ISSUE 2

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.



Medically-Necessary Devices
Democracy at the Cooperative
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Update You Contact Information
Energy Efficiency Myths

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 17 Presidents Day
Offices Closed

March 14 Electronic Balloting Opens
Ballots Mailed

April 15 Balloting Closes

April 16

Electronic and Mail-in Ballots must arrive by 11:59 a.m.

Annual Meeting & Director Election
See details on pg. 3



Cooperative Roadmap 2.0

Action Plan for an Empowered Future

Updated Roadmap is Collective Vision to Successfully Deliver on Co-op's Mission

United Power debuted its landmark action plan for preparing and adapting to industry changes nearly three years ago as it was about to enter new territory as an independent electric utility. Our Cooperative Roadmap (Roadmap) was a coordinated effort by co-op staff to identify a collective vision to guide the utility's future decisions. The action plan is ever-evolving, proactively responding to anticipated shifts in the electric industry, and ensures United Power maintains its competitive advantage as an industry leader in power supply innovation, system performance, and member satisfaction.

It was the strategic direction provided in the Roadmap's first iteration that helped United Power secure a diverse portfolio of power supply agreements to meet the cooperative's needs as it grows over the next several years. These agreements have already reduced the cooperative's greenhouse gas emissions by 26% since May. United Power's commitment to reducing emissions was a driving factor in obtaining nearly \$262 million through the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program to support its clean energy transition. The Roadmap was also pivotal in providing investor confidence to help finance the move toward independence, deploying an innovative battery energy storage system to mitigate peak costs, and breaking ground on a natural gas plant to ensure resource adequacy and flexibility.

Five guiding principles were identified to help the cooperative define, implement, and evaluate the Roadmap's focus areas:

- Safety. Prioritize safety in every decision and action. Safety is reflected in every aspect of United Power's operations by fostering a culture of transparency, trust, and teamwork.
- Reliability. Striving to deliver high-quality, uninterrupted service to members through

the design, operation, protection, and maintenance of a robust and resilient electric distribution system.

- Affordability. Commitment to securing fair and competitive wholesale rates, managing costs, and responsibly allocating those costs across the membership with stable and transparent rate options.
- Flexibility. Demonstrate maximum agility
 and adaptiveness through forward-looking
 plans, versatile and innovative programs
 and business models, and diverse power
 supply options as the cooperative responds to
 changes in its environment and the needs of
 members and communities.
- Responsibility. Act ethically, sustainably, and in the best interest of members and communities as the cooperative manages operations and secures resources.

The four strategic focus areas identified in the first version of the Roadmap remain relatively the same in the updated Roadmap, stretching across all the core functions of the cooperative, including power supply; system reliability and resiliency; data safety and security; and member programs and community engagement.



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350 Member Services 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.

Much is being written these days about increasing electric demand in the face of declining central power stations, such as coal plants, and how the electric industry will manage this coming onslaught. People are especially concerned that data centers, driven by advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), will cause major problems for the electric grid.

United Power has been blessed with growth for nearly 20 years, and that trend is continuing. One only has to drive around our service territory to see what that growth looks like. Last summer we set a new all-time peak of nearly 650 MW, and this past December we hit nearly 500 MW, making us the largest electric distribution cooperative by load in Colorado and the third largest utility after Xcel and Colorado Springs Utilities.

We added nearly 3,300 meters in 2024 and our monthly electric load has increased consistently. More than 7,600 electric vehicles are registered in our service territory. Whether it is the coming of the new BNSF Intermodal Center in Hudson/Lochbuie, expanding existing data centers, or new residential developments, your cooperative is keeping up.

Recently, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission adopted rules that require midstream gas suppliers reduce greenhouse gasses by 20.5% as compared to a 2015 baseline by 2030. This will require electrification of the oil the gas fields — a process United Power began several years ago. We are partnering with our oil and gas members to help them meet this mandate.

Our service territory is desirable and we regularly receive inquiries from developers and large loads known as hyperscalers (i.e., data centers). These facilities require large electric loads and heavy demand around the clock. The good news is partnering with them will provide additional backup capabilities, as well as allow us to purchase more power at lower costs for all members. Our Key Accounts Advisors are handling those requests and working closely with the engineering and power supply teams to ensure we can meet

their energy demands. Millions of square feet of commercial and industrial space has also been added in just the past few years, especially along our interstate corridors.

While some utilities are turning down loads and wringing their hands over the increased demand, United Power believes it is critical to support our members where they are and when they need us. In order to do this, we follow the "LIT" process that involves closely working with potential loads as soon as practical. What does "LIT" involve?

- Location. Not every location is suitable to be supplied in a short period of time. Large loads that are moving into our service territory, such as data centers, are able to work with our team to locate areas where we can reasonably provide service within their timeframe.
- Investment. Years ago, the United Power Board of Directors decided that "growth pays," meaning any capital cost is born by the company or developer. This protects members from costs to add facilities and yet helps lower other costs as we spread overhead across more members.
- Timing. Advanced planning is crucial to successfully adding infrastructure and we work closely with potential new members to get ahead of critical items such as ordering transformers, preparing the ground, and making sure we have capacity to handle the new load.

We are excited about this future and will continue to support all members, large and small. Anticipating and planning for electrification is at the heart of *Our Cooperative Roadmap*.

As always, feel free to reach out to me personally with any questions or comments.

Roadmap Focus Areas Target Core Cooperative Functions

Empower and Engage with Members and Communities

Electric cooperatives are owned by the members they serve, which means the members are not just consumers but stakeholders in the cooperative's success.

Members can vote for who represents them on the United Power Board of Directors through the annual Director Election in April (see more on page 5), but the cooperative also gives back to the community in many ways.

United Power is a community partner, helping them establish their goals and visions. This includes understanding the unique needs and challenges of the communities and businesses the cooperative serves. The co-op supports the economic vitality of local communities through collaboration with local leaders and economic development organizations on growth initiatives and assists businesses with energy advice and expertise to help them meet legislative and regulatory targets.

Provide Flexible, Affordable, Responsible Power and Services

As the needs of the distribution system have increased, so has the need for United Power to evolve and optimize the supply of power and services to its members.

Becoming an independent electric utility provided United Power with more flexibility over its power supply options. The cooperative added more than 110 MW of battery energy storage to its distribution system last year and broke ground on an innovative gas peaking plant for an additional

160 MW of resource adequacy. The cooperative continues to pursue cost efficient power supply contracts while limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Continuously Optimize the Electric Distribution System

The optimization of the electric distribution system is paramount as the cooperative confronts increasing demands and complexities driven by rapid electrification, the integration of distributed energy resources, and the evolving expectation of members.

United Power has experienced consecutive years of record-breaking reliability, ranking among the best electric utilities in the country. The cooperative's strategic maintenance plan and innovative system design continue to provide positive results and demonstrate remarkable success.

Achieve and Maintain Business Agility and Resilience

Business agility and resilience are key investments of United Power's strategic and operational plans.

Advancing technologies play a critical role in how United Power responds to and prevents outages. The cooperative is working to replace its distributed energy resource management system by early 2026 to better manage system operations and plans to roll out new tools to better manage materials and projects.

Our Cooperative Roadmap, along with news and updates about its implementation, can be found at www.unitedpower.com/roadmap.

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, &

Dinner

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

BALLOTING DEADLINES

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

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.

APRIL 16

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

You Are Invited

Join Us for the 2025 Annual Meeting

United Power invites all members to join the cooperative in celebrating its accomplishments over the past year at its 2025 Annual Meeting on April 16.

Members who attend the Annual Meeting will enjoy:

- Free dinner
- · Live musical entertainment
- · Family-friendly educational booths
- Public safety demonstrations
- Door prizes
- · Annual member gift



Are You Prepared for Winter Storms?

Members Reliant on Electric-Dependent Medical Equipment Should Be **Prepared for Unexpected Outages and Other Emergencies**

Weather in Colorado can be unpredictable, bringing everything from heavy snow to high winds. Strong storm systems frequently develop with little or no warning. United Power cannot guarantee uninterrupted power and encourages members to be prepared for unexpected outages by coordinating a backup plan, especially if you or a family member rely on electric-dependent medical equipment.

How to Develop a Backup Plan

There are many resources available for members to reference when creating a backup plan. The Americans with Disabilities Act National Network, for example, recommends identifying alternate power sources (such as batteries or a generator), checking them regularly, and teaching neighbors or family members how to use the equipment. Label equipment with your name and address, and keep copies of equipment information and instructions in a waterproof container.

Members who use specialized medical equipment should inform the cooperative and check to make sure they have accurate contact information on file. United Power alerts its members when scheduled maintenance may result in a brief power interruption. The cooperative's outage map (www.unitedpower.com/outage) is also available to check the status of a planned or unplanned outage.

Additional tips for developing a safe and effective backup plan are available at www.unitedpower.com/medical-devices.



United Power Recommends Having a Backup Plan

Scan the QR code to find simple steps for developing a backup plan in the event of an extended outage.

Remember to register your medical device with United Power and always report power outages to the cooperative at 303-637-1350 or on your online account.





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

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

When does balloting open in the Director Election?

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



Democracy at the Co-op

Member Votes Determine Board Representation

United Power members are uniquely given the opportunity to have a voice in the future of their electric utility. Each year, our members' votes in the Director Election determine who will represent them on the co-op's Board of Directors. As an electric cooperative, your participation in the annual election is critical to helping the co-op better serve its members.

Every Vote Matters Equally

United Power is a not-for-profit cooperative owned and controlled by the members it serves. When you become a member, you automatically receive the benefits all other members share, including the right to vote for board representation. As a member, your vote is equal to any other member's vote, regardless of the kind of account they have or how large it is. "One member, one vote" is part of the cooperative principle known as Democratic Member Control. Director candidates must also live or work within United Power's service territory, so you know you will be voting for someone who understands your community's needs. They could even be your friends or neighbors.

Running for a Board Position

The primary difference between an investorowned utility (IOU) and a cooperative is democratic control. IOUs make decisions to appease stakeholders and shareholders who might not live in the same state, let alone the same community. Any United Power member who meets the qualifications outlined in the bylaws is eligible to run for a position on the cooperative's eleven-member Board of Directors. Directors serve four-year terms in one of four geographical districts. Members vote on an "at-large" basis, explained in more detail next.

Voting in the Election

Balloting opens March 14. United Power encourages all members to cast their votes in this year's election. Members may vote electronically through their online account, or via mail ballots, sent to all members in mid-March. Directors represent all members and are therefore elected on an "at-large" basis. This means members may cast a vote for a director in each district and not just their own. Directors serve in geographic districts to ensure adequate accessibility for members and to provide a representative cross-section of United Power's member base in the cooperative's governing body.

Your vote always matters. To learn more about a director candidate, consider attending our Meet the Candidates event. (Details on page 3.) Candidates will be announced in February, and candidate statements will be printed in the March newsletter and available online.

2025 Director Election

This year, three positions on the United Power Board are up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting & Director Election, scheduled for April 16. Members may submit their votes electronically, via mail ballot, or in person at the Annual Meeting.

More information about how members may vote in this year's Director Election can be found on the cooperative's website at www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting.

RECIPES



Crispy Jalapeño Poppers

1 lb jalapeños

16 oz cream cheese, room temperature

2 Tbsp fresh lime juice (about 2 limes)

1/2 tsp garlic powder

1/2 tsp onion powder

1/2 tsp ground cumin

2 cups whole milk

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 cups fine breadcrumbs

1-2 quarts vegetable or canola oil

Trim jalapeños and cut crosswise into 1-inch rings. Remove seeds and inner ribs. In a bowl, stir cream cheese with lime juice, garlic powder, onion powder, and cumin. Season with salt. Using a butter knife, pack cream cheese into each jalapeño ring.

Fill separate bowls with milk, flour, and breadcrumbs. Working one popper at a time, dip in milk, then transfer to flour. Let poppers stand for 5 minutes. Then, return floured popper to milk and transfer to breadcrumbs.

Heat 2 inches of oil to 350°F. Fry poppers gently until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Transfer to baking sheet and season with salt. Let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

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 Scholarships



United Power proudly supports the educational goals of students served by the cooperative with an annual scholarship program. This year, the cooperative will award a combined \$35,500 in scholarships.

Cooperative Scholarships

Cooperative Scholarships are awarded to local students pursuing a post-secondary education at a university, community college, or technical/vocational program. Eligibility varies for each scholarship award, but generally takes into consideration academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement. Apply today at www.unitedpower.com/scholarships.

Application Deadline: March 2, 2025



2025 Rebates & Programs

Members Qualify for Exclusive Programs and Rebates on Energy Efficient Purchases

United Power provides members access to exclusive rebate opportunities for the purchase or installation of energy efficient equipment as part of their cooperative benefits. Members may also qualify for innovative energy programs that allow them to take advantage of emerging technology like at-home electric vehicle charging.

Members can receive rebates on heat pump installations and select electric water heater upgrades. The cooperative also offers a rebate on electrification wiring to help support members converting from fossil-fueled to electric heating and cooling or water heating. Additionally, energy efficient rebates are available for qualifying electric outdoor power equipment.

Smart Rewards

Members who enroll in the cooperative's Smart Rewards program receive a \$30 incentive for each summer they remain enrolled with a qualifying smart thermostat. Learn more about Smart Rewards at www.unitedpower.com/smart-rewards.

United EV

United EV is a program that helps members take advantage of the cooperative's time of use rate as well as the up-front costs of at-home EV charging, including a Level 2 charger and make-ready wiring rebate. More information about the program can be found online at www.unitedpower.com/unitedev.

You must be a member and receive permanent electric service from United Power to be eligible for rebates. See a full menu of available rebates at www.unitedpower.com/rebates.



ENERGY SAVERS

Throw it in the slow cooker.

You will use a fraction of the energy to prepare foods in a slow cooker. Slow cookers use less energy than traditional ovens because the heating element utilizes a low current and relies on trapped heat to cook food.

Update Your Contact Info

Make Sure You Receive Co-op Notifications

United Power uses recorded phone messages to let members know when preplanned outages have been scheduled in their area for maintenance work. As new software solutions become available, the cooperative may have more options to send important communications to members.

Electronic communications are tied to member accounts and use the phone numbers and/or email addresses the cooperative has on record. If your contact information is not up-to-date or has been entered incorrectly, you may be missing out on important notifications.



You can check your contact information and make necessary updates through your online account. If you do not have an online account, visit **www.unitedpower.com/myaccount** to register. Contact information can also be updated by calling the member services team at 303-637-1300.



Energy Efficiency Myths

As a cooperative, United Power wants its members to know how they can use their energy more efficiently and save on their bills. There is a myth that energy efficiency is either too hard or too expensive to implement in a home. Some members may be unintentionally using more energy from implementing not-so-energy-efficient "savings" myths. Here are a few examples to separate fact from fiction and help you make more energy efficient choices.

Electric Space Heaters Save Money

Myth or Truth: Myth

Some people have heard using an electric space heater to heat individual rooms in a house is more cost effective than running a central heating system. Electric space heaters are actually among the least energy efficient appliances you can use in your home. A central heating system is more effective at heating your home. It is best to use space heaters as supplemental heat for short periods of time only.

Closing Vents Reduces Consumption

Myth or Truth: Myth

It may seem logical that closing vents in a room would mean saving energy. However, closing vents actually puts added stress on your central heating system. Closed vents only redirect air and throw the system off balance, forcing it to work harder. An energy efficient alternative is investing in a smart thermostat that gives you more control of your system.

Blasting Your Thermostat Heats or Cools your Home More Quickly Myth or Truth: Myth

This stems from a misunderstanding about how central heating and cooling systems

work. Your thermostat is designed to keep a room at a steady temperature. When you crank it up or down, it does not heat or cool more quickly, but it will work continuously until it has reached the temperature setting. It will then turn on or off as required to maintain the temperature setting. Because your home will continue to gain or lose heat through various escape points, this will cause your system to run more frequently and use more energy.

You Can Save with a Microwave Myth or Truth: Truth

Cooking is not a large part of the average household's electric bill. However, heavy use of an oven or stove can contribute to an increase in your bill, especially during the summer. The heat produced by a stove or oven can cause your A/C to work harder. A microwave is quicker and uses less energy.

Closing Doors to Unused Rooms Reduces Demand on Your System

Myth or Truth: Truth

Your heating system operates through a convection current. As air cycles into a room, hot air rises and sinks as it cools. The cool air is then reheated, beginning the cycle again. Keeping doors to unused rooms closed keeps this cycle of heated air within a contained space, which is more efficient than dispersing it throughout the house.

Becoming energy efficient does not mean spending lots of money or struggling with strict rules. It is about making small lifestyle changes and sifting fact from fiction. As your trusted energy provider, United Power is here to provide you with the best resources to take control of your usage, become more energy efficient, and save.

If you are curious about more ways you can save, visit www.unitedpower.com/energy-tips.

Save with Smart Rewards



United Power members with qualifying smart thermostats from Honeywell or Nest can earn money back this summer by enrolling in Smart Rewards. Through Smart Rewards, your smart thermostat will automatically shift energy use to help us reduce load on the electric grid.

When you help us save, we will pass those savings along to you at the end of each summer. For every summer you remain enrolled, United Power will credit you \$30.

How Smart Rewards Works

Qualifying smart thermostats can be enrolled in Smart Rewards through your thermostat's app or online. United Power provides enrollment links and a list of qualifying device models on its website:

www.unitedpower.com/smart-rewards

Members will receive notifications during peak events, which will only occur weekdays between 12 p.m. and 9 p.m. and last no more than four hours. Your thermostat will automatically return to normal at the end of the event. There will never be more than three events in a week.

Members will see their credits on billing statements at the end of each cooling season, typically in October.

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Members who rely on electric-dependent medical devices should have a backup.

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United Power encourages all its members to participate in the 2025 Director Election.

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Energy Efficiency Myths

Part of becoming more energy efficient is separating fact from fiction.

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STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

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CONTACT YOUR CO-OP

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

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1st Place: Florence Gutierrez, Hudson 2nd Place: John Schutz, Brighton

Linda Snyder, Erie

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

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Paige Wagner-Maul

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Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

