

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

- New Year Electrical Safety.....4
- Employee Food Drive.....5
- New Year Energy Efficiency6
- Youth Trip Opportunities.....6
- 2024 Rebate Menu.....7



2023: Year in Review

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 12, 2024	Youth Leadership Trips Applications Due
Jan. 18, 2024	Director Candidate Applications & Petitions Due 12 p.m.
Feb. 19, 2024	President's Day Offices Closed
April 17, 2024	Annual Meeting & Director Election

United Power was focused on securing new power contracts this past year with the flexibility to meet its growing demand in advance of the upcoming exit from its current wholesale power provider – effective May 1, 2024. The cooperative’s leadership recognized the opportunity to stabilize rising wholesale power costs and ease its financial burden when it announced the exit in 2022 and began requesting power supply proposals from regional and national generators. In keeping with its established reputation as a forward-thinking, innovative electric utility, the co-op is partnering with nationally recognized industry leaders to reduce its carbon intensity through a carefully curated mix of generation resources, including natural gas and renewable options,

and developing groundbreaking demand response systems that will cut costs when energy is most expensive.

United Power had a stellar year in addition to the new power contracts, which included eclipsing a new milestone in residential rooftop solar installations. The cooperative also launched a website refresh with enhanced focus on member engagement and data-driven navigation updates, renewed the popular Member Choice Grant program, engaged with local communities in new ways, and debuted an all-new battery pilot program for members.

New Power Supply Contracts & Groundbreaking Innovation

United Power has the largest load among Colorado’s electric distribution cooperatives, which means it will require a diverse group of suppliers to meet its energy needs as it continues to grow.

The cooperative announced a power supply contract with Denver-based Guzman Energy in July – featuring fixed wholesale pricing and securing approximately one-third of its supply needs beginning in May 2024 – and a strategic relationship with Xcel Energy in September to explore opportunities for maximizing the value

of their combined portfolios. Smaller contracts with OneEnergy and Whetstone Power will add approximately 40 megawatts (MW) of renewable resources to the co-op’s energy mix.

Also announced this past year were two groundbreaking battery storage agreements with Ameresco and Whetstone Power. The cooperative will strategically install more than 100 MW of battery storage at substations located throughout its service territory to increase system resiliency and reliability, balance load, reduce costs, and more efficiently incorporate local renewables.

“The use of batteries on our distribution network is essential to a resilient and responsive power system and we are excited to move ahead with one of the most aggressive plans for such a system,” said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power’s President and CEO.

Read more about United Power’s power supply at www.unitedpower.com/power-supply.

Rooftop Solar Milestone

More United Power members are opting to generate power locally than ever before. Rooftop solar has quickly become the preferred solution for members who are looking to offset their energy usage with renewable options.



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.

Along with the honor of operating an electric cooperative on behalf of you, our members, comes the accountability of being prepared for the changing future in energy. Two recent, recurrent themes have emerged that emphasize the need for United Power to work diligently to make *Our Cooperative Roadmap* a reality.

The first is the need to continue investing in the grid, and the second is an ongoing concern that the need for capacity – the backbone of reliable power – is getting perilously close to a crisis. Both issues tend to focus on the problem. United Power is actively seeking solutions.

There has been a lot of talk recently about investing significant financial resources in the grid. The Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law include funding to target large-scale projects over the next decade. These investments are needed and welcomed, but the completion estimates are measured in years or even decades. Meeting the needs of a growing enterprise like United Power is at least four to five years away, even with aggressive siting and execution.

People tend to think of the grid as the large power lines that deliver electricity from power plants miles away. Much of the energy transition challenge is that a lot of low or non-carbon generation is located far from population centers. Coupled with permitting challenges, supply chain constraints, and a confusing financing model, large-scale projects just take time.

But the grid also includes distribution systems, operated by utilities like United Power. It is the main conduit to our members and requires as much – or more – investment as its larger cousins. Your Board of Directors has continuously supported budgets to upgrade and expand critical infrastructure, and these investments have paid off. United Power has one of the best distribution networks in the country, evidenced by high reliability numbers, rapid outage response, and data-driven system management.

A robust distribution grid is also critical to the second issue – the potential for seasonal power shortages.

The North American Reliability Corporation (NERC), responsible for assessing and enforcing reliability standards, recently found the country is at an elevated risk of having insufficient energy supplies to meet demand in extreme conditions. The reasons for this potential shortfall range from coal and nuclear plant closures and an expanded reliance on natural gas to the increased electrification of everything.

“Extreme cold weather events can cause electricity demand to deviate significantly from historical forecasts. Electricity demand in winter is closely tied to outside temperature. As electric heat pumps and heating systems become more prevalent, their combined effect on system demand is even more pronounced,” NERC stated.

The industry has tried to slow the energy transition and continue operating money-losing coal plants instead of proposing solutions. And, importantly, there are solutions. This is where United Power's strategy of hyper-localizing generation and storage comes into play.

As we prepare for our upcoming power supply transition, United Power is adding significant amounts of battery storage, spread across our system. We are locating natural gas peaking units tied in to the distribution – versus transmission – networks and contracting with power supplies closer to the communities we serve. This reduces line losses, improves reliability, and keeps tax dollars local. We will couple this with efficiency programs, support any members who want to generate part of their own power through solar, and expand demand response options now that we will have a realistic peak window.

Of course, we will continue to get power from generation plants and support efforts to build out the transmission grid as it will continue to have a role in a modern electric enterprise. But, we will focus on what we can do locally.

As always, please feel free to reach out with your questions, comments, or concerns. United Power welcomes the opportunity to meet with your community groups and discuss the cooperative's response to the changing industry.

The cooperative has a residential solar penetration of nearly 11%, which ranks among the highest representations for electric utilities of all sizes and more than double the national average. Last year, United Power became one of the first cooperatives to surpass 10,000 residential solar installations. Members have added nearly 6,500 rooftop solar systems to their homes since early 2020, more than doubling the total number of systems interconnected to the United Power grid. The combined generation potential of these systems is nearly 70 MW.

United Power is proud to support a robust solar community, and is committed to providing a member-friendly connection process, which has been recognized by the Colorado Solar and Storage Association.

United Power also debuted an all-new member program for those interested in pairing their solar system with battery storage. Members interested in learning more about the cooperative's solar interconnection process and the new battery pilot program can find more details under the My Energy tab at www.unitedpower.com.

Online Experience Improvements

United Power members may have noticed a new look and feel to the website and online account portal. The cooperative launched a refreshed website design in June, focused on helping members quickly navigate to their desired location in fewer clicks and finding information faster.

United Power also rolled out an update for its online account portal, SmartHub, to improve functionality and enhance user experience. Members may sign up for a free account at www.unitedpower.com/smarthub.

Giving Back to the Community

Concern for communities is a cooperative principle United Power values and takes seriously. That is why the cooperative renewed its Member Choice Grant program for a third year and distributed \$12,000 to nonprofits nominated by its members. For updates about grants and 2024 nominations, visit www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice.

Additionally, the cooperative identified new ways to interact with its members and support local athletics and education through a Friday Night Lights check presentation in Brighton and honoring a lineman in Carbon Valley during the fall football season.

United Power is looking forward to celebrating its 85th anniversary and the change in power suppliers this year. Join us as we recognize how the cooperative has championed community growth, helped spur economic development, supported community engagement, and will continue being more than just your local electric utility now and into the future. Just as we have since 1938, United Power will continue to be "Here for Good" in the communities we serve.

Annual Director Election

Four Board Seats Up for Election

Four positions on United Power's eleven-member Board are up for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting which takes place on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. The meeting will be hosted at Riverdale Regional Park and broadcast live for members who are unable to attend in person. One seat in the North, Central, South, and Mountain districts will be up for three-year terms.

Eligible members interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors must submit a director candidate application and petition. Director eligibility information is available in the United Power bylaws at www.unitedpower.com/bylaws.

Director candidate applications and written petitions must state the nominee's name

and district, be signed by 15 or more United Power members, and be filed with the cooperative no less than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Members who are unclear of their membership or account status may call Member Services at 303-637-1300 for verification.

The deadline for director candidate applications and petitions is noon on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024. Members may request a director candidate application and petition by emailing United Power at elections@unitedpower.com. Additional information can be obtained by visiting our website at www.unitedpower.com.

2024

ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17, 2024

Members may view the 2024 Annual Meeting online or attend in person.

MEETING LIVESTREAM

www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting

IN-PERSON MEETING

Riverdale Regional Park & Fairgrounds
9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601

4:30 p.m. In-person Registration, Balloting, & Dinner

6:30 p.m. Online & In-person Meeting Begins

BALLOTING DEADLINES

Balloting in the 2024 Director Election will be conducted by both electronic and paper balloting.

Ballot boxes will not be available in co-op offices this year. Please vote via mail, electronically, or in person the day of the Annual Meeting.

JAN. 18, 2024

Director candidate applications and petition deadline at 12 p.m.

MARCH 15, 2024

Electronic balloting opens and paper ballots are mailed to members.

APRIL 16, 2024

Mail-in ballots must arrive by 11:59 a.m.
Electronic balloting closes at 11:59 a.m.

APRIL 17, 2024

Noon - 4 p.m.
Ballot dropbox available at Riverdale Regional Park
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Registration and in-person voting open

CANDIDATE EVENT

Every March, the cooperative provides the opportunity for members to meet candidates vying to serve on the Board of Directors, hear their vision for the cooperative, and ask questions.

The event is free to members and RSVPs are not required. Light refreshments will be served.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 | 6 p.m.

United Power Brighton Headquarters
500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

Electrical Safety for the New Year

Practice Electrical Safety to Protect Your Home and Family

Electrical hazards are one of the leading causes of household fires and other incidents. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires occur every year and 400 people are electrocuted nationally. Many of these incidents are easily preventable by understanding and adhering to basic electrical safety principles and prioritizing them in your home. The new year is a perfect time to begin practicing electrical safety.

Below is a simple checklist to conduct an inspection of your home this new year. How many of these have you completed recently or consistently?

Upgrade Lighting to LEDs

Not only do LEDs use a fraction of the energy and have a far longer life than traditional lighting, they also produce less heat and reduce the risk of starting an electrical fire. So, they will save you on your energy bill over time and also make your home more safe.

Reset GFCI Outlets Monthly

Set a calendar notification on your phone to remind you to reset your GFCI outlets at the beginning of each month. Simply press



the test/reset button and make sure the outlets trip and reset correctly. If they are malfunctioning, contact a certified electrician to have them replaced.

Install Additional Outlets

It is easier than you might think to overload an outlet, and it is not safe to depend on extension cords for long periods of time. If you need additional outlets for your appliances, contact an electrician about having some installed before reaching for extension cords or adapters.

Replace/Upgrade Old Wiring

A number of homes in the United Power service territory were built many years ago. Consider having your home inspected to see if new wiring is recommended. Signs that your wiring may be faulty include flickering lights, sudden loss of power, or burning/sparks around your outlets. Wiring can break down over time due to construction damage, rodents, or even just old age.

Steps Toward Electrical Safety

Here are some further steps you can take to make sure your home is safe day-to-day.

- Discard damaged or frayed electrical cords.
- Keep walkways clear of extension cords or other electrical power cables.
- Limit your outlets to a single high-wattage appliance at a time.
- Make sure the bulbs in your lamps are consistent with the wattage recommendations.
- Only use appliances on level surfaces.

For more information about home electrical safety, visit www.unitedpower.com/safety.

READER REWARDS

ISSUE 1
2024



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:

How much did employees raise for local food banks?

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.

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



The cable situation in Bangkok, Thailand is less than ideal. Wittamon Lertcharoenamnuay of Fort Lupton directs your attention to the complicated network of wires that deliver power and other services.

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.



Co-op Feeding Families

Co-op Employees Raised More Than \$5,000 During November Food Drive

United Power employees put the cooperative principle of concern for communities into action last fall with a food drive benefitting the Food Bank of the Rockies and the Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank. The food drive and an accompanying bake sale — organized entirely by the co-op's employees — raised approximately \$5,000, which was split evenly between the two organizations. More than 200 pounds of shelf-stable food was also donated and distributed to the food bank in Fort Lupton.

Employees collected canned foods and monetary donations at each of the cooperative's office locations during the month of November. The bake sale coincided with United Power's annual employee chili cook-off. Several dozen baked items were available for employees to purchase, and all proceeds were contributed to the food drive. The Food Bank of the Rockies says it can provide three nutritious meals for every \$1 that is donated.

"No one should be struggling to figure out where their next meal is going to come from, especially during the holiday season," said Julie Stewart, United Power's Community Outreach Specialist. "Our employees really wanted to give back to families in need and create a positive change in the lives of our members and the communities we serve."

Each fall, United Power employees select a worthy cause and raise funds to show their support. Past causes include the Platte Valley Medical Center Foundation, in pursuit of breast cancer research and treatment, and Allegiance Ranch, which provides therapeutic services to veterans, active-duty military, and first responders.



RECIPES



Ultra-Gooey Mac & Cheese

- 1 lb elbow macaroni
- 12 oz can evaporated milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp Frank's RedHot® (or other hot sauce)
- 1 tsp ground mustard
- 1 lb extra-sharp cheddar, grated
- 8 oz American cheese, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 8 Tbsp unsalted butter, cut into four chunks
- Kosher salt

Boil macaroni in salted water over high heat, stirring occasionally to keep the pasta from sticking. Cover pan, remove from heat, and let stand until pasta is barely al dente, about eight minutes.

Whisk evaporated milk, eggs, hot sauce, and mustard in a bowl until homogeneous. Toss cheese with cornstarch in a separate bowl until thoroughly combined.

When pasta is cooked, drain and return to saucepan. Place over low heat, add butter, and stir until melted. Add milk mixture and cheese mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, until cheese is completely melted and mixture is hot and creamy. Season to taste with salt and more hot sauce. Serve immediately.

Source: *Serious Eats*

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com

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

2024 Youth Trips



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Washington, D.C. | June 17-23

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.

Application Deadline:
Jan. 12, 2024

Youth Leadership Camp

Steamboat Springs | July 13-18

Campers spend a week near Steamboat Springs establishing and managing their own cooperative. Days are filled with cooperative-focused activities, leadership training seminars, and collaborative group projects. Campers also enjoy fun activities like rafting down the Colorado River and exploring Fish Creek Falls.

Application Deadline:
Jan. 12, 2024

Applications and more information about United Power's youth trips can be found at www.unitedpower.com/youth-trips or call Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist, at 303-637-1334.

Energy Efficiency for a New Year

United Power is committed to providing members with tools and resources to take control of their energy use. This new year it is easier to become more energy efficient.

Rates that Work for You

Changes in work life over the past few years have made many members more aware of the ways they use energy. Now is a good time to review your rate options and choose one that works for you and your family. United Power's residential rates are designed to fit a variety of lifestyles and enable members to select a rate that fits their usage patterns.

For more information about United Power's rates, go to www.unitedpower.com/rates, or to have a member services representative review your history and recommend a rate option, call 303-637-1300.

Free Member Resources

United Power's website and online account portal are rich resources to help members understand and manage their energy usage. Through the online account portal, available on the web or via the United Power mobile app, members can see detailed energy data and historical comparisons. Members can discover more at www.unitedpower.com/myaccount.

The cooperative also has an online calculator to help members understand what drives their demand. More tools and resources are available for members online at www.unitedpower.com/my-energy.

'Smart' Way to Save on Heating & Cooling

Heating and cooling accounts for approximately half your annual energy usage on average, making it the most expensive part of your energy costs. The most efficient way to manage your heating and cooling is installing a smart thermostat, which gives you control even when you are not home. A simple adjustment to your thermostat could save you as much as 10% annually, according to the Department of Energy, which recommends adjusting your temperature a couple degrees when you are home and a couple more when you are away. Many smart thermostats can learn your schedule and make these adjustments automatically.

Learn about United Power's Smart Rewards program and smart thermostat rebates at www.unitedpower.com/smart-rewards.

Talk to an Energy Management Specialist

A United Power energy management specialist is available to walk through your energy concerns, analyze your usage, and provide you with practical information you can use to control your energy usage. They can walk you through available rates, programs, and rebates to ensure you are maximizing your energy usage.

Schedule an assessment with a specialist at www.unitedpower.com/energy-advisor.

Reminder: Rate Increase Takes Effect This Month

New rates announced last year will go into effect for energy usage beginning Jan. 1, 2024. The increase will be spread across all of United Power's rate classes by an average of 9.5%. The cooperative's rate model forecasts that most households will see a \$10-15 increase per month in their electric bill.

United Power's rates provide members the ability to keep costs lower by controlling energy usage and demand. Reducing demand is as simple as not using electric

appliances at the same time. For more information on demand and steps you can take to control it, visit www.unitedpower.com/demand.

If you need help managing your electric costs, please feel free to contact us for assistance. Members may reach United Power by phone at 303-637-1300, via email at memberservices@unitedpower.com, or by chat at www.unitedpower.com during normal business hours.

ENERGY SMART REBATES | 2024



unitedpower.com/rebates

United Power members receiving permanent electric service qualify for incentives for the purchase of select electrification equipment and associated electrical upgrades. The following rebates are available in 2024. All rebate applications must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. For complete program details, qualifications, and rebate applications, please visit United Power's website at www.unitedpower.com/rebates.

	Smart Thermostats		Rebate Amount
	Smart Thermostat Rebate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honeywell - Home & Total Connect Enrolled in Smart Rewards 	\$50
	Smart Rewards Program Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honeywell - Home & Total Connect Google Nest Learning Thermostat 	\$25/year
	Electric Outdoor Equipment		Equipment Cost
	Electric Lawn Mowers (walk-behind)		Less than \$450
	Electric Snow Blowers		\$450 and up
	EV Make-Ready Wiring		Installation Cost
	Invoiced cost of a licensed electrician to install wiring for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEMA 14-50 outlet for a Level 2 electric vehicle charger 		Less than \$1,200
	<i>*Larger rebate incentive for United EV program participants.</i>		\$1,200 and up
	Electrification Wiring		Installation Cost
	Invoiced cost of a licensed electrician to install wiring for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat Pump Installations Water Heater Installations 		Less than \$1,200
			\$1,200 and up
	Electric Water Heaters		Rebate Amount
	Electric Water Heater		\$50 - \$100
	Heat Pump Water Heater		\$150 - \$300
	Ground Source Heat Pump Desuperheater		\$200
	Heat Pumps		Rebate Amount
	Mini-split Heat Pump		\$500 - \$2,000
	Ducted Air Source Heat Pump		\$1,500 - \$2,500
	Ground Source Heat Pump		\$750 - \$2,500

Rebate amounts effective Jan. 1, 2024.

Inside This Issue

ISSUE 1
2024



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



New Year Electrical Safety

This year, make sure you and your family are practicing electrical safety.

Page 4



Employee Food Drive

United Power employees raised \$5,000 for local food banks.

Page 5



Youth Leadership Trips

Students in local high schools can hone their leadership skills on summer trips.

Page 6



2024 Energy Smart Rebates

View our list of available member rebates for the coming year.

Page 7

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

1st Place: Diadre Bernot, Firestone

2nd Place: Mark Koenig, Broomfield
Jeremy Britton, Brighton

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

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James Vigesaa
Vice-Chair
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Secretary
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Stephen Whiteside
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Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

UNITED NEWSLINE

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

