



GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

MARCH 2024



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 180
Gunnison, CO 81230-0180



STREET ADDRESS

37250 West Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230



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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.



facebook.com/
GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@gcea_news

GCEA offices are open
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



BY ALANTHA GARRISON ENERGY USE ADVISOR

Spring and summer are right around the corner and GCEA is gearing up for another busy year working with members on their solar energy systems. If you are thinking about putting solar on your home, there are a few things you should know as you prepare for your upcoming project.

NET METERING PROGRAM

GCEA's net metering rate allows members to use a grid-tied renewable energy generation system and transfer excess generation onto the grid, offsetting the cost of power from GCEA. The net metering program allows members to produce up to 120% of their annual consumption based on the most recent 12 months with limits of 10 kilowatts for residential accounts and 25 kilowatts for commercial accounts per Colorado state statute. The amount of energy you use determines how much energy your system can generate and the size of your system.

BANKED KILOWATT-HOURS

When a solar system generates more than the member's electric consumption, GCEA will account for this excess generation by putting it in a "bank." The bank allows members to "store" excess generation, even though the solar generated electrons were used long ago. Typically, solar systems produce more than what is used in the summer and fall, and members accumulate a bank of kilowatt-hours that are applied towards increased usage during the winter months.

EXCESS NET GENERATION ELECTION

There are two options for managing excess net generation: an annual true up when GCEA will pay for the kWh at the average

wholesale rate paid to Tri-State Generation and Transmission over the past 12 months, or a perpetual rollover of your kWh that can be kept as long as the account is open and credited against consumption at the retail rate. You can elect to change from the annual true up to the perpetual rollover option one time over the life of your account, but the perpetual rollover is a permanent election so any kWh in a bank when an account is closed is forfeited and GCEA will not pay for those kWh.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Once you and your solar installer determine your system size, you must complete GCEA's net metering application and pay a \$250 one-time fee. Once approved, GCEA staff will contact you to complete the interconnection agreement and discuss which excess generation election you prefer — the annual true up or perpetual rollover. After your system has passed state and GCEA electrical inspections and receives a permit, your account will switch to the net metering rate and the energy your system produces will offset your energy use, hopefully achieving net-zero if that is your goal.

BILLING

You will still receive a monthly bill with the monthly service availability fee, which at \$38 per month, is less than \$1.25 per day. This fee provides access to the electric grid when your system is not producing electricity.

To learn more, please visit gcea.coop/energy-efficiency/renewable-energy-programs/net-metering or call 970-641-3520.



SOLAR OPTIONS: COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN

BY SYDNEY CRONIN GCEA INTERN

Solar power is a great way to help offset your carbon emissions. However, rooftop solar panels or other renewable forms of energy are often not viable options for many families and individuals. GCEA currently has two community solar gardens that members are able to lease panels in order to offset carbon emissions that come from energy use. One is located in Gunnison at GCEA headquarters, and one at the Crested Butte Waste Water Treatment Plant. There is a month-to-month lease option, or a 20-year lease option. All participating members are limited to 5 shares for each account in order to maintain access for the community. GCEA is currently planning for the potential development of a third, larger solar community garden that GCEA members will be eligible to lease and continue to move towards a greener grid.



Do not use electric yard tools when the ground is damp or wet. If you have cordless yard tools that run on battery power, charge the batteries safely and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Store yard tools out children's reach.



Scott Daugherty

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

GCEA is excited to announce that Scott Daugherty was hired as the co-op's new Mechanic/Equipment Operator. Scott was born in Gunnison, grew up in Lamar, Colorado, and came home to Gunnison to attend Western Colorado University. For the past several years, Scott worked as the lead equipment mechanic at WCU. Scott's hobbies include hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, boating, and generally all the outdoor recreation that Gunnison has to offer. Welcome to the team Scott, we all look forward to working with you.

BILL & PAY

USAGE

CONTACT US

SETTINGS

Issue Reporting

NOTIFICATIONS (4)

NEWLY REDESIGNED SMARTHUB

New Look and Feel Available

We have a whole new re-design coming for SmartHub! Get ready for the new look and feel at the end of the month!

Go solar!
You can now go solar with GCEA today at 701-391-6645

share in the

**MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT
LIKE NEVER BEFORE!**

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



GCEA ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Board Election and Annual Meeting Date

The ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and the 85th Annual Member Meeting for Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) will be held on:

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 5 p.m. at 37250 W US Highway 50, Gunnison, CO 81230

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

GCEA's Board of Director positions eligible for election are as follows:

DISTRICT NO. 6 - Incumbent Polly Oberosler

DISTRICT NO. 7 - Open Seat

For election information and how to become a candidate, please scan the QR code or go to gcea.coop.



Contact Us
970-641-3520



gcea.coop

MARCH EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

THANK YOU!

- **ERICA SOERENSEN**
GIS Administrator, 29 years
- **SHERRY SHELTON**
Executive Assistant, 18 years
- **ALANTHA GARRISON**
Energy Use Specialist, 17 years
- **TRACY WHEELER**
Crested Butte Member Support Specialist, 14 years
- **ANTOINETTE WILSON**
Gunnison Member Support Specialist, 8 years
- **BRENT BOYCE**
Lake City Lead Lineman, 8 years

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



GCEA RATE INCREASE



The GCEA Board of Directors approved a 5.0% overall rate increase for 2024, set to take effect on March 1, 2024.

The key details are as follows:

- GCEA is absorbing a significant portion of its increased costs to mitigate the impact on its members.
- GCEA is postponing the rate increase to March 1, 2024 to further mitigate the impact.
- Residential rates are increasing 5.3% on average.
- The average monthly residential member bill will increase \$6.84 based on an average of 704 kWh per month of usage.
- The monthly service availability fee will increase by \$3.00 for most residential and commercial accounts.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit gcea.coop.

[www:// GCEA.COOP](http://www.gcea.coop)

📞 970-641-3520



Safety Tip



If you have electrical fencing, make sure everything is tight, secure and free from frays. A loose fence means wires can fall out of insulators.

SafeElectricity.org