UNITED NEWSLINE

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Nov. 28-29,	Thanksgiving Holiday
2024	Offices Closed
Dec. 24-25,	Christmas Holiday
2024	Offices Closed
Dec. 31 &	New Year's Holiday
Jan. 1	Offices Closed
April 16,	Annual Meeting &
2025	Director Election

# United Power is a New ERA Program Finalist Additional Grants Further Offset Costs of

**Innovative Energy Projects** 

## Funds Will Facilitate Significant Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

United Power was among 16 utilities announced as a finalist for the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service in September. The cooperative was one of just two distribution cooperatives selected in the first round – along with CORE Electric, which is also located in Colorado – out of more than 150 proposals. The New ERA Program funds are earmarked for projects that reduce overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. United Power is eligible to receive up to \$261 million to help offset part of the costs for seven projects the cooperative submitted for consideration in its application.

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.



www.unitedpower.com

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 303-637-1350

 Member Services
 303-637-1300

"The New ERA Program represents the first significant funding opportunity of this generation," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power President and CEO. "It will help finance the energy sector's move to a future with cleaner power generation resources. The timing of this grant award offers an ideal opportunity for United Power and our members as we continue our transition to an independent electric distribution cooperative."

United Power exited its contract with its former wholesale power provider in May with the intention of pursuing new contracts that would allow the cooperative to provide cleaner, more flexible power, and prepare for upcoming shifts in the industry. This included curating a power portfolio of solar, hydropower, and wind generation projects. The New ERA investment will be used to offset the cost to transition to these new dynamic power contracts.

"These funds are the perfect complement to the strategies United Power adopted to advance our clean energy journey," Gabriel said. "Earlier this year, we deployed multiple battery energy storage systems on our distribution grid, allowing us to provide redundancy on our system while managing power costs. Adding more renewable energy to our mix will continue to build on this pioneering vision."

United Power's application requested grant funding, which will offset 25% of the cost of seven power purchase agreements for zeroemissions and renewable energy resources that will provide more than 760 megawatts to members by 2030. These power purchase agreements include the recently announced Solar of Alamosa, NextEra Solar, and Overland Solar projects. The estimated GHG reduction from these projects combined is 2.1 million tons annually, or equivalent to the GHG emitted by more than 520,000 gasoline-powered vehicles per year.

Driving the cooperative's effort to implement renewable resources and innovative energy systems is the state's climate action plan, which has aggressive goals for the state's energy utilities like United Power. Colorado lawmakers are calling for clean energy plans that demonstrate a reduction in GHG emissions of 80% from 2005 levels and to end reliance on coal-fired power generation by 2030.

"United Power is not the typical electric distribution cooperative," said Ursula J. Morgan, United Power's Board Chair. "Our



# **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.

Engaging with our members and communities is the highest privilege of running an electric cooperative. Understanding our members' needs and goals allows us to meet — and often exceed their expectations for providing electricity.

I had the pleasure of visiting two of our business members this past month – Meati Foods, the manufacturer of a "superfood" meat substitute made from mycelium, and several Chevronowned sites. Although the two businesses could not be more different, they are similar in their visions for the energy future.

Their corporate visions include using electricity to improve operations and reduce their carbon footprint. This strategy aligns with Our Cooperative Roadmap. We have made significant progress in reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions — down 26% since May 1 — and further reductions are planned.

The value of reliable and resilient electric power is core to the business success of both Meati Foods and Chevron. The Rockies Business Unit of Chevron has pioneered the electrification of oil and gas sites, which eliminates the use of diesel generators. The benefits of this solution are a cost-effective alternative to operating and maintaining large generators and a smaller, cleaner, and quieter footprint. One site supervisor told me, "We love [electrification] because it is quiet, does not smell, and we can count on it to work." Reliable power is also critical for Meati Food's process, which turns a small handful of mycelium into the meat equivalent of 350 head of cattle in just over three days. Even brief power interruptions create challenges.

In both cases, there is a desire to develop on-site generation and storage that aligns perfectly with United Power's vision of hyper-localized power, keeping power supply close at hand in a world where transmission congestion is increasing and costs are rising. Keeping generation and storage in our communities has the added benefit of bringing additional tax revenue and jobs. It also bolsters reliability and grid resilience. As part of our energy transition and the expansion of our power supply portfolio, we broke ground on a unique 162 MW natural gas project in September that exemplifies our hyper-localization strategy. The Mountain Peak Power plant, developed in partnership with Kindle Energy, sits adjacent to one of our rural substations. The site borders a natural gas line and hosts one of our 11 MW battery energy storage systems. Since it all resides on the distribution system, it negates the need for costly transmission. It will help ensure reliability and resource adequacy at times when renewable generation is underproducing. Combined with the on-site battery, it provides a closed loop for power to support our system.

United Power will also open the state's largest and the West's longest duration battery on the distribution system in December. The 33 MW, six-hour battery will be located in Brighton. Further, New ERA funds will be used to offset the cost of solar generation produced in a disadvantaged community in Alamosa County, owned by the same company that will operate the Brighton battery facility. It marks continued progress in expanding resources close to home and means we have nearly 115 MW of critical storage, allowing us to buy lowcost energy to discharge during our peak.

On a final note, we are moving into the "shoulder" months when electric usage is typically lower. It is also when work gets done on generators, substations, and related equipment. There are times when that means we have to take outages for work to be completed safely – especially by our transmission providers. We understand these outages can be inconvenient and will work diligently to communicate when they may occur. I ask you to make sure the contact information on your account is up-to-date so that you do not miss alerts.

A great thank you to your Board of Directors for their vision and support, and to the amazing women and men of United Power, whom I have the honor to serve. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your questions, comments, and concerns.

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## **New ERA Funds to Offset Energy Project Costs**

service territory is experiencing incredible growth, new businesses are looking for ways to partner with us to provide cleaner power, and our local governance structure allows us to be nimble and responsive to meet our members' needs. Cooperatives transformed the way of life in rural America when they stretched power lines across the country nearly 100 years ago, and today we are transforming our power supply by implementing the decarbonization efforts as laid out in Our Cooperative Roadmap. The New ERA investment will have an immediate positive impact on these efforts while helping to manage rates in future years for all United Power members."

United Power also previously announced that it has received investments and grants to offset project costs for innovative microgrid projects throughout the cooperative's service territory. These include a floating photovoltaic solar array in Fort Lupton coupled with battery storage and four small microgrid systems located at rural fire district facilities.

The Fort Lupton Microgrid was one of 17 clean energy projects selected to receive an Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations for up to \$6.1 million. The project plan includes replacing an aging diesel generator at the city's water treatment plant with a microgrid system to ensure a clean, reliable water source for local residents.

Colorado's Department of Local Affairs also awarded United Power with a \$700,000 grant through the Microgrids for Community Resilience Grant Program, designed to enhance community resilience during electric grid disruptions. The cooperative identified four rural fire facilities in Coal Creek Canyon, Frederick, Lochbuie, and Dacono with the help of local community officials. Microgrids consisting of batteries will ensure these facilities are able to continue operating during a large outage event. These batteries eliminate the need to activate fossil fuel backup power during outages and provide a load balancing tool for local members when not in use.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to work with our local communities and officials to identify the areas that would benefit most from innovative energy projects," said Gabriel. "And we appreciate state and federal agencies for recognizing the importance of projects like these."

# **Former Director Passes** Dick McLean Served Seven Years on the

# United Power Board of Directors

Former United Power Director Richard "Dick" McLean passed away in October at the age of 84. He had lived in Brighton since 1982 and served on the cooperative's board from 2002 through 2009. McLean established the First National Bank of Brighton (now Independent Financial) in the 1990s and served as its President until he retired.

McLean was active with numerous organizations including Knights of Columbus, the Elks Club, the Platte Valley Hospital board, Brighton Economic Development, and Adams County Economic Development. He also served as a city council member in Brighton, beginning in 2005, and was elected mayor in 2009. He served in that role until 2018.



# **2025** ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2025

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held as a hybrid event. Members may view the meeting online or attend in-person.

#### **MEETING LIVESTREAM**

www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting

#### **IN-PERSON MEETING**

Riverdale Regional Park & Fairgrounds 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601

4:30 p.m.	In-person Registration, Balloting, &
	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Online & In-person Meeting Begins

### **BALLOTING DEADLINES**

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

#### JAN. 16, 2025

Director candidate applications and petitions due by 12 noon.

#### MARCH 14, 2025

Electronic balloting opens and paper ballots are mailed to members.

#### **APRIL 15, 2025**

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

#### APRIL 16, 2025

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

### **CANDIDATE EVENT**

Every March, the cooperative provides the opportunity for members to meet candidates vying to serve on the Board of Directors.

The event is free to members and RSVPs are not required. Light refreshments will be served.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 | 6 p.m.** United Power Brighton Headquarters 500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603 3

# **Child Safety and Protection Month**

## Help Children Understand Electrical Safety and Recognize Electrical Hazards

Children are more curious about the world because they lack the knowledge and understanding that comes with years of experience and learning. November is recognized as National Child Safety and Protection Month, dedicated to identifying potential dangers children may face in their everyday lives and educating them about how to respond to these situations safely. Electricity is a resource children interact with daily, but it may also be a source of potential danger.

Most children develop an interest in power sockets as they grow and are able to move around the room. These represent a new object to explore, conveniently located at a height their tiny hands can reach. This problem is often a child's first experience with household electrical safety, and it is easily solvable with protective covers. Below are other potential electrical hazards your children may encounter.

### **Home Safety**

Ask your children to avoid the following situations or inform you if they encouter any of them.

- Worn or frayed power cords. Frequent use, age, or improper handling of power or charging cords can expose wiring.
- Loose electrical outlets. Outlets are designed to be snug to ensure good electrical contact. Over time, they may lose grip.
- Overloaded outlets. Outlets are designed to carry a limited capacity.

Shock and fire are common electrical hazards associated with using damaged power cords and loose electrical outlets. However, if left unresolved, it could potentially damage other electrical components.

## **READER REWARDS**

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Three Winners Every Month! 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$100 Bill Credit 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

# How many organizations did United Power employees provide service to in October?

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:



### **Outdoor Safety**

Electrical hazards may also exist outside in the world where kids run and play.

- Big green transformers. These look safe for climbing or playing, but they carry large voltages to power homes and businesses. Although they may look like fun, they are dangerous.
- Overhead power lines. Do not play near power lines with kites or other flying toys. These lines can also be downed in bad weather or during an accident. They are very dangerous and life-threatening. Teach children to assume downed power lines are always energized, to stay far away from them, and call 911 if they see one.

With your help, we can help our children practice everyday electrical safety and avoid potentially dangerous situations.

## UNITED POWER PRIDE





Brandon and Erica Dahl, Broomfield, aboard a cruise ship outside the world-famous Sydney Opera House in Australia. Not pictured: Erica Dahl or Australia's sharks, snakes, spiders, and its many plethora of famously poisonous inhabitants.

### **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.

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Phone:



United Power employees volunteered at Barr Lake State Park in Brighton, one of eight service projects completed in October. The cooperative presented \$500 donations to each organization as a thank you for the contributions they make to our communities.

# **United Power Gives Back**

## Employees Volunteered at Eight "Here for Good" Service Projects in October

United Power is proud to support the service organizations that add value to the communities in its territory. Dozens of

nonprofits and not-for-profits are helping meet a variety of needs for cooperative members, including mental health therapy, housing and food security, outdoor recreation, and more.

The cooperative recognized National Co-op Month in October and celebrated its commitment to communities by collaborating with eight of these organizations on employee service projects. More than 80 United Power employees participated.

"These organizations are the heart of our communities, and we are proud of the participation we received from employees," said Julie Stewart, United Power's Community Outreach Specialist. "The response from our employees was tremendous – they were excited to roll up their sleeves and get to work."

United Power employees completed several

beautification and facility improvement projects that freed the organizations' staff and volunteers to focus on more important tasks like programming and planning to support the clients they serve. Some of the projects included staining wooden structures for protection from winter weather at Barr Lake and the







Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center; painting and updating community areas at Graceful Oaks Youth Ranch; removing old flooring for renovations at the Carbon Valley Help Center; and mud mitigation at Allegiance Ranch. Employees also sorted and organized food for redistribution at Pastor's Pantry, the Fort Lupton Food & Clothing Bank, and Food for Hope.

"It was a lot of fun representing United Power in the community," said Member Services Representative Julie Vogel. "I am really thankful we were able to do this."

These organizations are a reminder that the cooperative serves thriving communities thanks to our members' spirits of service and commitment to giving back. Residents recognized an important

need in their community and found a way to meet it, which resembles the very way electric cooperatives were formed more than 85 years ago. They are Here for Good, and so is United Power.

## RECIPES



# Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Bacon

1/2 cup pecans
6 slices bacon
2 lbs Brussels sprouts, halved
3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp kosher salt
1/2 tsp black pepper
2 1/2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp maple syrup

Preheat oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Bake pecans until lightly toasted and fragrant, about five minutes. Coarsely chop pecans.

Increase oven temperature to 400°F. Bake bacon until crisp, about 12-20 minutes. Transfer bacon to plate to cool before finely chopping. Reserve rendered bacon fat.

Increase oven temperature to 450°F. Line sheet with fresh foil. Toss sprouts with rendered fat, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast until sprouts are tender and carmalized, about 20 minutes. Add balsamic vinegar and maple syrup. Toss to coat evenly. Transfer to serving dish and top with pecans and bacon.

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

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# We May Have Money for You

United Power is attempting to return unclaimed capital credit retirements to members who received electric service from the cooperative prior to 2021. If you were a member up to Dec. 31, 2020, you may be eligible to claim a previously issued but unclaimed capital credit refund.

### What Are Capital Credits?

Cooperative members periodically receive capital credit allocations based on their electric usage during a specified time period. The amount you receive is based on the amount of power you used and the margins earned for the time period being allocated. In subsequent years, at the Board of Director's discretion, previously allocated capital credits may be retired and returned to members.

### Who May be Eligible?

Please look for your name on the list of unclaimed capital credit retirements at www.unitedpower.com/unclaimed-credits.

- If you were a United Power member for any period of time through Dec. 31, 2020 and have moved out of the United Power service territory <u>AND</u> you were issued a capital credit retirement check in 2021 or earlier that you did not cash;
- If you are the family member or estate representative of a deceased member who had an uncashed capital credit retirement check issued in 2021 or earlier;
- If you are a current member who:
  - \* Changed your name;
  - \* Added your name to an existing account;
  - \* Or did not cash a capital credit retirement check issued in 2021 or earlier.

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

Visit www.unitedpower.com/unclaimed-credits to view the entire list of unclaimed retired capital credits. A copy of the list is also posted in the lobby of the Brighton office.

Please visit www.unitedpower.com/contact-us for lobby hours and address.

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

If you find your name on the list of unclaimed capital credit retirements, download and complete the Unclaimed Retired Capital Credit Refund Request form. A copy of the form may also be requested by emailing capitalcredits@unitedpower.com or by calling United Power's Member Services department at 303-637-1300. Submitting a form does not guarantee a disbursement will be made. Proper documentation and valid proof of membership during the applicable time period is required. No refund checks will be issued for unclaimed retirement amounts below \$5. Unclaimed retired capital credit refunds can be donated to the United Power Round Up Foundation, which provides assistance to community organizations within the cooperative's service territory.

After the notification period closes on April 30, 2025, all unclaimed retired capital credits for the applicable time period will be considered as assignment and contribution of capital to United Power.

Refund Request forms must be received by United Power by April 30, 2025.

Legal notice was posted in the Brighton Standard Blade, Commerce City Sentinel Express, Fort Lupton Press, and Longmont Times-Call on Oct. 31, 2024 and also posted on the United Power website.

# **Handmade Christmas Items**

## **Members Receive Discounted Entrance with Exclusive Coupon**

The Annual Country Christmas Bazaar is an opportunity for members to support local artisans and the Adams County Historical Society & Museum. The event features only handmade items and proceeds from admissions help fund the museum.

United Power members receive \$1 off admission with the presentation of the coupon in this newsletter.

- What: 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Country Christmas Bazaar
- When: Nov. 9-10, 2024 | 9 a.m. 4 p.m.
- Where: Riverdale Regional Park 9755 Henderson Rd, Brighton, CO



# 2025 Rebate Changes

## Smart Thermostat Rebate Expiring and Adjustment to EV Make-Ready Wiring Rebate

United Power members qualify for exclusive rebates on the purchase and set-up of beneficial electrification items and projects. Each year, the cooperative evaluates its rebate program and may recommend changes based on the benefit to the cooperative and its members.

Most of the cooperative's rebates will remain the same in the upcoming year, including the home efficiency and outdoor power rebates. However, a couple rebates will be discontinued or adjusted after Dec. 31, 2024.

### Smart Thermostat Rebates and Smart Rewards Benefits

Smart Rewards is a program that allows United Power to shift energy use during peak hours and saves the cooperative on expensive power purchases. Those savings are then passed on to the member.

Enrollment in United Power's Smart Rewards program is required to qualify for the smart thermostat rebate. Although the rebate will be discontinued for smart thermostats purchased in 2025, members may still participate in the Smart Rewards program and receive a \$30 incentive, up from \$25 in 2024, for each summer they are enrolled with a qualifying smart thermostat.

Members who enroll in Smart Rewards and purchase a qualifying smart thermostat before Dec. 31, 2024 will still be able to submit a rebate application.



Look for a full 2025 Rebate Menu in an upcoming newsletter and on our website.

### EV Make-Ready Wiring and United EV

United Power members who are planning to install wiring for at-home electric vehicle (EV) charging qualify for rebates on installations completed through Dec. 31, 2024.

Members who enroll in the cooperative's United EV program will still qualify for make-ready wiring rebates in 2025.

United EV helps members with the upfront costs of home charging, including a ChargePoint Home Flex Level 2 EV charger, wiring rebates, and rates for smart charging. The program is available for a \$19/month service charge.

Rebate applications must be received within 90 days of purchase or installation.

# 2025 Youth Opportunities

Now Accepting Applications



United Power proudly supports the educational and leadership goals of students served by the cooperative with annual youth opportunities.

### Youth Leadership Trips

Students can apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. or Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs. Youth Tour students explore the nation's capital with peers while learning about American history and the cooperative business model. Students at Youth Camp spend a week establishing and managing their own cooperative, while also developing leadership attributes through interactive seminars and other fun activities.

### Application Deadline: Jan. 24, 2025

### **Scholarships Opportunities**

Scholarships are awarded each year to support the academic aspirations of local students. This year, the cooperative will award more than \$35,000 in postsecondary and vocational scholarships, plus two \$7,500 lineworker scholarships to students pursuing a career as a utility lineworker.

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

Application Deadline: March 2, 2025

# **Brighton Lobby Construction Complete** Thank You for Your Patience During This Project

The lobby at United Power's Brighton Headquarters building has reopened following a construction project to improve member access and safety. The location's payment kiosk and drop box are also available for members.

The cooperative conducted a comprehensive improvement project through much of September and October. Heating mats were replaced in the sidewalk area in front of the member entrance and added to the accessible parking spots to improve safety for members with mobility challenges. United Power members may still pay their bills electronically through a variety of options available through the cooperative, including:

- Online Account Log in to your account at www.unitedpower.com or through the United Power mobile app.
- **Pay Now** Make quick payments without a password on the co-op website.
- Pay by Phone Call 303-637-1300 and select option 2.

# Inside This Issue

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# **Serving Local Communities**

United Power employees demonstrated a spirit of volunteer service in October.

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**2025 Rebate Changes** Read more about changes to United Power rebates effective Jan. 1, 2025.

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### STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

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### **CONTACT YOUR CO-OP**

Member Services	303-637-1300
Outage Line	303-637-1350

#### CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Kevin Kraning, Brighton	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Sharon Clark, Erie	
	Peggy Verseman, Thornton	

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

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Heidi Storz, Laurel Eller, Zach Kinder SVP & Chief Energy Resource Officer

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Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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**Board of Directors** 

United Power is attempting to issue unclaimed capital credit refunds to members who received electric service from the cooperative prior to 2021, but are no longer served by

the cooperative or did not cash their capital credit checks. You or someone you know

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We May Have Money for You

may be eligible. Read more inside.