



FACES, PLACES & VOICES OF



LET US TELL YOUR STORY

You could be our next member spotlight!

As your local electric cooperative, our members are what make us unique. Our continuing segments of Faces, Places & Voices of Poudre Valley REA are meant to celebrate you and the amazing stories you have! We want to showcase all that makes living and working in Northern Colorado so special.

RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS

What do you do that no one else does?

We've featured members who won grand prizes at our Annual Meeting. We met with one member who understands and appreciates certain heating technologies to help other members learn about options that might work for them. And we interviewed an electric vehicle owner to get his insights on the benefits of owning an EV.

But it doesn't always have to be all about electricity! Do you raise alpacas? Do you knit baby blankets for local charities? Or maybe you traveled the world before putting down roots in our service territory. Whatever your story, we'd love to hear about it!



BUSINESS MEMBERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Supporting our business & commercial members

We're proud to be a trusted partner for the businesses we serve. One way we support these members and add value to you is by helping tell your story to our readers in our monthly print and digital newsletters as well as on our social media.

We've featured small business owners and the community partnerships who helped them get their start. But we also love telling stories about the amazing nonprofits and charitable organizations who support our communities with such valuable services.

If your business or community group has a great story to tell, we'd love to hear it!

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY IDEA

If you or someone you know has a great story to tell, please reach out! We feature members or those who provide direct services to our membership.

Email communications@pvrea.coop or call **800.432.1012** during business hours. You can even write us a letter addressed to 'Communications' and send it to **7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins, CO 80528**.



OFFICE CLOSED » Monday, February 20
FOR PRESIDENTS DAY





The Electric Grid Connects Us All

The electric grid is a complex system of power generation sources, transmission lines, substations, and distribution lines. It transmits electric power from where it's made all the way to the end of the line for members like you.



We started building our piece of the grid way back in 1939. Since then, we've been continuously improving and adding to it to bring safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to Northern Colorado.

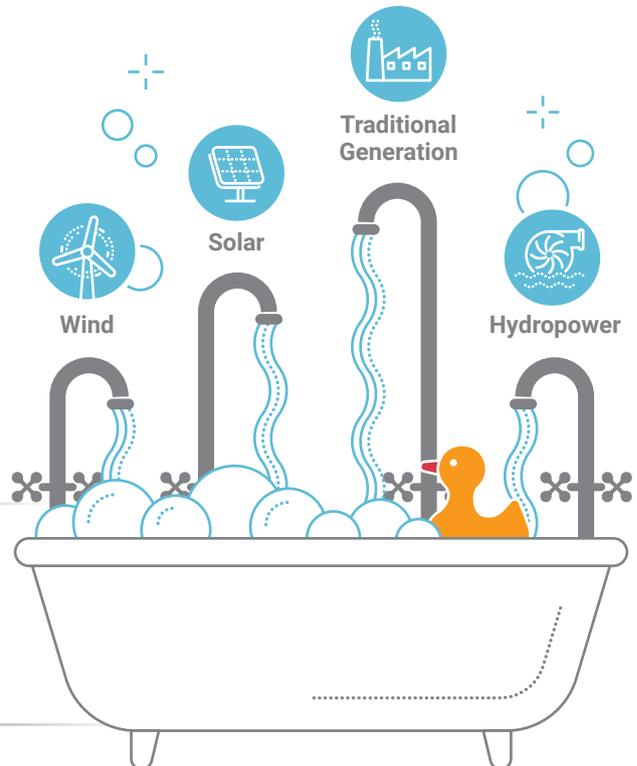
HOW POWER GETS TO YOU

Electricity is generated at a power plant or other facility — like the Robert V. Trout Hydropower Plant at Carter Lake where we purchase 100% of the renewable energy produced. The electricity is then sent over vast distances via high-voltage transmission lines. The electricity arrives at your co-op's substations, where transformers lower the voltage. Lastly, power is sent to your home using distribution power lines.

By using a balanced and diverse supply of generation types — including intermittent renewable resources and dependable baseload and dispatchable power from coal, natural gas, and fuel oil — we can ensure reliable power despite fluctuations in weather, production, and consumer demand.

Think about it: Some days, the sun doesn't shine, and our solar facilities can't generate power. Some days, the wind doesn't blow, and large wind farms are not producing. By remaining connected to the electric grid and the steady supply of consistent power, you have access to the electricity you need, whenever you need it.

- 1. High Voltage Transmission Lines** - Supply power from generation sources to transmission substations.
- 2. Distribution Substation** - Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers by lowering the voltage of power from transmission lines.
- 3. Main Distribution Lines** - Carry power from substations to large groups of members.
- 4. Tap Lines** - These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service.
- 5. Individual Homes** - Where you, our members at the end of the line, live and work.



The electric grid can be imagined as a bathtub filled by multiple faucets. Each faucet is a different generation source, and the drain at the bottom represents all the consumers who use electricity. Our job is to make sure the bathtub stays full.



5 Ways to **Save During Winter**

- 1. 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.
- 2. Get cozy** - Add layers of clothing for additional warmth and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.



**CO-OP
GRASSROOTS** 
Let **Your Voice** Be Heard

JOIN OUR GRASSROOTS NETWORK

Enroll at www.pvrea.coop/grassroots
or text **GOCOOP** to **25886**.

Come to our Annual Meeting to learn more about important legislation that could impact your cooperative.

CO-OP Continuing Education Scholarships

Be sure to apply for continuing education scholarships for high school seniors. We offer a total of 28 scholarships totaling \$52,000.

DEADLINE 2/6

Plus, attend our Annual Meeting for your chance to win our Luck-of-the-Draw scholarship, worth \$1,000 for one lucky high school senior in attendance.

Details available at www.pvrea.coop/scholarships

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Time to **Get Involved!**

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023
EMBASSY SUITES IN LOVELAND, CO

- Breakfast will be provided
- Business meeting starts at 9:30am

An official invitation will be sent to all active members.

Per our board election cycle, members will not receive a voting ballot as no open seats are up for election this year.

Details at www.pvrea.coop/annualmeeting



SAFETY CORNER

How You Can Use Space Heaters Wisely



Space heaters can help you get cozy and warm during these cold temperatures. But be sure to consider the potential dangers of using one, and if misused, the risk you run of electric shock or fire.

Never plug your space heater into an extension cord since they typically cannot handle the high wattage required, resulting in the extension cord overheating and potentially causing a fire.

Additional tips to keep you and your family safe while using portable space heaters

- Place heaters in open areas.
- Keep them at least 3 feet from anything combustible – including paper, rugs, and drapes.
- Monitor space heaters when they are in use.
- Do not use them in potentially wet areas, such as kitchens or bathrooms.

- Do not use space heaters around small children.
- Keep space heaters away from pathways or doors.
- Make sure the space heater’s cord is not a tripping hazard.
- Before using your heater, read all manufacturer’s instructions and warning labels.
- Space heaters are for supplemental heat only and should never be used for another purpose – like thawing pipes or drying clothes.
- When not in use, unplug the heater and put it away.

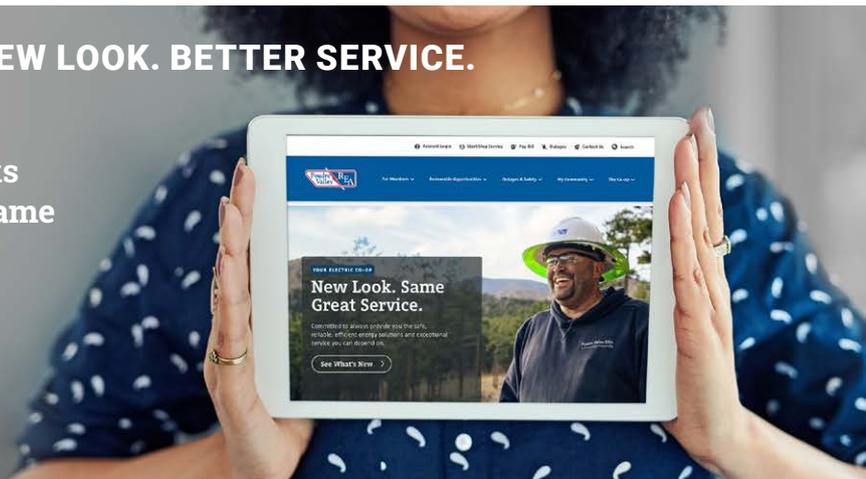
Find more safety resources online at www.pvrea.coop.

COMING SOON >

NEW LOOK. BETTER SERVICE.

We’re changing how our website looks and operates. But rest assured, our same great products and services remain.

Learn more at www.pvrea.coop >



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.

Source: energy.gov

FEBRUARY 2023

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

