

LATE FALL
2022

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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The Value of Electricity

IMPORTANT DATES

- NOV. 24-25** Thanksgiving Holiday
Offices Closed
- DEC. 23, 26** Christmas Holiday
Offices Closed
- DEC. 30,
JAN. 2** New Year's Holiday
Offices Closed
- APRIL 12,
2023** Annual Meeting &
Director Election

When Compared to Other Expenses, Electricity has a Surprisingly High Value

Electricity is a commodity we always expect to be available when we need it. We use it to power almost everything in our lives to some extent - from the alarm clock that wakes us up for work or school, to the television that helps us wind down at night, or the cell phone that keeps us connected with our loved ones. It is so readily available and easy to access we do not often realize it has a surprisingly high value when compared to many of our other daily or monthly expenses.

As a commodity people use frequently and pay for monthly, we are acutely aware of differences in our monthly billing statements. We may be

even more mindful of our electric cost when rate increases make headlines. Given the regular information you receive about utility rates, you might be surprised to learn that electricity rates have one of the lowest cost increases over time when compared to other budget items like rent and education. In fact, when adjusted for inflation, electricity rates have been steadily decreasing since 1980 despite how increasingly reliant we are on the resource in our daily lives (source: U.S. Bureau of Statistics).

The average United Power family uses approximately 22-32 kWh per day, which is roughly equivalent to \$3. Now think about your daily routine. Do you grab a coffee on your way to work or order food at a local restaurant during lunch? The average cup of coffee now costs just under \$5, and for special blends or add-ons it could cost more. Fast casual meals at restaurants like Chipotle or Panera can cost more than \$10. That means for the cost of a single cup of coffee, you could leave an LED TV on for more than 35 days or charge your phone more than 300 times on our standard residential rate. For just \$5, you can do about

20 loads of laundry. If you were to shift your usage off-peak on our time-of-use rate, you could save even more.

FOR JUST THE COST OF A CUP OF COFFEE, YOU CAN CHARGE YOUR CELL PHONE MORE THAN 300 TIMES OR WASH NEARLY 20 LOADS OF LAUNDRY.

To put it another way, most United Power members spend more on their cell phone plan (\$4-5/day) than they do on electricity (as little as \$2/day). The time you spend on your mobile device, which is probably a lot, is incomparable to how frequently

you require reliable electric service. Many routines and daily tasks are becoming electrified with the introduction of new electronic devices, which means we are also using far more energy now than ever before.

The best way to capture the value of electricity is to make your home more energy efficient. You could make the transition to ENERGY STAR® appliances that require less energy, install a smart thermostat to monitor and adjust heating/cooling when you are away from home, or look into our rates that reward you for switching use to off-peak hours. More information about home efficiency can be found on pg. 7.



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Customer Service 303-637-1300

Along These Lines

A Message from United Power's President & CEO



Mark A. Gabriel

President & Chief Executive Officer

Have Feedback For Us?

Submit your questions, comments, concerns, or general feedback at www.unitedpower.com/CEO.

Our Cooperative Roadmap

Our Cooperative Roadmap contains the cooperative's long-term action plan and key priorities to maintain its strength and competitiveness in the evolving electric industry.

Read Our Cooperative Roadmap at www.unitedpower.com/roadmap.

It has been an eventful and exciting late summer and early fall. United Power was able to mitigate the financial impact of record peaks with the help of demand response and load control tools, such as our Smart Rewards thermostat program and our managed electric vehicle charging program, United EV.

At a time of the year when weather can create challenging situations for electric grids, our system held up well. The investments we made in our distribution network on our members' behalf, combined with our active wildfire mitigation programs, resulted in few operating issues. We run one of the best networks in Colorado – and probably the country – thanks to the great staff and alignment with Our Cooperative Roadmap (Roadmap), which emphasizes a continual optimization of our distribution system. You can read the Roadmap at www.unitedpower.com/roadmap.

Another key pillar in our Roadmap is providing flexible, affordable, and sustainable power. United Power is one step closer to obtaining lower cost, cleaner power for our members thanks to a recent ruling from an administrative law judge at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the cooperative's exit fee from our current wholesale power supply contract. While this is just part of the process, it is a major step in the right direction.

Our decision to depart from our current supplier is based in economics. United Power members pay over market price for their power and transmission while living with a choke collar that caps our ability to generate local power at 5%. We are penalized for being more efficient and deploying innovative energy solutions, like battery storage. We are even prevented from adding resources within our footprint, meaning our communities do not receive the financial benefit of companies wanting to invest in renewables close to home.

It is important to remember the decision to seek FERC oversight was our power supplier's alone. United Power did not support the decision for a number of critical reasons, chief among them the loss of local control to set rates, combine cooperative needs, and jointly manage costs.

In contrast, one of the greatest strengths we have as a cooperative is local control through your elected Board of Directors. This ties to another critical pillar in our Roadmap – empowering and engaging our members and communities. Your Board members come from your towns and understand the values and concerns of each community's residents. They provide direct oversight of the cooperative and hold the power to establish rates, but they ultimately answer to members as representatives of their communities.

I have recently been honored to present on the topic of changes within the electric industry at local chambers of commerce and regional energy conferences. I would be pleased to address any similar organizations about the future of the industry and anticipated changes to it. If you are involved in a local organization wishing to hear about our initiatives, just send an email and someone will reach out to set up a presentation.

Finally, October was Cybersecurity Awareness Month. United Power remains vigilant to threats our system faces as we strive to achieve and maintain business agility and resiliency through information and operational technology, which is our fourth and final Roadmap pillar. We cannot let our guard down, given there are those who wish to do harm to the electric grid.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your questions and concerns. It is an honor and privilege to serve you and the great staff at United Power.

We May Have Money for You

United Power is attempting to issue unclaimed capital credit refunds to members who received electric service from the cooperative prior to 2019. If you were a member up to Dec. 31, 2018, you may be eligible to receive a capital credit refund.

What Are Capital Credits?

Cooperative members periodically receive capital credit allocations, which are tied to their electric usage during a specified time period. The amount you receive is based on the amount of power you used and the margins earned for the time period being allocated. In subsequent years, at the Board of Director's discretion, previously allocated capital credits may be retired and returned to members.

Who May be Eligible?

Please look for your name on the list of unclaimed capital credit retirements at www.unitedpower.com/unclaimed-credits.

- If you were a United Power member for any period of time through Dec. 31, 2018 **AND** you were issued a capital credit retirement check in 2019 or earlier that you did not cash.
- If you are the family member or estate representative of a deceased member who had an uncashed capital credit retirement check issued in 2019 or earlier.
- If you are a current member who:
 - * Changed your name;
 - * Added your name to an existing account;
 - * Or did not cash a capital credit retirement check issued in 2019 or earlier.

How Can I Find Out If I Am Due a Refund?

A copy of the unclaimed retired capital credit list will be posted in the lobby of United Power's Brighton office. The list can also be viewed on the United Power website at www.unitedpower.com/unclaimed-credits.

The Brighton office is located at 500 Cooperative Way, off the I-76 service road. Lobby hours can be found at www.unitedpower.com/contact-us.

My Name is On The List. How Do I Claim My Refund?

If your name is on the list of unclaimed capital credit retirements, download and complete the **Unclaimed Retired Capital Credit Refund Request** form. A copy of the form may also be requested by submitting an email to capitalcredits@unitedpower.com or by calling Member Services at 303-637-1300. Submitting a form does not guarantee a disbursement will be made. Proper documentation and valid proof of membership during the applicable time period is required. No refund checks will be issued for unclaimed retirement amounts below \$5. Unclaimed retired capital credit refunds can be donated to the United Power Round Up Foundation, which provides assistance to community organizations within the cooperative's service territory. After the notification period closes on **April 28, 2023**, all unclaimed retired capital credits for the applicable time period will be considered an assignment and contribution of capital to United Power.

Refund Request forms must be received by United Power by April 28, 2023.

Legal notice was posted in the Brighton Standard Blade, Fort Lupton Press, Commerce City Sentinel Express, and Longmont Times-Call.

Browse Handmade Items for Christmas

Members Receive Discounted Entrance with Exclusive Coupon

The Annual Country Christmas Bazaar is an opportunity for members to support local artisans and the Adams County Historical Society & Museum. The event features only handmade items and proceeds from admissions help fund the museum.

United Power members receive \$1 off admission with the presentation of the coupon in this newsletter.

What: 39th Annual Country Christmas Bazaar

When: Nov. 12-13, 2022 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: Riverdale Regional Park
9755 Henderson Rd, Brighton, CO



UNITED POWER
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Exclusive Member Coupon

\$1 off
Adult Admission

Proceeds from door admissions benefit the Adams County Museum

39th Annual
Country Christmas
Bazaar

Nov. 12 & 13, 2022
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

400 BOOTHS
FOUR BIG BUILDINGS
HANDCRAFTED GIFTS

Adult Admission is \$4 with coupon
Coupon good for up to four adults
Ages 12 & under enter for free
Free parking
Paper coupon required. Copies not accepted.

Riverdale Regional Park & Fairgrounds
9755 Henderson Rd., Henderson, CO
www.adamscountymuseum.com | 303-659-7103

Beware of Scam Calls

Today, we use technology to power our lives more than ever before. While technology has become a helpful way to navigate everything from news and current events to shopping and vacation planning, there are some who use it for more deceitful means – phone scamming.

Phone scammers attempt to impersonate a representative from a respected organization, such as the IRS or United Power, to gain information or payment from a victim. Many of these scams are elaborate and sophisticated, even using spoofing software to disguise their phone number so that it appears to be coming from a recognized number (“caller ID spoofing”). It’s important to be cautious when you receive an unexpected call requesting a payment.

Recently, residential and business members on United Power’s lines have reported receiving calls demanding payment for “past due” amounts on electric bills. The callers are aggressive, and often insist that members make an immediate payment using prepaid debit cards.

In an effort to protect your information and money, we want to remind our members how we communicate past due account balances and collect payment.



Know How United Power Does Business

- **United Power does not collect payments at member homes or businesses.** Never give money to people who may be posing as utility workers. If you are not sure about an employee’s identification, ask the employee for identification or call United Power at 303-637-1300.
- **United Power never calls members in person to collect overdue electric bills.** While we may occasionally call to reach out with assistance information, notice of delinquency or disconnection is sent by mail and then United Power will follow up with our automated phone system. A recorded message will instruct you to initiate a payment.
- **United Power will never require prepaid debit card as the only form of payment.** Members may initiate payment in a variety of ways: online through the SmartHub portal; by phone, mail, or payment kiosk; or in person using cash, check, or debit.



When in Doubt, Check it Out

Verifying the status of your utility accounts is your best

defense against scam attempts. To keep up with the current status of your electric account, reference your monthly billing statement from United Power, check your account via SmartHub, or call United Power’s Member Services Department at 303-637-1300. If you are ever in doubt about a potential scam call, hang up and call United Power.

READER REWARDS

LATE FALL
2022



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$100 Bill Credit

2nd place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

Submit Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com



Visit www.unitedpower.com and click on ‘News & Community’ to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

When are scholarship applications due?

By submitting this entry, I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of *United Newslines* if I am selected as a winner. For complete contest rules, visit www.unitedpower.com/newslines.

Members may also enter by mailing the following entry form to:

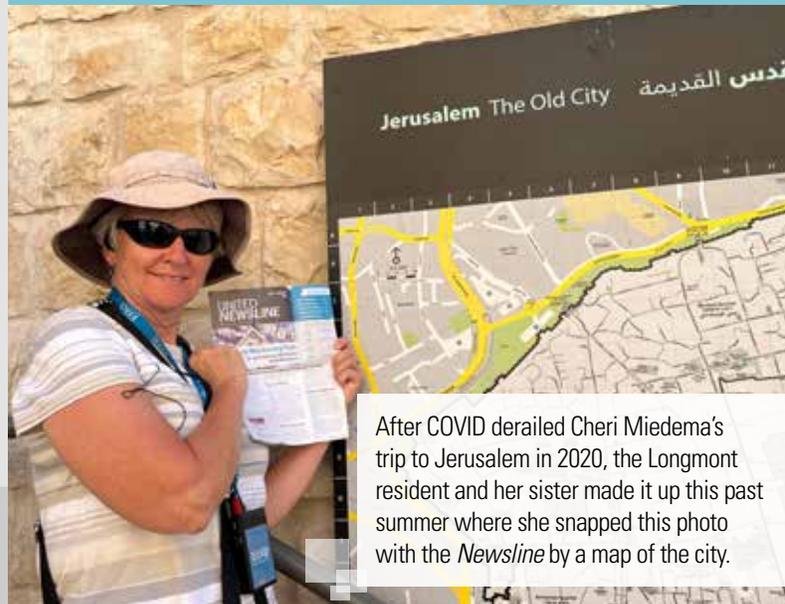
United Power • Reader Rewards • 500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

UNITED POWER PRIDE



After COVID derailed Cheri Miedema’s trip to Jerusalem in 2020, the Longmont resident and her sister made it up this past summer where she snapped this photo with the *Newslines* by a map of the city.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newslines* and you’ll receive a \$100 bill credit if we print it. Submit your photo along with your name, address, email, and a description of the photo online at www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride.

Youth Trips & Scholarships

Late Fall 2022

5

Youth Tour & Youth Leadership Camp Return for 2023

United Power annually celebrates the accomplishments of students in its service territory. The cooperative awards graduating seniors with scholarship opportunities to pursue a postsecondary or vocational education. The cooperative also contributes to the development of standout youth leaders at the Youth Leadership Camp and Cooperative Youth Tour, which returned this past year after a brief hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for our youth and student opportunities will be available in December. **Learn more and apply online at www.unitedpower.com.**

2023 Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarship Applications Due: Jan. 27, 2023

Each year, United Power awards more than \$20,000 in academic scholarships to outstanding senior high school students who are dependents of members served off the cooperative's lines. Scholarships are awarded to students who show academic excellence and are involved in extracurricular activities in their community. Scholarships include awards for students attending an accredited university or college in Colorado, or pursuing a specific degree, as well as book scholarships at each high school in our territory. United Power also awards a scholarship to a student pursuing a vocational degree.



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Tour Dates: June 12-18, 2023

Application Deadline: Jan. 18, 2023

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a proud tradition among cooperatives since 1957 when Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the National Rural Electric Cooperative's annual meeting, suggested sending youth to the capitol to see "what the flag stands for and represents."

Students explore Washington, D.C. with peers from across the country and learn about American history and the cooperative business model while developing leadership skills. Each day is packed with memorable moments.



Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

Camp Dates: July 15-20, 2023

Application Deadline: Jan. 18, 2023

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp isn't a camp in the traditional sense. There are no tents, no campfires, no s'mores. Students spend a week near Steamboat Springs establishing and managing their own cooperative, including the election of directors, to learn the value of cooperative principles.

In between, days are filled with cooperative-focused activities, leadership training seminars, and collaborative group projects. However, being part of a cooperative isn't all business. Campers enjoy fun activities like rafting down the Colorado River or exploring Fish Creek Falls, and an end-of-week celebration.

Youth Tour and Youth Camp are subject to cancellation dependent upon local COVID-19 protocols.



RECIPES



Million Dollar Chicken Casserole

- 1 10.5 oz can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 4 oz cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 1/2 tsp Creole seasoning
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder, divided
- 5 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- 1 cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 30 buttery round crackers, crushed
- 4 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 tsp sliced scallions

Preheat oven to 350°. Stir together cream of chicken soup, cottage cheese, sour cream, cream cheese, Creole seasoning, onion powder, and half the garlic powder in medium bowl until well blended and smooth. Fold in chicken, chopped onion, and parsley until evenly coated. Stir together crackers, melted butter, and remaining garlic powder.

Spoon chicken mixture evenly into 11x7 baking dish and sprinkle with mozzarella and cracker mixture. Place on foil-lined baking sheet and bake until crackers are golden, about 40 minutes.

Source: All Recipes

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com/newline

MAIL: United Power Recipes
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, CO 80603

Empowering & Engaging Our Members

United Power Supports Community Events, Empowers Local Education, & Drives Economic Development

United Power members expect their electric utility to provide consistently reliable power when they need it, for as long as they need it; but as a cooperative, United Power is more than your average utility company. Electric distribution cooperatives exist to serve their members and are only as strong as the communities they serve, which is why we have pledged a commitment to actively engage with our members and promote the growth and development of our communities.



Sr. Community Affairs Representative Bill Meier at a United Power sponsored BBQ event in Johnstown.

Our public presence in the community is evident at fairs and festivals throughout the service area. United Power is a proud partner and supporter of community events that offer family fun and celebrate each city or town's unique and rich history. As the presenting sponsor of the Adams County Fair in August, the cooperative helped bring one of the largest county fairs in the country to thousands of local residents and visitors. The cooperative also sponsors community heritage celebrations like Trapper Days in Fort Lupton and Miners Day in Frederick.

While summer events bring out large crowds, United Power is also active during the holiday season. You'll find our community affairs reps passing out candy at local trunk or treat events or see our trucks rolling in festive parades adorned in lights and decorations. We also sponsor Thanksgiving food drives like Food for Hope's annual Feed 5000 campaign. The cooperative's sponsorship of the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association (CCCIA) allows it to plan several holiday events for its residents, such as family favorites like the Easter Eggstravaganza and Fourth of July Festival.

"If it weren't for the considerable support the CCCIA receives from United Power, we wouldn't be able to put on these events for our residents," said CCCIA Hall Manager

Suzy Schemel. "We are able to bring family-friendly events to the families who live up here free of charge thanks to their generous contribution and continued support for Coal Creek. I imagine the sentiment is shared by many of the other communities United Power serves."

The growth and development of local communities hinges on the abilities of their leaders - both current and future. United Power recognizes future mayors, city councilors, and other community leaders among the students in our high schools. Each year, we select local high school students to represent the cooperative on trips to Steamboat Springs and Washington, D.C. for youth leadership training and education on the cooperative principles. We also award nearly two dozen scholarships to graduating seniors pursuing a post-secondary education or vocational degree. (*More information about United Power youth trips and scholarships is available on pg. 5.*)

As much as our community leaders spur growth, it also requires creating an environment that supports healthy and thriving businesses. United Power has a seat at the table of local chambers of commerce because of their work behind the scenes helping communities drive economic development. Economic development directors from our communities can contact our readily available and easily accessible community affairs reps with inquiries about new business development and business retention strategies. The cooperative's close relationship with each community alleviates concerns for potential business owners as they determine future business locations.

"United Power operates with a level of certainty about its infrastructure's ability to handle new or expanding load," said Max Daffron, economic development manager for the Town of Frederick. "That certainty is important for business owners."

United Power reps can help communities and businesses determine where sufficient infrastructure is available, how additional capacity can be built, or if redundant power is necessary. They can even recommend ideal business locations based on their energy needs and prospective development in the area. United Power has also partnered with communities to help develop comprehensive strategies and plan for future growth.

"As a small business owner, I see real value in United Power's commitment to community support and development," said Cody LeBlanc, owner of Cinn-A-Brew in Brighton and The KM Cup in Fort Lupton. "Their support showcases our businesses and demonstrates the area is a great place live."



United Power Director Brad Case, third from left, at the Third Creek West groundbreaking in Commerce City this summer.

United Power's commitment extends to all areas that support community health and well-being, including its state parks and nonprofits that serve the local community. The cooperative assisted Barr Lake State Park in placing its popular osprey platform in 2014; and earlier this year, helped raise its eagles nest on the southern end of the park. When the cooperative hit 100,000 meters in 2021, United Power made contributions to each state park in its service territory - Barr Lake, St. Vrain, and Golden Gate - in recognition of their importance to the community.



United Power employees Tom Green, Zach Kinder, Jack York, and Brian Blehm help organize Food For Hope's Brighton food bank.

Now more than 100,000 meters strong, United Power impacts more people than ever before. We recognize how beneficial the support we provide for our communities has been and how crucial it is for continued growth and development. As a cooperative, we strive to see each of our communities, and the members who call them home, reach their full potential. As we grow and evolve into the electric utility of the future, our members will continue to remain our focus.



Making Your Home More Energy Efficient

Take Advantage of Member Rebates & Programs for Home Energy Savings

As your cooperative, we want to be your go-to source for home energy efficiency. Our member-exclusive rebates and programs are simple ways to kick start your path toward energy savings.

Home Energy Appliance Rebates

Home appliances are among the most used devices around our home. United Power members qualify for rebates on the purchase of new ENERGY STAR® refrigerators or freezers, clothes washers, and clothes dryers. The cooperative also offers a rebate on certain qualifying induction cooktops.

Home Energy Efficiency Rebates

For larger home energy efficiency projects, United Power members also qualify for rebates on the purchase and installation of new heat pumps (ground and air source), electric thermal storage systems, electric water heaters, and whole-house fans.

Smart Rewards

Heating and cooling accounts for approximately half our energy use. United Power's Smart Rewards program is a way to save twice. Enrolled members receive rebates on the purchase of qualifying smart thermostats from Honeywell and Nest. If you remain enrolled through the end of each summer cooling period (June-September), you will also receive an additional \$25 credit on your billing statement.

Outdoor Power Rebates

As the leaves begin to fall and snow starts rolling in, consider United Power's rebates on new electric leaf blowers and snow blowers. Rebates are also available on electric trimmers, pruners, power washers, chainsaws, and walk-behind lawn mowers because spring is always just around the corner.

United Power also has energy efficiency information available for members looking to make other home modifications and tips about how small behavior changes can result in big savings. For more information on using energy in your home more efficiently, go to www.unitedpower.com/energy-tips.

Rebates & Programs

To view United Power's member-exclusive rebates and programs, scan the QR code to the right or visit www.unitedpower.com/rebates.



Available rebates are applicable for 2022 and are subject to change in January. To ensure you qualify for current rebates, we recommend planning your purchase before the end of the year.

Online Account Management & Paperless Billing

United Power's free online member portal is your way to conveniently manage your account without visiting an office location. Through the online portal, you have the ability to view and pay your bill, sign up for payment options like Paperless Billing and Auto Pay, and even view usage history and trends with the addition of Power Portal. Our account portal is available both online and as a mobile app for both iPhone and Android devices.

When you sign up for Paperless Billing, you will stop receiving a paper bill in the mail and you will receive an e-mail notification when your statement is available. You can then make a payment how you prefer: online, over the phone, or at a payment kiosk.

If you do not currently have an online account, you can sign up for one at www.unitedpower.com/smarthub.

Sign Up for Paperless Billing

- From SmartHub, select **"My Profile"** from the menu options.
- Select **"Update My Paperless Settings"** from the options.
- Toggle **"Paperless Status"** button from OFF to ON to stop receiving printed bills.
- Click **"YES"** to confirm.
- In the app, go to **"Settings"** and toggle **"Go Paperless"** from the **"Paperless Billing"** menu. Click **"YES"** to confirm.

