

IF I CAN, YOU CAN

BY TOM WALCH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It has not escaped my notice that I am now “the crusty old guy” in the office who gets poked fun at for my avoidance of some types of technology. But who could blame me? When I first entered the workforce not quite an eon ago, we picked up a telephone to reach out to colleagues and typed final reports on a typewriter, always with a bottle of Wite-Out nearby.

I may not think to click open my instant messaging software to send a quick message to a Grand Valley Power employee, but I’ve got email. Typing correspondence on a computer keyboard could even be said to revive nostalgic feelings were it not for the lighter touch required to depress the keys.

Looking at it from another perspective, I’m not all that crusty. I’ve embraced some up-and-coming technology. For example, my wife and I use various social media outlets to stay in touch with our kids and grandkids. For handling estate matters from afar, using electronic signature platforms has been a big time-saver for us.

Understandably, the rate with which I adopt technology is directly related to:

1. Its usefulness, and
2. Its ability to seamlessly integrate into my life.

When we at GVP consider technologies that might help our members, we pit new tech against these two requirements. We want to ensure that the tools we offer our members add value to their lives and serve a purpose. SmartHub is one of those tools.

SmartHub is the software program that GVP and many other electric utilities provide to members for account access. Our members can use SmartHub to manage their account, pay bills, monitor their usage, and report issues. SmartHub meets the usefulness requirement: Consumers can view their energy usage — broken down by on- and off-peak — and compare energy

used over a specific time to make informed decisions about energy consumption. SmartHub also integrates easily into the tools most of us already use: The mobile app is on smartphones and the online software is a click away from our gvp.org website.

Another reason why our members should use it? SmartHub offers an additional feature that benefits both individual members and our cooperative as a whole. Let me expound on paperless billing.

First, as a member of GVP, you should understand that mailing bills and processing paper payments (for example, checks) comes at a significant cost to the cooperative. And because you as a member are also an owner and participate in the economics of our not-for-profit business, the mailing and processing of bills comes at a cost to you.

Consider postage. Since 2019, stamp prices have risen 32%, including a 3-cent increase that went into effect just last month. GVP pays metered and bulk mail rates for most of its mailings, but these rates have increased incrementally alongside First-Class stamp prices. This increase in postage is only part of the equation. Other expenses for paper bills include purchasing the paper and envelopes, printing the bills, and paying employees for the time that it takes to process payments we receive by check. These expenses add up to a significant amount of money that could be saved or used for other purposes.

Since I took the plunge into paperless billing, I have found that it not only reduces the bulk in my mailbox, but it also helps eliminate the clutter that paper adds up to in my house. Combined with automatic bill payment through my bank account, I also save the time it would have taken me to write a check and the postage it would cost to mail it.



TOM WALCH

It is easy enough to make the switch to paperless billing in SmartHub. Simply log in to the mobile app or online and navigate to “Paperless” settings. And when you want to see your bill? Simply log in to SmartHub and view any bill going back several months. SmartHub even sends an email or text notification prior to the automatic payment going through so that you won’t miss anything.

After a couple of months of getting into the habit of paperless billing, this “crusty old guy” won’t go back to paper. SmartHub is a technological tour de force and a win-win for both members and the cooperative.

COMMENTS TO THE CEO

You are a member of a cooperative and your opinion counts. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please let me know by writing to Ask the CEO, P.O. Box 190, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502, or send an email to me at twalch@gvp.org. Visit our website at gvp.org.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to members, consumers, and the public. Regularly scheduled board meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website. If anyone desires to address the Board of Directors, please let us know in advance, and you will be placed on the agenda.

Take Five Minutes to Get Smart

BY RITA-LYN SANDERS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



RITA-LYN SANDERS

Growing up, I lived in the same town as my grandparents, making our visits a convenient pastime. For a few years, our house was just a stile's climb away from theirs, across a couple of small pastures dotted with cows and sheep. Not yet in school, my brother and I would race to see who could get there the fastest. We didn't knock. Usually my grandma, also named Rita, would see us coming and have treats at the ready long before we smashed our freckled faces against the glass backdoor.

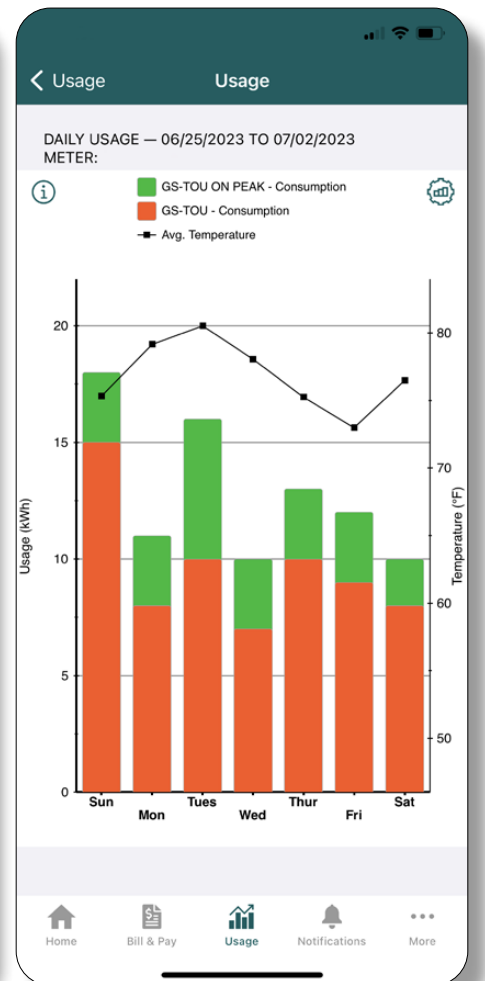
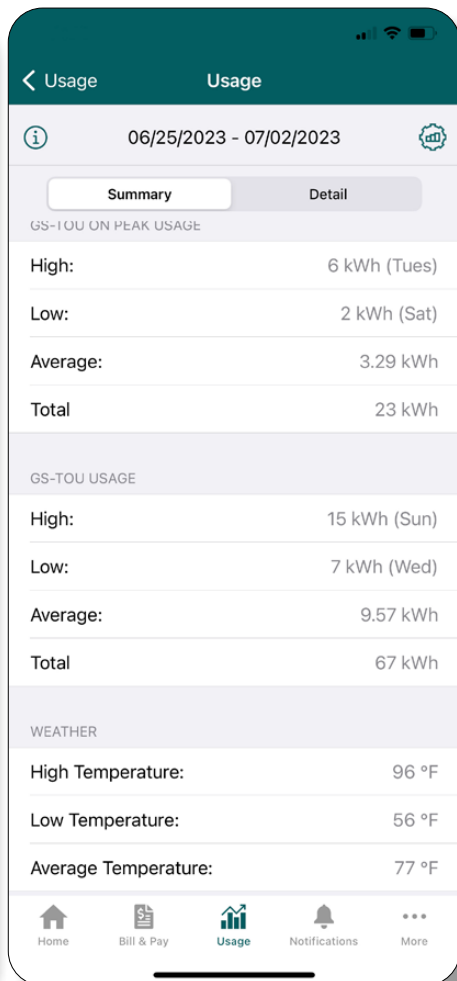
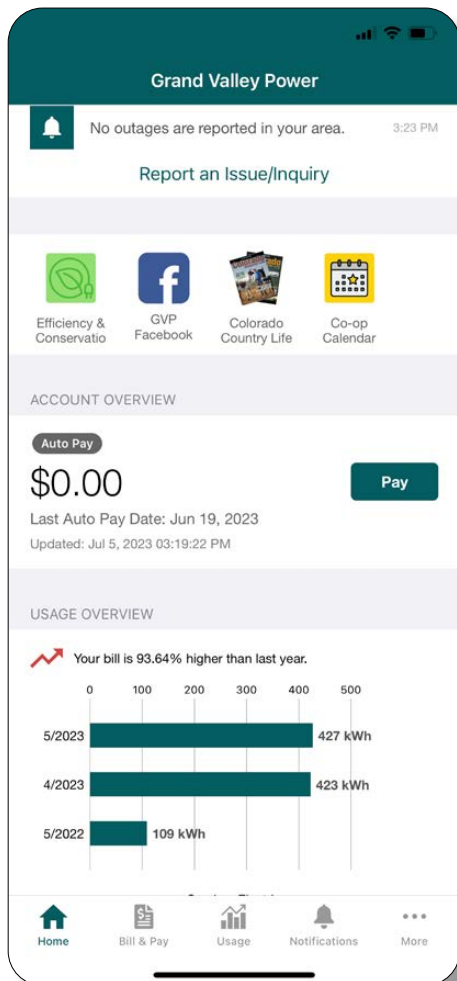
Even when my grandparents left the farmland behind for a lower-maintenance option in town, my brother and I would

still find ourselves at their place during our parents' date nights. Those evenings were magical. Lounging on the living room floor, we'd watch reruns of silly television shows from the 1960s, and grandpa George would set the popping corn on the stove in a double-handled Revere Ware stockpot coated with oil. It was the same pot he had entrusted with the task since before I was born. I still make popcorn this way today — it hands down has the best flavor — and fondly think about the time we spent together back then, just laughing at silliness.

One show that generated a great deal of guffaws was "Get Smart." Maxwell Smart

and Agent 99 took the spy genre of the 1960s beyond jetpacks and dagger shoes to invisibility spray and shoe phones. The latter, of course, was quite the visionary gadget, giving credence to the characters' intelligence despite their best efforts to bumble through the operations of their top-secret government agency. Little did their team of ingenious inventors know they were onto something before its time.

Of course, today we do not have to take off our shoes to use our mobile phones.



As a powerful and intuitive app, the SmartHub mobile app homescreen offers simple navigation buttons for billing and payments, usage, and notifications.

This is what a summary of weekly usage looks like in the SmartHub mobile app.

SmartHub shows a detailed graph of daily electricity usage in kilowatt-hours, including on-peak and off-peak consumption.

These ubiquitous minicomputers not only give us the means to connect with each other; they also connect us to a world of web servers and programs that make it easier than ever to educate ourselves with information that ultimately helps us make the best decisions for our situation.

One such program is SmartHub, an online tool that puts members in control of their energy decisions. Its goals are to empower you with usage data so you can make the best decisions for your situation and to provide easy access to payment options and account management. Plus, you can report an outage in the SmartHub app — a convenient feature for when your power goes off and you need to let us know quickly.

All you have to do is take five minutes to download SmartHub on your phone or navigate to it on the internet and then access your account. Two of the best life efficiencies that I've discovered on SmartHub are the auto pay and paperless billing features. Like Maxwell Smart and Agent 99, these two features make a powerful duo. By signing up for auto pay and paperless billing, I save my

cooperative (and ultimately, all members) money on postage, the printing of bills, and the time it takes for a GVP employee to process the paper payment by hand. Plus, I receive email and text alerts when my GVP payment has gone through and for how much, so I'm not missing any information that would have been on a paper bill. An additional bonus of going paperless is that its eco-friendly and reduces the amount of paper I have in my files. And if I ever need a hard copy of my bill, I can see previous bills in SmartHub and print one anytime.

The personal benefits of SmartHub go even further. I can tap into the SmartHub app on my phone at any time and see my energy usage by day, month, or week. I can see how my use breaks down during on- and off-peak hours so I know if I need to change the temperature on my thermostat or declare an electronics-free day to save on energy costs. I can take a much deeper dive into my energy usage on SmartHub than what I can see on a paper bill, and I can do it at my convenience anywhere I have my phone.

Some of the ways you can use SmartHub to empower your life are:

- Automate your bill payments
- Go paperless
- Set up notifications to alert you when your energy usage reaches a specific threshold
- Take a deep dive into when and how much energy your household consumes
- Report an outage

If you take just five minutes to set up your SmartHub account, you will have the power to simply tap into your energy tools anytime you like.



FILL THE CAR

SUPPORT GO BABY GO
Here's How You Can Help:

1. Visit gvp.org/hometown-partnerships
2. Click "Donate Now"
3. Support Go Baby Go!

How to Install SmartHub on Your Smartphone



1. Navigate to your app store.
2. Search for SmartHub and follow the instructions to install the app on your device.
3. Open the SmartHub app and search for your provider by location (Grand Junction, CO) or name (Grand Valley Power).
4. Tap Grand Valley Power in the search results and then tap "Confirm."
5. If you have an account, log in with your username and password. If you don't have an account, visit gvp.org/SmartHub for instructions on how to set up an account.

For more detailed instructions for how to set up a SmartHub account and navigate through components of the app, visit gvp.org/SmartHub.

CO-OP CALENDAR

- 2023 Grand Valley Power Annual Meeting - Thursday, August 3; 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- August Board Meeting - Wednesday, August 16
- Mugs for Mobility - Go Baby Go Fundraiser - Thursday, August 17; 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Labor Day (Office Closed) - Monday, September 4



GRAND VALLEY POWER ON TRACK TO HIT RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS

BY DESTRY SMITH ENERGY SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR



DESTRY SMITH

The energy that Grand Valley Power delivers to member homes and businesses comes from renewable resources more now than ever before. The portion of GVP's energy portfolio that comes from renewables was 48.2% in 2022, a 7% increase from the previous year.

GVP files its report on renewable energy standards, also known as renewable portfolio standards, with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission every year. Colorado, one of the first states to implement a renewable energy standard, requires utilities to purchase a certain share of their electricity from designated renewable resources including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and hydroelectricity. For GVP, that requirement is 10% of the total power that it purchases. Colorado has increased this standard as the industry transitions to clean energy; however, GVP has always exceeded its requirement. In fact, since 2019, GVP has seen a steady increase in the percentage of electricity generated by renewable resources it purchases.

To derive its percentage of renewable energy, GVP accounts for the number of megawatt-hours sourced from designated renewable resources during the year and divides that number by the total megawatt-hours it sold during the same period. Most of the renewable resources that GVP uses in the filing are assigned by

its wholesale power provider, Public Service Company of Colorado. The wind and solar resources that PSCo assigns to GVP are significant. On a local level, GVP purchases hydrogeneration directly from Ute Water. GVP's net metering members also contribute to the number of renewable resources that GVP reports. Ultimately, GVP is in great shape to reach its goal of a 60% renewable power supply mix by 2030.

Destry Smith is GVP's energy services administrator. Prior to this role, he worked in the field as a GVP journeyman lineman. A graduate of Colorado Mesa University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Destry also completed the Electrical Lineworkers Program at Western Colorado Community College. His education and work in the field as a lineman has prepared him to serve in GVP's member services department as your trusted energy advisor.

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2023 LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations, Branson!

BRANSON PADGETT
2023 WCCC Electric Lineworker Scholarship Recipient

GVA GRAND VALLEY POWER
WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GRAND VALLEY POWER PRESENTS

MUGS FOR Mobility

GVA GRAND VALLEY POWER
Empowering Lives with Hometown Service

In partnership with:

Aug 17 | 11-10
A.M. P.M.

KANNAH CREEK BREWING COMPANY
1960 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Join us for a craft beer and support Go Baby Go.
All proceeds benefit Go Baby Go, a project dedicated to giving the gift of mobility to children with disabilities, made possible by Colorado Mesa University and Family Health West.

GVP.ORG/HOMETOWN-PARTNERSHIPS