



GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

FEBRUARY 2023



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 180
Gunnison, CO 81230-0180



STREET ADDRESS

37250 West Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230



ph 970-641-3520
tf 800-726-3523
fax 970-641-7333
web gcea.coop
email gcea@gcea.coop

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

GCEA OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

INVEST YOUR TAX REFUND IN EFFICIENCY

BY ALANTHA GARRISON ENERGY USE ADVISOR



ALANTHA GARRISON

It's tax time! Some of us will receive a refund this year. If that's you, you may be wondering what to do with the money. Why not maximize the use of those dollars and utilize GCEA rebates, state of Colorado tax credits and exemptions, and the federal Inflation Reduction Act tax incentives and rebates to offset the cost of a new, energy-efficient appliance or heating system you've been wanting or needing?

The energy savings you'll realize from replacing an older, inefficient appliance with a new one means that your purchase can have a short payback.

All items listed below have eligibility requirements, so be sure to scan the QR code at the end of this article to find more information about qualifying for the tax incentives and rebates. Here are a few ideas and data to help you make an informed decision on your purchase.

- **ELECTRIC OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT:** GCEA offers rebates in varying amounts for a multitude of electric power tools such as chainsaws, snowblowers, lawnmowers, e-bikes and trimmers. Rebate amounts depend on the tool and the purchase price.
- **SMART THERMOSTATS:** GCEA offers rebates for members on their purchase of a smart thermostat.
- **INDUCTION COOKTOPS:** Save energy with induction cooking by generating electromagnetic energy and transferring the energy directly to the cookware itself. The IRA and GCEA offer rebates for induction cooktop stoves.
- **ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES:** Save money through reduced electrical and water usage. The IRA and GCEA offer rebates for Energy Star appliances.

- **ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS:** These are eligible for state and federal tax credits and GCEA rebates.
- **HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS:** These use one-fifth of the energy a traditional electric water heater uses. The IRA and GCEA offer rebates and the state of Colorado also allows an income tax credit for the purchase price of the heat pump water heater and a sales and use tax exemption.
- **AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS** typically use half the energy that an electric baseboard or propane heating system uses. The IRA offers rebates for income-qualified households and a tax credit for all households, which also includes electrical system upgrades. GCEA offers a rebate as well. As with heat pump water heaters, the state of Colorado also allows an income tax credit for the purchase price of the system and a sales and use tax exemption.
- **LED BULBS:** LED bulbs use 90% less energy than incandescent lightbulbs, which saves you money on the lighting portion of your energy bill. GCEA offers rebates on your purchase of LED bulbs and fixtures with built-in LEDs.

These are just a few ideas of many to help you spend your hard-earned tax dollars on energy efficient items that will reduce energy costs, increase your enjoyment of your home and reduce carbon emissions.

Scan this QR code for more information and eligibility requirements, or call GCEA at 970-641-3520.



BYLAW NOTICE

This is a notice to all members of The Gunnison County Electric Association, Inc. ("GCEA") that the Board of Directors has moved to amend the GCEA Bylaws. The primary purpose of these amendments is to align with certain new Colorado laws governing electric distribution cooperatives. The Board also determined that other language changes are in the best interests of GCEA and its members.

The amended GCEA Bylaws are available for review at GCEA's website, www.gcea.coop. Copies of the amended GCEA Bylaws are also available at GCEA's offices in Gunnison and Crested Butte. Further, GCEA will mail a copy of the amended GCEA Bylaws to members upon request.

The amendment of the GCEA Bylaws shall take effect thirty-one (31) days after

the date this notice is communicated to members unless GCEA receives written objections to the amendments from twenty-five percent (25%) or more of GCEA's members. If you are in favor of the amendment of the GCEA Bylaws, you do not have to do anything. If you object to the amendment of the GCEA Bylaws, please complete and submit the form at gcea.coop.

If you have specific questions about the amendment of the GCEA Bylaws, please call GCEA at 970-641-3520 or send an email to gceabylaws@gcea.coop.

Scan this QR code for amended bylaw information.



Congratulations

to the following GCEA employees who celebrate an employment anniversary in February:

Cindy Wells —

accounting assistant, 13 years

Paula MacLennan —

financial and HR specialist, 25 years

Chastity Miller —

billing assistant, 16 years

Know what to do AROUND DOWNED POWER LINES

WHEN THERE IS AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING DOWNED POWER LINES, A PAD-MOUNT TRANSFORMER OR OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT, DRIVERS SHOULD REMEMBER THESE SAFETY TIPS:

- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back
- Call 911 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.

EXITING THE VEHICLE IS THE LAST RESORT AND SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED ONLY IF THE CAR IS ON FIRE OR GIVING OFF SMOKE. IF THIS IS THE CASE, EXIT THE VEHICLE BY CROSSING YOUR ARMS AND JUMPING FROM THE VEHICLE WITHOUT TOUCHING IT. THEN, HOP WITH BOTH FEET TOGETHER AS FAR AS YOU CAN.

**FOR MORE SAFETY TIPS,
VISIT SAFELECTRICITY.ORG.**



GCEA REBATES

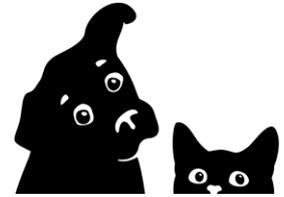
DON'T MISS OUT ON SAVINGS!



SCAN THE CODE FOR
MORE INFORMATION



Contact GCEA
970-641-3520



Keep Your Furry Friends Safe Around Electricity

You do all you can to keep your pets healthy: You take them to the veterinarian for checkups, feed them well and ensure they are up to date on vaccinations. After all, for many people, pets are part of the family.

Two-thirds of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own at least one pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey. The survey was conducted by the American Pet Products Association, and the numbers are up 11% from 1988.

There is something else you can do for your pets, and that is to keep them safe around electricity. GCEA offers these tips:

- Puppies and other pets love to chew on electrical cords. Keep cords out of sight or hidden with a cord cover. Provide teething or play alternatives.
- Watch your pet around dangling or sagging cords, including phone or tablet charging cables. Unplug charging cables once your devices are charged. Not only do they draw a small amount of energy when not in use, but the dangling cords are just crying to be played with.
- Watch where you place lamps and other plugged-in items. Lamps can be a fire hazard if they are knocked over, especially if they have halogen bulbs.
- Do not leave your pet alone around items that get hot: curling irons and straighteners, an outdoor grill, a portable heater and other electric appliances, including cooktops.

Pet proof your home much like you would for a baby or toddler. If you suspect your pet has been shocked or burned, take it to the vet right away. Owners may not realize a pet has been shocked until a few hours later when it has trouble breathing. Other symptoms include ulcers in the mouth and lesions on the tongue and gums.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy — and money!

Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight.

Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and the 84th Annual Member Meeting for Gunnison County Electric Association, Inc. (GCEA) will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the association's headquarters building located at 37250 W. US Highway 50, Gunnison, CO 81230.

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTION

The following three GCEA Board of Director positions are eligible for election:

District No. 1 – (Incumbent Greg Wiggins)

The northwest corner of the certificated service area of GCEA, including the Town of Crested Butte and the Slate River area along Colorado State Highway 135 to approximately one-half mile north of the Jack's Cabin cut-off, excluding service locations in Crested Butte South or which are accessed by Cement Creek Road.

District No. 4 – (Incumbent Michelle Lehmann)

The Gunnison River Area west of the City of Gunnison, Curecanti recreation area, to the West Elk Wilderness area on the north and the Continental Divide on the south within the certificated service area of GCEA.

District No. 5 – (Incumbent Tom Carl)

The Lake Fork of the Gunnison drainage from Gateview to the Continental Divide, including Lake City and Lake San Cristobal within the certificated service area of GCEA.

HOW TO BECOME A CANDIDATE

In order to become nominated as a candidate for the GCEA Board of Directors election, an interested person must meet the qualifications for serving as a director and must timely submit a nomination petition signed by at least 15 GCEA members. Signers do not have to live within your district. Additionally, GCEA strongly encourages any person interested in serving as a director to schedule an information/orientation meeting with GCEA CEO Mike McBride.

Petitions will be available February 15, 2023.

To serve as a director, you must be a member of GCEA, reside within the district for which you are nominated and meet all other qualifications for serving as a director.

Completed petitions must be returned to GCEA by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023.

BALLOT MAILING DEADLINE

In case of a contested election, ballots will be posted for mailing to members on Monday, May 22, 2023. Ballots are mailed to members of record as determined 60 days prior to the election date. Ballots will be sent to the member's main address on file. Ballots must be completed per instructions and returned by the close of registration at the Annual Meeting held on June 20, 2023. Any ballots received after this deadline will be considered invalid.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Changes in Colorado law now give members an option to vote electronically in case of a contested election.

ELECTION RESULTS

In the case of a contested election, results will be announced approximately five business days following the June 20 annual meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For complete information concerning the nomination process, please call CEO Mike McBride or Executive Assistant Sherry Shelton at 970-641-3520 or email directorelections@gcea.coop.



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES
YOU ARE THE FUTURE!

POWERING STUDENTS' Futures

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

GCEA awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors, returning college students, and nontraditional students.

- Eligibility dependent upon receiving electrical service from GCEA.

Scan the QR code for the applications.



DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST

970-641-3520 **GCEA** Applications at gcea.coop

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

