to share our Chevy Bolt or Tesla Model 3 with you! Call (970) 641-3520 to arrange a test drive and learn about money saving tips on an EV purchase. Visit [gcea.coop](https://www.gcea.coop) to learn more!



BRATS & KILOWATTS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 22, 4-6 PM

RAINBOW PARK

300 EIGHTH ST,
CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81224

GCEA MEMBER EVENT

- ELECTRIC BIKE DEMOS
- ELECTRIC OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
- REBATE INFORMATION
- SWAG GIVEAWAY

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