

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 24-25, 2024	Christmas Holiday Offices Closed
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1	New Year's Holiday Offices Closed
Jan. 24, 2025	Youth Leadership Trips Application Deadline
April 16, 2025	Annual Meeting & Director Election



## Here for the Community

### United Power's Community Support Demonstrates it is "Here for Good"

## Support Spread Across Community Events, Educational Learning, and More

United Power has undergone significant change over the past year, including its wholesale energy contract exit, as it moved to become an independent electric utility on May 1. The cooperative has announced new power purchase agreements and innovative energy projects to ensure continued reliability and system resiliency, but it has also maintained a close relationship with the diverse communities it serves across the Colorado Front Range.

As a co-op, United Power regularly demonstrates its commitment to communities – one of its core guiding principles – through supporting local fairs and festivals, service organizations, business expansion, educational partnerships,

and student opportunities. Sometimes the co-op's support even extends beyond its own service territory to enrich the lives of disadvantaged communities in other parts of the country. This was another active year for the cooperative in its communities.

### Giving Life to Fairs and Festivals

Local community events bring value to families living in the communities across United Power's service territory. The cooperative is proud to be an active participant and supporter at many of these events. It continued its long-standing role as presenting sponsor of the Adams County Fair in August, which annually brings out thousands of local residents and visitors and is recognized as one of the largest county fairs in the country. The co-op also provided support for fairs in Southeast Weld and Gilpin Counties, community heritage celebrations like the Tomato Festival & Market at Trapper Days in Fort Lupton and Miners Day in Frederick, and other events that recognize each city or town's unique and rich history.

Now that the holiday season has begun and busy main street roads are shining with bright lights

and elaborate decorations, cities are preparing for local holiday celebrations. Look for United Power in your community's local festivities. The cooperative's famous Rudolph the Red-Nosed Bucket Truck can frequently be found rolling in parades adorned in thousands of colorful lights and decorations.

### "Here for Good" Employee Service Projects

Another vital component of our communities are the nonprofits that provide critical services to local residents. Dozens of organizations are helping meet a variety of needs for cooperative members, including mental health therapy, housing and food security, outdoor recreation, and more. More than 80 United Power employees volunteered for service projects with eight organizations across the cooperative's service territory in October.

Some of the projects that employees completed included staining wooden structures for protection from winter weather at Barr Lake State Park and the Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center; painting and updating community areas at Graceful Oaks Youth Ranch; removing old flooring for renovations at the Carbon



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

Report an Outage 303-637-1350  
Member Services 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](http://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](http://www.unitedpower.com/roadmap).

\***SAIDI** — System Average Interruption Duration Index

\***SAIFI** — System Average Interruption Frequency Index

\***MAIFI** — Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index

\***ASAI** — Average Service Availability Index

No one dislikes power outages more than those of us in the electric utility business. In a world of increasing dependence on quality electric power, the task of keeping the lights on is more critical — and challenging — every day.

Coupled with the dramatic increase in electrification across dozens of industries and businesses, our members' requirements for reliable supply increases with each passing day. More people working from home, spurred by the pandemic, has only exacerbated the need for greater reliability — and its cousin, resiliency.

The only business I know that measures as many statistical categories as the electric industry is baseball, where every play is broken down into records dating back decades. Balls, strikes, batting percentages, hits with runners in scoring position — even the number of strikes versus balls — are all analyzed and used to change the game.

Our "batting averages" in the electric industry are things like SAIDI\* (the duration of outages), SAIFI\* (frequency of outages), and MAIFI\* (momentary average interruption frequency). We measure and report on dozens of indices and make investments to continuously improve. We call balls and strikes on ourselves as we get better. It is also why we keep investing in new technologies, such as our outage management system, and have expanded how we use data from our advanced metering infrastructure and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. We mine the alphabet soup of technologies in the never-ending pursuit to keep the lights on.

However, even with our efforts, any outage or momentary blip can cause headaches. That is why we work so diligently to manage our system to avoid such incidents.

Why do the lights "go out" unexpectedly? United Power's leading causes of outages are critters and crashes, followed by weather and equipment failure. Sometimes our transmission providers have incidents. There are also certain times we must take outages to upgrade equipment. Much

of our system is underground — a tremendous investment, but one that pays dividends over time. But even undergrounding electrical service does not make the system immune from outages. In fact, underground faults can be more difficult to find and take more time to repair.

Digitalization of our lives has also made the quality of power more challenging. Older lights, motors, and machinery had a wide range of electric tolerance. This was as true in the home as it was in industry. Today's digitalized equipment means the tolerance of even a temporary dip in power can make a difference. Some additional sensitivity comes from things like new refrigerators which try to match the motor size to load for energy efficiency, but also tolerates less voltage fluctuations. Think back to refrigerators that last 20 years or more versus today.

United Power operates at the distribution level, or the wires that bring electricity directly to homes and businesses. We strive to keep the lights on. In the past, 99.99% of ASAI\* (average system "up time") was sufficient. That meant, on average, just eight minutes of outage time per year, which was acceptable in the past but challenging in today's digital environment. While 99.99% is good for many things, 99.999% is even better, meaning just eight seconds of outage time. Even that, however, is not fault tolerant enough in some situations. There is a very real limitation to what is possible across a large distribution network serving a significant number of varying electric loads.

It is therefore important to understand that while we do everything possible to keep the electrons flowing, there are limitations across this broad system. It is why even in our cooperative offices every computer has a backup power supply, and our building has a backup generator.

Winter weather is upon us, and we will work to keep the lights on. This is only possible due to the brave women and men of United Power who work diligently through snow, sleet, and freezing rain to restore power. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your questions, comments, and concerns.

## Supporting the Community in Many Ways

Valley Help Center; and mud mitigation at Allegiance Ranch. Employees also sorted and organized food for redistribution at Pastor's Pantry in Coal Creek Canyon, the Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank, and Food For Hope in Thornton.

United Power presented each organization with a \$500 donation in addition to the volunteer hours as a thank you for the contributions they make to our communities.

### Powering Families of the Navajo Nation

Lineworkers traveled to New Mexico for a week in July and again in October to build electrical infrastructure and provide power to members of the Navajo Nation. The mutual aid initiative, Light Up Navajo, is aimed at providing access to electricity for families living in remote parts of the Navajo Nation for the very first time.

The ambitious, years-long initiative has provided electricity to nearly 8,000 homes, but thousands more still do not have access. United Power provided trucks, equipment, and experienced lineworkers for both projects. Working long hours, and often in extreme heat, they placed poles and strung line to power local homes.

### Supporting Local Youth

Students in our local schools are also the future leaders of our communities.

United Power recognizes the importance of supporting local education, and has annually provided thousands of dollars in scholarship awards and leadership training opportunities to outstanding high school students in its service territory.

The cooperative is also an active partner in the classroom, such as Mead's Energy Academy. Will Thomas, Energy Systems Specialist, presented on the future of battery storage technology for Energy Academy students in September. Students also later participated in a high voltage safety demonstration and toured one of the co-op's battery storage facilities.

United Power also hosted students from 27J's Career and Technical Education program for a "Day in the Boots" event in October. Students were able to move through stations and learn the day-to-day responsibilities of the cooperative's operations team. The cooperative also supports career fairs for students of all ages.

Although much of the service territory is becoming suburban, the co-op still serves large agricultural areas. Each year, United Power supports local youth in agriculture through livestock sales at county fairs.

United Power supports the local community in all these ways and many more, including charity events that benefit nonprofits or educational foundations. It is why we exist, and it is why we will remain...Here for Good.

## Annual Director Election Three Board Seats Up for Election

Three positions on United Power's eleven-member Board are up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The meeting will be hosted at the Riverdale Regional Park and broadcast live for members who are unable to attend in person. One seat in the North, Central, and South districts will be up for four-year terms.

Eligible members interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors must submit a director candidate application and petition. Director eligibility information is available in the United Power bylaws at [www.unitedpower.com/bylaws](http://www.unitedpower.com/bylaws).

Director candidate applications and written petitions must state the nominee's name

and district, be signed by 15 or more United Power members, and be filed with the cooperative no less than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Members who are unclear of their membership or account status may call Member Services at 303-637-1300 for verification.

**The deadline for director candidate applications and petitions is noon on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025.** Any member interested in running for the Board is asked to complete a director candidate application and petition, available upon request via email at [elections@unitedpower.com](mailto:elections@unitedpower.com).

## 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](http://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

*Livestreamed at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)*





# 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 (ESFI), nearly 90% 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 the following holiday safety steps to ensure you and your family are able to enjoy the season comfortably and worry-free:

- The best decorations are safe decorations, so when you are decorating, make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave your home and when you are sleeping.
- Do not overload outlets or extensions cords. If you are using extension cords or adapters that add receptacles, consider having a qualified electrician add more outlets to your home.

- Only use electronics in dry areas. As tempting as it is, you should not decorate your aquarium with icicle lights.
- Every home needs a working smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level, including the basement.
- 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.
- ESFI recommends buying your family arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) breakers or outlets. Many electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs.

## 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](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on 'News & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### How many nonprofits received a Member Choice Grant?

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](http://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



Dale and Jill Czajkowski, Longmont, celebrated their 40th anniversary in Norway. Here they are pictured in front of the quaint city of Flam while cruising the country's famous fjords.

### 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](http://www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride).

## RECIPES



### Mashed Sweet Potatoes

4 lbs moist sweet potatoes (about 4 large)  
8 sprigs thyme, divided  
6 Tbsp butter  
1/4 cup maple syrup  
Kosher salt

Adjust oven rack to center and set to 300°F. Place half the potatoes in the center of a heavy duty aluminum foil sheet along with 3 sprigs of thyme. Fold foil and crimp edges to seal. Repeat with other half of potatoes on second sheet. Transfer to rimmed baking sheet and place in oven. Roast until a thin skewer meets no resistance, about 2 hours. Remove from oven and set aside to cool.

Melt butter in medium saucepan, swirling gently, until particles are pale golden brown and smell nutty. Immediately transfer to large bowl or stand mixer with whisk attachment. Add maple syrup and leaves from remaining thyme sprigs, chopped roughly.

Peel sweet potatoes and add to bowl. Beat until smooth and fluffy. Season to taste with salt. Serve immediately.

Source: *Serious Eats*

# Member Choice Grants

## Members Select Nonprofits to Receive Support

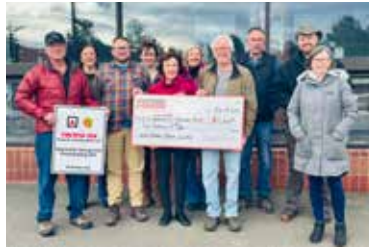
### Adams County Food Bank

The Adams County Food Bank helps relieve food insecurity among families, seniors, and children in Commerce City, Thornton, Westminster, and across 34 zip codes throughout the county. It is the largest organization in Adams County working to alleviate hunger.



### Crescent Park Community Fire Protection Association

The association's mission is to protect people, properties, animals, and the environment from wildfires through outreach, education, and fire mitigation, and creating defensible space and emergency evacuation plans.



### Community Uplift Partnership

Young adults are some of the most vibrant people in our communities. Community Uplift Partnership (CUP) reminds them they have value beyond a paycheck, strengthens them to conquer barriers to employment opportunities that provide sustainable wages, and equips them to make better decisions for their futures.



### Happiness Through Horses

Happiness Through Horses enriches the lives of individuals of all ages, with a special emphasis on youth, through meaningful interactions with horses and sanctuary animals. They offer programs promoting mental health, personal growth, and educational development.



### Sparkling Kindness

Sparkling Kindness is a small nonprofit operating out of Commerce City. It provides support to the local community by distributing basic hygiene kits, feminine hygiene kits, and "comfort" kits (consisting of fleece blankets, socks, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, and chapstick).



### Stand & Fight

Stand & Fight seeks to encourage children enduring life-threatening illnesses by awakening their warrior within. They take a stand for dignity and positivity during medical treatment while recognizing the courage needed to fight. Stand & Fight offers recognition as well as port and pic-line adaptive apparel, in addition to other items.



## Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

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

MAIL: United Power Recipes  
500 Cooperative Way  
Brighton, CO 80603





## 2025 Youth Leadership Trips

United Power annually celebrates the accomplishments of students in its service territory and contributes to the development of standout student leaders at the Youth Leadership Camp and Cooperative Youth Tour. The cooperative selects six students to go on an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital or spend a week in the Colorado mountains learning leadership skills to model in their schools and communities.



Gisell Mora, Johanni Delgado, and Amelia Lineberger at the 2024 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

### Cooperative Youth Tour

June 16-22, 2025 | Washington, D.C.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a proud tradition among co-ops since 1957 when Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting, suggested sending youth to the nation's capital to see "what the flag stands for and represents."

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.

### Youth Leadership Camp

July 12-17, 2025 | Steamboat Springs

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is not a traditional camp. Students spend a week near Steamboat Springs establishing and managing their own cooperative, including holding a director election, to learn the value of cooperative principles.

Days are filled with cooperative focused activities, leadership training seminars, and collaborative group projects. Campers also enjoy fun activities like rafting down the Colorado River, exploring Fish Creek Falls, and an end-of-week celebration.

**Application Deadline: Jan. 24, 2025**

**Applications are now open. Apply at [www.unitedpower.com/youth-trips](http://www.unitedpower.com/youth-trips).**

## Holiday Energy Efficiency

Monitoring and reducing our energy consumption is more difficult during the holidays. With all the distractions, it can be easy to let your guard down, resulting in excessive energy usage. However you celebrate this season, United Power has you covered with the most up-to-date energy efficiency tips and tricks to prevent holiday usage spikes.

### Replace Holiday Lights with LEDs

Updating your lighting is one of the quickest and easiest ways to reduce energy use and costs. Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, are becoming the standard. Lights that use LEDs are up to 90% more efficient and have a far longer life than traditional lights.

### Beware the Holiday Vampires

Vampire loads are becoming large consumers of energy. They come from devices that continue using energy even when they appear to be off. Holiday lights can contribute to these loads when they are plugged

in throughout the day while not in use. Unplug lights during the day or before bed to avoid additional energy usage, or plug them into a power strip that can be turned off when not in use.

### Give the Gift of Energy Savings

"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. Pass on the gift of energy savings this season.

For more energy efficiency tips to help you save on usage throughout the year, visit our website at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).



# ENERGY SMART REBATES | 2025



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

United Power members receiving permanent electric service qualify for incentives for the purchase of select electrification equipment and associated electrical upgrades. All rebate applications must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. For complete program details, qualifications, and rebate applications, please visit [www.unitedpower.com/rebates](http://www.unitedpower.com/rebates).

	<b>Electric Outdoor Equipment</b>		<b>Equipment Cost</b>	<b>Rebate Amount</b>
	Electric Lawn Mowers (walk-behind)		Less than \$450	\$75
	Electric Snow Blowers		\$450 and up	\$150
	<b>EV Make-Ready Wiring</b>		<b>Installation Cost</b>	<b>Rebate Amount</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invoiced cost of a licensed electrician to install wiring for NEMA 14-50 outlet for a Level 2 electric vehicle charger</li> <li>United EV program participation required</li> </ul>		Less than \$1,200	\$500
			\$1,200 and up	\$1,000
	<b>Electrification Wiring</b>		<b>Installation Cost</b>	<b>Rebate Amount</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invoiced cost of a licensed electrician to install wiring that replaces fossil-fuel systems with electric water heater or heat pump</li> <li>Retrofits of existing buildings only</li> </ul>		Less than \$1,200	\$250
			\$1,200 and up	\$500
	<b>Electric Water Heaters</b>			<b>Rebate Amount</b>
	Electric Water Heater			\$50 - \$100
	Heat Pump Water Heater			\$150 - \$300
	Ground Source Heat Pump Desuperheater			\$200
	<b>Heat Pumps</b>			<b>Rebate Amount</b>
	Mini-split Heat Pump			\$500 - \$2,000
	Ducted Air Source Heat Pump			\$1,500 - \$2,500
	Ground Source Heat Pump			\$750 - \$2,500
	<b>Smart Thermostats</b>			<b>Program Credit</b>
	Smart Rewards Program Annual Program Credit	Enroll an eligible smart thermostat for an annual credit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honeywell – Home &amp; Total Connect</li> <li>Google Nest Learning Thermostat</li> </ul>		\$30/year

Rebate amounts effective Jan. 1, 2025.

# Inside This Issue

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## Member Choice Recipients

United Power announced six nonprofits receiving Member Choice Grants in 2024.

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## Youth Leadership Trips

Students in local high schools can hone their leadership skills on summer trips.

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## Holiday Energy Efficiency

Make the most out of your energy usage this holiday season.

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## 2025 Rebate Menu

See a full list of United Power energy efficiency rebates available in 2025.

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### STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

- [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)
- [/united-power-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-power-inc)
- [/unitedpower](https://www.facebook.com/unitedpower)
- [/unitedpowercoop](https://www.instagram.com/unitedpowercoop)
- [/unitedpowercoop](https://twitter.com/unitedpowercoop)
- [/unitedpowercoop](https://www.youtube.com/unitedpowercoop)

### CONTACT YOUR CO-OP

Member Services .....303-637-1300

Outage Line .....303-637-1350

### CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Allison Stone, Mead
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Terry Humphrey, Firestone  
Michael Rotello, Commerce City

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

- Board of Directors**  
 Ursula J. Morgan  
 Chair  
 Brian A. McCormick  
 Vice-Chair  
 Stephen Whiteside  
 Secretary  
 Keith Alquist  
 Treasurer  
 Tamra Waitemath  
 Asst. Sect./Treasurer  
 Ginny Buczek  
 Brad Case  
 Steve Douglas  
 Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin  
 James Vigesaa  
 Paige Wagner-Maul
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# UNITED NEWSLINE

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

