



GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

NOVEMBER 2022



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GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@gcea_news

WINTER HOURS

Starting Monday, November 7, GCEA office hours will be Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



GCEA offices are closed November 24 and November 25 for Thanksgiving. Offices will reopen November 28 at 8 a.m.

GIVING THANKS

BY LOGANN LONG COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Falling leaves and dropping temperatures remind us that yet another beautiful summer has come and gone. While preparing for the close of another successful year, we reflect on what we are most thankful for this year.

Here at Gunnison County Electric Association, we are grateful for our members, employees and the communities we serve.



GCEA MEMBERSHIP

The GCEA membership is our “why.” Members are the reason the GCEA Board of Directors and staff work together to provide safe, reliable, responsible service. We appreciate members who engage and look to us as a trusted resource for what matters most to them.



GCEA EMPLOYEES

We are thankful for our exceptional employees who work tirelessly each day to ensure that electric services are set up, meters are checked, billing is accurate and communication is relevant and useful. Members’ needs are met first as our office employees work hard behind the scenes on their behalf.

We are thankful for the brave linemen

who work hard to maintain the electricity we all depend on. Day or night, weekend, or holiday, they leave their families and put their lives on the line for the GCEA membership.

We are grateful not only for the exceptional service our employees give to our members, but also for their giving hearts. Every year our employees give back by donating to the local food pantry and by helping families put gifts under their trees and food on their tables during the holiday season.



COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

We are thankful to have several community partners to learn from and collaborate with. Whether it is working on special projects or putting together a community event, we truly enjoy all the time spent within these communities. We value our community partnerships and the opportunity to work together to empower the lives of the membership we serve.

GCEA hopes our members, employees, and communities we serve have a wonderful holiday season.

RELIABILITY AND OUTAGES

With winter temperatures right around the corner, it is important to be prepared for unpredictable winter weather. It is GCEA's goal to provide reliable and safe electrical service to our members; however, sometimes Mother Nature has different plans.

HOW DOES GCEA ENSURE RELIABILITY:

- Vegetation management
- Dangerous or hazardous tree removal, including dead trees at risk of falling into overhead power lines.
- System inspection
- A program to visually inspect our overhead system every year.
- Pole testing
- Inspection of 10% of all wood poles on the system each year (roughly 800 poles every year) for structural integrity. Poles that fail testing are replaced
- Investigate all temporary faults on main feeders. Temporary faults can sometimes turn into permanent faults, so we spend the time patrolling our main feeders for all breaker operations and reported blinks, even when the breaker successfully re-closes
- Monthly substation inspections
- Supervisory control and data acquisition devices

Equipment in the field (reclosers and switches) provide immediate notification of system disturbances throughout our service territory, allowing us to quickly dispatch operations crews.

In the case of an outage, members can visit GCEA's outage center on our website. Members can view where the outages are



▲ GCEA linecrews use workplans to help ensure reliable electricity and quick restoration after outages.

and approximately how many members are out of power. Members may also sign up to receive outage notifications through the Outage Management System. This program 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.

The following are useful items to have during an outage:

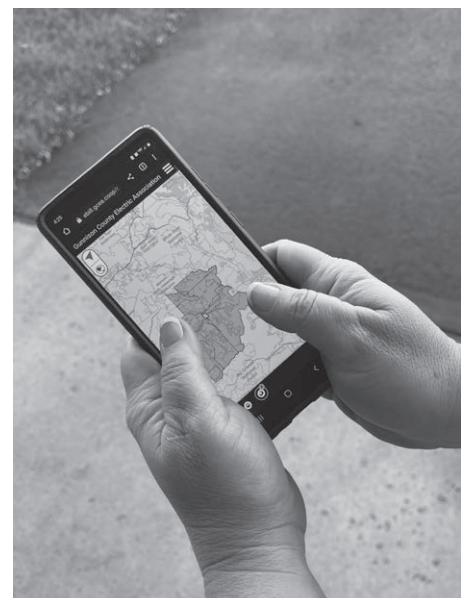
OUTAGE KIT CHECKLIST

- Battery-powered radio or television
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Portable charger
- A phone that does not require electricity
- Non-electric alarm clock
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- First aid kit
- Manufacturer's instructions on how to manually open power-operated doors

For outage information, please visit www.gcea.coop.



▲ GCEA linemen work on a pole to restore power during an outage.



▲ GCEA's outage map is a useful tool on www.gcea.coop and is available to all members.

BRATS & KILOWATTS

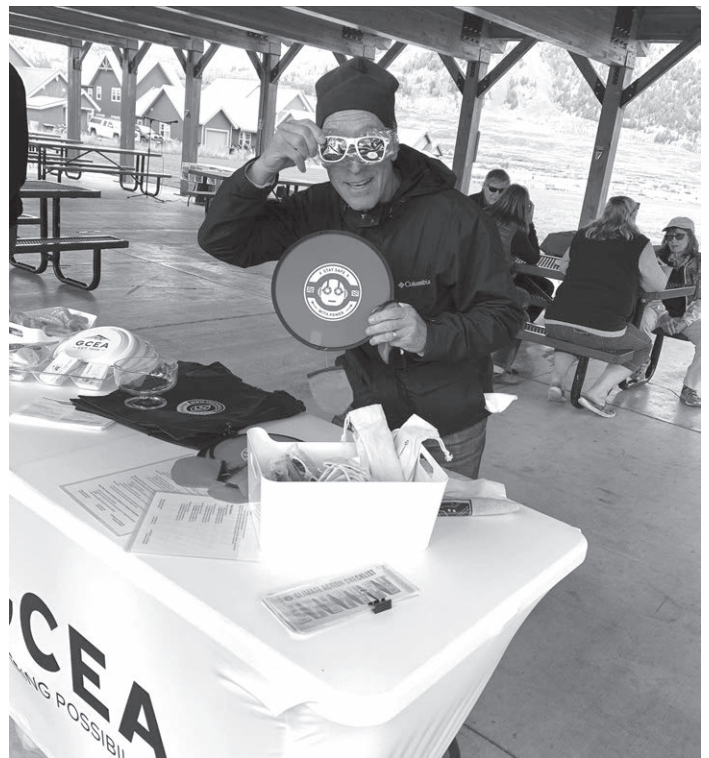
Despite crazy weather, our Brats & Kilowatts event was a big success. Many thanks to Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Wheelies and Waves, and Gunnison Valley Climate Crisis Coalition for all their support in sharing ways to electrify: ebikes, electric vehicles, heat pumps and more. Keep your eye out for more informative and fun GCEA member events coming to a location near you.



GCEA employees Ally and Marni welcome members to Brats & Kilowatts.



Tri-State's Matt Fitzgibbon (right) speaks with a GCEA member.



GCEA member Nathan Bilow enjoys Brats & Kilowatts 2022.

WINTER ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Life happens and sometimes you need help with your electric bill. You can find energy assistance programs on our website at www.gcea.coop.



Take Net Metering to the Next Level: Introducing GCEA’s “T-Gen” Rate

In response to members’ requests for rate flexibility, we have combined our Time of Use (TOU) and Net Metering rates to create a new “T-Gen” rate which allows members the opportunity to manage their on-peak and off-peak usage while generating electricity from their renewable energy system. T-Gen will help net-metered members boost their energy efficiency by incentivizing their off-peak usage through this new rate design.

If energy generation exceeds consumption, the excess kilowatt hours are stored in a virtual “bank” which can be viewed in the “Banked On-Peak” and “Banked Off-Peak” sections of the bill. This banked energy can then be credited back to the member in the form of an “Annual True Up” or “Perpetual Rollover.”

Members who choose the “Annual True Up” option receive a yearly credit at GCEA’s wholesale energy cost for generating more energy than they used. Members who are looking for a quicker return on investment may choose this option to receive a check in the mail. The “Perpetual Rollover” option allows active members to “store” excess energy in the virtual bank to be credited back in the future at GCEA’s current retail rate. Members who anticipate added electric load in the future like a home addition, hot tub or an electric vehicle charging station may desire this option.

WHAT’S THE RATE?

T-Gen Single Phase Residential Rate:

- \$36 monthly service availability fee
- \$0.23664/kWh during on-peak hours
- \$0.08976/kWh during off-peak hours
- Peak hours are 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When the sun is not shining and a net-metered member requires use of the grid, the T-Gen rate helps build awareness of usage throughout the day and incentivizes the member to use their electricity during off-peak hours.

Just like our Time of Use (TOU) rate, T-Gen bills on-peak and off-peak kilowatt hours according to the energy rates above. The higher on-peak rate allows GCEA to recover the cost of providing electricity to members during peak times. Electricity is more expensive during peak times because consumer demand is highest and costs more to meet this demand.

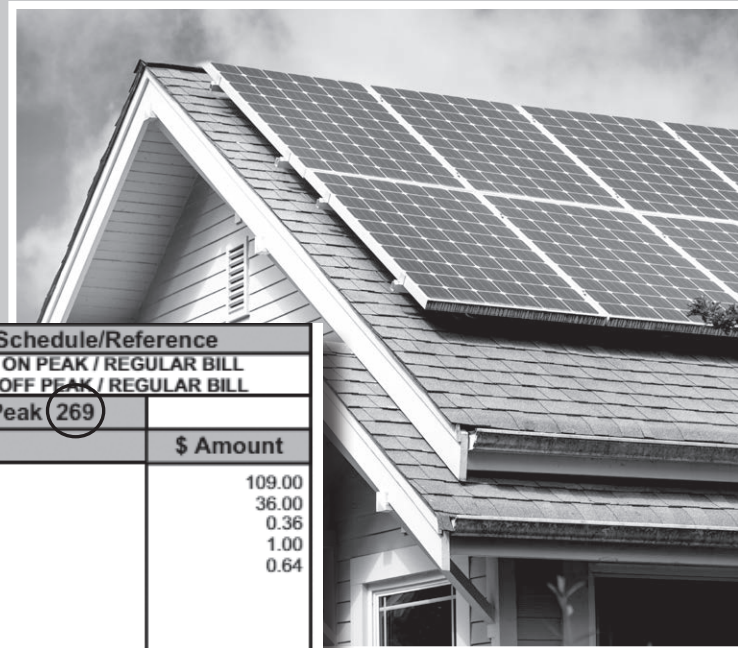
HOW WILL IT LOOK ON MY BILL?

When energy consumption exceeds generation, net usage will be listed in the “KWH” section of the bill for both the on-peak and off-peak periods, and the usage is billed accordingly. (See bill example below.)

SHIFT, STAGGER AND SAVE

In order to keep energy costs down, we encourage members to shift as much energy off-peak as possible when the cost per kWh is lowest. Avoid using high wattage items during on-peak times and stagger the usage. Register your account on the SmartHub app and become familiar with your usage so you can track both trends and changes to your usage.

GCEA is excited to offer T-Gen to our members. To find out if this rate is right for you, contact us at 970-641-3520 or 800-726-3523.



Pres Read	Prev Read	Mult	KWH	Prev Yr KWH	Rate Schedule/Reference	
12434	12205	1.0	0		TOU GEN ON PEAK / REGULAR BILL	
12434	12205	1.0	0		TOU GEN OFF PEAK / REGULAR BILL	
e Last Bill	\$ Amount	Banked On Peak	Banked Off Peak			
		305	269			
Current Bill Information				\$ Amount		
Billing	109.00	BALANCE FORWARD			109.00	
	0.00	SERVICE AVAILABILITY			36.00	
	0.00	COUNTY TAX			0.36	
	0.00	POWERWISE PLEDGE			1.00	
	109.00	ROUNDUP			0.64	
<p>Full of fun member events coming October. Please visit the events page for more details!</p> <p>Office Hours (Mar-Oct): Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and every other Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>SERVICE SUBJECT TO DISCONNECT IF BALANCE FORWARD OF \$109.00 IS NOT PAID BY 09/21/22</p>						
Billing Date		08/18/2022		REGULAR BILL		
Due Date				Net Due		147.00

Retain this copy for your records

⬆ This bill example shows how T-Gen tracks net usage during on- and off-peak periods.