

UNITED

NEWSLINE

February 2008

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

Important Dates

February 8, 2008

Petitions to run for the Board of Directors due by 4:30 p.m.

April 9, 2008

Annual Meeting
& Director Election
Visit www.unitedpower.com
for the latest information

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**UNITED
POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, Colorado 80603
www.unitedpower.com

Main Switchboard 303-659-0551
Customer Service 303-637-1300

Solar Incentives Announced

United Power Teams with State of Colorado to Offer Rebates for Solar Installations

Customers considering installation of solar panels on their homes now have an extra incentive when they weigh their options. In March United Power is adding solar incentives to our growing portfolio of New Energy options to promote energy efficiency and renewable energies for our customers. The program provides incentives for two types of installations, and when appropriate some installations can be coordinated with our net-metering rate which allows customers to offset their electric costs.

The sun produces great amounts of energy, warming the earth and providing light during the day. Capturing this energy to power our homes is referred to as solar energy. Solar energy is captured for use in homes with photo voltaic panels – often referred to simply as PV panels. PV panels utilize a semiconductor such as silicone to collect and convert solar radiation to energy. PV's are used for many applications in space, like satellites, and most people have seen photo voltaic cells in handheld calculators or smaller lawn and garden lights. The concept of these cells is the same for homes or businesses, just on a larger scale.

United Power's incentives were designed to help offset some of the initial costs for consumers, while taking advantage of dollars offered by the State of Colorado for this technology. Since United Power does not sell or install any heating or cooling equipment, customers will need to select a provider of their choice. As always, customers are encouraged to discuss all their options with a United Power energy management specialist to make their most economical choices, and to help them understand the costs and payback of any technology they are considering.

Want to learn more about solar energy?

Learn the basics at <http://science.howstuffworks.com/solar-cell.htm>, or get more in depth information through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's site at <http://www.nrel.gov/solar/>.



Another valuable resource, linked through NREL, called PV Watts provides an actual breakout of energy performance. It can be found at http://rredc.nrel.gov/solar/codes_algs/PVWATTS/.

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Can you spare a few cents each month to help your neighbors?

Contribute to United Power's Operation Round-Up program to help needy families within your community.

Click on 'yourCommunity' at www.unitedpower.com or call 303-659-0551 to sign-up.



Energy Savers

Use Smaller Appliances

Microwaves, toaster ovens, and slow cookers can use 75 percent less energy than a large electric oven. Cooking, combined with lighting and the energy use of other appliances accounts for about 33 percent of a home's energy bill. Using them less save you money.

2008 Listening Post Schedule

Breakfast is on us!

Meet the 2008 board candidates, hear the latest about United Power, and tell us how we're doing.

RSVP not required.



Tuesday

March 11, 2008

Fort Lupton Rec Center
Fort Lupton
7 a.m.

Thursday

March 13, 2008

Coal Creek Canyon
Improvement
Association
Coal Creek Canyon
7 a.m.

Thursday

March 20, 2008

Pepper Pod
Hudson
7 a.m.

Questions? Call United Power's External Affairs Department
303-659-0551 or 800-468-8809

Consumer Resource Committee Meeting

Monday

March 17, 2008

Bella Sera Event Center
Brighton
6 p.m.

RSVP Required

Call Sonora Jones at
303-637-1248

The United Power Consumer Resource Committee is comprised of customer-members from each of United's districts and serves as a valuable link between the board of directors and the membership. Members are invited to at least three events each year including our "Meet the Candidates" dinner and a power plant tour.

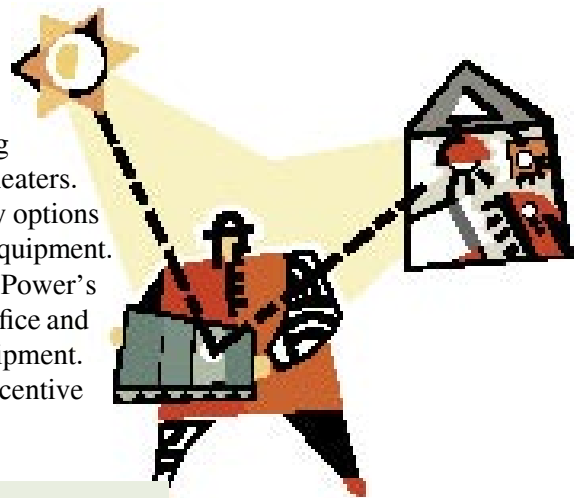
In addition to becoming better acquainted with United's goals and operations, committee members advise the board and staff on a wide range of issues, including rate design, line-extension policies and billing procedures.

Since this is our only candidate affair in Brighton, any member is invited to attend with an RSVP.

Solar Incentives Announced

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United Power's solar program joins a portfolio of incentives for energy efficient and renewable technologies, including heat pumps, electric thermal storage and electric water heaters. Customers are encouraged to fully investigate all the energy options available to meet their power needs, before investing in any equipment. All equipment that is eligible for rebates through United Power's New Energy portfolio requires that customers contact our office and verify that they are purchasing and installing qualifying equipment. For more information about United Power's new Solar Incentive program call 303-637-1250.



Solar Electric Installations

Solar electric installations intended to provide electricity to the home or business through the use of solar photovoltaic panels. These installations will receive \$2 per watt of connected AC power, up to a maximum of \$2,000 for the right to own the Renewable Energy Credits associated with the system. The State of Colorado, through the Governor's Energy Office, will match this rebate.

Maximum available for qualifying installations: \$4,000

- Available for name-plate rated systems between .5kw and 10 kw.
- Equipment must be UL1741 listed.
- Provide all necessary documentation including all proper local permits and inspections, a 20 year Renewable Energy Credit contract, net metering/interconnection agreement, a completed engineering study through United Power, and a minimum of \$300,000 in additional liability insurance.
- Customers may be eligible for additional tax credits from the federal government. Applicants should contact their tax advisor for the most accurate information.

Solar Thermal Installations

Solar thermal installations intended to provide hot water to a home or business. These installations will receive \$1,000 per solar panel (4' x 8'), up to a maximum of two panels, or \$2,000. The State of Colorado, through the Governor's Energy Office, will match this rebate.

Maximum available for qualifying installations: \$4,000

- Available only to customers with electric hot water systems.
- Equipment must be SRCC approved.
- All proper permits and inspections must be provided and documented.
- Customers may be eligible for additional tax credits from the federal government. Applicants should contact their tax advisor for the most accurate information.



Energy Savers

Unplug It

Televisions, CD players, microwaves and cell phone chargers (among others) use energy even when they are plugged in and not in use or on standby.

Co-op Connections Pharmacy Program Scores Big Savings

When the Co-op Connections program relaunched in October of 2007 it came with an added benefit - a pharmacy discount for savings on prescription medications. For the last three months of the year the program was used by United Power customers to fill nearly 600 prescriptions with a retail value of nearly \$30,000. Customer presented their cards and saved more than \$7,000 - for an average savings of just under 25%!

Even if you can't use the pharmacy discount there are hundreds of ways to save dollars on just about everything. You can save money on auto repairs, hotels, retail purchases and much more!



Just go to www.unitedpower.com and click on the Co-op Connections link in the lower right hand corner of your screen for the latest discount offers. Offers are updated almost daily, so check back often.

Misplace your card? Get a new one by emailing us at coopconnections@unitedpower.com or calling our customer service department at 303-659-0551.



Reader Rewards

February Reader Rewards

1st Place: \$150 Home Depot Card
2nd Place: Two winners will receive \$50 Home Depot Cards.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

clip & mail to: United Power-Reader Rewards
PO Box 929
Brighton, CO 80601

Return by March 1, 2008

By submitting this entry I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newslines if I am selected as a winner.

NOTICE

Date of Notice: February 11, 2008

NOTICE OF A CHANGE IN THE TARIFFS OF UNITED POWER, INC. 500 COOPERATIVE WAY, BRIGHTON, COLORADO 80603

You are hereby notified that UNITED POWER, INC. proposes to make changes to its rate tariff schedules to become effective March 21, 2008

The purpose of these proposed changes is to update the load management program to coincide with current market trends and technologies.

The present and proposed tariff provisions are available for examination and explanation at the Coal Creek Branch Office located at 5 Gross Dam Road, Golden, Colorado; the Ft. Lupton Branch office located at 323 Denver Avenue, Ft. Lupton, Colorado; and the headquarters office located at 500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, Colorado.

Anyone who desires to complain about the proposed changes shall file either an informal complaint or a formal complaint with United Power at 500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, Colorado 80603 at least 10 days before the proposed effective date.

An informal complaint shall be in writing and shall contain such facts and other information to adequately state the reason(s) for the complaint. An informal complaint shall be considered by United Power, in regard to the proposed tariff changes, but will not require that a hearing be held.

Anyone who desires a hearing must file a specific and formal complaint to the proposed changes and a request for hearing at least 10 days before the proposed effective date. A formal complaint shall be in writing in the form prescribed by United's Regulations Governing Consumer Complaints and Related Matters. Upon request, a copy of said regulations is available.

United Power may hold a hearing to determine what changes will be authorized, regardless of complaints. If proper formal complaints and request for hearings are timely filed, the Board shall schedule a hearing. The changes ultimately authorized may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different than those tariffs proposed or currently in effect. Anyone who desires to receive notice of hearings, if any, shall make a written request therefor to United, at the above address at least 10 days before the proposed effective date.

UNITED POWER, INC.

By: Robert Broderick, General Manager

Wholesale Power Increase Reminder

ELECTRIC SERVICE DETAIL	
PREVIOUS BALANCE	48.00
PAYMENTS APPLIED	-48.00
BALANCE FORWARD	0.00
FACILITY CHARGE 9.60	
ENERGY CHARGE 531 KWH @ 0.094710	50.20
GREEN POWER INVESTMENT	1.25
FRANCHISE FEE	1.80
SALES TAX	2.56
ROUND-UP	0.49
CURRENT MONTH	66.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	66.00

A reminder to our customers that the increase in wholesale power that became effective in January will be reflected on your February statements. The average residential customer will see a net effect increase of about \$5 per month, in the Energy Charge line on the bill.

The cost of wholesale electricity accounts for more than two-thirds of United Power's annual budget, and represents the largest uncontrollable expense to the cooperative. If you have additional questions, please contact our Customer Service department at 303-637-1300.

Turn Up The Heat on Energy Efficiency

Home sealing. An important step you can take to reduce home energy costs year-round is to seal air leaks and add insulation — paying special attention to your attic and basement, where the biggest gaps and cracks are often found. Insulate your duct work to save 20-30 percent on your annual heating and cooling costs.

Equipment maintenance. Dirty and neglected are the top two causes of system failure. Get a checkup of your heating system to make sure it's performing efficiently and safely. Clean or replace your system's air filter to help lower energy bills and maintain better indoor air quality.

Ask for ENERGY STAR. Look for the ENERGY STAR when purchasing products such as light fixtures, heating and cooling equipment, windows and more. They are the most energy-efficient products and will not only save money on bills, but also help protect our environment.

Thermostat use. Install a programmable thermostat to save energy all day long whether you're home or away. When properly used, a programmable thermostat can save as much as \$150 a year in energy costs.



Recipes

Fudge Cookies

1 package devil's food cake
2 eggs
1/2 cup oil
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Mix top three ingredients. Stir in chocolate chips. Mix until stiff. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto a greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

*Michelle Martinez
Brighton, CO*

Zucchini Brownies

2 cups flour
1-1/4 cups sugar
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 cup cocoa
1/2 cup oil
2 tsp vanilla
2 cups shredded zucchini
2 eggs

Combine all ingredients. Pour into an 8" greased baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 18-20 minutes.

*Michelle Martinez
Brighton, CO*

The first known recipe for brownies was published in the 1897 Sears, Roebuck Catalogue. The origin of the brownie is thought to be American. It is classified as a bar cookie and is thought to derive its name from the brown color of the cookie. Folklore suggests its origin coming from a careless baker that forgot to put baking powder in the chocolate cake batter recipe.

http://www.amazingbrownies.com/cms975/history_of_brownies.html

Recipes Wanted

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe!

United Power Recipes

mail: P.O. Box 929 ■ Brighton, CO 80601
e-mail: UnitedNewline@unitedpower.com

What's New on Our System



Outage Communication a Priority

United Power is making significant improvements to our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The system monitors substation and line performance remotely, and allows communication with control equipment. Net effect? Reducing the duration of outages.

Energy Savers



Wash Full Loads

Reserve hot water for really dirty loads and always use cold water for the rinse cycle. Appliances like the washer and dryer account for about 33 percent of a home's energy bill. Using them less saves you money.

2008 Energy Efficiency Credits Announced

United Power and Tri-State Generation & Transmission, our wholesale power provider, have announced the Energy Efficiency Credits for 2008. If you have plans to purchase new appliances for your home or business this year, you'll want to review the following information. Customers are encouraged to call prior to purchasing and installing any new equipment, so you can be assured of meeting all the requirements of the programs.

An inspection report signed by a United Power Energy Management Specialist is required to qualify for any of these credits. All credits must be requested within 180 days of installation. For more information or to schedule an inspection, please call our Energy Experts at 303-659-0551.

Heat Pump Air Conditioners

Heat pumps qualify for both of the following rebates:

Heat Pump Type	Rebate from Tri-State G&T	Rebate from United Power
Ground-Source Heat Pump	\$150 per ton	\$2,500
Air-Source Heat Pump with ETS or non-electric backup	\$150 per ton	\$400
Air-Source Heat Pump with Electric Resistance backup	\$125 per ton	\$400
Terminal Unit	\$85 (12,000 BTU per hr. min.)	\$150

Please check with United Power's Energy Management Team for details on SEER Rating requirements before making any purchases.



SAMPLE REBATE FOR A 3-TON AIR-SOURCE UNIT
 \$400 from United Power
 \$450 from Tri-State
\$850 Total Rebate

Electric Water Heaters

Minimum size of all units is 2.5 kW. Must have R-16 manufacturer insulation or equivalent -for both new or replacement units. Plastic or stone-lined with a lifetime warranty. **Water heaters qualify for multiple rebates.**



Qualify for up to four of the following rebates:

- \$50** Tri-State rebate per electric water heater.
- \$25** Water heaters utilizing a time clock or Time-of-Day control panel.
- \$25** Lifetime or GCHP Desuperheater.
- \$20** Electric to electric replacement.

You may also qualify for one of the following rebates:

- \$200** Units 30 gallons or larger installed in new homes or conversions from fossil fuel units.
- \$500** Units 30 gallons or larger **with a lifetime warranty** installed in new homes or conversions from fossil fuel units.

Electric Motors

To qualify, you must notify United Power prior to installing a new or replacing a large motor.

- Applies to the installation of a new or used motor, from 10 hp to 200 hp, which is to operate at a minimum of 15% annual load factor or for a minimum of three months each year.
- Motors less than 10 hp may qualify if the aggregate for a single application which requires all motors to operate is at least 10 hp.
- Payments for motors larger than 200 hp may be negotiated.

Electric Heat

New Electric Resistive Heat units on **Automated** Time-of-Day control

- \$350** From United Power
- \$6 per kW** From Tri-State G&T

New Electric Thermal Storage units on **Automated** Time-of-Day control

- \$350** From United Power
- \$16 per kW** From Tri-State G&T

Beware of counterfeit electrical products

A “fake” purse or watch may make you angry, but they don’t carry the risk of injury or death. On the other hand, counterfeit electrical products can be dangerous. Counterfeit circuit breakers, power strips, extension cords, batteries, and holiday lights can cause fires, explosions, shocks, and electrocutions.

In recent years, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recalled more than 1 million counterfeit electrical products, including circuit breakers that did not trip when overloaded, cell phone batteries without a safety device in the circuitry to prevent overcharging, and extension cords with mislabeled, undersized wiring that overheated.

Counterfeits can be extremely difficult to spot. They could be a knock-off of a name brand product, or bear an unauthorized certification marking. Here are some tips to protect yourself from the dangers of counterfeit electrical products:

- Scrutinize the product, packaging, and labeling. Look for certification marks from the manufacturer and an independent testing laboratory—such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Trademarked logos that look different than usual may signal a counterfeit.
- If the price is “too good to be true,” it could be because the product is inferior and unsafe.
- Be careful when buying from an unknown source, such as a street vendor. Use established stores who purchase their goods from legitimate distributors and genuine manufacturers.
- Check the warning label. It should be free of grammatical errors and not conflict with information elsewhere on the package.
- Avoid no-name products.
- Look for the name and contact information of the manufacturer. If you find the information missing, consider purchasing electrical products elsewhere.
- Sign up for CPSC e-mail alerts at www.cpsc.gov to stay informed about product recalls.



*Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC);
Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)*

Is it safe? Is it recalled?

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission provides a free email notification system for the public. Just register to receive the latest information about products, recalls and other press releases. Sign up via their Internet form at <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>.



Energy Savers

Clean the Screen

Clean the lint screen on your dryer every time you use the machine. Lint screens that are clogged use up to 30 percent more energy.



Board Members

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Richard McLean, Vice-President
Jim Jaeger, Secretary/Treasurer
Richard Newman, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

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Dale Erickson Lois Lesser

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Ruth Marks

Director of External Affairs

Troy Whitmore

Editors

Heidi Storz
Laurel Eller

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Solar Incentives Announced



Ever wanted to capture the power of the sun? United Power is offering incentives to customers who install solar systems this year. The program teams with the State of Colorado to maximize rebates for customers.

[Details on Page 1](#)

Tell Us How We're Doing

Attend a Listening Post and let us know what you're thinking.



[Details on Page 2](#)

Rate Increase Effective this Month

A wholesale power increase approved last year will show up on bills this month.

[Details on Page 5](#)

2008 Energy Efficiency Credits

Thinking about making home improvements? We offer incentives on several efficient technologies.

[Details on Page 6](#)

Buyer Beware!

Counterfeit electric goods are found everywhere - even in the electric industry. Protect yourself!

[Details on Page 6](#)

Congratulations December Reader Rewards Winners! 1st Place: Barbara Guarcello, Golden 2nd Place: Debbie Broadhead, Mead & James Murphy, Brighton

Read *United Newsline* online. Click on 'Member Tools' at www.unitedpower.com.



UnitedNewsline@UnitedPower.com



Ask questions & share feedback with the *UnitedNewsline*

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