



GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

DECEMBER 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 offices are open
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Beginning January 1, 2024,
offices will be closed on Friday.

Value of Electricity

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses.



1
order of
avocado toast

=

68
hours
of using a toaster



Based on 13 cents per kWh, a \$6.80 order of avocado toast and a toaster that uses 800 watts/hr.

LOGANN LONG COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

GCEA is a member-owned cooperative and is committed to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity — even though the significant cost strains and price increases are all around us. When it comes to keeping electric costs reasonable, you are first on our priority list.

Did you know that the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses? If you think about it, electricity is not an expensive resource. Looking at the price increases of other common goods and services over the years, it's easy to see that electricity remains a good value.

We use electricity in almost every aspect of our life: the infrastructure of homes, charging your smartphone and laptop, powering your TV and Wi-Fi router, and charging your electric car. Your electric bill covers so much more than you would think.

There is more demand for electricity than ever before. As we have seen over time with most things, when demand goes up, so does the cost. However, that has not been the case with electricity. The cost of electricity has proven to stay affordable over time.

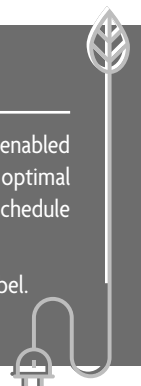
Your elected board of directors and the hardworking employees who work at GCEA will do everything we can to keep your electric bill as affordable as possible.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home. Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the Energy Star label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



BREAKING DOWN YOUR BILL –

Understanding the Service Availability Charge

ALLIY SAHAGUN MEMBER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

Have you ever considered all the costs that go into the electric infrastructure that makes up “the grid?” Power poles, wires, conductors, insulators, transformers, and substations are just a few of the electrical components that make up GCEA’s distribution system. That equipment plus the labor and administrative support needed to run our electric cooperative all have associated costs. These costs are incurred regardless of how much electricity is used each month. The grid is built with capacity in mind so that we can deliver power to our members when they need it. Flipping the switch on your part is effortless because we have built and maintained our system to be reliable and powerful for all your electric needs whether you’re watching television, heating your home, or powering your business.

And like any business that incurs operating costs, we must recover those costs through the rates we charge to our members. But how do we properly recover the fixed costs of building and maintaining roughly 1,100 miles of line while charging each member fairly for access to that line? We do that by charging a service availability fee. It’s the flat amount charged each month to provide you, our member, with the opportunity to use your power any time of the day, 365 days of the year. This fee helps cover the cost of providing electric service just like insurance covers your car in the case of an accident. If our lines go down in a storm or a piece of equipment fails, our linemen restore power and repair damaged equipment without any additional cost to the members directly affected.

In GCEA’s sparsely populated service territory, we serve approximately 10 meters per mile of line. Compared to the City of Gunnison which serves 88 meters per


mile of line, GCEA’s fixed costs are spread amongst fewer members. GCEA’s meters are primarily residential and our electric usage per consumer is very low. If we had a lower service availability charge, it would require a higher energy charge, which means members using more electricity would pay for more than their share of the cooperative’s fixed costs. This kind of rate structure would create a subsidy for those members who are either seasonal homeowners or who install distributed generation at their homes, like rooftop solar or wind.

The service availability charge ensures that all members are treated fairly and prevents subsidization from one consumer-member to another. We believe that our rates need to be structured so that all



members pay their share of the cooperative’s fixed costs, regardless of their electric usage or interest in installing renewable resources.

GCEA conducts cost-of-service studies with an independent rate consultant. Recommended changes to rates and rate structure are reviewed and approved by our board of directors who are consumers-members just like you and represent you on the Board. GCEA’s staff wants to provide fair and reasonable rates and a safe, reliable power supply to the communities in which we live. We are continually reviewing our rates and business practices to do so.



GCEA
Visit us online at www.gcea.coop
Phone: (970) 641-3520 or (970) 349-5385
Email: gcea@gcea.coop

Member Name **Willie Wirehand**
Account # **12345**

Important Messages

GCEA’s Winter Office Hours (Nov-Feb): Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Avoid the cold walk to your mailbox and view your electric bill from the comfort of your home! Gain convenience with paperless billing through SmartHub! Members, who enroll will be entered into our quarterly paperless billing contest! Two lucky winners will each receive \$50 off their next bill! To sign-up for paperless billing, please visit www.gcea.coop or call 970-641-3520.

Auto Pay
Amount Due

\$102.60

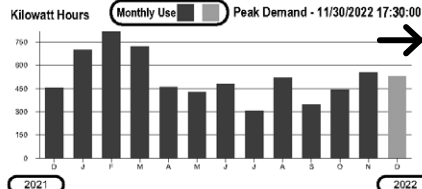
Auto Pay On
01/19/2023

Billing Date:	12/28/2022
Current Bill Due Date:	01/19/2023
Previous Balance	\$105.99
Payment Received	-\$105.99
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Current Charges	\$102.60
Auto Pay on 01/19/2023	\$102.60

Service Address: 37 ANYWHERE LN **Service Dates: 11/22/2022 - 12/22/2022 (30 Days)**

Meter No.	Readings	Multiplier	kWh Usage	Demand Reading	Rate Schedule
9999	Previous: 50185 Present: 50716	1	531	1.6	RESIDENTIAL 1-PHASE

Kilowatt Hours Monthly Use Peak Demand - 11/30/2022 17:30:00




Current Service Detail

Energy	531 kWh @ 0.12918	\$68.59
Service Availability		\$32.00
Demand Fee		\$1.00
Powerwise Pledge		\$1.00
Total Current Charges		\$102.60

Energy Usage Comparison

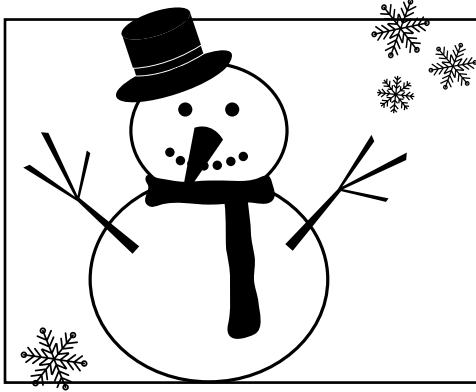
This Month	Last Month	This Month Last Year	Avg Daily Use	Avg Daily Cost	Avg Daily Temp
531 kWh 30 days	557 kWh 31 days	457 kWh 30 days	18 kWh	\$3.35	21°F

KEEP SEND



GCEA
PO BOX 180
GUNNISON CO 81230-0180

Account # **12345**
Auto Pay on 01/19/2023 **\$102.60**



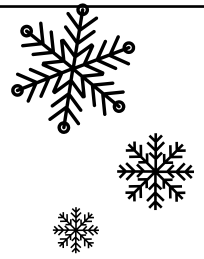
HOLIDAY HOURS

GCEA IS CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DAYS

Monday, December 25, 2023 – Christmas Day

Monday, January 1, 2024 – New Year’s Day

Monday, January 15, 2024 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day




HOME REBATES & ENERGY EVALUATIONS

Are you looking for ways to save this winter season?

If you are purchasing a big home item, GCEA offers rebates for home appliances, outdoor electric power equipment, and electric bikes.

Curious how you can cut down your electric bill? Schedule a **FREE** energy evaluation with GCEA today!

 970-641-3520  gcea.coop

Scan the QR code for more information.




YOU ARE THE FUTURE!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES POWERING STUDENTS FUTURES



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



GCEA awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors, returning college students, and nontraditional students. Scholarships will be awarded to students who meet all the requirements and plan to attend an accredited college, university, trade school, online school, or community college.

- Eligibility is dependent upon receiving electrical service from GCEA.
- Applications can be submitted via:
 - Email - scholarship@gcea.coop
 - Mail - PO BOX 180, Gunnison, CO 81230
 - GCEA Headquarters - 37250 West Highway 50, Gunnison, Co 81230



APPLICATION DEADLINE ON MARCH 1, 2024



must be a GCEA member to apply
Scan the QR code for more information

APPLICATION AVAILABLE AT GCEA.COOP

OUTAGES: STAY PREPARED THIS WINTER



UNPLANNED OUTAGES

Cold temperatures are here, so it is important to be prepared for unpredictable winter weather. GCEA is devoted to providing safe and reliable electrical service to our members. However, sometimes Mother Nature has different plans. GCEA wants you to know how to be safe and comfortable during winter power outages.

◀ GCEA linemen work to restore a power outage.
Photo courtesy Tri-State G&T.



WINTER PREPAREDNESS

- Report an outage by calling 970-641-3520 or through the SmartHub app.
- Assemble a kit of essentials that includes water, battery-operated flashlights, and radios.
- If power goes out, switch off lights, large electronics, and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.

◀ Report outages either through SmartHub or by calling the GCEA office directly.



PLANNED OUTAGES

On occasion, GCEA schedules outages as maintenance and improvements are performed. We do our best to give ample notice of planned outages via automated phone calls, email, and social media. Depending on your area and the situation, a GCEA lineman will notify you in person. If you have questions, about a planned outage in your area, please call 970-641-3520.

◀ Linemen examine a substation before a planned outage.