



GCEA
POWERING POSSIBILITIES



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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.

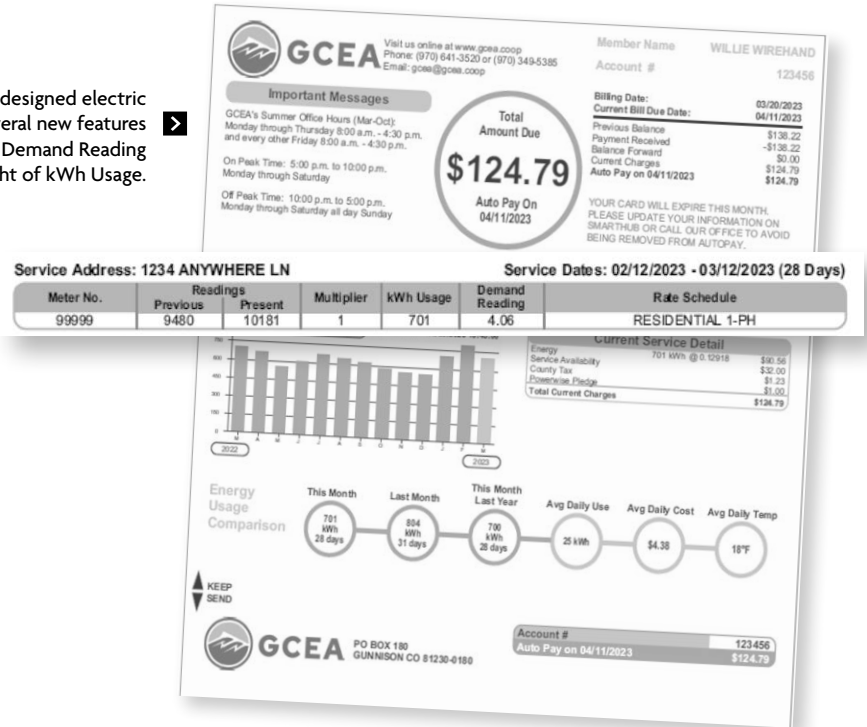


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@gcea_news

GCEA's redesigned electric bill has several new features and shows Demand Reading to the right of kWh Usage.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR GCEA BILL

What is a “Demand Reading?”

GCEA recently completed a bill redesign, and we hope you are loving the new look and that the information included is helping you make smart energy choices. One change you may have noticed is the Demand Reading listed right next to the kWh Usage item on your bill.

Demand, or peak demand, is the maximum amount of electrical energy used at a point in time during a billing cycle. Demand is measured in kilowatts, which is 1,000 watts. To manage your demand, you can keep track of what appliances you are using, add up the kWh usage, and then determine how you can reduce the use of these items. For example, if you're running a 3,400-watt oven and a 5,600-watt clothes dryer at the same time, totaling 9,000 watts, your demand would be 9 kW during that time. If you're able to stagger this load by using the clothes dryer when you're not using your oven, it would cut your demand to 3.4 kW for running the oven alone or 5.6 kW when using the clothes dryer alone.

Comparatively, electric consumption is electricity used over time and measured in kilowatt-hours. When a large amount of power is used in a short period of time, demand will be higher than when smaller amounts of power are used over longer periods. You can end up using the same kWh during that time but have a high or low demand charge depending on how and when you use electricity. Keeping this in mind will help you manage your power use to keep your demand lower.

As GCEA's board of directors considers future rate changes, a demand charge may become a component of the rate structure. Being aware of your current demand readings will help you be in control of your energy usage and be prepared for future rate changes. If you have any questions about your demand readings, please call us at 970-641-3520.

GCEA STRATEGIC PLAN SERVES AS COMPASS

BY ALLIY SAHAGUN MANAGER OF MEMBER SERVICES

The GCEA Board of Directors recently developed a new strategic plan to provide clarity and focus as the organization continues to provide safe, reliable energy with a strong cooperative tradition and a vision for the future.

ENDURING PRIORITIES:

Safety, Reliability, and Business Resilience

The foundational pillars of the new strategic plan center on safety, reliability, and business resilience. These core business practices are essential to GCEA's strategy and operations and when successfully executed ensure our members' needs are known and met. At the heart of all we do here at GCEA, these enduring priorities serve as our compass as we make daily decisions and future plans.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Member Experience, Energy Provider of Choice, Environmental Responsibility, Employee Care and Engagement, and Excellent Governance

As we consider changes in the electric utility industry as well as the specific needs and goals of the communities we serve, our cooperative's mission will focus on these strategic priorities for the five-year period of 2023 through 2027.



LEARN MORE ONLINE

To view details of our new strategic plan, visit www.gcea.coop or scan the QR code to the right.



GUNNISON CAR SHOW

Join GCEA on Main Street in downtown Gunnison for the 35th Annual Gunnison Car Show, Friday, August 18. We will have GCEA's Chevy Bolt and Tesla Model 3, and Tri-State's Ford 150 Lightning on display.

CONGRATS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GCEA has provided student scholarships for decades thanks to unclaimed patronage capital and the generosity of members; the Allen, Somrak and Drake families; Tri-State Generation and Transmission; Basin Electric Power Cooperative; individual directors; and GCEA employees. You can find the list of all scholarship recipients at gcea.coop under the Scholarship page.

WELCOME KELLIE MILLER



We are thrilled to announce Kellie Miller has accepted the System Locator/Inspector position at GCEA. Kellie comes to GCEA with previous line locating experience. Outside of work, she enjoys the outdoors — her hobbies include snowmobiling, camping, and riding side-by-sides. Please help us welcome Kellie to the GCEA team.

PATRONAGE CAPITAL CERTIFICATE
This is not a stock certificate

NON TRANSFERABLE NON NEGOTIABLE

Willie Wirehand
Member Number: 12345

\$72.29
2022 GCEA Patronage Capital Allocation

This Patronage Capital Certificate may be redeemed at any time prior to January 1, 2025 for the Current Value highlighted in the table at right. If held, it will continue to appreciate in value at a rate of 6.47 percent annually until January 1, 2047. The values in the table at right are determined with reference to the future value of this certificate using a discount rate of 6.47 percent.

The total amount of 2022 Patronage Capital redeemable each year after January 1, 2025 may be limited by the Board of Directors in order to preserve the financial strength of GCEA. At any time, GCEA may exercise its right to retire all, or any portion, of the outstanding 2022 Patronage Capital.

By accepting the present value of discounted Patronage Capital, the member agrees to forever release and hold harmless GCEA from any future claim to such Patronage Capital. A member's right to Patronage Capital and distributions upon dissolution of a corporation is determined consistent with Colorado law.

I agree to the terms stated above and wish to receive the present value of my 2022 Patronage Capital as follows:

Bill Credit	Donate:	Check
	Climate Change	
	Member Assistance	
	Scholarship Fund	
<small>(Please Circle one of the above)</small>		

Signature

Thank you for the opportunity to be your electric service provider!

**This certificate does not include any allocated Tri-State G&T Patronage Capital.

 This Patronage Capitol Credit certificate example shows a member's Patronage Capitol Allocation.

2022 GCEA Patronage Capital Allocation

One of the benefits of being a rural electric cooperative member is the payback you receive through patronage capital. When GCEA generates excess revenue beyond our expenses and reserves, a portion of those funds — known as patronage capital — is allocated to members based on their energy usage during that year. GCEA keeps a record of your patronage capital allocation, and when financial conditions permit, the board of directors approves a refund of your allocated patronage capital.

During the May 2023 board meeting, the GCEA Board of Directors approved the 2022 allocation amount of \$801,583. Members who were on GCEA service in 2022 received a Patronage Capital Certificate in the mail representing their 2022 GCEA Patronage Capital Allocation. This certificate offers members the flexibility to choose whether to cash it in early at a discounted value (as listed on the certificate by date) or hold onto it to allow its value to grow over time.

Redeeming your Patronage Capital Certificate early is a straightforward process. When you are ready, you can either visit one of GCEA's offices or mail the signed certificate to us. When indicating your redemption preference, you may choose one of three options: bill credit, check, or donation to GCEA's climate action, member assistance, or scholarship fund.

If you sign and return your certificate without designating a preference, we will issue a credit on your electric bill, provided your account is still active. Otherwise, we will send you a check.

The GCEA board sincerely appreciates your membership and patronage. If you have any questions about this program, please don't hesitate to contact our staff at 970-641-3520. You can also find additional information in the Frequently Asked Questions section included with the mailed letter and Patronage Capital Certificate.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

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

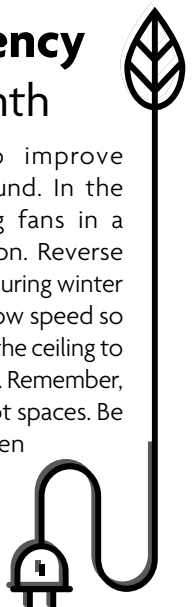
Greg Katheiser – Vehicle Maintenance and Equipment Operator, 28 years

Mike Pendy – Crested Butte Apprentice Lineman, 8 years

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Ceiling fans can help improve indoor comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower parts of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy





Annual Meeting Recap

▲ GCEA Linemen with the 2023 Cattlemen's Days Royalty at the annual meeting

Another successful annual meeting is in the books. It was a fun evening of electricity demonstrations performed by GCEA linemen, bucket truck rides, outdoor power equipment with Fullmer's ACE Hardware, and 5Bs BBQ. Thank you to all our wonderful members who made it a great evening of conversation and dinner.

This year we had a contested election for the District 1 board seat. Incumbent Greg Wiggins defeated Frank Stern and

will continue as a director for a fifth term. Greg Wiggins received 831 votes (57.1%) and Frank Stern received 624 votes (42.9%).

GCEA congratulates the candidates and appreciates their willingness to serve the association.

Thank you to 5B's BBQ for the delicious meal, the Cattlemen's Days Royalty for joining us, and Fullmer's Ace Hardware for demos of the electric outdoor power equipment.



▲ Junior Miss Jaycee Herrera serves dinner at the annual meeting.



▲ GCEA's Line Superintendent Todd Fuller and Crested Butte Lineman Mike Pendy visit with retired GCEA employee Dan McDonough.



▲ Fullmer's Ace hardware representatives talk with members about outdoor electric power tools.

DORMITORY 101: Make Room for Safety



The car is loaded up and check-in is about to start on college campuses across the country. While you want to have all the comforts of home at school, there are some **electrical safety tips to keep in mind** as you set up your new space.

- **Do not** overload outlets, extension cords, or power strips.
- Use power strips with **over current protectors**. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some commonly **approved safety labels** include **UL, CSA, and MET**.
- **Unplug small appliances** when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- Keep all electrical appliances and **cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers,** and other flammable material.

Check with your **university's housing department** on specific housing rules before planning to bring hot plates, coffee makers, toasters, microwaves, and portable heaters.

For more information on dorm safety, visit safeelectricity.org.