

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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## Co-op is Here to Stay



## United Power Announced Three New Power Purchase Agreements in July

United Power recently announced three new power purchase agreements in advance of its upcoming exit from its current wholesale power contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission in May 2024. The cooperative has reviewed dozens of power supply proposals over the past several months to determine the most fiscally and socially responsible partners moving forward. Finding and securing established partners in the energy industry will not only ensure sufficient power supply is available for United Power's growing load, but having multiple agreements also presents added flexibility for the cooperative's power mix.

United Power tried to no avail to negotiate more contract flexibility and lower costs on behalf of its members. These costs are above market value, accounting for more than 70% of the cooperative's operating expenses. Further, the existing contract locks United Power into a restrictive generation mix and prevents it from obtaining more than 5% of its total load from locally generated sources, such as utility-scale solar farms, gas-capture facilities, or even residential rooftop solar. The cooperative's power purchase agreements announced in July demonstrate the freedom available by exiting its current wholesale power contract next year.

Two of the three agreements will facilitate a large portion of United Power's expected load when the cooperative exits its current contract. The cooperative's load is presently the largest among Colorado distribution co-ops — at more than 630 megawatts (MW) — despite serving the smallest geographic footprint. The third agreement is an innovative battery storage solution that will help mitigate costs when power demand is high — also known as peak demand.

### THE UPCOMING POWER SUPPLY TRANSITION WILL NOT IMPACT YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE COOPERATIVE.

"The energy industry is entering a period of revolutionary change," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We have always put our members first and will continue to do so while advancing our position as an industry-leading distribution cooperative. Leaving our restrictive wholesale power contract affords us the flexibility and freedom to keep rates competitive, join national power markets, and attract innovative energy partners."

As the exit date approaches, questions about the cooperative's future have started to circulate. It is important that members know the upcoming power supply transition will not impact your membership with the cooperative. United Power will continue as your power provider. New power suppliers will allow the co-op to better serve its members, who can expect the same commitment to delivering reliable and economical electricity to local homes and businesses. Office locations in Brighton, Coal Creek, and Carbon Valley will also still provide the service and support members have come to expect.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

[www.unitedpower.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.unitedpower.com/roadmap).

It is hard to believe we are already entering the fall season. Summer flew by while your cooperative employees were hard at work on a number of fronts – improving service, working toward an energy future outlined in Our Cooperative Roadmap, and managing the tremendous growth in our communities.

We spent much of the summer finalizing our power supply portfolio – one that will provide members with a mix of traditional and low-carbon power and storage solutions. The break from our current power supplier will allow significant freedom and flexibility, representing the rapidly changing energy industry, in a reasonable time frame, as opposed to waiting until the end of the decade.

We are blessed to have a strong mix of residential, commercial, and industrial members in our small 900-square mile service territory, as well as consistent and significant growth. Our system's diversity means we are a highly desirable partner for companies wishing to locate here and work with United Power to deploy new and innovative technologies.

The future is not just about adding more generation – although necessary to meet growing demand – but also operating our system differently (and more efficiently) than the past. For example, five years after launching what was Colorado's largest battery storage facility at the time, we have entered an agreement to deploy nearly 80 additional megawatts of battery storage across our footprint, one of the nation's first dispersed storage projects. This will allow us to charge the batteries when energy costs are low and reduce the demand on our system during peak hours.

The rise in electric vehicle sales has led to a curious conversation that today's grid cannot handle the load without massive investments in infrastructure or significant control options. We have among the highest penetrations of EVs and plug-in hybrids in the nation. Here at United Power, we constantly monitor our transformers and energy consumption, proactively managing and improving our

system in advance of challenges. Each year, we strategically plan our maintenance to target the worst performing feeders – those lines supporting our members in their neighborhoods – and carefully focus our investments. Your Board of Directors not only supports these activities but works closely with management to ensure we are making the right investments to keep this most critical infrastructure strong.

This is not to say there will never be outages. Sadly, critters, crashes, storms, and lightning wreak havoc on electric grids, no matter how well built. United Power crews work diligently through some of the most terrible conditions to restore power quickly – and safely. The addition of our Carbon Valley Service Center in 2019 has also allowed us to cut down outage response times in our western territory.

We continue to lead the nation in residential solar installations and support members who want to add solar, as well as storage. Last year, the Colorado Solar and Storage Association recognized United Power as a Solar & Storage Champion for its member interconnection process and rooftop solar saturation.

We do caution members to be selective in choosing their solar contractor. Several door-to-door salespeople have been reported using unscrupulous tactics, including lies and fabrications, to sell their services. Be leery of any representative mentioning United Power. Our team is available to provide unbiased information and all the tools you need to make the right decision when it comes to solar. Simply call us at 303-637-1300 or visit our website at [www.unitedpower.com/going-solar](http://www.unitedpower.com/going-solar).

As a United Power member-owner, you have a special relationship with the cooperative. Please feel free to reach out to me personally with any questions or comments. I appreciate the honor to serve you.

Enjoy our beautiful fall weather.

## United Power Inks Three Power Purchase Agreements

### Guzman to Provide Key Power Block

United Power's power purchase agreement with the Denver-based power supplier Guzman Energy locks in one-third of the cooperative's power needs beginning in May 2024. The 15-year agreement features fixed wholesale power pricing that provides prearranged power supply costs and rate stability for members.

Guzman partners with cooperatives, municipalities, companies, and tribes across North America to customize energy portfolios that make economic and environmental sense.



Pictured (L-R): **Jeffrey M. Heit**, Principal, Managing Director, Guzman Energy; **Robin Lunt**, Chief Commercial Officer, Guzman Energy; **Christopher Miller**, Co-founder and CEO, Guzman Energy; **Mark A. Gabriel**, President and CEO, United Power; and **Beth Martin**, United Power Board Chairman.

### New Utility-Scale Solar Addition

United Power signed a 25-year power purchase agreement to receive power from Whetstone's Solar of Alamosa project in Southern Colorado. It will add 30 MW of renewable energy to the co-op's diverse portfolio of generation resources beginning in 2024.

The solar farm sits atop one of the state's highest elevation plateaus and receives some of the highest irradiance in the country. Built in 2012, project upgrades are scheduled throughout 2024 to achieve optimum power output.



Pictured (L-R): **Beth Martin**, United Power Board Chairman; **Mark A. Gabriel**, President and CEO, United Power; **Collin Franceschi**, Founding Partner, Whetstone; and **Dean Hubbuck**, SVP and Chief Energy Resource Officer, United Power.

### Ameresco's Largest Battery Project

United Power and Ameresco will partner to connect nearly 80 MW/315 MWh of battery storage capacity throughout the cooperative's service territory. The groundbreaking project will allow United Power to balance its load while integrating renewable resources. Batteries will be located on eight different cooperative-owned substation sites in Adams, Broomfield, and Weld counties, storing and dispatching power during heavy consumption periods.



Pictured (L-R): **Matt Parlon**, Director, Storage Solutions, Ameresco; **Beth Martin**, United Power Board Chairman; **Mark A. Gabriel**, President and CEO, United Power; **Jon Mancini**, SVP, Solar Project Development, Ameresco; **Geri Kantor**, Director, Distributed Energy Resources Project Development, Ameresco; and **Dean Hubbuck**, SVP and Chief Energy Resource Officer, United Power.

## Former Director Cummins Passes

### Don Cummins Served 10 Years on the United Power Board

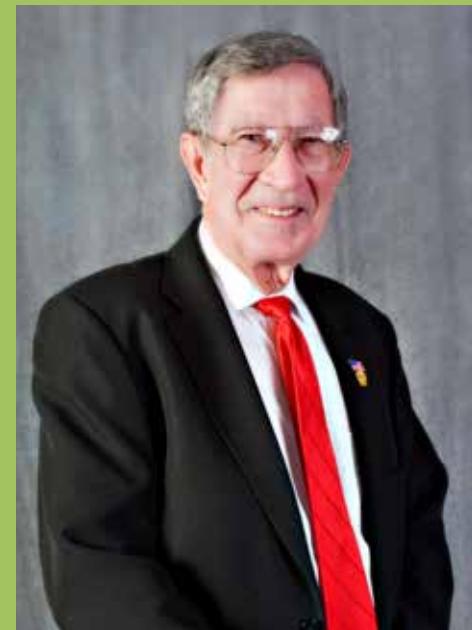
Former United Power Director Donald Cummins passed away in July. Cummins is remembered for his commitment and contributions to the Fort Lupton community, including establishing the local Aims Community College campus, where he served as dean until his retirement in 1992, and a citywide recreation program. He served on numerous boards, councils, and commissions dedicated to improving residential happiness, community safety, and economic development. Cummins was also instrumental in establishing the United Way of Weld County.

Cummins was elected to the United Power Board of Directors as a representative of the East District in 2000 and served until he retired in 2010. Upon his retirement, the Board recognized Cummins as a valued

member and for his "time and efforts for the betterment of our cooperative, its members, and the community."

During his time on the Board, Cummins served as secretary/treasurer for two years and assistant secretary/treasurer for one year, and sat on various board committees.

"Don Cummins was a consummate community servant and a multi-talented leader," said Troy Whitmore, United Power Vice President & Public Affairs Officer. "He did not know a stranger. If he did not know you, he had a connection with you. Beyond that, he will always be 'Mr. Fort Lupton' to me."



# What is a Disaster Plan?

## September is National Preparedness Month

Colorado is no stranger to weather-related disasters and record-breaking storm systems. Strong storms may dump feet of snow, generate destructive wind speeds, or spark a devastating wildfire. Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to take simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and visit. This year's theme, "Preparing for Older Adults," touches how to plan ahead.

**Make a Plan.** Expecting the unexpected begins with having a plan in place. Coordinate with your family, loved ones, or caregivers to respond quickly in the event of a disaster or weather-related emergency. A plan should include the following:

- Create a support network of family, friends, and others, including caregivers, who can assist you during an emergency. Establish two-way communications, transportation, and living arrangements between you and your care community, especially if power is interrupted. Consider how any pets or service animals can continue receiving care, if necessary.
- Make sure at least one person in your support network has an extra key to your home, knows where you keep your emergency supplies, and knows how to use life-saving equipment or administer medicine.
- If you undergo routine treatments at a clinic or hospital, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify backup service providers.
- If you rely on any devices for physical assistance, plan on how you will have those with you during an evacuation, if required.

**Build a Kit.** Gather supplies for several days, considering your unique needs. Include items such as food and water; medications and medical supplies; any necessary medical documentation, such as Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance cards; pet supplies; batteries and chargers; etc. You may also include items such as a first aid kit, flashlight, and/or radio. Remember to keep your kit updated.

**Electronic Benefits.** If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, important way to protect yourself financially. You can sign up for direct deposit by calling 800-333-1795 or visiting [www.godirect.gov/gpw](http://www.godirect.gov/gpw).

For more information on National Preparedness Month, including sample emergency communications plans, organizations you can volunteer with during disasters, and more, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



## READER REWARDS

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Three Winners Every Month!

1<sup>st</sup> place: \$100 Bill Credit

2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

### Submit Reader Rewards Online

[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

Visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on 'News & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### What is the 2023 rebate purchase deadline?

By submitting this entry, I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newsline if I am selected as a winner. For complete contest rules, visit [www.unitedpower.com/newsline](http://www.unitedpower.com/newsline).

**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



Welcome to the center of the nation in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Erie residents and United Power members Sheryl Ellis-Kosorok and Ed Kosorok visited the National Geodetic Survey's Geographic Center of the Nation Monument.

### United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the United Newsline 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](http://www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride).

# Why A Battery Backup?

National Preparedness Month is a good time to make plans for emergencies of all kinds. Members who rely on medical equipment that requires electricity to operate should have a plan prepared for large disasters and shorter power interruptions. Your plan should include how to provide backup power should you lose electric service for a few hours, and an evacuation plan if you sustain a prolonged power outage or receive a mandatory evacuation order.

Plan accordingly if you or a loved one cannot be without power. If possible, a backup battery, generator, or alternate electrical resource is ideal. Or you may want to explore newer solutions and consider manual hand cranks, foot pumps, or other simple tools that might suffice when nothing else works. Be sure your backup devices are fully charged, ready to go, and that your caregivers know how to operate them.

For more information, including a checklist to use while developing your backup plan and a link to the Medicaid Battery Backup Program, visit [www.unitedpower.com/medical-devices](http://www.unitedpower.com/medical-devices).

## Member Choice Grants

### Nominate a Local Nonprofit to Receive Grant Dollars from United Power

United Power launched Member Choice Grants to provide a way for members to put their community knowledge into action — by nominating area nonprofits for grant dollars. The cooperative has distributed nearly \$25,000 to nonprofits within its service territory through Member Choice Grants since its launch in 2020.

Member Choice Grants have been renewed again for 2023. Your nominations will help six worthy organizations receive a total of \$12,000 in grant funds to continue providing services to the communities they reach. To receive a Member Choice Grant, nominated organizations must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit operating within the cooperative's service territory and serving United Power members. Ineligible nonprofits include organizations that promote religious doctrine or support political parties.

United Power began accepting new Member Choice Grant nominations in April. Nominations must be received by Sept. 29 to ensure consideration for the next round of



### Surviving in Place

#### Colorado's Medicaid Battery Backup Program

Recognizing the importance of preparedness for individuals on life-sustaining medical equipment, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing has a program to distribute battery-based, power backup systems to eligible Coloradans. If you are a qualified Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) participant, you may qualify for assistance.

grants. Recipients will be notified at the end of November and posted in the cooperative's December newsletter and on its website. For more information on Member Choice Grants, qualification requirements, and previous winners, see our website. You can nominate a qualifying nonprofit for a grant at [www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice](http://www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice).



**SCAN ME**

## RECIPES



### Chicken Pumpkin Curry

14 oz can full-fat coconut milk, shaken  
2 Tbsp red curry paste  
1 Tbsp fish sauce  
1 Tbsp soy sauce or tamari  
1 Tbsp light brown sugar  
2 14 oz cans pumpkin puree  
1 1/2 lb boneless chicken breast  
1 tsp kosher salt  
1 red bell pepper, sliced  
4 cups loosely packed baby spinach  
1 Tbsp fresh lime juice

In a slow cooker, combine coconut milk, curry paste, fish sauce, soy sauce, and brown sugar. Nestle pumpkin and chicken into pot, submerging completely. Cover and cook until chicken is cooked through, about 4 hours on high or 8 hours on low.

Transfer chicken to cutting board and shred into bite sized pieces.

Season remaining liquid in slow cooker with salt. Return chicken to slow cooker and add bell pepper. Cover and cook until bell peppers begin to soften, about 30 minutes on high.

Stir in spinach and lime juice. Serve over rice. Garnish with lime, cilantro, cashews, etc.

Source: *The Modern Proper*

### Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

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



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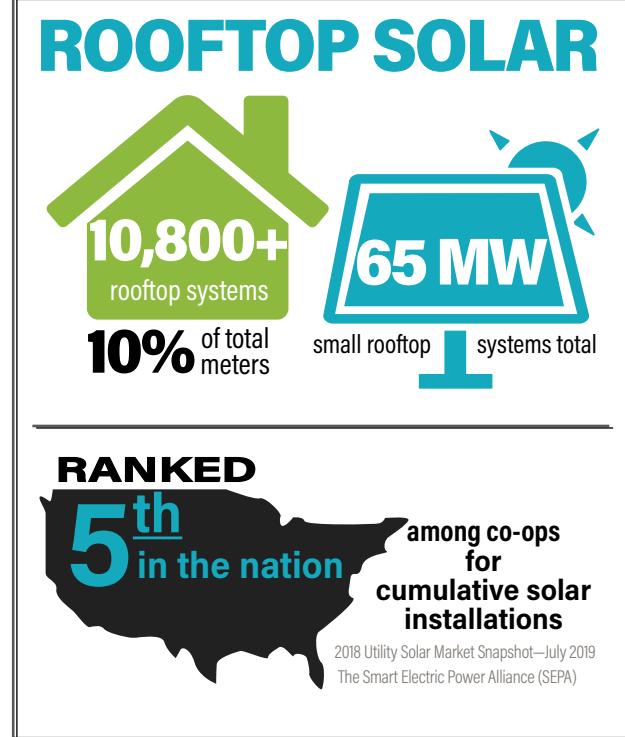
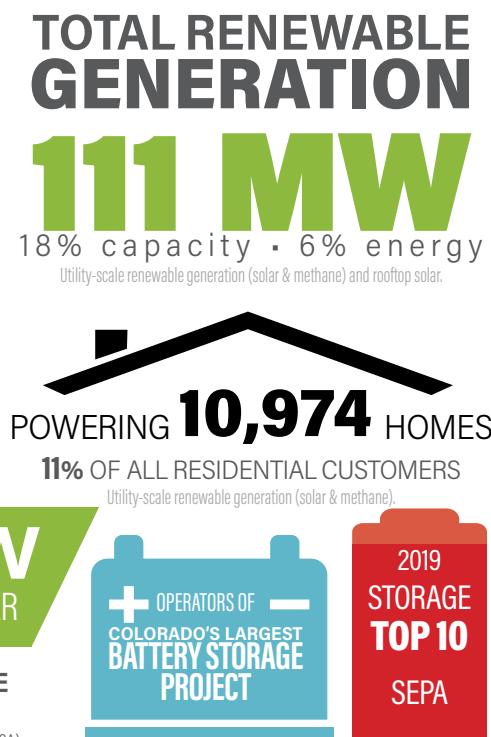
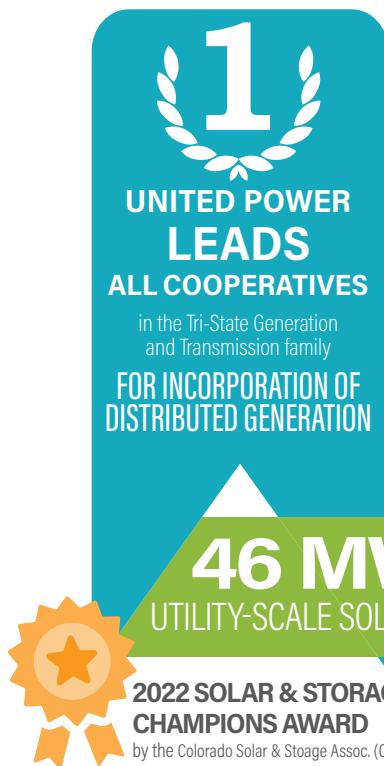
## RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT | 2023

United Power continues to be a leader in renewable energy integration. Since United Power energized Colorado's first community solar farm, the cooperative has continued to look for new and unique ways to integrate renewable sources.

United Power recognizes that the future of electrical generation will be an "all of the above" strategy of investing in a variety of generation sources and responding to the wants and needs of our membership. Projects like our large-scale solar fields and battery storage facility as well as our landfill gas-to-energy project in partnership with Erie

make sense on multiple fronts. These projects reduce carbon emissions, but they also make economic sense. They produce generation that we can purchase for our members at a predictable cost, with a predictable lifespan, and help us build some cost stability for our members.

United Power members lead the nation in rooftop solar adoption, and we are proud to support a robust solar community by providing an easy interconnection process and suite of tools for members with solar.



## MAJOR RENEWABLE MILESTONES

2009	2011	2012	2016	2017	2018	2020	2022	2023
First community solar in Colorado <b>32 members lease 96 panels</b> located on United Power's property	Erie Landfill Methane to Megawatts project <b>3 MW</b> 90% baseload powering <b>2,400 homes</b>	United Power's first utility-scale solar <b>2 MW</b> Hangar160 Solar Field powering <b>333 homes</b>	Silicon Ranch Partnership energized <b>20.5 MW</b> utility-scale solar Ft. Lupton: <b>13 MW</b> Mead: <b>7.5 MW</b>	Third Silicon Ranch Partnership <b>16 MW</b> solar field powering <b>4,500 homes</b>	Record year for rooftop solar <b>1,000 rooftop</b> solar installations <b>6 MW</b> of solar added in one year	United Power & ENGIE North America energize two <b>Tesla Battery</b> Storage Systems totaling <b>4.5 MW / 18 MWh</b>	An additional <b>6 MW</b> of utility-scale solar energized	Surpassed <b>10,000 rooftop</b> solar installations Solar penetration more than double the national average
								Several power supply contracts announced including a <b>78.3 MW / 313.34 MWh</b> battery storage project and <b>30+ MW</b> utility-scale solar



# Practical EV Driving

**National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 22 - Oct. 1**

The Colorado Energy Office announced an ambitious grant program in 2018 to develop several electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging corridors throughout the state, making travel possible even across its large rural and mountainous areas. Many of these corridors have started to come into shape over the past couple years, which is a large part of why the state has consistently been ranked among the best places to own an EV as a daily driver.

Once completed, several of those corridors will traverse along interstate, state, and U.S. highways that intersect United Power's suburban territory north and northeast of Denver. The cooperative proactively launched its own fast-charging network in conjunction with ChargePoint in 2019, and received a grant from the Colorado Energy Office to install its second location in Keenesburg in 2021. A third was also added at the Carbon Valley office last year. The network was designed to bridge gaps in available charging options and make rural EV ownership more practical and feasible.

Members who are still unsure about EVs may be interested in learning more about new programs United Power has introduced in the past year, including United EV, a pilot



program that provides cost-effective at-home charging solutions, and make-ready wiring rebates, providing up to \$1,000 toward the cost of preparing your home for an EV charger.

United EV enrollment provides a complete service package including installation and setup of a wall-mounted ChargePoint Home Flex level 2 charger and maintenance and repairs for the duration of the enrollment period. All this is available for a \$19 monthly service fee.

For more information about United EV, available wiring rebates, and charging network locations, visit the cooperative's website at [www.unitedpower.com/ev](http://www.unitedpower.com/ev) or reach out to the Energy Management team at 303-637-1233.



## 2023 Rebate Purchase Deadline Approaching

United Power rebates are subject to change at the end of each year. The deadline to purchase a product and qualify for this year's rebates is quickly approaching. Do not miss out on appliance, home efficiency, or outdoor power rebates.

### Qualification Deadline:

Dec. 31, 2023

### Application Deadline:

Feb. 1, 2024

For more information about available United Power rebates and programs, visit [www.unitedpower.com/rebates](http://www.unitedpower.com/rebates).

### NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO AMEND THE BYLAWS OF UNITED POWER, INC.

DATE OF NOTICE: September 6, 2023

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF UNITED POWER, INC., 500 COOPERATIVE WAY, BRIGHTON, COLORADO 80603.

The Board of Directors Proposes to amend the Bylaws of United Power, Inc. as follows:

- Housekeeping changes to keep titles, terms, and wording consistent throughout the document, clarifies the intent of vague bylaw language, and removes obsolete language.
- Changes to the bylaws where they are inconsistent with current Colorado State Statutes.
- Removes the descriptions of director district boundaries and replaces it with guidelines and procedures for potential redistricting as outlined.
- Updates and clarifications to the Director election process.

A complete redline of the proposed changes is available on the cooperative's website at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com), or members may obtain a hardcopy at any United Power office, or via mail by calling 303-637-1300 and requesting that a copy be mailed to them at the address on file with the cooperative.

Pursuant to Article 11.08 of the Bylaws of United Power Inc., you are hereby notified that the Board of Directors of United Power, Inc. proposes to adopt the following amendment(s) to United Power's bylaws at a meeting of the Board to be held on October 25, 2023, unless a written petition is filed at United Power's headquarters before the date of said meeting, signed by the lesser of five (5%) percent or 50 or more Members, protesting the proposed amendments.

# Inside This Issue

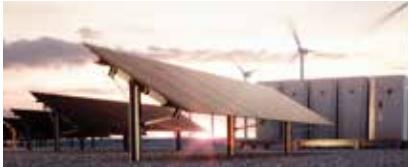
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## Member Choice Grants

United Power is accepting Member Choice Grant nominations until Sept. 29.

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## 2023 Renewable Report

Investing in renewable energy to provide our members clean, sustainable energy.

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## Practical EV Driving

Member programs and resources make EV driving more practical and feasible.

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## 2023 Rebate Deadline

Purchase new products by Dec. 31 to qualify for 2023 rebates.

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## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

- email** .....UnitedNewsline@UnitedPower.com  
**online** .....www.unitedpower.com  
**f** .....facebook.com/UnitedPower  
**t** .....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

- Member Services** .....303-637-1300  
**Outage Line** .....303-637-1350

## CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Amanda Borne, Erie  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Cheryl Wright, Firestone  
Julietta Perez, Commerce City

See your name? Call 303-637-1325 within two (2) months of the issue date to claim your Reader Rewards.

Zachary Kinder	Zachary Kinder
Laurel Eller	Laurel Eller
Heidi Storz	Heidi Storz
Brian McComick	Brian McComick
Urusla J. Morgan	Urusla J. Morgan
Troy Whitemore	Troy Whitemore
Steve Douglas	Steve Douglas
Tim Erickson	Tim Erickson
SVP & Chief Financial Officer	SVP & Chief Financial Officer
Dean Hubbard	Dean Hubbard
Allie Beaubam	Allie Beaubam
SVP & Chief Information Officer	SVP & Chief Information Officer
Trista L. Fugate	Trista L. Fugate
Stephan Whisened	Stephan Whisened
Ginny Buzek	Ginny Buzek
Ass't. Secy/Treasurer	Ass't. Secy/Treasurer
Steve Case	Steve Case
SVP & Chief Marketing Officer	SVP & Chief Marketing Officer
Roblin Z. Meidhol	Roblin Z. Meidhol
SVP & Chief Legal Counsel	SVP & Chief Legal Counsel
Laurie Burkhardt	Laurie Burkhardt
James Vigesaa	James Vigesaa
EVP & Chief Financial Officer	EVP & Chief Financial Officer
Tamera Wallerath	Tamera Wallerath
Keeth Aldquist	Keeth Aldquist
Secretary	Secretary
Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin	Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin
President & Chief Executive Officer	President & Chief Executive Officer
Mark A. Gable	Mark A. Gable
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