

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST 28 100,000 Meter Open House
More info on page 6

AUGUST 31 Electric Lawn Rebate
Purchase by date; see pg. 11

SEPTEMBER 7 Labor Day
United Power Offices Closed

Crossing A Meter Milestone United Power Surpasses 100,000 Meters

United Power Just the 31st Cooperative Nationally to Reach 100,000 Meters

United Power in June became one of just a handful of electric cooperatives nationwide to surpass 100,000 meters. The achievement highlights a period of sustained growth for the Brighton-based co-op that began in the early 2000s and continued even this past year despite a historic pandemic. United Power had anticipated reaching the meter mark in 2021 but did so much earlier than expected due to an increase in growth early this year.

By surpassing 100,000 meters, United Power becomes just the second Colorado electric cooperative to reach the mark, joining

Intermountain Rural Electric Association, headquartered southwest of Denver in Sedalia.

“It is truly a historic accomplishment to reach this meter milestone,” said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “United Power has long had a reputation for excellence among its cooperative peers, and it now joins a select few who serve more than 100,000 meters. Our size and reputation will amplify our voice in helping shape the future of the electric industry.”

Like all electric cooperatives, United Power was established to serve a largely rural population in an area that was considered too inconvenient or unprofitable for large electric utilities. Today, there are more than 800 electric cooperatives serving members throughout the country. Many have remained small because of the sparsely populated areas they are serving, but others, like United Power, have found themselves in rapidly growing areas close to large metropolitans.

Few cities are experiencing the growth surge that began in Denver several years ago. While much of the cooperative’s service territory

is still rural, it now also serves some of the fastest growing communities in the country as more people are relocating to the Denver area. Maintaining control of the area has not always been easy. United Power had to survive an aggressive buyout attempt from the Public Service Company of Colorado – now Xcel Energy – which no longer saw the cooperative’s service territory as either unprofitable or inconvenient.

United Power was established by a group of farmers in and around Brighton in 1938 with only a couple hundred original members. It took the cooperative nearly 40 years to surpass 10,000 meters. When United Power reached an agreement with Public Service Company to forgo the buyout in the mid-1980s, growth had come to the area, but not like it would in the years to follow. By 2004, it had reached 50,000 meters, and a decade later in 2015 surpassed 75,000. During its largest growth year in 2004, the cooperative gained approximately 5,000 new meters, more than it gained during a twenty year stretch from 1950-1970 combined.

The cooperative has already experienced record growth again this year, and is on pace

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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.

My first four months as United Power's President and Chief Executive Officer have been a whirlwind of activity and opportunity.

These are exciting times to be a part of the cooperative community and the electric utility business. From humble beginnings, rural electric cooperatives have transformed the energy enterprise serving members around the country. In June, United Power became one of the privileged few cooperatives that have surpassed 100,000 meters. Early in my career at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), I could only dream about the tools we have today. These advancements represent the culmination of decades of technological progress and changing social consciousness.

I came to United Power after eight years as Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the Western Area Power Association (WAPA), where I was responsible for one of the largest grids in the US, bringing power to nearly 40 million Americans from 57 dams across the West. Prior to WAPA, I was a consultant and senior officer at EPRI. The growth and progress I have witnessed throughout my time in the industry, and the value it adds to our lives, continues to inspire me.

Technology has shifted the way our members use energy and increased its impact on their lives. More than 6,000 households on our lines have added solar systems to their rooftops and nearly 3,000 members are now driving an electric vehicle – myself included. Many more families are using smart devices in their homes – like Nest, Alexa and Google Home – to power their lives more efficiently. The changing patterns in energy usage and growing dependence on this resource are driving our industry's future. Our relationship with members must change to meet these growing needs.

United Power must balance our members' growing dependence on energy with a path toward environmental responsibility and long-term sustainability. This means pursuing energy alternatives that are clean, cost effective

and beneficial. The affordability of renewable options, such as utility scale wind and solar, is driving down the costs of traditional options like natural gas as competition among resources increases. We have seen rapid expansion of battery storage projects as the technology becomes more viable and more affordable. United Power was among the early adopters of battery storage, and we are examining how we can take further advantage of this growing option for members.

There are many ongoing conversations about cyber security challenges, power supply, renewable energy and regional transmission organizations (and markets in general) happening in Colorado and across the country. I am proud to lead a team of professionals who are aware of the opportunities available to us and the challenges we must overcome. Their hard work and dedication have made United Power one of the leading distribution cooperatives in the nation. Our reputation gives us a voice on the national stage and allows us to be a driving force in the industry.

As members and our only stakeholders, your voice helps shape our strategies. We are here to understand and meet your needs. Cooperatives have the flexibility to make strategic changes and are nimble enough to make them in a timely manner. Whether you live on a large farm, own a home in a suburban neighborhood or operate a local business, we exist as an extension of our communities and are here to serve our members.

Those who came before me built a reputation for excellence here at United Power, and I look forward to building upon it. I want every member to feel empowered to reach out to me and our staff with questions, comments or concerns at any time. I welcome the opportunity to meet you where you are, so please do not hesitate to email me.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Cooperative Now Looking Toward Next Meter Goal

to add several thousand more meters to its system before the end of the year. The continued growth has United Power now setting its sights on the next meter mark.

“We are adding new meters at an unprecedented rate,” said Gabriel. “But more importantly, we are adding members. Each new meter represents a new family on our lines or a new business helping shape the economy of the communities we serve. Our members make us stonger, and they make our communities stronger. As your cooperative, it is our privilege to be able to serve each and every one of our members.”

United Power invites members to join in celebrating this meter milestone with the cooperative and with each other at our 100,000 Meter Open House celebration at the Carbon Valley Service Center

on August 28. The events will provide members with an opportunity to learn more about the cooperative and see how its newest facility and office location are effectively serving members on the west side of the service territory.

United Power has partnered with the Carbon Valley Help Center and encourages event attendees to bring a canned food item or cash donations to assist the Help Center in meeting the needs of others in the area.

United Power’s Carbon Valley Service Center is located along the I-25 Service Road just south of Highway 119. For more information about the event, see page 6.

Powering Your Night at the Fair

The Adams County Fair, August 4-8, will be packed with family friendly entertainment, and as the presenting sponsor, United Power is giving away ticket packages to some lucky members. Enter to win one of four prize packages by completing an entry form at www.unitedpower.com/fair-giveaway.

August 4-8, 2021

Tickets for the various United Power Grandstand Events at the Adams County Fair are on sale now. Buy your tickets at www.adamscountyfair.com.

Paid parking and shuttle rides are available. Fair admission is free.

Special Days:

Thursday, Aug. 5 – Senior Day
Friday, Aug. 6 – 9NEWS Kids Day

Riverdale Regional Park
9755 Henderson Rd.
Brighton, CO 80601

Prize Packages:

Friday, August 6 – 7 p.m.

4 Tickets, Demolition Derby & Fireworks (x2)
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
\$25 Concessions Gift Card

Saturday, August 7 – 7 p.m.

4 Tickets, NSPA Truck Pull
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
\$25 Concessions Gift Card

Sunday, August 8 – 3 p.m.

4 Tickets, Dia de la Familia
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
\$25 Concessions Gift Card



Summer Event Calendar

Aug 4-8, 2021

Adams County Fair

Riverdale Regional Park
9755 Henderson Rd, Brighton

Saturday, Aug 14, 2021

Dacono Movie & Music Series

Centennial Field
123 Forest Ave, Dacono

Friday, Aug 20, 2021

Firestone Food & Flick Fridays

Harney Park
10245 Devonshire St, Firestone

Saturday, Aug 28, 2021

United Power 100,000 Meter Celebration

Carbon Valley Service Center
9586 I-25 Frontage Rd, Longmont

Saturday, Aug 28, 2021

Dacono Movie & Music Series

Centennial Field
123 Forest Ave, Dacono

Sept 10-12, 2021

Trapper Days

Downtown Fort Lupton
130 S. McKinley Ave, Fort Lupton

Saturday, Sept 11, 2021

Dacono Movie & Music Series

Centennial Field
123 Forest Ave, Dacono

Friday, Sept 17, 2021

Firestone Food & Flick Fridays

Firestone Regional Sports Complex
6850 Tilbury Ave, Firestone

Saturday, Sept 18, 2021

Miners Day

Centennial Park
630 Eighth St, Frederick

To enter by mail, send a postcard with your name, address and phone number to:

United Power
Attn: Adams County Fair Ticket Package Giveaway
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, CO 80603

Entries must be received by July 28, 2021 to be eligible. United Power is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.



For Safety, Leave Space Around Transformers

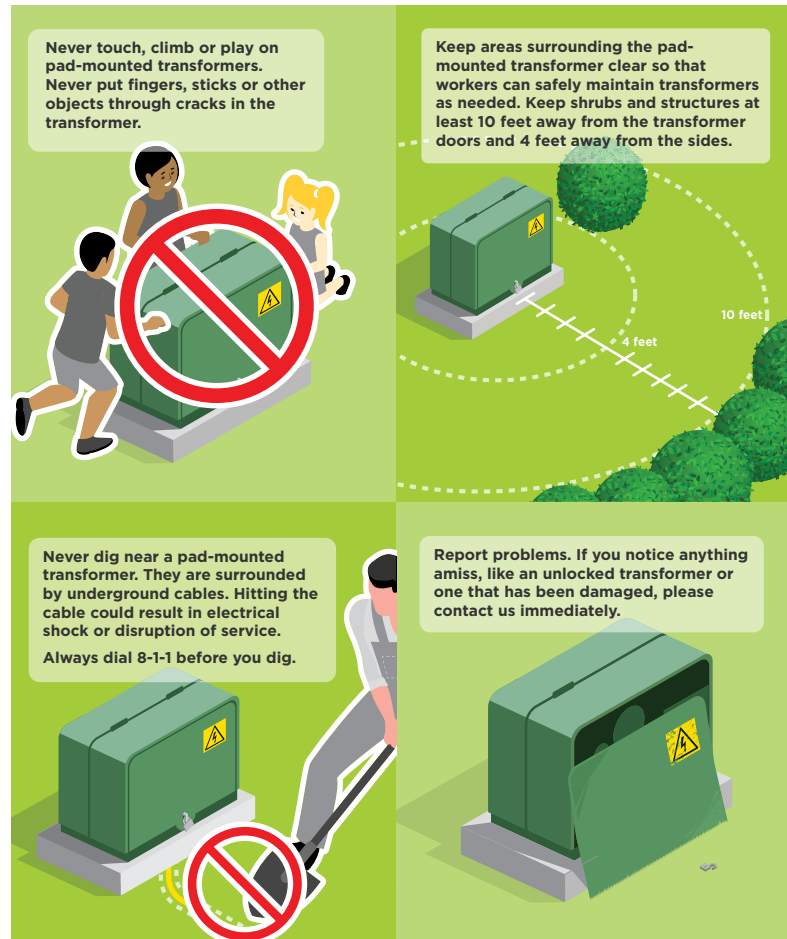
Pad-mounted transformers, those big green utility boxes commonly seen around town, serve the purpose of lowering high voltage to standard household voltage used to power electronics, appliances and lighting. These transformers are not protected in the way overhead lines and substations are. Though they may appear safe to use as workbenches and climbing obstacles, electrical equipment can still pose a risk to anyone who may come in contact with them. Members should always use caution and keep a safe distance.

United Power crews also need safe access for repairs and maintenance. Barriers, such as landscaping and fencing, should be kept clear of electrical equipment. While it may be tempting to “camouflage” transformers with landscaping, please remember cooperative crews need at least 10-feet of clearance at the opening of a pad-mounted transformer and four-feet at the rear and sides of the housing. The distance allows crews to safely use tools required for working with energized equipment. It also ensures crews have the ability to move about safely should problems arise.

In many newer subdivisions and residential developments pad-mounted transformers are more common – and in many cases are located on consumer property. These transformers are connected to primary high voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend from the transform in several directions underground. Remember this before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems or digging anywhere near a transformer. And remember, you should always dial 811 before you dig to ensure lines are located so your project doesn’t disrupt utility service, cause serious injury or worse.

Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.



READER REWARDS

JULY/AUGUST
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:

Where did United Power Launch its second EV charger?

By submitting this entry I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newline if I am selected as a winner.

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

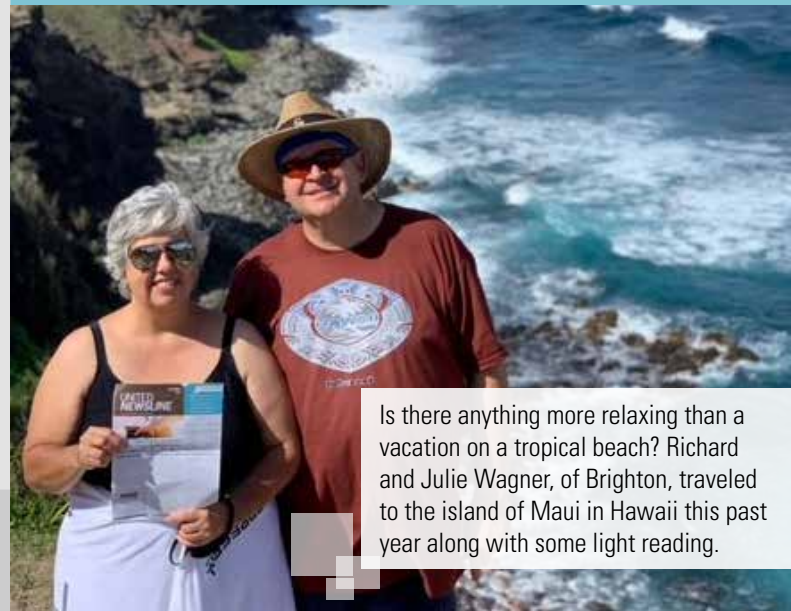
United Power • Reader Rewards • 500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____


UNITED POWER PRIDE



Is there anything more relaxing than a vacation on a tropical beach? Richard and Julie Wagner, of Brighton, traveled to the island of Maui in Hawaii this past year along with some light reading.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the United Newline 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.



SMALL CHANGE
making a
BIG DIFFERENCE



Operation Round-Up Foundation 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OTHER WAYS YOUR SMALL CHANGE GAVE BACK

In addition to the partner organizations, the board also considered grant requests from non-profit groups that serve United Power members. The board saw a significant increase in requests this year for food supplies to meet the quadrupled need at food banks due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GROUP GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020:

- Donation to Brothers Redevelopment for their Brighton Help for Homes project - painting homes for low-income seniors and/or disabled homeowners.
- Assistance with food and pantry supplies for the Whispering Pines Church Food Pantry.
- A grant to the Weld Food Bank to help with food insecurity.
- Support to the Food Bank of the Rockies to assist with increased demand for food.
- A grant to Almost Home to help in covering the cost of their Thanksgiving Meal Box Program.
- Funds to help the Fort Lupton Methodist Church in providing turkeys to 250 food insecure families in the Fort Lupton area.
- A grant to help offset pantry provisions for the Nederland Food Pantry.

TO APPLY FOR ROUND-UP FUNDS:

The Round-Up Board meets quarterly to review grant requests. Organizations interested in applying for Round-Up funds can find more information and the application at www.unitedpower.com/Round-Up.

THE POWER OF CHANGE

Funded by members "rounding up" their electric bills to the next full dollar, Operation Round-Up provides a rich source of support for those in our territory that may be struggling financially. Through block grants for partner organizations and grants to non-profit groups, Operation Round-Up is a huge force in the communities we serve, providing thousands of dollars in support each year.

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic hit many families economically and Round-Up funds were stretched to meet the increased need for food and shelter services. Without the generous contributions of more than 20,000 members who have elected to round up their bill, this wouldn't have been possible.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY OPERATION ROUND-UP:

In 2020 these organizations received \$133,000 which was used for direct assistance to individuals and families in the United Power territory. These partner organizations are empowered to use the money to help those seeking assistance, and has primarily been used to pay rents, mortgage and utility payments for those in crisis. Getting clients into the doors of a service organization is important - not only to alleviate their immediate crisis, but to help them with other services like food stamps, job training and subsidized housing opportunities. These partnerships allow us to make a broader impact on families in need in our territory.

ALMOST HOME (BRIGHTON) promotes self-sufficiency and provides housing assistance for the homeless and those in need. They provide Adams and the Southern Weld County area with a family emergency homeless shelter, bilingual case management and referrals, financial assistance for rent and utilities, and other resources to help clients obtain self-sufficiency.

CANYON CARES (COAL CREEK CANYON) serves the community by providing short-term resources to help care for the necessities and urgent needs of residents in Coal Creek Canyon, Nederland, and unincorporated Gilpin County in Colorado's Front Range.

CARBON VALLEY HELP CENTER (FIRESTONE)

helps people in immediate need move toward self-sufficiency by unifying Carbon Valley resources and information about a variety of regional resource. Client specialists work with individuals to get them the information and assistance they need to regain their confidence.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES (FT. LUPTON)

serves tens of thousands of people each year in seven ministries: Marisol Services (for women), Early Childhood Education, Shelter Services, Archdiocesan Housing, Sacred House Counseling; Family, Kinship, and Senior Services; and Parish & Community Services.

TO SIGN UP FOR OPERATION ROUND-UP:

It's easy to support Operation Round-Up by simply "rounding-up" your bill to the next full dollar amount.

- Check the box on your electric bill
- Visit www.unitedpower.com/Round-Up
- Call 303-637-1300



THE AVERAGE DONATION IS
50 CENTS PER MONTH,
OR JUST **\$6** PER YEAR.



Thanks to members like you, United Power is 100,000 meters strong!

Celebrate this historic achievement at an Open House Celebration
at our new Carbon Valley Service Center.

“Behind every
meter is a
co-op member.”

Touch-A-Truck, Safety Demos & Exhibit Booths

Get a close look at United Power's
line trucks and learn more about
United Power programs.

Battery Storage Tours, Free Food & Prizes

Tour Colorado's largest battery
storage installation. Enjoy free
refreshments and enter prize
drawings.

Food Drive to Fill the Bucket

Support the Carbon Valley Help
Center by bringing a non-perishable
food item or cash donation.



**OPEN HOUSE
CELEBRATION
9 AM - NOON**

**AUGUST
28**

Carbon Valley Service Center
9586 E I-25 Frontage Road
Longmont, Colorado 80504

FIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS

PROTECTING YOUR POWER & YOUR COMMUNITY

WILDFIRE RISK

The fire season in 2020 was the most active in Colorado history. For more than 100 days, fires burned across Colorado, including the state's three largest and most destructive wildfires on record. The Cameron Peak, East Troublesome, and Pine Gulch fires burned more than 500,000 acres and destroyed hundreds of structures.

The increased risk of fires is a growing concern — especially in United Power's mountain territory that covers portions of Gilpin, Boulder and Jefferson counties, and includes heavily forested parts of Golden Gate Canyon State Park and parts of both the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.

As your cooperative, United Power takes the growing threat of wildfires seriously. Our goal is the safety of our members and the protection of the communities they live in.

We have developed a comprehensive fire mitigation strategy to take a proactive approach to minimizing power outages, equipment damage, and fire hazards in our service area.



For more information visit www.unitedpower.com/fire-mitigation

www.unitedpower.com



SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

STRENGTHENING UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

We have made several significant improvements to our electric system to improve reliability and prevent outages. Specific improvements have been targeted in our mountain territory, where high winds and tall trees pose a greater risk for outages and fires. We continuously monitor our infrastructure and make improvements to reduce risks.

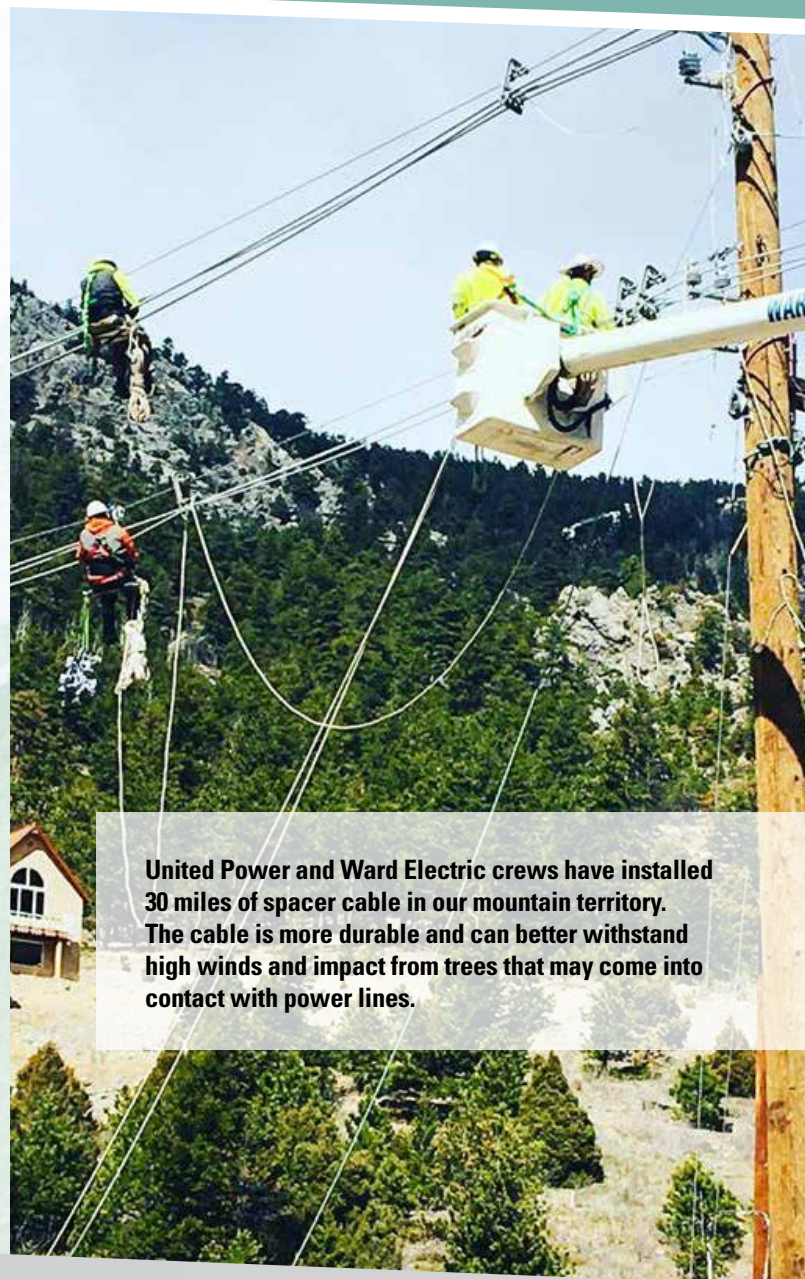
United Power has made the following enhancements to strengthen the electrical system:

- Installed 30 miles of Spacer Cable from Plainview, Blue Mountain and Crescent Substations. The spacer cable can better withstand high winds, storms and temporary tree contact improving reliability.
- Installed Fire-Guard Pole Protection on approximately 120 power poles. This fire retardant material can help protect power poles in the event of a fire.
- Installed 20 miles of covered conductor in our mountain territory. Benefits of covered conductor include reliability, strong mechanical configuration and less damage to power lines from tree contact. Projects to replace existing line are ongoing.
- Installation of new field devices that can detect potential faults, isolate outages, and avoid possible arcs caused by trees, weather or animals interfering with utility equipment.



ALWAYS ASSUME POWER LINES ARE ENERGIZED.

Covered conductor carries the same high-voltage power as bare conductor. Never touch downed lines or anything in contact with power lines.



United Power and Ward Electric crews have installed 30 miles of spacer cable in our mountain territory. The cable is more durable and can better withstand high winds and impact from trees that may come into contact with power lines.

Updates about our system strengthening and fire mitigation efforts can be found at www.unitedpower.com/fire-mitigation

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

KEEPING TREES AWAY FROM WIRES

TEN FEET FOR SAFETY

One of the leading fire risks is vegetation. To protect your power and your community, United Power is concentrating significant resources on clearing vegetation from power lines—especially in the portions of our mountain territory that are heavily forested.

FOR SAFETY AND POWER RELIABILITY, UNITED POWER WILL TRIM AWAY ANY VEGETATION WITHIN TEN FEET OF POWER LINES.

Help protect your community from power outages, damaged utility equipment, and fires by reporting vegetation concerns to United Power and by observing the ten-foot rule between trees and power lines on your property.



Report tree and vegetation hazards at www.unitedpower.com/vegetation

WHY DOES UNITED POWER TRIM OR REMOVE TREES?

Keeping power lines clear of trees and vegetation protects your property from hazards, prevents tree-related power outages and helps to mitigate the high risk of fire.

WHEN DO YOU TRIM TREES VS. REMOVE THEM?

United Power will trim or remove any trees within 10 feet of primary overhead power lines. We will remove hazard trees that are diseased, dead or dying, or in situations where the tree may affect the integrity of the power lines.

WHO WILL TRIM OR REMOVE TREES ON MY PROPERTY?

United Power contracts with specially trained tree-trimmers, experienced in working near high-voltage power lines. Most tree trimming contractor vehicles have a visible decal indicating they are a 'Contractor for United Power.'

To report vegetation concerns, or learn more about safe trimming, please visit www.unitedpower.com/vegetation

www.unitedpower.com





**PREVENT
OUTAGES & FIRES**



SAFE TREE CARE

TREES AND YOUR POWER

Clearing problematic vegetation near overhead power lines is a continuous process for United Power, and we have made concerted efforts to enhance our vegetation management program. United Power has a dedicated Vegetation Specialist to coordinate and enhance our vegetation management plan.

The Vegetation Specialist coordinates with tree-trimming contractors to address areas that need immediate attention, patrols lines for vegetation encroachment and prioritizes trimming in high-risk areas. We utilize the latest vegetation software and identification technology to help detect problematic vegetation and ensure regular cycle trimming.

WILL UNITED POWER NOTIFY ME OF TRIMMING IN MY AREA?

Before vegetation maintenance work begins, United Power will notify members via automated phone call, postcard or door hanger. Contract crews may also knock on your door before working on your property.

To ensure you receive notification of planned work in the area, please verify your contact information by calling United Power's Member Services team at 303-637-1300.

WHAT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A HOMEOWNER?

Homeowners should be vigilant about reducing risk and fire hazard by monitoring trees on their property, following wildfire defensible space recommendations and practicing safe planting guidelines.

Help keep your community safe by reporting vegetation near power lines. Please do not attempt to remove anything in contact with power lines. Instead, visit www.unitedpower.com/vegetation to report tree hazards.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WOOD OR WOOD CHIPS?

Wood that is too large for the chipper is piled and left for the property owner.

United Power is happy to provide free wood chips to local residents. These are not high-grade chips; however, they make great mulch, weed control and can help keep moisture in the ground.

To inquire about wood chips, contact our Vegetation Specialist at 720-685-5778 or vegetation@unitedpower.com.

VEGETATION QUESTIONS

Preventative trimming and tree removal may take several weeks to complete. If you have questions or concerns while work is underway, please contact United Power's Vegetation Specialist at 720-685-5778 or by email at vegetation@unitedpower.com.

To report vegetation concerns, or learn more about safe trimming, please visit www.unitedpower.com/vegetation



Workforce & Business Center

Where Opportunity Leads to Success



Powering Your Community

Amy Clement, Workforce Development Board

The hallmark of an electric cooperative is not simply providing reliable power to its members. United Power is deeply rooted in the communities it serves and committed to their success. We manage our resources in a way that allows us to give back to our communities and empowers our employees to do the same.

Many United Power employees have volunteered of their own time and resources at local nonprofits and educational foundations throughout the service territory. They have been able to leverage both their professional experience with the cooperative and personal interests to become leaders who are critical to powering these organizations.

Amy Clement, a Senior Human Resources Generalist at United Power, has been serving on the Adams County Workforce Development Board since 2017. She is the current board chair and serves on the executive committee. The Workforce Development Board's mission is to create opportunities for success by connecting businesses to a quality workforce in Adams County. The board is composed of community leaders who represent private industry, nonprofits and public agencies.

The individuals on the board represent a variety of industry roles, backgrounds and interests, helping generate quality discussions when determining goals and direction.

Clement said her involvement with the Workforce Development Board represents United Power as an employee of the cooperative, but that it also reflects her desire as a local resident to see community growth.

"My professional background in human resources has afforded me opportunities in workforce development and training that are beneficial to the board" she said. "At the same time, I enjoy personally serving not only the community I live in, but also the people that are looking to better their own lives through employment and career progression."

When the position on the board opened in 2017, Tom Green, the district representative for United Power in Adams County, said he instantly recommended Clement.

"I believe it's important for United Power employees to take part in local community

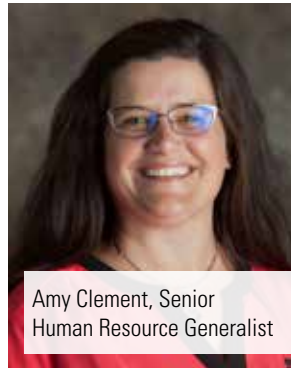
organizations, especially when it relates to their role with the cooperative," Green said. "Amy is a talented professional who I thought could provide fresh input

on the workforce in Adams County and be a meaningful contributor on the Workforce Development Board."

As executive committee chair, Clement is personally involved with policy updates and responsible for communications with state representatives, as well as managing board meetings each month. She recently worked with the board to establish an adult internship program to place Adams County residents in businesses to gain experience and advance their careers.

"This is an exciting opportunity to give back to the community," she said. "I am hopeful we will be able to place an intern with United Power in the future."

The board's responsibilities are accomplished through the activities of the Adams County Workforce and Business Center. For more information, go to www.adcogove.org/WBC.



Amy Clement, Senior Human Resource Generalist

RECIPES



Summer Corn Salad

- 3-4 cups frozen corn, thawed
- 1 medium red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 medium orange bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1/2 medium red onion, finely diced
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
- 3 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 4 Tbsp canola oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced or pressed
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp ground cayenne pepper

Combine thawed corn with finely chopped red bell pepper, orange bell pepper, red onion, scallions and cilantro in a large bowl.

In a small bowl, whisk together red wine vinegar, canola oil, garlic and cayenne pepper until combined. Drizzle dressing over corn mixture and stir to combine.

Serve immediately or allow to cool in the refrigerator.

Recipe from seriouseats.com

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

Reunited & Ready

United Power Resumes Normal Activities

For more than a year, United Power has had to alter business practices so that it could continue serving members safely and effectively. While linemen continued responding to outages and conducting maintenance to improve reliability, other practices had to change to accommodate members and employees throughout the pandemic.

In June, the cooperative was able to resume normal activities as state officials began easing public health requirements for businesses and public spaces.

Brighton Office Reopens

United Power welcomed employees back when its office location in Brighton re-opened to members on June 1. The cooperative preemptively closed its office locations in March 2020 as the pandemic began and employees transitioned to remote work.

To help members continue to access convenient payment centers, several payment kiosks were installed around the cooperative's service territory, including

its office locations in Carbon Valley and Brighton. A kiosk had previously been installed at the Coal Creek office and another was added in Fort Lupton at the Bank of Colorado Operation Center. The four payment kiosks will remain available for members who would like to continue using them.

In Your Community

For the first time in more than a year, in-person community events have returned, and United Power will play a crucial role in helping make many of them a reality. Not only that, but you'll see the cooperative present at several upcoming events throughout the summer and fall. Be sure to stop by the cooperative's booths to say hello. Our employees are ready to see our members' friendly faces.

Employee Vaccination Clinic

Scheduling a vaccination appointment was a difficult task this spring. With employees returning to the office, United Power hosted a free and voluntary clinic for employees — and their families — who were interested in



receiving the vaccine but had been unable to schedule an appointment. It's one more way the cooperative is ensuring its employees can return to work and interact with members safely.

Carbon Valley Open House

All members are invited to United Power's Carbon Valley Service Center on August 28 to celebrate the co-op surpassing 100,000 meters. The cooperative will also finally have an opportunity to unveil its newest office location to members in attendance during the celebration.

As United Power and the communities it serves continue the transition out of COVID protocols, the cooperative looks forward to seeing its members again.

Member Choice Recipients Announced

Nominations are Now Open for the Third Round of Grant Recipients

The second-round recipients of Member Choice Grants for 2021 have been selected. United Power is proud to announce Commerce City's Community Uplift Partnership (CUP) and Soul Dog Rescue, out of Fort Lupton, 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.

United Power has received several dozen nominations for nonprofit organizations providing a variety of services for those in need within the communities we serve. To submit a nomination for round three, go to www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice.



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 the future of their families.



Soul Dog Rescue

Soul Dog Rescue is an animal rescue located in Fort Lupton with the mission to spay/neuter and protect animals. Soul Dog performs collaborative, targeted work, primarily through spay/neuter, in underserved regions in order to create sustainable change and promote cultural shifts regarding the treatment of animals.

Nominations are **now open** for the third round of Member Choice Grants, which will be announced in an upcoming issue of the *United Newslines*. Submit a nomination at www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice.

Demand Rate Addresses How We Use it Differently

United Power switched to a demand rate in January 2019 as a way to more fairly charge its members for their electric usage and impact on the cooperative's system. Since its roll out, some members have asked why the switch was made and requested more information about demand and how to understand it.

Electric utilities like United Power often use terms like “distribution system,” “electric infrastructure” and “grid.” These terms refer to the interconnected network of poles, wires, transformers and substations that work to deliver – or distribute – power to members. The system is carefully engineered to meet the needs of more than 100,000 meters and the homes and businesses served off those meters.

Like any other household appliance or electronic device, pieces of our system wear out over time and need to be repaired, replaced or even upgraded to improve reliability. These maintenance costs aren't based solely on how much power you use, however, but how and when you use it.

When you use more power at once, you're creating a higher demand on the system. These demand surges have a greater impact on the grid.

For example, a member in a small apartment with a window air conditioning unit doesn't have the same impact on the grid as a household with two air conditioning units and a hot tub.

Some devices on the system have capacity limitations, for example, meaning they can only maintain a certain amount of power at a given time. The cooperative places these devices strategically to ensure power reliability. When one household served off that device uses a larger share of energy, it causes more wear on it. In some cases, the cooperative may need to replace existing devices with higher capacity ones to accommodate increases in energy usage.

With the traditional blended rate, which bundles demand and energy usage, each United Power member shares an equal cost in the maintenance of the system despite using it in vastly different ways. This means

some members have been paying more than they should, while others aren't paying enough. Whether you use a lot of energy or a little, or even generate your own, a reliable grid is something we all depend on and need available to us.

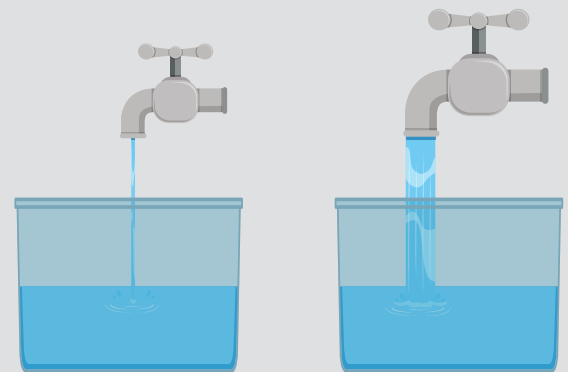
By separating the demand and energy components on your bill, we are more fairly distributing these costs to members based on how they use power. Each member now pays their fair share of the cooperative distribution system they rely on.

United Power offers a free online resource for members who want to know more about how they use power. Power Portal breaks down your energy usage in 15-minute intervals so you can easily tell what habits are contributing to your demand. Visit www.unitedpower.com/powerportal to learn more about this member resource.

If you have additional questions about the demand rate, you can go to www.unitedpower.com/demand or reach one of our dedicated energy management specialists at 303-637-1300.

Demand for Electricity is like Demand for Water

You can fill the same 5-gallon bucket with either a garden hose, or a fire hose. A garden hose will not fill as quickly – but the hose costs less to operate, and the impact on the water system is minimal. Fill that same bucket with a fire hose, and it will fill up very quickly, but the surge of water from a fire hose requires larger pipes and a more expensive hose. In the end, both buckets would be full with the same amount of water, but filling a bucket more slowly – smoothing the water use over time – creates less demand on the system and costs less to do.



Safe Ways to Pay Your Bills

United Power reopened its Brighton office to members beginning June 1. For members who have not been vaccinated or are uncomfortable coming into United Power's office to make payments, the cooperative offers a variety of safe alternatives:

- **Online/Mobile:** A quick and easy way to view your account and make payments from your home or remotely using the United Power app. Online accounts can also be used to report outages.
- **Auto Pay:** A hassle-free way to ensure payments are made on time every month. Sign up using your online account.
- **Payment Kiosks:** United Power has four kiosk locations: Brighton, Carbon Valley, Fort Lupton and Coal Creek. Members only need an account number and form of payment. Cash/credit are applied immediately to your account.
- **Pay By Phone:** Payment can be made 24 hours/day by calling 866-999-4485.
- **Pay Now:** Allows members to make quick, one-time payments without needing a login or password. You'll just need an account number and form of payment.
- **Pay As You Go:** A new payment method for members allows you to pay for power before you use it.

For more information about payment options, go to www.unitedpower.com/payments.

United Power Launches EV Charger in Keenesburg

Charger is Second in Co-op's Expanding Network

United Power launched its second electric vehicle charging station at the Market Street Mart in Keenesburg in May. The charging station, which is now operational and available for public use, fills a gap in charging options for rural electric vehicle owners and drivers between Brighton and Fort Morgan along I-76. Both cooperative charging stations are available on the ChargePoint network.



Myths of EV Ownership

Electric vehicle ownership is surging as people are learning more about the technology and are less hesitant to purchase one to use as a daily vehicle. There's good reason for United Power members to be optimistic about owning an electric vehicle.

Here are some of the most common myths about owning an electric vehicle:

Q: Can an electric vehicle meet my range needs?

A: With ranges north of 250 miles, electric vehicles today are more than sufficient to manage the average driver's daily commute.

Q: Where am I suppose to charge my electric vehicle?

A: Most people can recharge enough using an outlet in their garage overnight, but charging infrastructure is also growing rapidly.

Q: What will it do to my electric bill?

A: Not as much as you might think. And between saving on gas and maintenance, your electric vehicle will be much cheaper to operate.

Q: But aren't electric vehicles more expensive?

A: Electric vehicles are a bit more expensive, but with rebates and incentives, they can be just as affordable. And don't forget your other savings!

Q: So electric vehicles are affordable, but are they safe?

A: Electric vehicles often come standard with enhanced safety features that are only available on higher trims or packages of other vehicles.

"United Power has made a commitment to providing innovative technologies that are beneficial for our members," said Energy Programs Director Joel Danforth. "This installation not only helps us continue to fulfill that commitment but also keep pace with the emerging trend toward electric vehicles."

The Keenesburg charging station is a 62.5 kW direct current (DC) fast charger available for anyone who has set up a ChargePoint account. Anyone can set up a ChargePoint account using the mobile app or an activation card available through the mail. The charging station was installed with the help of a grant from the Colorado Energy Office's Charge Ahead Colorado program.

United Power has invested in several educational resources for members interested in electric vehicles. The cooperative launched its Choose EV web portal in June, providing a wealth of information about both electric and plug-in

hybrid vehicles. It also hosted a live webinar for National Drive EV week to provide additional education and alleviate common concerns and hesitations about purchasing an electric vehicle.

The cooperative installed its first charging station at its Coal Creek office in 2019. United Power leadership continues to look at the electric vehicle landscape and consider programs that will offer the best benefit for members, including additional charging locations in its expanding network.

"We have made consistent effort to invest in electric vehicle resources for members over the past couple years," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power's President and Chief Executive Office. "Our goal is to provide the right opportunities and the right programs that make electric vehicles practical and accessible for more of our members, especially those who live in rural communities."



Leadership from the local community and United Power at the Keenesburg EV Charging Station Launch Celebration. Pictured from left to right: **Perry Bell**, Southeast Weld County Chamber President; **Troy Whitmore**, United Power Governmental & Regulatory Relations Officer; **Ursula Morgan**, United Power Board Chairman; **Ken Gfeller**, Keenesburg Mayor; **Mark A. Gabriel**, United Power President & CEO.

Limited Time Rebate Offer

Members Qualify to Receive Exclusive Rebates on Outdoor Power Equipment Purchased Between May 1 - August 31, 2021

Take advantage of a summer rebate to electrify and beautify your outdoor spaces. For a limited time, United Power members qualify for exclusive rebates on the purchase of select outdoor power equipment, including electric mowers, trimmers and leaf blowers.

To be eligible to receive this rebate, you must be a member and receive permanent electric service from the cooperative. The rebate is applicable for new equipment only purchased between May 1 – August 31, 2021. Approved rebates will be applied as a bill credit on your billing statement. It may take up to two billing cycles for your rebate to appear on your statement.

United Power must receive applications, along with proof of purchase, within 90 days of purchase, or before Sept. 30, depending on equipment purchase date

For more information on United Power rebates, including additional details about the outdoor power equipment rebate, visit www.unitedpower.com/rebates.

REBATE DETAILS

Eligible for 25% of cost, up to \$150

- Electric Lawn Mowers
- Electric Snow Blowers

Eligible for 25% of cost, up to \$50

- Electric Trimmers and Pruners
- Electric Leaf Blowers
- Electric Chainsaws
- Electric Power Washers

Electric mowers can be riding or walk-behind mowers. Battery or corded equipment only. Minimum purchase price of \$50. Maximum rebate of \$300 total per membership. Rebate on final purchase price after any coupons or instant rebates. Attach itemized receipt with application.

Recognizing Cooperative Excellence

Local & National Organizations Honor United Power Employees

United Power has become accustomed to seeing its employees recognized for their contributions both to their fields and the cooperative landscape. Multiple employees were once again recognized earlier this year for the quality of their leadership and the excellence of their work.

United Power would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of its employees, who have continued to raise the bar on excellence, establishing a reputation for the cooperative both locally and nationally.

Tyler Bain, a planning engineer with the cooperative, was nominated for the Rocky



Mountain Electrical League's Emerging Leader Award. The award honors members who have contributed significantly to their organization and demonstrated the potential for leadership. Bain helps determine load management goals and capacity improvement needs for the co-op.



The United Power communications team was also recognized by the national cooperative organization, NRECA. The team received three gold-level Spotlight on Excellence awards for its communications programs to members in 2020.

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JULY/AUGUST
2021



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Adams County Fair Giveaway

Win one of several Adams County Fair ticket packages from United Power.

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Lawn Equipment Rebate

For a limited time, members are eligible for exclusive rebates on electric lawn equipment.

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online.....www.unitedpower.com

f.....facebook.com/UnitedPower

t.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

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

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



100,000 Meter Celebration

In June, United Power surpassed 100,000 meters, becoming just the 31st cooperative nationwide to achieve the milestone. Members are invited to celebrate with the co-op on August 28 at the Carbon Valley Service Center.

Learn more on page 6.

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Sara Adams, Brighton
2nd Place: Joe Falcon, Fort Lupton
 Dawn Barnard, Keenesburg

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

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