ISSUE 1

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

N THIS ISS	SUE
------------	-----

Why We Plan Outages	.3
New Year Electrical Safety	. 4
Lineworker Scholarships Awarded	.5
Youth Trips Opportunities	. 6
Energy Efficiency for New Year	.7



IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 24 Youth Leadership Trips
Application Deadline

Jan. 16 Director Nominations Due
Director candidate applications

Director candidate applications and petitions due at 12 noon

Feb. 17 Presidents Day
Offices Closed

April 16 Annual Meeting & Director Election

85th Anniversary and Wholesale Power Contract Exit Highlight Co-op's Year

United Power celebrated its 85th year of serving members along Colorado's northern Front Range and the cooperative's successful transition to an independent electric utility in 2024. The two historic milestones represented significant achievements for the cooperative, which has grown from its roots as a small rural utility serving a few hundred members on large farmlands to one of the fastest growing cooperatives in the country.

Rapid residential growth and economic development throughout United Power's service territory, along with rising wholesale power costs and limitations under its former power contract, required the cooperative to



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350 Member Services 303-637-1300 pursue more flexible and affordable power agreements to facilitate an anticipated surge in demand over the coming decade and beyond. Independence provides the freedom and flexibility necessary to meet these needs effectively and in the most financially beneficial way for the cooperative's members.

Leadership is constantly surveying the horizon and proactively preparing for future shifts in the industry to assure its members that United Power is and will always be Here for Good.

What is Here for Good?

United Power has deployed groundbreaking innovation to manage peak power costs while curating an industry-leading power portfolio designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand generation resources close to home. The cooperative's efforts prepare it for growing demand on its grid. Being Here for Good means taking coordinated steps to build a resilient system that provides safe and reliable power. It also means United Power will continue to be your electric provider now and into the future.

Delivering uninterrupted power is the core of an electric utility. But being Here for Good means more to a cooperative. It also means supporting

and empowering the communities it serves. United Power advocates for the educational goals of its local students, partners with local nonprofits, and even extends its support beyond the service territory to assist disadvantaged communities. It is just some of the many ways the cooperative remains Here for Good.

Innovating Power Supply on the Distribution System

United Power has long been an industry leader for innovative generation on its distribution system. New power supply agreements and strategic partnerships announced ahead of the co-op's wholesale power contract exit last year gave members confidence it would continue delivering excellence in reliability and resiliency. Thanks to long-term planning and forecasting, the co-op secured a diverse generation mix of traditional energy assets, greenhouse gas reducing generation, and innovative projects to meet its members' needs as the co-op grows.

The cooperative's efforts to seek cleaner and more flexible power options were recognized in September when it was selected as a finalist to receive funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Empowering Rural America (New



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.

Alice: "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

Cheshire Cat: "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to."

This quote from Alice and the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* is often paraphrased, "If you don't know where you are going, then any road will get you there." It speaks to the fact that a lack of direction can create challenges instead of opportunities and simply reinforces the status quo.

Having strategic direction, especially in times of significant societal and technological change, is critical. That is why the amazing team at United Power, supported by your Board of Directors, has unveiled the second version of Our Cooperative Roadmap (Roadmap). This document gives the co-op its direction and helps us screen activities in — as well as out.

The Roadmap v1.0 led us to where we are today. We have reduced our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by more than 26% since May 1 and successfully raised \$700 million to evolve as an independent utility and meet the needs of our communities and more than 113,000 members. The Roadmap helped us obtain \$261 million through the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program to support the transition to a cleaner energy supply and hyper-localize our resources. It clarified our technology investments, how we interact with members, and our role in supporting our communities.

Much has changed nearly three years after we unveiled the initial Roadmap. The western United States is edging closer to a power market and new power sources have come online. More members are adding solar panels and purchasing electric vehicles. But much has also remained the same, such as Colorado's goal of 80% reduction in GHG emissions over 2005 levels by 2030 — a goal we will meet or exceed by helping members such as those in the oil and gas industry achieve their targets simply by electrifying the production facilities.

The Roadmap v2.0 maintains its focus on four critical areas that lie at the heart of what we do as a member-owned electric cooperative:

- Empower and Engage with Members and Communities. This critical element ties directly to United Power's Community Benefit Plan through New ERA. Our dedicated focus on supporting communities and members made creating the benefit plan a simple task for our team.
- Provide Flexible, Affordable, Responsible Power and Services. United Power's hyperlocalization strategy has resulted in significant deployment of battery energy storage systems, with more than 110 MWs spread across nine substations. It already proved valuable during last summer's peak. This industry-leading deployment means we can benefit from times when power prices are low, using the stored energy when demand (and prices) are high.
- Continuously Optimize the Electric Distribution System. As we move toward becoming a distribution system operator (DSO), focusing on local generation and control, our system investments are made with your future needs in mind. We installed a new outage management system in 2024 that, coupled with our advanced metering infrastructure, gives us better real-time operational data.
- Achieve and Maintain Business Agility and Resilience. We will be replacing our distributed energy resource management system (DERMS) in 2025 to better manage system operations, and are rolling out a new asset management tool to improve our response times and better manage material and projects.

Underpinning Our Cooperative Roadmap are the amazing women and men of United Power and the foundational responsibilities they bring to running your cooperative every day.

Lewis Carroll's words resonate for me when he said, "One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others." It sure sounds so to me.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with your questions, comments, and concerns.

Why We Plan Outages

Members may occasionally receive a recorded message from United Power informing them of a "preplanned" outage in their area. You may be curious what a planned outage is and why the cooperative needs to perform them. Sometimes repairs must be made to crucial parts of the electric grid to maintain system reliability. Some repairs can be made without interrupting power, but others would not be possible or might be too dangerous for lineworkers while power is flowing.

While the interruption of power may sound like an inconvenience, the short outage ensures greater long-term reliability. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance. The cooperative's engineering and operations teams are constantly reviewing the system and identifying areas in need of improvement or where upgrades can minimize outages while increasing both reliability and security.

United Power also sends members prerecorded phone messages informing them of work happening in their area, like maintenance inspections. It is important to differentiate these calls from preplanned outage notices. A notice of work in your area does not always mean you will experience an interruption in power. If you will be affected by an outage related to work, our crews will make efforts to notify you in advance.

Your contact information on file with the cooperative must be up to date to receive notices about work in your area



or preplanned outages. As new solutions becomes available, you may also have more options for how to receive important updates from United Power. However, any notice the co-op sends will be tied to the contact information on your account. If the information, such as phone numbers and email addresses, is not current or is incorrect, you could be missing these important notices.

You can update your account information using United Power's free online account portal, SmartHub, available to members at www.unitedpower.com/smarthub, or by calling a member services representative at 303-637-1300.

2025 **ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION**

WEDNESDAY **APRIL 16**

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held as a hybrid event. Members may view the 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, &

Online & In-person Meeting Begins

BALLOTING DEADLINES

Balloting in the 2025 Director Election will be conducted by both electronic and paper balloting.

Director candidate applications and petitions due by 12 noon.

MARCH 14

Electronic balloting opens and paper ballots are mailed to members.

APRIL 15

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

Registration and in-person voting open at the Annual Meeting from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

CANDIDATE EVENT

Every March, the cooperative provides the opportunity for members to meet candidates vying to serve on the Board of Directors.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 | 6 p.m.

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

Livestreamed at www.unitedpower.com

Annual Director Election

Three Board Seats Up for Election

Three positions on United Power's elevenmember Board are up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16. The meeting will be hosted at the Riverdale Regional Park and broadcast live for members who are unable to attend in person. One seat in the North, Central, and South districts will be up for four-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 the member services team at 303-637-1300 for verification.

The deadline for director candidate applications and petitions is noon on Thursday, Jan. 16. Any member interested in running for the Board is asked to complete a director candidate application

and petition, available upon request via

email at elections@unitedpower.com.

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 U.S. 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 have you completed recently?

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 Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) Outlets

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

ISSUE 1

2025

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 to have them 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
- 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

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 youth leadership applications due?

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



United Power Pride Photos



United Power Awards Four Lineworker Scholarships

Recipients Received \$7,500 for Enrollment Costs at a Dedicated Power Line Program

Keeping the lights on is difficult and requires a detailed understanding of how electrical systems work. Without proper training and instruction, however, it can also be incredibly dangerous. Power line programs prepare individuals with the skills and safety awareness necessary for their future careers as lineworkers. As beneficial electrification accelerates across the country, it is also a field that is in high demand. Lineworkers often have access to excellent opportunities including job security, high pay, and exceptional benefits.

United Power awarded four lineworker scholarships to Colorado residents pursuing a career in the profession as part of its Community Benefit Plan through the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program.



Parker Horton, Divide, CO **Trinidad State Rocky Mountain Lineman School**

Horton became interested in a professional career as a lineworker after a conversation with a close family friend, mentor, and retired lineworker. Horton found the career pathway compelling because of its vital role in providing access to electricity, and is eager to contribute to an essential service.



Zackery Johnson, Thornton, CO **Trinidad State Rocky Mountain Lineman School**

Johnson is pursuing a career as a lineworker because he wants to provide power for the community and provide help after natural disasters. Johnson said enrolling in a power line program interested him because he would like to learn more about the electrical system that powers the country.



Katie Killinen, Bayfield, CO Colorado Mesa University Tech, Electrical Lineworker Program

Killinen was an intern for La Plata Electric Association over the summer in 2024. She is pursuing line work as a career because it is challenging and rewarding and also enables her to work outside and problem solve with other people. She finds the concepts and theories in electrical work interesting.



Griffin Steele, Fort Collins, CO **Trinidad State Rocky Mountain Lineman School**

Steele has been working with Fort Collins Water for a year, but has been looking for an opportunity to pursue line work. His favorite part of working in utilities is the sense of purpose it provides. Line work would add a challenge to that sense of purpose and provide a stable long-term career.

RECIPES



Ultra-Gooey Mac & Cheese

1 lb elbow macaroni 12 oz can evaporated milk 2 large eggs 1 tsp Frank's RedHot® 1 tsp ground mustard 1 lb extra-sharp cheddar cheese, grated 8 oz American cheese, cut into 1/2" cubes 1 Tbsp cornstarch

8 Tbsp unsalted butter

Boil pasta over high heat until al dente, about 8 minutes. Meanwhile, whisk together evaporated milk, eggs, hot sauce, and ground mustard in a bowl until combined. Toss the cheeses with cornstarch in separate bowl.

When pasta is cooked, drain and return to saucepan over low heat. Add butter, and stir until melted. Add milk and cheese mixtures, stirring constantly until cheese is 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

2025 Youth Trips



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Washington, D.C. | June 16-22

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. 24

Youth Leadership Camp

Steamboat Springs | July 12-17

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. 24

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.

continued from Page 1

How United Power was Here for Good in 2024

ERA) Program. United Power is eligible to receive up to \$261 million to offset 25% of the cost of seven power purchase agreements for renewable energy resources that will provide 760 MW to members by 2030.

Throughout the year, United Power also received grants to assist in the completion of two local microgrid projects. The Department of Energy awarded the cooperative up to \$6.1 million toward a floating solar system connected to a battery storage system in Fort Lupton to power the city's water treatment plant, replacing an aged diesel generator with clean and renewable energy. Another project to install a series of mini microgrid systems at rural fire protection facilities in Coal Creek, Dacono, Frederick, and Lochbuie received \$700,000 from Colorado's Department of Local Affairs.

Construction on one of United Power's newest innovative energy project was completed in July. The multi-location battery energy storage system (BESS) was announced in 2023 in partnership with Ameresco. The peak-mitigating asset charges when energy costs are low and discharges when costs are high, which not only reduces the cooperative's energy demand but also helps manage wholesale energy costs. It is the largest BESS asset in Ameresco's portfolio. A similar project in partnership with Whetstone Power was completed in December. Together, the batteries provide more than 110 MW of energy storage across nine locations throughout the cooperative's service territory.

Another resource that will be available soon is the Mountain Peak Power Plant in Keenesburg, which broke ground in September. The peaking unit is being built in partnership with Kindle Energy to add 162 MW of natural gas capacity to the system. The plant is located directly adjacent to a natural gas line, making the construction more economical. It also ensures greater flexibility when power costs are high and resource adequacy when renewable energy generation is low or in extreme weather conditions.

United Power also has additional projects under construction and expected to come online soon, including a 150 MW solar farm power purchase agreement with NextEra. Watch the co-op's website for more updates about innovative projects and partnerships.

Participating in Local Communities

United Power is frequently visible around the community, most often due to the cooperative's ongoing support for local fairs and festivals. However, being Here for Good extends to other ways it supports the local community and its members.

The cooperative has annually awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to local students pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities, but keeping the lights on is difficult work that requires highly skilled and trained professional lineworkers. Our crews receive years of on-the-job training following graduation from a line school program. That is why the cooperative introduced a new scholarship program to advance the profession. Four \$7,500 scholarships were awarded in December. (Learn more about the lineworker scholarship recipients on page 5.)

Member Choice Grants allow members to nominate local nonprofits to receive funds that enable them to continue serving their communities and achieving their mission. The program was renewed for a fifth year, and six \$2,000 grants were awarded based on nominations submitted in 2024.

Employees also gave back to local nonprofits in recognition of National Co-op Month in October. More than 80 employees volunteered for eight service projects located at nonprofits located throughout the service territory. Their participation was a visible demonstration of the co-op's core principle of concern for the community, and a reminder that a spirit of service is important for thriving communities.

Occasionally, United Power's support extends beyond its borders to help meet the needs of families in disadvantaged areas. This past year, lineworkers were dispatched to the Navajo Nation to provide power to those families for the first time. The cooperative provided additional supplies and equipment for projects in July and again in October.

As United Power looks ahead to its next 85 years, we want to remind members that the cooperative is Here for Good. That looks like planning for your future power needs and helping each of the communities we serve reach their full potential through our continued support for their vision. Your cooperative is Here for Good.

Energy Efficiency for a New Year

This year make the resolution to become more energy efficient. United Power is committed to providing the tools and resources to help you take control of your energy use.

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 resources to help members understand and manage their 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.

Save on Heating and Cooling; Earn with Smart Rewards

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.

Seasonal Rebates on Electrical Power Equipmeent

Consider ditching the loud, gas-powered snow blower this season and opt for an energy efficient electric model instead. Members even qualify for a rebate on new purchases. Learn more about United Power's rebates at www.unitedpower.com/rebates.

Members can also be more energy efficient and save on their monthly billing statements in quick and easy ways, such as switching to LED bulbs, unplugging unused electronics, and sealing air leaks around doors and windows. Learn more about energy savings at www.unitedpower.com/energy-tips.

Space Heater Efficiency

Staying Warm Without Breaking the Bank



Heating is our biggest energy consumer, so when you can do it efficiently, you will notice savings on your bill. A portable space heater can be a solution for providing additional warmth, but the costs can add up quickly.

The Cost of Running a 1,500-Watt Space Heater

Central heating is more efficient than a space heater when heating the same amount of space over longer periods. Using one 1500-watt space heater for as little as two hours per day over a month can cost you nearly \$10 extra on your monthly electric bill, before accounting for the increase in your demand.

Operating a space heater while other appliances, like your dishwasher or dryer, are running also adds to your demand. The longer your space heater operates, the more days you turn it on, and the more appliances running simultaneously, the faster those charges add up.

Low-Cost Ways to Stay Warm

Warming your body costs less than warming a room or your whole house. Use these tips before you crank up the heater:

- Dress in layers. Keep your core and feet warm with sweaters, socks, and slippers.
- Decorate for warmth. Add rugs to hard floors, flannel sheets on beds, and cozy up with blankets on the sofa.
- Use the sun. Open curtains during the day to let the sun naturally warm your home. Close them at night to prevent heat from escaping.
- Do not block airflow. Clear couches or rugs from vents so warm air can flow freely.

Space Heater Sticker Shock

Cost to operate one 1500watt electric space heater for 30 days.



2 Hours/Day \$9.51



4 Hours/Day \$19.03



8 Hours/Day \$38.05

Figures based on the operation of one 1500-watt space heater for the duration of 30 consecutive days. A 1500-watt space heater on United Power's standard residential rate will cost \$0.1057 per hour to operate.

Figures do not include demand charges of \$4.00/kW.

Inside This Issue

ISSUE 1 2025





New Year Electrical Safety

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

Page 4



Youth Leadership Trips

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

Page 6



Lineworker Scholarships

United Power awarded four \$7,500 scholarships in December.

Page 5



New Year Energy Efficiency

United Power has the tools and resources to help members take control of their usage.

Page 7

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

www.unitedpower.com (n /united-power-inc

f /unitedpower

(/unitedpowercoop

/unitedpowercoop

/unitedpowercoop

CONTACT YOUR CO-OP

Member Services303-637-1300 Outage Line303-637-1350

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1st Place: Kristen Nielson, Black Hawk 2nd Place: Lois Espeland, Henderson

James Sullivan, Broomfield

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

Heidi Storz, Laurel Eller, Zach Kinder

Newsline Editors

Erin Hane

Chief Human Resources Officer

Alie Beauchamp

SVP & Chief Information Officer

Trista L. Fugate

SVP & Chief Marketing Officer

Дези Нирриск

SVP & Chief Energy Resource Officer

Robin Z. Meidhof

SVP & Chief Legal Officer

Travis Storin SVP & Chief Financial Officer

Jan Kulmann SVP & Chief Operating Officer

Mark A. Gabriel President & Chief Executive Officer

Paige Wagner-Maul James Vigesaa Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin Steve Douglas Brad Case Ginny Buczek Asst. Sect./Treasurer Tamra Waltemath Treasurer Keith Alquist Secretary Stephen Whiteside Vice-Chair Brian A. McCormick Ursula J. Morgan **Board of Directors**

© 2025 United Power, Inc.

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

