

NOVEMBER  
2016

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER  
24 & 25

Thanksgiving Holiday  
Offices Closed

DECEMBER  
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Christmas Holiday  
Offices Closed

JANUARY  
12

Washington D.C. Youth Tour  
Application Deadline  
Learn more on Page 5

## Wholesale Power Rates to Climb in 2017 Board Weighs 2017 Budget and Impact of Rate Increase

United Power's Board of Directors began their discussion on both the cooperative's budget for 2017 and the wholesale power rate increase Tri-State Generation and Transmission has planned for 2017. Wholesale rates will increase by 4.23 percent for the cooperative, so the board is working with staff to understand the effect of these cost increases and hopefully lessen the impact for United Power members. Generally rate discussions are considered over several months with the board.

"The board just got a preliminary look at next year's budget numbers, and we will revisit the rate issue at next month's board meeting," said

Darryl Schriver, CEO. "While I expect to be able to absorb some of this cost, we probably will need to consider some rate changes to meet this increased cost."

Tri-State Generation and Transmission, a generation cooperative headquartered in Westminster, provides wholesale power to 43 distribution cooperatives in a four state region, including United Power. Tri-State indicated that both increased expenses and lower revenues have made the increase necessary. An unexpected mid-year increase in power costs from one of their larger suppliers, coupled with increased costs of producing power is stated to be key drivers of their expense increases.

Tri-State states that cost increases are being driven by regulatory compliance, additional environmental controls and increases to basic costs for fuel and production costs. Tri-State is also forecasting a reduction in revenue, due in part to lagging oil and gas production, slow growth, and closure of several large manufacturing and energy production facilities throughout their territory.

In 2014, United Power absorbed most of a 1.6 percent wholesale power cost increase by adjusting rates to a handful of rate classes, and

reducing some operational costs. In 2015 only one industrial rate was adjusted even though many costs continued to increase for the cooperative.

"United Power has a long history of looking out for their members and keeping rates as stable as possible," Schriver said. "One of our key goals continues to be providing reliable energy, at economical rates. We've worked hard in the past to trim our operational costs where possible, to keep the impact on our members minimal, and we remain committed to keeping those costs down as this discussion continues. We will continue our discussion with the board regarding the impact of these rates for our members next month."

The board will be discussing the rate and budget issues at their November 18, 2016 meeting, which begins at 9:00 a.m. at United Power's Brighton Headquarters. The public is always invited to attend meetings to voice concerns or ask questions. If you would like to discuss any concerns prior to the meeting, feel free to contact CEO Darryl Schriver at 303-637-1340. Updates about any rate changes will be presented in upcoming issues of United Newsline, or members can also find updates on the cooperative's website at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).



[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

Main Switchboard 303-659-0551  
Report an Outage 303-637-1350  
Customer Service 303-637-1300

# We May Have Money for You

United Power is attempting to issue unclaimed capital credit refunds to members who received electric service from the cooperative prior to 2014. If you were a member up to December 31, 2013, you may be eligible to receive a capital credit refund.

## What Are Capital Credits?

Cooperative members periodically receive capital credit refunds, based on their electric use during a specified time period. The amount you will receive is based on the amount of power you used, and the rates paid for the time period being retired. If the customer is deceased the credits may be claimed through the estate.

## Who May be Eligible for a Refund?

- If you were a United Power member for any period of time through December 31, 2013 and have moved out of the United Power service territory.
- Accounts of a deceased member may have funds due and the credits may be claimed by the estate.
- Current members may be eligible and all current members are encouraged to look at the list, especially if:
  - \* You have recently moved;
  - \* Changed your name;
  - \* Added your name to an existing account;
  - \* Did not cash a capital credit check issued in 2014 or earlier.



## Help us Find United Power Members

Do you have a relative or know of a neighbor who moved away in 2014 or earlier? They may be due a refund. A list of members who are due a refund is posted at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

## How Can I Find Out If I Am Due a Refund?

To find out if you are due a refund, visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com), click on 'Member Benefits' and look for the 'Capital Credits' page to view the entire list of unclaimed capital credit accounts.

Lists will also be posted in the lobbies of our three offices at 500 Cooperative Way in Brighton; 1200 Dexter Street in Fort Lupton; and 5 Gross Dam Road in Golden (Coal Creek Canyon).

## My Name is On The List. How Do I Claim My Money?

If you find your name on the list of unclaimed capital credits on our website, download and complete the **Patronage Capital Refund Request form** and return it to United Power. If you do not have internet access, please call our Capital Credit information hot line at 303-637-1200, leave a message with your name and mailing address and we will mail you a Patronage Capital Refund Request form. Please complete this form and mail it back to United Power in order to have your account researched.

**Forms must be received by United Power by April 28, 2017.**



## ENERGY SAVERS

### Inspect Insulation

Check the insulation in your home including your basement, attic, ceilings and floors. Hire a professional to inspect the type of insulation your home has, what rooms are insulated and thermal resistance of the insulation.

## Rose Earns Director Certification



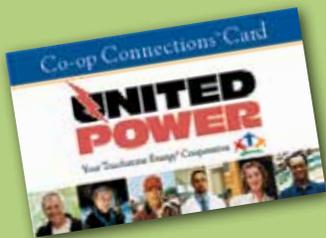
Congratulations to United Power Director Dave Rose who recently earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certificate (CCD) during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2016 Region 7 Meeting in Reno, Nevada. The CCD curriculum emphasizes foundational governance knowledge in addition to skills required of electric cooperative directors. Rose was recognized by NRECA CEO Jim Matheson.

During the 2nd Annual Be Great Boot Scoot event on October 8<sup>th</sup>, United Power surprised attendees with a \$25,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Weld County's Fort Lupton Clubhouse. The event was hosted by the Boys & Girls Club of Weld County Fort Lupton Clubhouse Advisory Board.

In addition to United Power's donation, a total of \$55,000 was raised during the Be Great Boot Scoot event. The funds will be used towards future capital needs of the Fort Lupton Clubhouse.



United Power board members and employees presented a \$25,000 check to the Boys & Girls Club of Weld County to benefit the Fort Lupton Clubhouse during the Be Great Boot Scoot event on October 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Co-op Connections Business Spotlight: Colorado in a Basket

Erie resident Tracy Barnkow loves discovering new Colorado products. As the owner of **Colorado in a Basket**, she's always on the hunt for unique items to keep her baskets fresh as well as promote other local businesses.

"Finding new Colorado products is a lot of fun. I'm always traveling to towns and cities and checking out the different shops," Barnkow said. "And being able to promote Colorado items is a definite plus."

**Colorado in a Basket** is an online business offering gourmet and custom gift baskets filled with Colorado's finest products. Buyers can choose from a wide variety of baskets or customize their own.

Whether it's a request for a university-themed basket or an order for the popular Cripple Creek basket, each basket is filled to the brim with quality products and homemade treats.

"Colorado has great stuff so it's easy to find great products for the baskets," Barnkow said. "I try to stick with smaller companies whose products you can't find in the grocery store. And then I have all of my friends and family members try them and

rate them to make sure the product is likable by more people than just myself."

**Colorado in a Basket** is one of many local business in United Power's territory participating in the Co-op Connections Card program, which offers exclusive discounts to United Power members and employees. The card is a money-saving tool that connects our members with discounts on everything from hotels stays to prescription drugs.

Through the Co-op Connections program, Barnkow offers a 15 percent discount on any holiday basket through her website, [www.coloradobaskets.com](http://www.coloradobaskets.com). At check out, make sure and enter the coupon code, UP16, to receive the discount.



## CO-OP CONNECTIONS

### Introducing Healthy Savings!

With Healthy Savings you can receive discounts on the following benefits:



#### Prescriptions

By using your Connections Card, you will receive a discount on prescription drugs at over 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores.



#### Dental Care

Save 20% to 40% on most dental services including orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics.



#### Vision

Get 20% to 60% savings on eye wear.



#### Hearing Aids

Discount of 35% off hearing aid prices at 2,000+ Newport Audiology Center locations.



#### Lab Work and Imaging

Savings of 10% to 60% off usual charges for MRI, CT and other lab procedures.



#### Chiropractic

Take advantage of 30% to 50% savings on diagnostic services and treatments.

The Healthy Savings package is not insurance nor is it intended to replace insurance.

### Your Connection to Savings

Click on Co-op Connections under the 'Member Benefits' tab at



[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) to search for additional deals, pharmacy discounts or to request a free card.

# Round-Up Grant Helps Local Food Bank

For the past three years, Pastor Rubén de Rus and a group of volunteers have operated a food pantry at Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza church. The pantry serves an average of 85 families per month, providing Brighton families in need with about 40 pounds of food each on the last Saturday of the month.

Normally, the food pantry receives monthly food supplies from Food Bank of the Rockies. But recently an administrative error caused the monthly order to happen after the pantry's distribution date leaving the food pantry in a bind – and without food for the September distribution.

After United Power's Operation Round-Up Foundation Board learned of the situation an emergency Operation Round-Up grant of \$2,400 was given to the pantry.

The Operation Round-Up program is funded by generous members who choose to “round-up” their bill to the next full dollar amount.

The Round-Up grant, along with other donations from other organizations and individuals throughout Brighton, provided the food pantry with the enough funds to purchase food for the September distribution.

“We are so grateful to United Power,” de Rus said. “It was so amazing to get the call from United Power about the donation. What a huge difference the grant made for us.”



Pastor Rubén de Rus with Heidi Storz, United Power Marketing and Communications Coordinator, after receiving a check from Operation Round-Up.

## The #WhoPowersYou Contest: Help Spread the Positive Energy



At United Power, we do more than just deliver electricity. We believe it's important to recognize the people who power our lives. That's why, in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we're running the #WhoPowersYou contest. This is an opportunity to honor inspirational people in our communities.

Who has made positive difference in your life? The person you nominate could win up to \$5,000!

### How to Enter:

- Visit [www.WhoPowersYou.com](http://www.WhoPowersYou.com) to make a nomination between 10/19/2016 - 11/27/2016
- Voting will run from 11/28/2016 - 12/18/2016, and winners will be announced in early 2017

## READER REWARDS

November  
2016



### Three Winners Every Month!

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$150 Lowe's Gift Card  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$50 Lowe's Gift Card (two winners)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry form to: United Power • Reader Rewards  
PO Box 929 • Brighton, CO 80601

### Reader Rewards Online

[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)



Save a stamp! Visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on 'Member Benefits' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### What is United Power ranked nationally among other cooperatives for cumulative solar installations?

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.

## UNITED POWER PRIDE

United Power Pride Throw Back:

*"This photo was taken at Metropolitan Life Stadium on Feb. 3, 2014 for Super Bowl XLVIII. It was taken prior to kickoff when we were all still smiling! We still love our Broncos!"*

Dean and Pamela Bustos, Brighton



### United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and we'll send you a gift if we print it. Send your name, address, phone number, and a description of the photo to:

E-MAIL: [unitednewsline@unitedpower.com](mailto:unitednewsline@unitedpower.com)

MAIL: United Power—Attn: United Newsline  
PO Box 929, Brighton CO 80601

# Would Your Student Like to Visit Washington, D.C. for a Leadership Opportunity?

November 2016

5

United Power is now accepting applications for the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour to be held June 8-15, 2017. The cooperative will pay all expenses for this unique opportunity for three local students to experience our nation's capital first-hand. This experience will allow students to gain a better understanding of American History, see government in action, develop leadership skills, and gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives.

United Power's Youth Tour is open to high school students 16 years of age or older and whose primary residence is in United Power's service territory. Applications are available under the 'Member Benefits' tab at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com). For more information contact United Power's Community Outreach Specialist, Julie Stewart at 303-637-1334.

**Applications must be postmarked by January 12, 2017.**

[@YouthTourDC](https://twitter.com/YouthTourDC) [f](https://www.facebook.com/NRECAYouthTour) NRECAYouthTour [www.nreca.coop/youthtour](http://www.nreca.coop/youthtour)

## LED Rebate Changes Coming in 2017

United Power members looking to try the newest lighting technology – LEDs – can continue to take advantage of a rebate funded by Tri-State Generation and Transmission. Currently, members who purchase LED light bulbs that are rated at 500 lumens or greater can receive a rebate of half the cost of the bulb up to \$10.

**Beginning January 1, 2017 the LED rebate amount will change from \$10 to \$8 max per bulb. The application deadline will also change beginning January 1, 2017 from 180 days from the day of purchase, to 120 days from the day of purchase.**

Members are encouraged to read labels carefully when purchasing to be sure the LED product meets all rebate requirements. Members should also follow application instructions carefully to receive the full rebate amount.

Click on 'Manage Your Energy' at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) for the rebate application and complete rebate details.

### 2016 LED Rebate Details

- LED Light Bulb
- 500 lumens or greater
- Rebate of 50% of the bulb cost - up to \$10 per bulb maximum
- Apply within 180 days of purchase
- Limit 50 bulbs per member, per year
- A receipt and photo must be submitted with application.

### 2017 LED Rebate Changes

- Beginning January 1, 2017: Rebate of 50% of the bulb cost - up to \$8 per bulb maximum
- Beginning January 1, 2017: Apply within 120 days of purchase



## RECIPES



### Chinese Cabbage Salad

- 1 medium Chinese cabbage sliced crosswise
- 1 bunch green onions sliced
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 2 3/4 cups sliced almonds
- 2 pkgs. Ramen Noodles broken, no seasoning
- 1/4 to 1/2 sesame seeds (optional)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 2 Tbs. soy sauce

Combine the cabbage and the green onions, set aside and chill. For the crunch, brown the almonds, Ramen Noodles and sesame seeds in the butter or margarine. For the dressing, combine the sugar, vinegar, oil and soy sauce and bring to a boil for one minute before cooling. When ready to serve, toss the cabbage and crunch together. Pour the dressing over the mixture.

*Carole Price, Fort Lupton*

### Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

MAIL: United Power Recipes  
PO BOX 929  
Brighton, CO 80601

# 'Flipping the Switch' on the Fort Lupton Solar Farm

United Power and Silicon Ranch Corporation celebrated the dedication of the largest co-op solar farm in the state of Colorado during a Flip the Switch event on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The farm is now live and generating renewable energy for United Power members in northern Colorado.



From left, United Power Board President Brian McCormick and Matt Kisber, Silicon Ranch Corporation President and CEO prepare to "flip the switch" on the Fort Lupton Solar Farm.

The solar farm, located approximately 4 miles east of Fort Lupton on Highway 52, occupies 90 acres and features a single-axis tracking system to allow 160,000 panels to follow the sun across its daily arc. The 13 megawatt project produces enough carbon-free electricity to help power more than 2,500 homes and businesses in Weld County. The project itself is

the result of an initiative by United Power to incorporate cost-effective renewable energy sources to complement its generation portfolio.

United Power is the electric cooperative responsible for providing electric service to more than 78,000 meters representing more than 200,000 people in Colorado's northern Front Range. Under its agreement with Silicon Ranch, which will own and operate the facility, United Power will receive all the energy produced over a 20-year period. In July, the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) recognized United Power as one of the Top Ten electric cooperatives in the country in all six solar categories evaluated, including Number 1 in "Annual Megawatts."

"United Power is excited that this partnership with Silicon Ranch is allowing us to add clean, renewable energy to our power mix," said Darryl Schriver, United Power CEO. "It illustrates how United Power is trying to strike a balance between

traditional and renewable energy sources on our system. The

project is also part of a concerted effort by the cooperative to diversify our power sources to provide more predictable power costs for our members today and into the future."

Silicon Ranch President and Chief Executive Officer Matt Kisber said the leadership at United Power deserves tremendous credit for their vision and commitment to provide competitively-priced, renewable power to their membership.

"As long-term owners of our projects, we take great pride in being active members in the communities we serve and are excited about the economic and environmental benefits this solar farm has brought and will continue to bring to Fort Lupton and the surrounding region," he said.

McCarthy Building Companies was contracted by Silicon Ranch to build the facility and hired over 100 workers, the vast majority of whom were hired locally, for the 7-month construction effort. McCarthy has an office in the Denver area and is one of the largest American-owned construction firms in the country

"We have been fortunate to develop a number of meaningful relationships here in Colorado, not only with our partners at United Power, but also with Upstate

Colorado Economic Development, the Weld County Board of County Commissioners, the Fort Lupton City Council, local city and county planning departments, and our local project partners," Kisber said. "Today we celebrate the commissioning of this solar plant as a true group effort, and we are grateful for all who had a hand in making this facility possible."

The dedication ceremony hosted by United Power and Silicon Ranch welcomed local, regional, and state officials, representatives from the project team, and students from Fort Lupton High School, who received a special tour of the facility.



The Fort Lupton Solar Farm occupies 90 acres and features a single-axis tracking system to allow 160,000 panels to follow the sun across its daily arc.



## ENERGY SAVERS

### Cover Drafty Windows

Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

Jerry Marizza, United Power New Energy Program Coordinator, gives a tour of the solar farm to Fort Lupton High School students.



The dedication ceremony welcomed local, regional and state officials and representatives from the project team.

# Leaders in Renewable Energy

United Power continues to be a leader in renewable energy integration. Since 2009 when United Power energized Colorado's first community solar farm, the cooperative continues to look for new and unique ways to integrate renewable sources. United Power recognizes that the future of electrical generation will be an "all of the above" strategy of investing in a variety of generation sources, and responding to the wants and needs of our membership.

Projects like our large scale solar fields and the methane recapture plant make sense on multiple fronts. These projects reduce carbon emissions, but they also make economic sense. They produce generation that we can purchase for our members at a predictable cost, with a predictable lifespan. It is one way to build some cost stability for our cooperative members.

# 1

**UNITED POWER LEADS ALL COOPERATIVES**

in the Tri-State Generation & Transmission family

**FOR INCORPORATION OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION**

**37.5 MW** UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

**TOTAL RENEWABLE GENERATION**  
**50.5 MW**

12% capacity • 5% energy



POWERING **10,200** HOMES  
15% OF ALL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

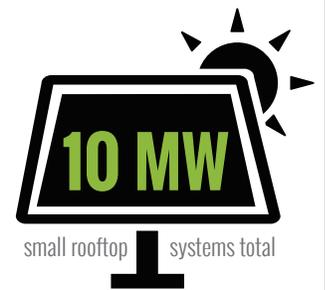


**2015 CO-OP PARTNER OF THE YEAR**  
by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (COSEIA)

## Rooftop Solar



**2%** of total meters



RANKED



among co-ops  
for cumulative solar  
installations

2015 Utility Solar Market Snapshot—July 2016  
The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)

## Major Renewable Milestones

2009

First community solar in Colorado  
**32 members** lease  
**96 panels** located on United Power's property

2011

Erie Landfill Methane to Megawatts project  
**3 MW**  
90% baseload factor serving  
**2,400 homes**

2012

United Power's first utility scale project: Hangar 160 Solar Field  
**2 MW** system serving  
**333 homes**

2015

A record year for rooftop  
**894 rooftop** systems added  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** in the nation for rooftop solar growth  
**6 MW** of rooftop solar added in one year

2016

Partnered with Silicon Ranch to energize a total of  
**19.5 MW** utility scale solar  
Fort Lupton + Mead Solar  
**13MW + 6.5MW**

2017

A third partnership with Silicon Ranch will energize a  
**16 MW** solar field powering  
**2,700 homes**

# Inside This Issue

November 2016



## Wholesale Rates to Climb



The United Power board is discussing the 2017 budget and how a wholesale rate increase may effect members.

Page 1

## Unclaimed Capital Credits



If you were a member up to December 31, 2013, you may be eligible to receive a capital credit refund.

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## #WhoPowers You Contest

Nominate someone who powers you in your life for their chance to win \$5,000.

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## Solar Farm Dedicated

Fort Lupton Solar Farm dedicated during Flip the Switch Ceremony.

Page 6

## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

- email**.....UnitedNewsline@UnitedPower.com
- online**.....www.unitedpower.com
- f**.....facebook.com/UnitedPower
- t**.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

- Main Switchboard**.....303-659-0551
- Member Services**.....303-637-1300
- Outage Line**.....303-637-1350

## CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Carrel G. Rogers, Golden
- 2nd Place:** David and Ronda Bowen, Lochbuie  
Carolyn Koop, Brighton

See your name listed as a winner? Call 303-637-1325 to claim your Reader Rewards.



**Chief Executive**  
**Officer** Darryl Schriver  
**Director of External Affairs**  
 Troy Whitmore  
**Editors**  
 Heidi Storz  
 Laurel Eller  
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# UNITED NEWSLINE



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