

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER All Month	National Preparedness Month
Sept. 25	Member Choice Grants Nomination Deadline
OCTOBER All Month	National Co-op Month
April 24, 2027	Annual Business Meeting

Your Piece of the Pie

Capital Credits Being Returned to Members

United Power Board of Directors Approved \$4.5 Million Capital Credit Payout

United Power began distributing capital credit payouts to eligible cooperative members in August. Capital credits represent one of the many ways cooperative membership is different from being a customer of an investor-owned electric utility. Anyone who receives electric service from United Power is a member, and all members share unique privileges that come along with membership, one of which is the principle of economic participation.

United Power maintains a network of power lines, poles, transformers, switches, substations, and more. A portion of each electric bill you pay goes toward the cooperative's operation and maintenance of that infrastructure, which

CURRENT BILLING DETAIL		
Energy On Peak	308 KWH @ 0.188	57.90
Energy Off Peak	508 KWH @ 0.0672	34.14
Demand Charge	6.560 KW @ 4.55	29.85
Fixed Charge		22.00
Franchise Fee		3.09
Sales Tax		4.78
Capital Credit Payout		-44.63
Current Month		107.13

Above: If your capital credit retirement is less than \$50, it will appear as a credit on your billing statement. If your payout is more than \$50, you will receive a check in the mail.

represents your ownership stake. Any funds remaining at the end of each year after all the cooperative's expenses are paid are allocated to members.

Each member's allocation is a bookkeeping of their investment in the electric system based on their energy consumption, and generally the more electricity you use, the larger your allocation. These funds are tracked but are not accessible in the form of cash. Members are notified of their allocation amount on their billing statements in May or June each year.

When capital credits are retired, or returned to members, your share of the total amount — or your piece of the pie — is based on and paid from this allocation.

"Capital credits are one of the tangible benefits of cooperative membership," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power's President and CEO. "You are more than a member — you are also an owner — and your investment allows us to build a resilient system that can consistently deliver the reliable service that members expect. Your membership has value, and capital credits reflect that value, as well as the co-op's good stewardship of its resources."

Why Am I Receiving a Capital Credit Payout Now?

United Power's Board of Directors is tasked with assessing the cooperative's financial condition each year. Part of this assessment includes determining whether a capital credit retirement is feasible. This year, the Board approved a \$4.5 million retirement.

"The decision to retire capital credits this year demonstrates United Power's strong financial performance over the past year," said Travis Storin, United Power's SVP & Chief Financial Officer. "It was made possible thanks to the careful forethought of the Board of Directors and senior leadership to accurately plan and prepare for the return of member-provided financing over time."

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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.

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.

United Newslíne está Disponible en Español

The *United Newslíne* is Available in Spanish



As I am writing this column for our members, your cooperative is experiencing the largest energy loads in its 88-year history — and the system is handling them well, thanks to continued investments in the critical assets needed to keep power flowing and the lights on in our homes and businesses.

Electricity today, as has been the case for more than 120 years, operates seamlessly as a backdrop in homes and businesses. Its absence is felt more than its presence. Continual reinvestment in technology and steady maintenance of these systems are necessary to ensure the quality of life electricity provides every single day, as well as a commitment to power restoration when service is interrupted.

All utilities operate in a negative feedback mode because reliability is so high. The member services team gets very few thank you calls each day — though they deserve it. They receive 730 live calls on an average day and more than 16,000 per month, answering questions about everything from billing and outages to understanding demand and explaining high bills.

United Power has an ongoing planning process that forecasts years out to understand system demands. Using a combination of engineering data, field knowledge, and growth projections, we prepare well ahead of the cooperative's needs.

Analysis is done every year on the worst-performing feeders (those with the most outages) when determining where to focus resources. Areas prime for development are considered for new substations and future loads are estimated. Interdepartmental teamwork helps develop budgets for the Board of Directors to review and approve. A new asset management system being rolled out will add more rigor to that process. This is important for both maintenance and expansion of the system that you, our member-owners, count on each day.

The budgeting process includes many trade-offs in order to be conscious of the financial implications of system investments. Even without financial constraints, there is the practical reality of completing work in a timely fashion. Factors such as supply chain management, manufacturing lead times, and product availability all come into play as plans are put together.

Technological advances are also a factor in the decision process. This is more critical than ever now that United Power is energy independent and must plan for its own power supply. A great example is the new distributed energy resource management system (DERMS), launched earlier this year. It allows members with smart thermostats and electric vehicles to participate in programs that lower their costs and allows the cooperative to control peaks when power prices are high. Similar investments in battery energy storage systems (BESS) in 2018 — and expanded in 2024 — allow United Power to avoid paying for higher cost power and bring revenue back to the co-op, offsetting other costs.

I am proud of the people and processes that have allowed United Power to carefully invest in the system as growth continues, and thankful for the support from our Board. The women and men of your cooperative work diligently every day to keep the lights on and plan and prepare to make the right investments over time that ensure the system is robust enough to handle whatever comes its way.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments.

Capital Credit Payouts Arriving this Month

Nearly all members who received service from the cooperative in 2025 or earlier are eligible to receive capital credits. Payouts less than \$50 are being applied as bill credits. Some members received their capital credit payouts on their late-August bills, while most members will see the credit appear on their September statements.

Payouts that are \$50 or more will be issued as a check rather than a bill credit, and checks will be mailed to those members the first week of September.

More capital credit information is available at www.unitedpower.com/capital-credits or members can contact a Member Services Representative at 303-637-1300 for additional information.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- If you move, please be sure to provide United Power with your updated address so the cooperative can return any future capital credit payouts you are eligible to receive.
- Upon death, the deceased member's capital credit account is available for estate retirement. The estate's representative should contact United Power to settle the capital credit account.



Member Choice Grants Deadline

Nominations Accepted Through Sept. 25

United Power members can nominate local nonprofits that provide services to cooperative members for Member Choice Grants through Sept. 25. Your nominations help the co-op identify causes that are important to the local community.

Since the program's launch in 2020, members have helped United Power recognize 30 nonprofits. These organizations provide services addressing housing and food insecurity; mental health and therapy; youth empowerment and job training; medical devices and support; and more.

Nominations for Member Choice Grants will be accepted through Sept. 25. Nonprofits must provide services to United Power members. Recipients will be announced in the December newsletter.

The process is quick and simple. Tell us a little about the organization and why you believe it deserves support from the cooperative. To access the nomination form or learn more about Member Choice Grants, visit www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice.

Nominate A Nonprofit!

www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice



Access to Utility Easements Crews Need Safe Access for Maintenance, Power Restoration, and Vegetation Management

One of the essential aspects of maintaining a safe and reliable electric system is ensuring crews and contractors can access power lines and equipment when needed. This access is provided through utility easements and public rights-of-way.

What is a Utility Easement?

A utility easement is a legal property right that allows United Power to build, operate, inspect, maintain, repair, and replace electric lines and equipment on a specific portion of private property.

Property owners retain ownership of their land, but the easement grants United Power rights necessary to provide safe and reliable electric service, including access for maintenance, inspections, vegetation management, and emergency restoration.

Why is Access Important?

United Power crews and contractors need access to utility easements and electric facilities to safely operate and maintain the system. Some activities include:

- **Vegetation Management.** When trees grow too close to electric facilities, they can become a serious threat to the reliability and safety of the electric system.
- **Maintenance.** United Power conducts regular maintenance across its system to ensure reliability or improve performance.
- **Inspections.** Inspections are performed to determine whether equipment needs to be repaired or replaced.
- **Power Restoration.** Safe access to these areas helps crews reduce outage times for all members.



Apprentice Lineworker Isaiah Segoviano conducting work in an easement located in a member's backyard.

When United Power crews or contractors are working on or near your property, they may need to access utility easements or facilities within a public right-of-way. Please avoid approaching crews or contractors while they are performing work around electric facilities in easements and public rights-of-way for everyone's safety.

National Preparedness Month

Be Ready Before the Lights Go Out

September is National Preparedness Month — a good reminder that emergencies rarely happen when it is convenient. Severe storms, extreme temperatures, and other disasters can cause power outages or require evacuation from your home with little warning. Taking a few simple steps now can help keep you and your family stay safe and prepared.

Build an emergency kit. Keep enough water, nonperishable food, and medications on hand for several days. Include flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, blankets, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, phone chargers, and other essentials your household may need.

Have a backup for communication. Keep mobile devices charged and consider having a portable power bank available. Ensure you can receive outage updates by adding United Power as a contact in your phone and making sure your email and phone number are updated with the co-op.

Plan for medical and mobility needs. If someone in your household relies on electrically powered medical equipment, develop a plan before an outage occurs. Have an alternative power plan and an evacuation plan if extended outages or extreme temperatures make your home unsafe.

Know how to use generators safely. Never operate a portable generator indoors and always follow manufacturer's operating instructions. Never connect a generator directly to your home's electrical system as this creates a safety hazard for crews working to restore power.

Prepare for wildfire and severe weather. Know your evacuation routes, sign up for local emergency alerts, and keep important documents and emergency supplies where they can be accessed quickly.

Most importantly, **never approach a downed power line.** Stay away and call 911 or United Power to report it.

A little preparation today can make a big difference when an emergency happens. For more safety resources, visit www.unitedpower.com/safety.

Report Power Outages. United Power members can report an outage online, through the mobile app, or by calling 303-637-1350.

Members can speak with a Member Services Representative at 303-637-1300.



READER REWARDS

ISSUE 6
2026



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 is United Power's EV Showcase?

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



Robert Gallahan, Fort Lupton, has been a United Power member for nearly 30 years. Here he is enjoying his cooperative newsletter outside the airport in Kingsport, Tenn.

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.

Family-Friendly Fall Event Supports Wildlife Rehab

Early fall is when the remnants of summer begin to fade, temperatures drop, and the leaves change color. The changing weather also ushers in a season of nostalgic celebrations traditionally connected to the harvest calendar, such as popular fall farm festivals.

Just a few miles east of Barr Lake in Brighton, SonFlower Ranch co-owners Keith Gunn and Mike King have begun making preparations for their 10th annual Fall Shindig, a unique name chosen to differentiate the event from other local festivals. The ranch is home to a variety of animals, including horses, goats, pigs, miniature donkeys, alpacas, and several species of birds, which are housed in the on-site aviary.

The Fall Shindig was launched in 2016 to support Gunn's passion project, the SonFlower Ranch Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The wildlife center had only been established as a 501(c)3 earlier that same year, but it quickly grew legs of its own. Nearly 100 animals were referred to the center during its first few months of operation.



"I initially spent several thousand dollars out of my own pocket to fund the wildlife center," said Gunn, who directs the facility without taking a salary, "but we recognized it would not be possible to keep it going without raising funds."

The wildlife center provides a second chance for small animals abandoned in nature — primarily squirrels, rabbits, and raccoons. A team of three part-time employees and several volunteers care for the animals to ensure they are healthy enough to be released back into the wild. They are also vaccinated before release, which is uncommon in wildlife rehabilitation. Construction is underway on enclosures to expand services to foxes and bobcats, but Gunn's ambitions do not end there.

"I want to provide rehabilitation services to as many of Colorado's animals as possible," said



Mike King (left) and Keith Gunn (right) are co-owners of SonFlower Ranch, located at 15445 Powhatan Rd. in Brighton.

Gunn, as he described the proper size and shape for raptor enclosures, which are not (yet) part of the wildlife center.

Each year the wildlife center has surpassed the previous year's number of referrals. Gunn and King said they expect to rehabilitate more than 400 animals this year.

Among the wildlife center's most visible success stories are Cashew and Pecan, two pale-furred raccoon sisters rescued in Boulder and now living in Harmony Hill at the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance. Their condition, known as leucism, causes pigment loss in their fur and makes survival in the wild nearly impossible. Gunn made arrangements for them to be transferred to the zoo's care instead of being released.

"I had a connection who helped make it happen," said Gunn. "The next thing we knew, Cashew and Pecan had a new home."

The touching story demonstrates not only the positive impact of this local wildlife rehabilitation center but also the dedication of the local people behind it.

SonFlower's Fall Shindig

When: Oct. 10-11, 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Where: SonFlower Ranch
15445 Powhatan Rd., Brighton

Cost: Admission is \$5, purchased on-site

The Fall Shindig at SonFlower Ranch helps support ongoing services and introduce new ones. Attendees can tour the ranch and see the animals, but are not permitted to enter animal enclosures. More than 30 local food and craft vendors will also be featured, including kid-friendly booths with face painting and a bounce house, and pumpkins will be available for purchase.

For more information about SonFlower Ranch, visit www.sonflower ranch.com.

RECIPES



Molten Chocolate Mug Cake

2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
2 Tbsp sugar
4 tsp Dutch-processed cocoa powder
1/4 tsp baking powder
1/8 tsp kosher salt
1 oz milk or dark chocolate, chopped
2 Tbsp unsalted butter, cut into 4 pieces
1 large egg
1 tsp vanilla extract

Whisk flour, sugar, cocoa, baking powder, and salt in a small bowl. Place half the chocolate in a 12 oz mug with the butter. Microwave until melted, stirring every 30 seconds.

Add flour mixture, egg, and vanilla to mug. Mix with a fork until smooth.

Microwave until batter has doubled in size, 50-70 seconds (depending on the power of your microwave).

Press remaining chocolate into center of cake until pieces are flush with the top of the cake. Microwave until top is just wet and tacky, 15-30 seconds.

Let rest for 2 minutes and enjoy.

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

Cool Down with Heat Pump Rebates

Stack Rebates from United Power and Power Ahead Colorado

Colorado's summer has been one for the record books, but not the kind you want to remember. The state is experiencing an exceptionally hot and dry season. Temperatures soared above 100° several times throughout July and August and highs rarely dipped below 90°. The scorching weather has been hard on members – and their electric bills.

Cooling represents the largest energy expense in most homes, accounting for approximately 17% of annual electric usage on average, according to the Energy Information Administration. As the heat swells, air conditioning units have to cycle more frequently to keep up, contributing to higher energy usage and higher summer energy bills.

When you also consider the energy used to heat your home in the winter, the two components add up to more than 50% of all residential energy consumption annually.

Heat pumps offer an energy-efficient solution to heating and cooling in your home. They are efficient at heating because heat pumps use refrigerant to absorb heat from the outside and carry it inside during the winter. Transferring heat rather than generating it from natural gas or electricity requires less energy. The process is reversed during the summer, operating much like air conditioning systems, but often with higher efficiency.



The up-front investment to upgrade to a heat pump can be higher than a traditional A/C, but two rebate programs available to United Power members, and improved energy efficiency over time, can help offset that cost.

Cooperative Rebates

United Power members qualify for exclusive rebates on qualifying heat pump purchases.

Members can receive up to \$1,000 in rebates from the cooperative when they install energy-efficient air-source or ground-source heat pumps or upgrade their existing heating and cooling systems with a heat pump.

Power Ahead Colorado

Members who live in participating communities can receive up to \$1,500 in heat pump rebates through Power Ahead Colorado, a clean-energy initiative of the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Power Ahead Colorado provides homeowners with heat pump guidance and rebate opportunities to support stronger communities and a cleaner, healthier future.

Rebates are subject to funds availability. Program details, including eligibility requirements, for United Power and Power Ahead Colorado can be found online at www.unitedpower.com/heat-pumps.

**UNITED
POWER**



**DRIVE CLEAN
COLORADO**

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC MONTH

2ND ANNUAL

EV SHOWCASE

EV DISPLAYS & TEST DRIVES

SEPTEMBER 26
9 – 11 AM

**ELECTRIC CARS &
COFFEE WITH
YOUR CO-OP!
PLUS PRIZES!**

FREE!



UNITED POWER

CARBON VALLEY SERVICE CENTER
9586 E I-25 FRONTAGE ROAD

The Power of Paperless Billing

Fast, Free, and Convenient. Why Wait? Enroll Today!

Many United Power members who are already using SmartHub, the cooperative's online account management portal, are also still receiving their billing statements through postal mail.

But here is the good news. You have a faster option that is not only more convenient — it is also free. When you enroll in paperless billing, you will receive your monthly statement by email as soon as it is available. No more waiting for an envelope to arrive at your home, and you can access your bills anytime through your SmartHub account or the United Power app.

Paperless billing is not just a different way to view and manage your United Power statements, it also comes with many benefits. Here are just a few of the positive impacts:

- **Faster delivery.** Your statement is conveniently delivered to your email as soon as it is available, and you can view it online or on the mobile app.
- **Makes record keeping easier.** Your billing and energy usage history is stored in the online portal. You can access it at your leisure without having to keep track of physical documentation.
- **Reduces waste.** Most printed billing statements ultimately end up in the same place — the trash. When the cooperative prints fewer billing statements, it reduces waste and helps keep printing and mailing costs in check for all members.

Members who do not have a SmartHub account can create one at www.unitedpower.com/smarthub. You can view usage, report outages, pay bills, or enroll in paperless billing and autopay through your online account.

Visit www.unitedpower.com/paperless to learn more about paperless billing or contact a Member Services Representative at 303-637-1300.



Enrolling in paperless billing is quick and easy. Just log in to your online account, access the paperless billing option in the settings menu, and confirm.

October is National Co-op Month

Members Invited to Celebrate Cooperative Contributions

United Power is an electric distribution cooperative. That means it is wholly owned by the members it serves and is designed to meet community needs. Distribution co-ops, like United Power, were formed more than 85 years ago when farmers and business owners in rural areas of the country recognized the need and benefit of electricity and found a way to provide it. Today, there are more than 900 such cooperatives providing power to nearly 75% of the country's landmass and managing more than 40% of the nation's electric grid.

October is National Co-op Month, and members are invited to join in celebrating the contributions of cooperatives in our lives. Co-ops are different from their for-profit counterparts in their commitment to empowering local communities and encouraging a spirit of service.

United Power serves some of the fastest-growing communities not just in Colorado but in the country. The cooperative is an innovative energy partner helping meet the growing needs of these transforming communities. It also helps coordinate economic development, supports local nonprofits aiding residents, and sponsors programs that enhance each community. Many employees live, work, play, and serve locally. Their faces are recognizable on local chamber of commerce and nonprofit boards or at fairs, festivals, and other community events.

United Power puts money back into the community every year through scholarships, youth development, sponsorships, and more. The cooperative awarded more than \$35,000 in scholarships to local high school students in the spring and two additional scholarships worth \$7,500 each to students enrolled in a dedicated lineworker program last December. Six students were selected to represent the



Did you know? Despite serving the smallest geographic footprint of any Colorado cooperative, United Power has the largest energy load and the second-highest meter count.

co-op on youth leadership trips to Washington, D.C. and Steamboat Springs, where peers elected two of them to return as ambassadors next year. This summer, United Power was once again the Adams County Fair's presenting sponsor, in addition to supporting community celebrations, heritage festivals, and events in Fort Lupton, Frederick, Mead, Keenesburg, Gilpin County, and more.

While United Power's first priority is ensuring the safe and reliable distribution of electricity to its residential, commercial, and industrial members, the cooperative is more than just your neighborhood energy provider. It is powered locally by local people, supporting the growth, development, and prosperity of the communities they — and you — call home.

Inside This Issue

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Safe Easement Access

Line crews require access to utility easements to conduct safe operations.

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Heat Pump Rebates

New heat pump rebates available through Power Ahead Colorado.

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National Co-op Month

Members are invited to recognize and celebrate co-op contributions.

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Disponible en Español

United Newsline está disponible en Español. Para más información, véase la página 2.

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

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CONTACT YOUR CO-OP

Member Services303-637-1300
Outage Line303-637-1350

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Torri Morris, Lochbuie
- 2nd Place:** Gracie Powell, Firestone
Savannah Anthony, 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**

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- Newsline Editors**

 - Heidi Storz, Laurel Eller, and Zach Kinder

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500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

