

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

The Force of Nature

Cooperative Responds to Winter Windstorms

Lineworkers Spent Days Clearing Lines Following Storms on Dec. 17 & 19

United Power members experienced Colorado's ferocious weather in December when strong windstorms struck the northern Front Range twice in one week. Members who live in the cooperative's mountain territory received the brunt of the storms, with gusts reaching more than 110 miles per hour near the foothills, according to data from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder.

Weather forecasting provided advance notice about the potential for heavy and sustained winds and, due to an exceedingly dry season, prompted the National Weather Service to issue its first-ever "Particularly Dangerous Situation" Red Flag Warning (for extremely critical fire weather

conditions) for the state of Colorado. Xcel Energy, a transmission provider to parts of United Power's system, responded by preemptively scheduling public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) in the foothills between Golden and Boulder.

Although United Power did not initiate any power shutoffs and was not impacted by Xcel's PSPS, both utilities activated system-wide wildfire safety measures. This included placing any power lines in the immediate area into Wildfire Safety Mode, which is a setting that stops the flow of power whenever a fault is detected and prevents automated devices from attempting re-energization. A manual inspection is required to ensure the line is clear of debris and the infrastructure is not damaged before power restoration can begin. Shortly after winds peaked, United Power lost transmission from the Xcel line that delivers power to the cooperative's members in the Coal Creek and Golden Gate canyons. It was the first in a series of events that launched line crews into a dayslong effort to clear debris from miles of line and restore power to thousands of families.

"Heavy wind is an enemy to even the most resilient power grids because it forces us to circumvent all our built-in automation and system

IN THIS ISSUE

- Safety: Have a Backup Plan 4
- What does Distribution Mean? 3
- Democracy at the Co-op 5
- Cooperative Scholarships 6
- EV Home Charge Rebates 6

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 16	Presidents Day Offices Closed
March 13	Electronic Balloting Opens Ballots Mailed
April 14	Balloting Closes Electronic and Mail-in Ballots must arrive by 11:59 a.m.
April 15	Annual Meeting & Director Election See details on pg. 3



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Member Services 303-637-1300

redundancies for the safety of our members," said Adam Dillon, United Power's Vice President of Operations. "And it prolongs outage recovery because we cannot restore power without visually inspecting every mile of line, much of which needed to be cleared of debris from the storms."

Aftermath of the Storms

As the sun faded on Dec. 17, and the first round of storms had passed through the area, all members in the mountain territory were without power and the extent of the damage was unknown. The lack of visibility without light made assessments difficult and unsafe to conduct, forcing crews to wait until first light to begin working on power restoration. Upon inspection, lineworkers found downed trees and power lines, broken poles, and a variety of other damage.

Once the transmission line providing power to the mountains was re-energized, it finally gave United Power the opportunity to test parts of its system that had been cleared and attempt to restore power to some members. Working slowly, feeder by feeder, crews were eventually able to restore power to nearly every member in the mountain territory. However, a second round of windstorms was now on deck.

Continued on Page 7



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.

United Newsline está Disponible en Español
The *United Newsline* is Available in Spanish



Every utility person I have known for nearly three decades is concerned with the critical mission of safely keeping the lights on in the most cost-effective manner possible. It may not feel that way to the public sometimes, as we must deal with everything from weather and equipment shortages to critters getting into lines and vehicle accidents causing the power to go out.

The wild windstorms in mid-December were extreme, and the intensity of the winds unprecedented. However, we prepare for these severe weather events, and in so doing, ensuring the safety of our employees, our members, and our communities is our priority. The lengthy outages that affected many United Power members during this windstorm were the result of the cooperative operating in protective mode for wildfire safety during the back-to-back windstorm events that impacted our mountain territory. In this operating mode, lines are placed in the most sensitive settings, and power is immediately shut off if anything is detected on the system. Before power can be safely restored, crews must complete physical inspections of all power lines and equipment. These inspections are critical for public safety and can take time – particularly when outages are widespread and restoration can be delayed when damage is found.

We know the loss of power means an interruption in our day-to-day routines and our ability to work or go to school. However, it is important also to understand that when a transmission provider opts to shut off power (public safety power shutoff) or when the transmission provider loses power due to a weather event (e.g., damage to lines), United Power's members may also lose power. The cooperative operates a distribution system, which includes the wires to homes and businesses in our service territory, but United Power does not control the interstate and intrastate transmission lines carrying electricity from faraway places. This is one of the reasons we are focused on hyper-localizing our resources whenever we can to stay off the "big wires." It is another reason why we have added so many distributed batteries to the system and plan to add more.

We cannot restore service to the local distribution system until transmission has been re-energized. It is important to realize that after outages occur due to storms, we must visually inspect every line on the distribution system. Our brave crews worked for several days to make sure trees were out of the wires. Sometimes our crews would inspect and restore power only to have new branches blown into lines after they had moved on. We must maintain a careful balance between restoring power to homes and businesses and mitigating the threat of wildfires.

We continue investing heavily into our distribution system, deploying the most practical and innovative technology we can. This involves installing coated cables in the mountain territory, and special fusing and sensors systemwide to be able to understand what is happening on our grid in real time. We can only see what is taking place on the distribution side of the United Power system. We do not have visibility to what is occurring on the transmission side – we only know whether power is flowing or not.

The United Power system is one of the most reliable in the nation, and that is one of the reasons outages seem so out of the ordinary. When we do have "normal" outages, they are usually quite short, which makes extended outages seem even more unusual and frustrating to members.

I am so proud of the team at United Power for the work they did during the December wind event and continue to do every day to benefit our members. Our management team has spent time looking at what worked well, what did not work so well, and what we can do to improve when another event occurs.

Every morning when I get up, the first thing I check is whether we kept the lights on for our members and if everyone is safe. Power outages will occur – that is the reality of the system dealing with nature. But we will always be here for our members, ready to get the lights back on.

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

What is Distribution?

And How is it Different From Transmission?

A functional electric grid consists of two main delivery systems – transmission and distribution. United Power is a distribution cooperative, which means it operates only local facilities and relies on transmission providers to deliver energy to its system.

So, what are these two delivery systems, and how are they different?

Understanding Transmission

Electricity is often generated in large plants located hundreds of miles from the homes and businesses it will eventually power.

Because that electricity must be carried long distances, it requires a robust infrastructure capable of transmitting high voltages to minimize energy loss. Large transmission towers dot the rural landscape, delivering power to distribution entities like United Power.

Think of transmission like the vast network of state and interstate highways that allows travelers to navigate long trips at high speed with minimal interruptions. They connect communities and create a regional grid.

Understanding Distribution

Distribution systems receive electricity from transmission wires at a substation, which is a piece of equipment that “steps down” (or reduces) the voltage so that the power can be safely delivered to homes and businesses on a smaller network of poles and wires.

If highways connect states and large cities, think of distribution like the local roads that connect the neighborhoods in your community. These roads are smaller, safer, and often have more activity. Without these interconnected roadways, you could not complete your trip.

Some larger electric utilities, like Xcel Energy, operate both the transmission and



Transmission towers in Eastern Colorado.



United Power distribution poles near Dacono.

distribution delivery systems because they own large-scale generation resources.

Electric cooperatives, like United Power, only operate at the distribution level and rely on power supply contracts with larger providers for transmission. Because these providers own, operate, and maintain their own infrastructure, distribution co-ops cannot freely choose who they receive transmission from, and in many cases contract with multiple providers for transmission.

Although infrequent, sometimes transmission systems experience outages that impact consumers downstream. When this occurs, the transmission provider must first restore power before energy will flow back into the distribution system.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2026

The 2026 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

Voting in the 2026 Director Election will be conducted by both electronic and paper balloting.

MARCH 13, 2026

Electronic balloting opens and paper ballots are mailed to members.

APRIL 14, 2026

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

APRIL 15, 2026

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

2026 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Director candidates were announced in January. Look for candidate statements in an upcoming newsletter.

North District

Phil Tiffany
Virginia A. "Ginny" Buczek (*incumbent*)

Central District

Vicki Erickson
Lisa Hough

South District

Steven Douglas (*incumbent*)

Mountain District

Tamra K. Waltemath (*incumbent*)

Transmission & Distribution Interconnection

- 1 Transmission system
- 2 Substation
- 3 Distribution system



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 check to make sure they have accurate contact information on file with the cooperative. 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/ready.



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 keep your contact information up-to-date and always report power outages to the cooperative at 303-637-1350 or through your online account.



 SCAN ME

READER REWARDS

ISSUE 2
2026



Three Winners Every Month!
1st place: \$100 Bill Credit
2nd place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

Submit Reader Rewards Online

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

When does Director Election balloting open?

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



In honor of the Winter Olympics opening in Italy this month, here is Jonathan Boothe, Mead, shredding the slopes at Winter Park.

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.



Democracy at the Co-op

Member Votes Determine Board Representation

All United Power members are uniquely given the opportunity to have a voice in the future of their electric utility. Your votes in the Director Election determine who will represent members on the co-op's Board of Directors. As an electric cooperative, your participation in the 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 you 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 investor-owned 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 for the 2026 Director Election opens March 13. 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.

2026 Director Election

This year, four positions on the United Power Board are up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting & Director Election, scheduled for April 15.

Director candidates were announced in January (listed on page 3). Candidate eligibility is determined after the cooperative's member-led Qualifications and Election Oversight Committee reviews applications and petitions. To learn more about this year's candidates, profiles and statements will be printed in the March newsletter and also available online.

Balloting opens on March 13. Members may submit their votes electronically, via mail ballot, or in person at the Annual Meeting.

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

RECIPES



Kansas City-Style Cheesy Corn

1 tsp vegetable or canola oil
4 oz smoked ham steak, cubed
6 ears corn
1 cup whole milk
6 oz full-fat cream cheese, softened & diced
2 garlic cloves, grated
1 tsp cayenne pepper
3 oz extra sharp cheddar, shredded
3 oz smoked cheddar, shredded
2 scallions, thinly sliced

Brown ham in skillet with oil and set aside. Slice kernels off as close to the cob as you can without encountering resistance and set aside. Using the back of your knife, scrape back and forth across each cob to extract the milk into a fine mesh strainer set over a large saucepan.

Add reserved ham and kernels, whole milk, cream cheese, garlic, and cayenne pepper to saucepan. Season with salt. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until cheese is melted and sauce is smooth. Add both shredded cheeses and continue cooking until melted and mixture is glossy. Top with scallions and 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

Scholarship Opportunities

Now Accepting 2026 Applications



United Power proudly supports the educational goals of students served by the cooperative with its annual scholarship program.

Cooperative Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded each year to support the academic aspirations of local students. The cooperative will award more than \$35,000 in post-secondary and vocational scholarships.

Eligibility varies for each scholarship, but awards are generally granted to students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement.



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to apply for 2026 Cooperative Scholarships.

**Application Deadline:
March 6**

Additional information about United Power scholarship opportunities, including qualifications and applications is available at www.unitedpower.com/scholarships.



EV Home Charge Rebates

EV Wiring and Panel Rebates Available for United Power Members While Funds Last

Last year, the State of Colorado's Community Access Enterprise (CAE) awarded United Power a grant to fund the EV Home Charge rebate program. The program provides rebates to help offset the costs of home EV charging, but awards are contingent on available funds. Members who qualify are encouraged to take advantage of this limited rebate opportunity and apply today.

EV Home Charge offers cooperative members two rebate options — through the installation of make-ready wiring and/or home electrical panel upgrades necessary to accommodate a Level 2 EV charger.

Members who enroll in United EV, the cooperative's at-home EV charging program, can take advantage of larger rebates on make-ready wiring. The make-ready wiring rebates cannot be stacked; however, all members are welcome to apply for the panel upgrade rebate, giving them another great opportunity to save.

The Colorado legislature created the CAE to support statewide use of electric transportation options and provide funding through grants, rebates, and other incentive packages for Colorado residents.

EV Make-Ready Wiring Rebate

Rebate is for the invoiced cost of a licensed electrician to install wiring and panel upgrades for a Level 2 EV charger. See website for details.

United Power members can choose one of the two rebate options. EV make-ready wiring rebates cannot be combined.

EV Home Charge

(United EV enrollment not required)

Up to \$500

United Power

(United EV enrollment required)

Up to \$1,000

EV Home Charge Panel Upgrade

Rebate available to help offset the cost of a residential electrical panel upgrade associated with the installation of a Level 2 EV charger.

\$500



SCAN HERE
Learn more about
EV Home Charge
and EV rebates.



Update Your Contact Info

Make Sure You Receive Co-op Notifications

United Power uses recorded phone messages and email notifications to let members know when planned outages have been scheduled in their area for maintenance work. As new software solutions become available, the cooperative plans to 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 has changed recently, you may be missing out on important notifications.

Check your contact information and make necessary updates through your online account. You can register for a free account at www.unitedpower.com/myaccount if you do not already have one. Contact information can also be updated by calling the member services team at 303-637-1300.

Windstorms Leave Thousands Without Power

"It is backbreaking work to spend all that time clearing debris and restoring power while knowing you will probably have to do it all over again in another 24 hours," said Dillon. "It takes a certain mindset to do what lineworkers do day in and day out, with a lot of dedication and determination, especially in adverse and unpredictable conditions."

Heavy winds arrived earlier than expected for the second storm, hitting the co-op overnight on Dec. 19 and causing outages to roll in quickly. Before the sun had a chance to rise, all members were once again without power. The prior day's efforts erased in just a couple hours.

Troubleshooters were dispatched, but little could be done as conditions deteriorated into the morning and early afternoon. Relentless winds toppled trees and blew debris into power lines. Until there was a break, the situation was too dangerous — and too uncertain — to conduct restoration attempts.

Slowly and methodically, as the wind broke and crews were able to assess damage to the system, the cooperative began a painstaking weekend of clearing debris, making repairs to infrastructure, testing the system, and, finally, restoring power.

"Our lineworkers are diligent and gritty. They work hard to keep the lights on," said Travis Rodlin, United Power's Mountain Manager. "They were prepared for the circumstances of these storms and did not back down from the challenge."

The weekend provided relief from winds and a fresh dusting of snow, allowing United Power to operate under standard system settings instead of Wildfire Safety Mode, which had been activated for much of the previous week. It did not, however, ease the burden of lineworkers who encountered a significant number of downed trees

and power lines as they worked toward restoration. Approximately 1,000 members were without power throughout Saturday, and that number dropped to 125 by Sunday afternoon. A couple dozen remaining members were restored on Monday morning, finally ending the outage.

"As proud as I am of our lineworkers' efforts, I am equally grateful to our members for their patience throughout the restoration process," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power President and CEO. "Many of our members were without power for several days. That would be difficult for anyone. Thank you for giving our lineworkers the grace to safely restore power."

Learn more about United Power's Wildfire Safety Mode and power safety updates at www.unitedpower.com/power-shutoff.



Safety is Our Priority

United Power crews completed miles of line inspections and repairs to restore service after December windstorms. The cooperative recorded no injuries or incidents during the process.



Be Prepared for Outages

Power outages are as unpredictable as the weather. Be prepared with a backup plan, emergency supplies, and other essentials.

Learn more on page 4.

Follow United Power Online

The cooperative posts critical information and restoration and weather updates on its website and social media during widespread power outages.

