



GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

DECEMBER 2022



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We want to be social with you!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to find out about GCEA events, energy efficiency tips, safety tips and so much more.



facebook.com/
GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@gcea_news

WINTER HOURS

GCEA offices are open
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

BY LOGANN LONG COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Another busy year has come and gone for GCEA, and we are proud to end 2022 on a high note. This past year was full of accomplishments and growth for GCEA, due in large part to its hardworking employees and board of directors. Here is a small glimpse of the exciting projects that GCEA worked on and completed throughout 2022.



Take the Pledge to be PowerWise

In January, PowerWise Pledge™ launched as a brand-new effort to involve GCEA members in taking climate action. This program came as a direct result of a member survey conducted in the fall of 2021. With 63% of respondents indicating they would be willing to pay \$1 or more on their monthly GCEA bill to support climate action, the GCEA Board of Directors recognized it was time to facilitate action through an opt-out program. Funds collected through PowerWise Pledge will allow GCEA staff to pursue development of local renewable energy projects.



GCEA's new logo.

Powering Possibilities with a New Logo

Earlier this year we introduced a new look and feel for GCEA. As with all companies,

times change, and a company's logo and branding must change to show commitment to current strategic goals and initiatives. And while our mission to provide safe, reliable energy with a strong cooperative tradition has not changed, our vision for the future has led us to a new look and feel.



Members Relations Supervisor Alliy Sahagun chats with members in Lake City.



Lake City Linemen Logan Rhodes teaches students about electrical safety.

Member Engagement

This year, GCEA staff made it a priority to get out into our communities to meet with members. We held several events throughout the summer and fall to connect with members about what is important to them. Members visited with us about topics related to renewable energy, electrification, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and more.

GCEA's Alliy Sahagun and linemen were busy teaching the communities about electrical safety this spring and summer. GCEA aims to educate our members and the community about where their electricity comes from and how to use it responsibly.

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▲ The new Lake Fork charging stations provide more charging opportunities.

GCEA Continues to Lead the Way in Installing EV Charging Infrastructure

To promote the use of electric vehicles in the Gunnison area, GCEA and the National Park Service worked alongside EV manufacturer and automotive technology company Rivian to install one dual port 11.5 kW Rivian Waypoints Level 2 electric

vehicle charger and a single port 62.5 kW ChargePoint brand direct current (DC) fast charger at the Lake Fork Campground in the Curecanti National Recreational Area. The chargers became operational in October 2022 on the east side of the campground.

Powering Futures

Through unclaimed capital credits, we provided scholarships to 107 students wanting to further their education in 2022. GCEA has provided student scholarships for decades, thanks to the generosity of members; the Allen, Somrak and Drake families; Tri-State Generation and Transmission; individual directors; and GCEA employees.

Renewable Projects

GCEA continues to work toward its goal

of developing cost-effective, local renewable projects. Our goal is to have our Taylor Dam hydropower project and Crested Butte solar projects completed by the end of 2023. These projects will supply about 5% of our local needs and, in conjunction with power from Tri-State, we will be well over 50% renewable.

Thank you for being a part of GCEA and for allowing us to serve you. We will continue striving to make good things happen in the coming years.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and check our monthly publications and bill inserts to stay up to date on all the exciting projects happening at GCEA. If you have questions or comments, contact us at 970-641-3520 or stop and chat with us at community events.



▲ Michelle Lehmann



▲ Darcie Perkins



▲ Tom Carl

GCEA Co-op Directors Achieve Credentials in Today's Electric Utility Competencies

GCEA board directors Tom Carl, Michelle Lehmann and Darcie Perkins recently received the Director Gold Credential (Tom and Michelle) and the Credentialed Cooperative Director (Darcie) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. GCEA has a commitment to work through CREA and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

SCHOLARSHIP TIME!



Do you need financial assistance to help further your education?

GCEA is here to help students pursue their dreams of continuing their education.

Scholarship details and applications for new and returning students may be found at www.gcea.coop.

A student is eligible to receive a scholarship if the student, their parent, legal guardian or foster home receives electrical service from GCEA.

Application deadline is Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

GCEA offices are closed Monday, December 26
Offices reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday, December 27

GCEA offices are closed Monday, January 2
GCEA offices reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday, January 3



ALL-ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE FAMILY

Take advantage of GCEA's rebate program this holiday season. Give an energy-efficient gift and receive a rebate in return. Find the full list of available rebates at www.gcea.coop.

- Electric bike: A great way to get around town fast and safe
- Electric snowblower: Quiet and more eco-friendly
- Smart thermostat: Ability to learn a household's patterns and adjust heating and cooling accordingly
- Electric lawn mower: Zero emissions, quiet and less maintenance

Visit www.gcea.coop to submit your rebates within 90 days of purchase.



SMARTHUB

AT HOME OR ON THE GO

Avoid the cold walk to your mailbox and view your electric bill from the comfort of your home!

SmartHub allows you to manage all aspects of your electric account from your computer, tablet or phone.

- Make a payment
- Check energy use
- Report an outage



Scan the QR code with your phone to sign up for SmartHub

For more information, please call 970-641-3520.



According to the National Fire Protection Association, **860 home fires** caused by holiday decorations occur **each year**. An additional **210 home fires** are caused by Christmas trees per year. Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.



Make sure all **extension cords and electrical decorations** are marked for **proper use**.



Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least **ten feet** from power lines.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations **before leaving home or going to sleep**.



Never connect more than **three strings of incandescent lights** together.



Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords **for damage before using**.



Avoid using candles when possible. Consider using **battery-operated candles** in place of traditional candles.



Plug **outdoor electric lights** and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (**GFCIs**).



Keep all decorations at least **three feet** away from **heating equipment or an open flame**.



Water your Christmas tree **daily**.



Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers. They should be approved by a national recognized testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratory (**UL**), Intertek (**ETL**), or Canadian Standards Association (**CSA**).



Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can **overheat and cause a fire**.