



Our Commitment to Affordability

BY **JEFF WADSWORTH** PRESIDENT & CEO

As your member-owned electric cooperative, we are committed to looking out for our members' best interest by delivering safe, reliable electricity at the most affordable cost – even during the significant cost pressures and price increases around us.

In the past few years, the cost of materials to maintain the power grid for operations has skyrocketed. Transformers have increased by 50%, meters by 100%, power lines by 80%, power poles by 20%, and line trucks by 30%. Suppliers tell us prices are not likely to decrease. This holds meaningful significance in our business reality, and we consistently manage it with you, our members, in mind.

We take great pride in the fact our members pay, on average, less for electricity than members of any other electric cooperative in Colorado. We anticipate this to remain true in the years to come. Our average residential rate compared to the national average illustrates our continued commitment to providing value to you, our members.



such as supply chain issues and a 2024 rate increase from our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State).

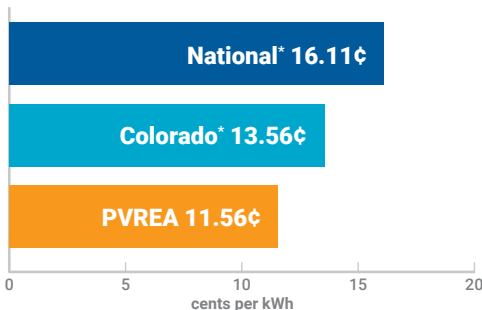
The most significant factor of our ability to provide you with affordable electricity are wholesale power costs. Roughly 80% of our expenses come from the price we pay to our wholesale power provider, Tri-State, for the electricity we provide you.

Your cooperative has worked hard to ensure our rates are as low as possible, while remaining true to our mission without sacrificing the reliability and exceptional service you deserve. This feat is a testament to our focus of providing value to our members while doing more with less.

While we cannot control outside cost pressures, we firmly believe in taking control of what lies within our reach – operational efficiency and fiscal responsibility. Our dedicated team is continuously working to optimize every aspect of your cooperative's operations to lessen the impact of rising costs as we anticipate a small rate increase in 2024.

We will continue to communicate through the *Colorado Country Life* and on our website as we determine the full impact these factors will have on your rates.

Average Price of Electricity: Residential



* Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, April 2023

Our commitment to affordability and operational efficiency remains unwavering, even in the face of continued challenges,



ABOUT YOUR CO-OP

PVREA serves energy solutions to nearly 55,000 homes and businesses in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld counties. We are a member-owned co-op, led by those we serve.

OUR MISSION

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, efficient energy solutions with exceptional service to our members.



CONTACT US

1-800-432-1012
 pvrea@pvrea.coop
 www.pvrea.coop



MAILING ADDRESS

Poudre Valley REA
 7649 REA Parkway
 Fort Collins, CO 80528



SOCIAL

facebook.com/PoudreValleyREA
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|--|---|
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APPLY FOR OUR

EMPOWER GRANT PROGRAM

\$2,000 grants are now available for classroom projects.

STEAM FUNDING FOR CLASSROOMS

The Empower Grant Program sustains STEAM learning objectives – science, technology, engineering, arts, and math – for classroom projects in Larimer, Weld, and Boulder counties.

Grant funds have been used to purchase things like 3D printers, robotic kits, outdoor learning spaces, electronic music inventor kits, and so much more!



Tell teachers in your areas about how they can apply for these \$2,000 grants.



Program details and online application at www.pvrea.coop/my-community/for-our-kids/empower-grant-program/

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

WHERE LEADERS ARE BORN



This 6-day getaway brings high school juniors and seniors together for a free summer camp where they build leadership skills, learn about electric co-ops, and have tons of fun!

- Free to attend
- Held annually each July
- Hosted in beautiful Steamboat Springs
- For high school juniors and seniors

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- See awesome speakers
- Hands-on activities
- Whitewater raft the Colorado River
- Serve on the camp's Board of Directors
- Make great friendships sure to last a lifetime

HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply, go online to www.pvrea.coop and search 'youth leadership camp' or scan this code.



ALL OUR YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF

Giving you a one-stop shop for PVREA programs and services benefiting your kids.

Here at Poudre Valley REA, we're committed to providing more to those we serve – one way we do that is by supporting the education and advancement of your kids.

Find all the cooperative membership benefits that are available to your kids, schools, and community groups. Go online at www.pvrea.coop/my-community/for-our-kids/ or scan the code.





FACES, PLACES & VOICES OF



WHAT I LEARNED AT YOUTH TOUR

Your cooperative routinely sends high school juniors and seniors to join other students from across the country on this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

There, kids experience all our Nation’s Capital has to offer — like touring historic monuments and museums, meeting state and national legislators, and learning about the benefits of electric cooperatives and the co-op business model.



READ WHAT THIS YEAR’S YOUTH TOUR STUDENTS HAD TO SAY!



SHANNON C.

1. What was the biggest highlight of your trip?

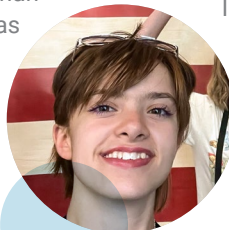
The biggest highlight of our trip, for me, was the river cruise on the Potomac. It was the first time on the trip where I really connected with other students on the tour. It was so fun learning and connecting with my new friends and meeting students from other states to trade state pins and talk.

2. Describe something you learned or found interesting.

I was surprised to learn about the different people who also came along on this trip from different parts of Colorado and different states. When I first met everybody, I was worried that they were all too different than me for me to become friends with them. But as the trip progressed, I learned that I am more alike to others than I thought. It was really interesting seeing this new side of me that talked to people so easily!

3. How did this trip change your opinions of our government and elected officials?

Before our tour, I just imagined congressmen to only really care about the needs of the state as a whole instead of each individual community. But as we asked questions, I understood that some representatives and senators care more about individuals and really took the time to listen to us.



4. How did this trip shape your understanding of electric co-ops?

The talks and experiences had pretty much solidified my thoughts about electric co-ops. From the beginning, I understood that co-ops were for the people. The Youth Tour staff we heard from were so caring and helped us learn even more about the details and history behind co-ops.

5. What’s your biggest takeaway and how can it help you moving forward?

My biggest takeaway has been that once I come out of my nerves, things like this are fun! I was honestly so worried that I wouldn’t fit in or make friends. But after the cruise activity, I was feeling more content. My whole life I’ve been worried about unfamiliar things, but on this trip, I was able to open up and show myself that I can do more than I thought. In the future, this new reassurance will help me grow further and not be afraid of the unknown.

DANIELLE J.

1. What was the biggest highlight of your trip?

I particularly enjoyed Fort McHenry and the Iwo Jima Sunset Parade! I think the highlight for me though, was getting to know my amazing roommate!

2. Describe something you learned or found interesting.



At Ford’s Theatre, I thought it was interesting to learn that Lincoln dreamed about his own death a few days before he was shot.

3. How did this trip change your opinions of our government and elected officials?

The trip did not change my way of thinking about how our government operates, but I did find it interesting to talk with our representatives from Congress and see how they

WHAT I LEARNED AT YOUTH TOUR — *continued from pg. 8*

responded or failed to respond to our questions.

4. How did this trip shape your understanding of electric co-ops?

This trip reminded me what a blessing it is to have electricity and not have to worry about where it's coming from. I learned that co-ops do so much more than provide electricity — they help people out as well, like how they took all of us on this amazing trip to see our Nation's Capital!

5. What's your biggest takeaway and how can it help you moving forward?

My biggest takeaway from this trip is a strengthened sense

of pride in our country. I've always been patriotic and visiting all the memorials and being reminded of all the amazing things we've done was amazing. I was touched when we first saw the flag at Fort McHenry and was so grateful I was chosen to go on this amazing trip!

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024 WASHINGTON DC YOUTH TOUR ARE NOW OPEN.



If you know a high school student who could benefit from this amazing experience, apply online.

Apply at www.pvrea.coop or scan the code.

Electrical Safety Education Demos

Providing free electrical safety demonstrations to our communities

Electricity is something every person uses every day. It's also one of the most dangerous things we use every day.

Despite our constant use of electricity, it can be easy for some to underestimate the inherent safety risk.

It's essential we share our knowledge and expertise to keep you and yours safe around electricity.

Our electrical safety demonstrations are a great educational tool to learn about electrical safety and energy basics.

Request a free safety demonstration online at www.pvrea.coop or scan the code.



Our Youth Are Our Future

HELPING OUR STUDENTS NOW SO THEY CAN GO ON AND CREATE A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



Each year, your cooperative awards \$52,000 to high school seniors who have applied to one of our 28 scholarships. Plus, we give out one more \$1,000 Luck-of-the-Draw scholarship at the Annual Meeting.

We believe it's crucial to invest in the education of our area's students so that they can go on to become the future leaders of our communities.

WHO CAN APPLY?

High school seniors who have been accepted for admission at any accredited college, university, community college, or vocational school. Applicants must be dependents of a parent, or consumers themselves, who currently receive our electric service.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SCORED?

Scoring is based on 3 categories:

1. **Academics** – based solely on academic achievements in school.
2. **Well-rounded** – incorporates overall achievements of extra-curricular activities and community service.
3. **Helping Hand** – considers any potentially notable financial needs of the student.



HOW TO APPLY?



It's easy! Applications are now open online.

Apply online at www.pvrea.coop/my-community/for-our-kids/scholarships/

SAFETY CORNER

Road Safety: **Downed Power Lines**



Car accidents are a disorienting and scary experience on their own, but when an accident with a power pole occurs, it can turn an already difficult situation into a potentially deadly one.

If you're in an accident involving a power pole, it's important to know what to do to stay safe around any power lines that are contacting your vehicle. Here are some tips to remember should your car or another vehicle you come across contact a power pole or power lines.

STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE

The safest place to be is inside your vehicle. While it may appear a power line has become de-energized, the only way to know for sure is if a power utility company confirms it. Unless an immediate danger is present — like smoke or fire — stay put and wait for emergency services to confirm it is safe to exit your vehicle.

IF YOU MUST, HERE'S HOW TO MAKE YOUR EXIT

1. To properly exit your vehicle, first open the door while keeping your body entirely in the vehicle.
2. Once open, use your door frame to assist in standing up but be sure to not touch any power

lines or contact both the ground and your car at the same time.

3. Get ready to exit by crossing your arms and hop from your vehicle ensuring both feet land on the ground together and at the same time.
4. Continue to hop away from your vehicle with your feet touching together. Don't stop until you are at least 3 car lengths away — about 40 feet.

CONTACT EMERGENCY SERVICES

As soon as you can, contact emergency services either from inside your vehicle — if it is safe to remain inside — or after you have successfully exited your vehicle. Tell them your exact location and that there are power lines present. They will contact local utilities who will safely de-energize the power lines keeping you and emergency personnel safe.



Read our blog to learn more about how to stay safe around downed power poles and lines.

Friday Night Lights

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

Some stadiums just feel different — there's a brightness to them, an energy you can feel, and they hold a power where great miracles can happen. Here's to where hometown heroes shine.



AUGUST 2023

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



DID YOU KNOW CEILING FANS CAN MAKE A ROOM FEEL 4 DEGREES COOLER?

To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. This summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces — be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy

