

DECEMBER
2021

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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No Rate Changes for Members in 2022

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 23-24	Christmas Holiday Offices Closed
DECEMBER 30-31	New Year's Holiday Offices Closed
JANUARY 28	Scholarship Apps Due Details on pg. 7
APRIL 13, 2022	Annual Meeting & Director Election

Residential & Business Rates Will Not Increase for Second Consecutive Year

United Power has announced that there will not be a scheduled rate increase for residential or business members in 2022. This marks the second consecutive year rates have not been increased for members. The cooperative's Board of Directors made the decision in November upon approval of the 2022 budget.

Over the course of the past several months, United Power has focused its efforts to reduce spending where possible and control cooperative costs. It has also continued to monitor the pandemic's economic impact on the communities it serves and the members on its lines. While there has been a slow

transition to normal functions, the result of the cooperative's cost control measures has enabled it to once again avoid a rate increase, providing a little additional relief for members who continue to feel the pandemic's affects heading into the holiday season.

"We are proud to announce that members will not have to worry about how a rate increase will affect them this upcoming year," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power's President and Chief Executive Officer. "As a cooperative, we don't answer to corporate shareholders or investor interests, but are here to serve each of our members. We have the flexibility to shift directions quickly, like we had to over the past year, to drive better results for you, our members."

Continued growth also played a significant role in the cooperative's ability to maintain its current rate structure. Growth this year has exceeded expectations, and United Power became just the second Colorado co-op to surpass 100,000 meters earlier this summer.

United Power understands its members have different needs and use electricity in vastly different ways. The cooperative's residential rates are designed so members have the option

to choose one that most closely fits how they use energy. When the demand rate debuted, it separated the energy and demand components and allowed the cooperative to more fairly charge members for both their energy use and impact on the grid. Residential members have four different rates to choose from, each designed with slight variations that allow you to review your energy usage and pick a rate that works best for you and your family.

However you use your energy, the flexibility of the cooperative's residential rates should meet most members' needs.

You can compare the demand and energy charges of each rate and choose one that most closely fits how you and your family use energy on the website as www.unitedpower.com/rates.

Members who are curious how home electronics and appliances may impact their demand charge can use the cooperative's Demand Calculator, available to members at www.unitedpower.com/demand.



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Customer Service 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.

During my first nine months here at United Power I have had the tremendous opportunity to experience “the cooperative difference” as we serve our rapidly growing base of members.

What is the cooperative difference? It is the way we are all member-owners of this great organization. It is the way we interact in serving your communities and it is the way we recognize the importance of supporting the United Power “family.” Many different types of organizations provide power, but cooperatives do it in unique fashion.

Here are just a few of my experiences since coming to United Power:

- In November we commissioned a generator in Gilpin County that will provide the school system and emergency responders a reliable source of power should there be an extended outage. The school is at the end of a radial line in the rugged and beautiful community we serve in the mountains. This automated generator will kick in should power be curtailed in a storm or other challenging event. More importantly, this will offer the members of the community a place of refuge in times of crisis. Working with the Gilpin County School District and the Office of Emergency Management, United Power engineers and linemen made sure the system was up and running for this winter.
- In support of the Metro North Lead Program, I had the chance to meet with the up-and-coming leaders from around our service territory and engage in a discussion about the history – and coming changes – in the electric industry. I had a similar opportunity to speak with the Weld County Board of County Commissioners. We had a lively engagement on the future of electric generation and transmission, as well as the impact of the growing natural gas and oil businesses.
- Our crews are out every day making sure the system is strong and resilient. They are there, rain, snow or shine, understanding the critical nature of electricity. And, behind every one of them are the dispatchers, financial analysts,

member service representatives, engineers and other employees working hard to keep rates low and reliability high. As we all know, these jobs are even more difficult as we continue to manage in a COVID workplace.

- A number of members have reached out to me on a variety of topics, from electric vehicles to renewables and coal, with ideas for the system. I respond to each personally as working at United Power is more than just my vocation but is my avocation as well. I encourage you to contact me with questions, concerns and opinions at www.unitedpower.com/CEO.

The next few years will bring remarkable changes to the energy industry across the country. The cooperative difference means we have a special lens, asking not only what we can do to improve our system but how can we improve the lives of our members. The flexibility of the cooperative model means your input is solicited and valued. Your Board of Directors is a direct pipeline to our organization, and they represent you with passion.

During the next several months we will be having conversations across the communities we serve focused on our 10-Year Working Plan that lays out a vision and priorities for the coming decade. We want to ensure there is an aligned vision for the future as we take advantage of the technologies, societal changes and improved environmental footprint at United Power. We must welcome the changes our members require with open arms as electric vehicles, solar panels, battery storage and yet-to-be-determined technologies expand across our footprint. As a cooperative we are anxious to help our communities thrive and are driven to ensure an even brighter future.

Whether it is providing technical information, working with developers who are expanding housing and business opportunities to our local economy or partnering to bring efficiencies to industry, the cooperative difference is in our DNA. It is why we exist, what we strive for every day and how we live our values.

Electronic Director Balloting

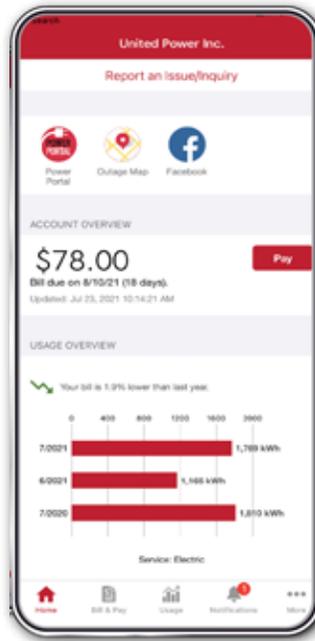
Electronic Voting Offered in 2022

United Power is adding the option of electronic balloting for the first time in its upcoming 2022 Director Election. Members will be able to use their online account to participate in the cooperative's democratic process the same secure portal where they pay their bills and monitor energy use. Voting for board candidates in each director district will be available via mail ballot, through the online portal or on the United Power mobile app beginning March 18, 2022.

The cooperative offers online account access free of charge to all residential and business members. If you have not set up an online account already, doing so is quick and easy. All you'll need is your account number – found on the front page of your monthly billing statement in the top right corner – the name on the account and an email address.

Your online account and the United Power mobile app provide a lot of features to help you manage your account from your home or on the go, from payment and billing info to reporting outages and seeing detailed usage analysis.

To set up your account, go to www.unitedpower.com/SmartHub.



2022 ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2022

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held as a hybrid event. Members may participate online or attend in-person.

IN-PERSON MEETING

Riverdale Regional Park & Fairgrounds

9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601

VIRTUAL MEETING

www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting

4:30 p.m. In-person Registration, Balloting & Dinner

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

United Power is monitoring COVID-19 restrictions, and in the event conditions do not permit an in-person event, the virtual format will still be available.

BALLOTING DEADLINES

Balloting in the 2022 Director Election will be conducted by both electronic & paper balloting.

FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Director Nominations by Petition Deadline at 4 p.m.

MARCH 18, 2022

Electronic balloting opens & paper ballots are mailed to members

APRIL 12, 2022

Mail-in ballots must arrive at the P.O. Box by 12 p.m.

Electronic balloting closes at 11:59 p.m.

APRIL 13, 2022

Ballot boxes at United Power offices close at 12 p.m.

In-person voting at Annual Meeting location open from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Every March, the cooperative holds candidate forums in each of its four director districts for members to meet candidates vying to serve on the Board of Directors, hear their vision for the cooperative and ask questions.

Meet the Candidate events are free to members and RSVPs are not required. Light refreshments will be served.

Times and dates of Meet the Candidate Forums are located on page 3.

Annual Director Election

Three Board Seats Up for Election

Three positions on United Power's eleven-member board are up for election at **the 2022 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022.** The cooperative plans to host a hybrid event, available for members to attend either in-person or virtually. One seat in the East, West, and South districts will be up for a three-year term.

To be eligible to become or remain a director, a person must be a United Power member and receive electric service from United Power at the member's primary residence in the district he or she represents. United Power's bylaws (available at www.unitedpower.com, any of our offices, or through mail) provide in-depth information on director districts, qualifications, terms, elections, meetings and officers.

Meet the Candidate Forums

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.

Coal Creek Canyon Community Center
31528 Highway 72, Golden, CO 80403

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 | 6:30 p.m.

Riverdale Regional Park
Rendezvous Room, Waymire Dome
9755 Henderson Road, Brighton 80601

Hybrid Event - Stream at www.unitedpower.com

Meet the Candidate forums subject to change or cancellation.

Each member's district is printed on their United Power statement. Nominations by written petition must state nominee's name and district, be signed by 15 or more United Power members, and be filed with the Board no less than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

The deadline for nominations by petition is 4 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Petitions are available at United Power's headquarters office in Brighton at 500 Cooperative Way. Additional information can be obtained by calling United Power's executive department at 303-659-0551 or by visiting our website at www.unitedpower.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.

Fort Lupton Recreation Center
Multi-purpose Room 3
203 S. Harrison, Fort Lupton 80621

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 | 6:30 p.m.

Carbon Valley Service Center
9586 E I-5 Frontage Road, Longmont 80504



Decking the Halls Safely

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and with it the time to put up festive lights, both indoors and outdoors.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International, nearly 90 percent of Americans decorate their homes as part of winter holidays. While holiday lighting does contribute to the joy, appeal and splendor of the season, using them without following important safety precautions can increase the risk of fires and electrical injuries.

ESFI recommends holiday safety steps to ensure you and your family are able to enjoy the season comfortably and worry-free:

1. The best decorations are safe decorations, so when you're decorating, make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture.
2. Always turn off your decorations when you leave your home and when you're sleeping.
3. Don't overload outlets or extensions cords. If you're using extension cords or adapters that add receptacles, consider having a qualified electrician add more outlets to your home.
4. Only use electronics in dry areas. As tempting as it is, you just can't decorate your aquarium with icicle lights.
5. Every home needs a working smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside sleeping areas and on every level, including the basement.
6. Inspect your decorations and discard any that are damaged or worn out. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, loose connections or frayed or bare wires. Plug light strings together as you inspect them but before hanging.
7. ESFI recommends buying your family Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter breakers or outlets. Many electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs.

READER REWARDS

DECEMBER 2021



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$100 Bill Credit

2nd place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

Submit Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com



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

When are United Power scholarship applications due?

By submitting this entry I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newsline if I am selected as a winner. For complete contest rules, visit www.unitedpower.com/newsline.

Members may also enter by mailing the following entry form to:

United Power • Reader Rewards • 500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

UNITED POWER PRIDE



The original "room where it happened." United Power member Vicki Hutchinson snapped this photo of the Last Supper location while touring Old Jerusalem.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the United Newsline and you'll get 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.

Round-Up Is Voluntary & Member-Funded

United Power implemented Operation Round-Up more than 25 years ago as a way for members to voluntarily help each other through a small monthly contribution built right into their billing statement. We couldn't have envisioned a scenario like the past couple years where a nationwide pandemic created difficult circumstances for many of the cooperative's members.

If you're not familiar with Round-Up, it is a foundation funded entirely by members who "round up" their monthly billing statements to the next whole dollar. Participation is voluntary and average yearly contributions are just \$6. Those funds are then redistributed to nonprofits throughout the co-op's service territory to ensure as many members receive help as possible. The foundation is managed by a board of fellow cooperative members.

As a voluntary foundation, members form the backbone of Round-Up. There are



Members can sign up for Operation Round-Up at www.unitedpower.com/round-up.

more than 20,000 cooperative members participating in Round-Up, and without their support, it could not continue to provide the level of assistance it does to nonprofits throughout the territory. Over the course of this past year, with more members than ever needing assistance, some of the larger corporate donors also stepped up, including Ward Electric, the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), Sherman & Howard, IMA Inc., InBank and Western United.

Member Choice Grants

Final 2021 Grant Recipients Announced

The final round of Member Choice Grants for 2021 have been awarded. United Power is proud to announce Blawk Hawk's High Country Auxiliary and the Mead High School Band have been selected from nominations submitted by our members to receive grants this round.

The cooperative introduced Member Choice Grants in early 2020, asking members to nominate nonprofit organizations within the service territory they would like to see us help support. The grant nomination process gives members a voice and helps ensure we are supporting causes they truly care about.



High Country Auxiliary

High-Country Auxiliary has existed for more than 50 years to aid and support Timberline Fire Protection District, Gilpin County Animal Response Team, and other emergency service organizations within the district. This includes providing sustenance or purchasing items for first responders or providing scholarships for training classes.



Mead High School Band

The Mead High School Band takes great pride in offering a variety of performing ensembles, including an inclusive percussion ensemble for students with intellectual disabilities. The band seeks to balance performances in educational settings and festivals with performances in the Longmont and Mead communities.

RECIPES



Christmas Sugar Cookies

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp almond extract, optional
- 2 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp corn syrup
- 2 Tbsp water, room temp

For cookies: Beat butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg, 2 tsp vanilla and almond extract. Beat to combine. Whisk flour, baking powder and salt. Add in stages to wet ingredients and mix to combine. Add more flour as needed for better rolling consistency. Roll out to 1/4 in. thickness. and chill 1-2 hours. Divide into parts, if necessary.

Cut into desired shapes. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes, until lightly colored on edges. Baking times may vary depending on size and shape.

For icing: Whisk powdered sugar, vanilla, corn syrup and water in bowl until combined. Separate and dye with food coloring as desired.

Decorate cookies with family and friends.

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

2022 Youth Trips & Scholarships



Scholarships

United Power awards 18 academic scholarships to outstanding students served by the cooperative. Scholarships include awards for students attending an accredited university or college in Colorado or pursuing a specific degree program, as well as 11 book scholarships.

Application Deadline:
January 28, 2022

Youth Tour

Students explore Washington D.C. with peers from across the country and learn about American history and the cooperative business model while developing leadership skills. Each day is packed with memorable moments.

Application Deadline:
January 19, 2022

Youth Camp

Campers spend a week near Steamboat Springs establishing and managing their own cooperative. In between days filled with cooperative-focused activities, leadership training seminars and collaborative group projects, campers enjoy fun activities like rafting down the Colorado River or exploring Fish Creek Falls.

Application Deadline:
January 19, 2022

Applications and more information for United Power's youth opportunities are available under the 'News and Community' tab at www.unitedpower.com or call Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist, at 303-637-1334.



Energy Efficiency During the Holiday Season

We spend all year thinking about ways to effectively monitor and reduce our energy usage, but that becomes more difficult during the holidays. We're often distracted with decorations and preparations, shopping, cooking and planning. It can be easy to let your guard down and start to see more excessive energy usage than you might have otherwise expected.

However you choose to celebrate this season, United Power has you covered with the most up-to-date energy efficiency tips and tricks to prevent holiday usage spikes. With a little forethought and diligence, it's easy to find a little savings during this time of year.

Replace Christmas Lights with LEDs

Updating the lighting in your home is one of the quickest and easiest ways to reduce your energy usage and costs. Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, are a well-known alternative to traditional lights, and are quickly becoming standard lighting. While many people are making the switch to these lights in their homes, they still might reach for the older, less efficient string lights they've always used when decorating for the holidays.

Depending on how festive your holiday display is, the cost of using these lights can really begin to add up – perhaps to the tune of hundreds of dollars! Christmas lights that utilize LEDs, however, are up to 90 percent more efficient and have a far longer life than traditional incandescent lights.

Beware the Holiday Vampires

United Power has regularly talked about vampire loads, which are quickly becoming larger consumers of energy. Vampire loads come from devices that continue to use energy even when they appear to be off, such as TVs, gaming consoles or charging devices. Holiday lights can also contribute to these loads when they stay plugged in throughout the day while not in use. To avoid the additional energy usage, unplug lights during the day or before bed in the evening, or you can plug them into a power strip that can be turned off when not in use.

Give the Gift of Energy Savings

Electronics have become a more common gift item over the past few years, many of which have the capability of using large quantities of energy. "Green gifting" is the practice of gifting electronics that are certified energy efficient, such as those marked by the ENERGY STAR label. These devices meet or exceed federal standards for energy efficiency. This allows you to pass on the gift of energy savings to friends and family.

For more energy efficiency tips to help you save on usage throughout the year, visit our website at www.unitedpower.com.



Energy Efficiency Rebates Changing in 2022

2021 Rebate Applications Must Be Received by December 15

United Power offers its members exclusive rebate opportunities on home efficiency installations and energy efficient appliances. Rebate availability and product eligibility may change slightly each year depending on a variety of factors, such as whether the rebate is renewed by Tri-State, the cooperative's wholesale power provider. Changes to United Power's rebates are coming at the beginning of next year, and to ensure your recent purchase qualifies for current rebate amounts, the cooperative must receive applications no later than December 15.

Applications that are received after the December deadline may be honored at the new 2022 rates, but some rebates have been discontinued for the upcoming year. Beginning in January, United Power will no longer offer rebates for EnergyStar dishwashers, electric thermal storage or new air conditioning installations. If you have purchased or plan to purchase one of these products within 120 days of the deadline, you are encouraged to submit the application as soon as possible.

The timeframe to submit applications for rebates will also be changing in 2022. Currently, members may submit a rebate application within 120 days of purchasing any qualifying item. The window will be changing to 90 days beginning in January.

Over the next few weeks, United Power will be finalizing its 2022 rebate catalog, including the potential to add new rebate opportunities and changes to existing rebates. Members are advised to check the website frequently to ensure they have the most current and up-to-date rebate information. For more information, go to www.unitedpower.com/rebates.

If you have questions about applications deadlines, extension requests or rebate expirations, call the cooperative's energy management specialists at 303-637-1311.

Co-op Energizes Gilpin County Generator

Generator Serves as Backup Power for School During Extended Outages

United Power, partnering with the Gilpin County Office of Emergency Management, placed a 625-kw diesel generator on the Gilpin County School District campus. The generator was installed as a safety enhancement to serve both the school and community members in the mountain territory.

"United Power is excited to partner with Gilpin County on this key project for community members adjacent to the school district campus," stated Dean Hubback, United Power's Chief Energy Resource Officer. "Completing the project prior to the winter season should provide security and peace of mind to the residents in the area and provide a much-needed resource in the event of an extended power interruption."

Without a back-up power option, Gilpin County was required to notify parents and send students home during a power outage. The generator alleviates concerns for school administrators and parents of students. Additionally, the generator can provide a longer window of service during an extended outage, allowing Emergency Management to activate the site as an emergency warming center.

The generator can provide power to the entire school campus, including school buildings, gym facilities, the bus barn, water storage and delivery systems, pumping stations and the Eagles' Nest Daycare Center. The



generator operates on an ultra-clean, low sulfur fuel and incorporates advanced emission reduction technologies.

"Gilpin County is kind of a unique situation," said Nathan Whittington, Emergency Manager at the Gilpin County Office of Emergency Management. "My biggest fear for this county is isolation, so building internal capability within the county is critical. I can't thank United Power enough. This is a huge win for Gilpin County."

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Member Choice Grants

United Power has awarded its final round of Member Choice Grants for 2021.

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Rebates Changing in 2022

Rebate applications for 2021 must be received by December 15.

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No Rate Increases for Members in 2022

United Power has announced that there will not be a scheduled rate increase for residential or business members in 2022. This marks the second consecutive year rates have not been increased for members.

Cover

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CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1st Place: Jill Judd, Golden
2nd Place: Nancy Gutierrez, Lochbuie
Laura Barba, Firestone

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

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