

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2020

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

- SPECIAL TRI-STATE INSERT 5-8
- Prioritizing Fire Mitigation 2
- Round-Up During COVID 9
- Rooftop Solar Surpasses 5,000.... 10
- Growth of Electric Vehicles 11

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER All Month	September is National Preparedness Month
OCTOBER All Month	October is National Co-op Month
APRIL 14, 2020	Annual Meeting & Director Election



October is National Co-op Month

Cooperative Principles Guide United Power During Nationwide Pandemic

Cooperatives are more than a local business. Not only do they provide the same products and services as their for-profit counterparts, they also go beyond the business, placing great emphasis on community involvement and the flourishing of its members. This past year has been unlike any other in United Power's more than 80-year history as a cooperative. The arrival of a global pandemic has challenged us to think creatively and act proactively as we consider how to best serve our members through uncertain times. We have responded the way only a cooperative could – by thinking of our members.

This October, United Power invites our members to join us in honoring National Co-op Month, a celebration of the commitment cooperatives have for their communities and members. There are more than 64,000 cooperatives stretching across almost every industry that touches our daily lives, and nearly 1,000 of them are electric co-ops. Birthed out of the hard work of our members, electric co-ops were established to deliver power to parts of the country larger investor-owned companies had no interest in serving.

It was the foundational commitment to community that fueled our founders and continues to fuel our cooperative today. It challenged us to think strategically about how to continue offering services during the past few months. While our leadership made the difficult decision to close offices for the health and safety of both members and employees, they also acted quickly to suspend late fees and disconnects for nonpayment. They recognized the potential economic impact of the situation and announced these temporary measures before Governor Polis issued any statewide orders.

In an effort to circumvent the financial hardships of members, the cooperative's board of directors also took action to provide member relief. In May, the board allocated \$250,000 in unclaimed capital credits to establish the Co-op Cares Fund to help offset electric bills for members impacted by the pandemic, particularly those affected by illness or job loss. They also opted for an early capital credit retirement period – which is usually considered in the fall – to provide a little extra relief.

"We recognized how far reaching the implications of this pandemic could be, and we wanted to respond quickly to our members' needs," said Bryant Robbins, United Power's acting chief executive officer. "We carefully considered our options and were proud to be able to offer this relief package to our members. If any member is continuing to face struggles, we urge them to call us and let us know."

Meanwhile, the cooperative also had to shift gears while planning its annual meeting when the venue hosting the originally scheduled



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Customer Service 303-637-1300

continued on Page 3



Wildfire Mitigation a Cooperative Priority

Wildfires have devastated parts of Colorado this year, with several blazing across the state in August. Near Grand Junction, the Pine Gulch Fire is the largest on record for the state and another near Glenwood Springs had threatened to join the list. Near Fort Collins, a third fire has even threatened parts of Poudre Valley REA's electrical infrastructure. Although not attributed to any utility electrical system, these fires demonstrate the importance of having a developed fire mitigation plan in place for utilities like United Power, who reviews and updates its plan annually.

As your cooperative, United Power takes these growing threats seriously. Leadership at the cooperative has continuously embraced a proactive and progressive approach to wildfire prevention. United Power's goal is the safety of its members and the protection of the communities they live in.

United Power made preparations to enhance its existing fire mitigation plan in early 2013 with a change in facility design and placement, making them more accessible and clear of potential hazards. The implementation also included an expansive vegetation management policy to keep infrastructure clear of hazards that could be easily ignited in the event of a system failure (such as a fault or equipment malfunction leading to an outage).

"As we reviewed our system design, we began to recognize the opportunity for better design methodology and the use of advanced technology to prepare for the unexpected," said acting chief executive officer Bryant Robbins. "One of the things we heavily targeted was the prevention of wildfire risk on our system."

Members in Coal Creek Canyon, and those driving through, may have noticed crews

installing new line in parts of the canyon. This new line is an insulated conductor known as Hendrix cable, which provides a high level of protection when contact is made, such as a tree falling into the line. The strength of the line along with the covered protection goes a long way in preventing fires caused by electrical equipment in the mountain service territory. The new line has been one of the more high profile and visible elements of the cooperative's fire mitigation plan, but the team at United Power went much further in developing system improvements to mitigate the wildfire risk to members.

Always looking for an opportunity to develop a better system, United Power became an early adopter of drone maintenance inspections and an industry leader in both system automation and the deployment of smart devices.

"These technologies are among the most innovative forms of outage management currently available to utilities," said Engineering Director Robert Maxwell. "Their design also allows them to stop the flow of electricity to faults that could develop into fires without this technology. We're far ahead of the curve in utilizing the latest technology when compared not just to other cooperatives but also larger electric utilities."

Drones are able to quickly survey miles of line in a rapid period of time, freeing line crews to focus on preventable outages, which has been especially useful in the mountains where the terrain can often make pole inspections time consuming and difficult. The number of man hours saved and outages prevented from this innovative inspection format is incalculable.

Automated field devices further allow the system to identify and isolate problems to restore power quickly while minimizing the



Ward Electric linemen hang Hendrix cable in Coal Creek Canyon

number of members affected and smart devices are able to immediately report problems back to the cooperative's system operations. These improvements, along with the installation of advanced trip savers and fault detectors, help improve outage response and mitigate the potential for fires.

Although the current pandemic has interfered with many facets of our daily lives, United Power has continued to make progress implementing new technology onto its system to further mitigate the threat of wildfires. As the past month has shown throughout the state, a strategic fire mitigation plan is essential in Colorado.

"Wildfire preparedness is a priority for United Power, and we've been able to blend our efforts to mitigate fire dangers with our efforts to prevent outages," said Robbins. "As our numbers continue to improve, we'll also continue looking for the best opportunities to better serve our members, both safely and affordably."

For more information about United Power's fire mitigation improvements, go to www.unitedpower.com/fire-mitigation.

COVID Paints Different Picture for Co-op in 2020

event closed due to the pandemic. Committed to providing members an opportunity to hear from leadership about accomplishments over the past year, the event's first-ever virtual format was offered as an alternative. Although the virtual format had to be planned quickly, it was a success with record member registration and participation.

In this unusual year, United Power found a way to provide for your health and safety without sacrificing the level of service our members have come to expect. During this time, we've continued to offer rebates, energy management solutions, member services availability and even expanded our payment options. We have extended payment hours at kiosk locations in Carbon Valley and Coal Creek and installed a new payment kiosk at the Brighton office. We hope to be able to open our office locations to members soon, as well.

"This hasn't been a normal year, and we were forced to reevaluate the way we serve our members," said Robbins. "It's challenged us to think about how we can be better at what we do. The lessons we've learned have helped us grow through this year and will help us continue to grow when everything has returned to normal."

While some years are more unpredictable than others, most years don't look like

they have in 2020. Most years we spend this time supporting our communities in the form of sponsorships, scholarships and youth leadership development. Nothing is closer to the heart of a cooperative than community, and that commitment is on full display at many of the community events that were cancelled or postponed this year due to the pandemic.

We have continued to support our local nonprofits, which help meet needs and enrich the lives of our members. When sports return, you'll see our banners on display at local ballfields. When county fairs and festivals featuring live music and live animals return, United Power will probably have played a role in making it a reality.

While United Power exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we hope you think of us as more than your energy provider, but as a local business that supports the economic development and prosperity of its communities and members. We, like you, look forward to a return to normalcy. We will "power on" through the difficult and unusual times and continue to serve our members the way we always have, ever since our original members laid the foundation for the cooperative we are today.

IN YOUR CORNER: CO-OPS DOING GOOD



All in the Family

And we're a large family. Roughly **1 in 3 people**, or nearly 140 million, are part of at least one of the 64,000 cooperatives nationwide.



Contributing to Economic Success

Cooperatives generate **\$652 billion in annual sales**, not including the taxes they put back into their communities. Cooperatives also employ nearly 2 million people.



Did You Know?

Cooperatives operate across almost every industry you use daily, including housing and food services, banking and agriculture. For example, **nearly 80% of all dairy farmers** are part of a cooperative. There are also more than 5,000 credit unions nationwide.



Powering the Nation

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives nationwide. They make up **42% of the nation's electric grid and power 75% of its landmass**, including 18 million homes, schools and businesses.



Co-ops & Food

For every \$1 spent at a food co-op, \$1.60 is generated in the local economy. That is **15% more** than a conventional grocer.

Youth Opportunities Coming

Applications Will Be Available Soon

As your cooperative, we believe in contributing to the well-being of the communities that make up who we are, including building up tomorrow's leaders in those communities.

Each year, United Power selects a number of students from high schools in our service territory to be awarded scholarships or represent the cooperative at one of two unique summer youth leadership events.

Scholarships

United Power awards 17 scholarships each academic year to students who show exceptional academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities and an interest in community involvement.



Applications will be available online at www.unitedpower.com.

Youth Leadership Trips

Represent United Power for a week in the mountains of northwest Colorado at the Youth Leadership Camp or on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour where you'll learn cooperative principles and develop leadership skills to model in your schools and communities.

Does Your Family Have a Disaster Plan?

September is National Preparedness Month

Between a combination of a quiet storm season and other things consuming our thoughts over the course of 2020, preparing for a potential disaster situation may not be high on our list of priorities. However, natural disasters may come in an instant, and it's important to make sure you and your family are prepared. Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to take simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies that could affect us where we live, work and visit. This year's theme, "Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today," touches on four distinct aspects of emergency preparation.

Make a plan. Expecting the unexpected begins with having a plan in place to respond, and those conversations can begin casually over a meal or strategically in a family meeting. If you have children, include them in the disaster planning process. Prepare with your friends, family and neighbors to develop communications plans. Finally, practice your plan.

Build a Kit. Gather supplies for several days, considering the unique needs of your family. Include items such as food, water and any necessary medications or pet items. You may also include items such as a first aid kit, flashlight and/or radio. Remember to update your kit regularly.

Prepare for Disasters. Different areas and regions are impacted by different natural disasters. In Colorado, we can experience devastating floods, debilitating blizzards or even strong tornadoes. Make sure your disaster plan above includes steps for each potential event. Be mindful of disasters that could also occur during travel or on vacations.

Teach Youth About Preparedness. It's important to teach your children about emergency preparation, such as how to communicate in the event of separation or what to do if you're away. They should know how to communicate with you, their friends and emergency responders. Provide sufficient information and carefully walk through individual steps of your disaster plan or have them practice building their own emergency kits.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, including sample emergency communications plans, organizations you can volunteer with during disasters and more, visit www.ready.gov.



READER REWARDS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2020



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$100 Lowe's Gift Card
2nd place: \$50 Lowe's Gift Card (two winners)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail entry form to: United Power • Reader Rewards
500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com



Save a stamp! Visit www.unitedpower.com and click on 'Co-op & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

What nonprofit would you nominate for 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.

UNITED POWER PRIDE



Donna Colbert of Frederick stands in front of the rebuilt 13th century Stave Church in Oslo, Norway. The church is part of a large open air museum dedicated to preserving history.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and you'll get a \$100 bill credit if we print it. Submit your photo along with your name, address, email and a description of the photo online at www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MESSAGE FROM ACTING CEO BRYANT ROBBINS ABOUT UNITED POWER'S FIGHT FOR COMPETITIVELY PRICED POWER FOR OUR MEMBERS



Bryant Robbins
Acting Chief
Executive Officer

Dear Co-op Members,

You may have noticed United Power's name in the news more recently than you have in the past, and for good reason. As your electric cooperative, we here at United Power believe in putting our members first in everything we do. Fighting for your right to purchase electricity to energize your homes and businesses is no exception. Our cooperative was formed through the hard work and diligent efforts of local farmers, business owners, and homeowners who believed they had the right to electricity as much as anyone else. 80 years later, we still couldn't agree more. Now we are fighting a battle not to simply provide electricity to our members, but to do so at a fair price.

For almost 70 years, United Power has worked closely with our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, to ensure that you have safe, reliable, and affordable energy at your fingertips whenever you need it. Unfortunately, we have had increasing tensions with Tri-State these past several years as they have not been able to provide wholesale power at competitive rates.

We are fighting a battle not to simply provide electricity to our members, but to do so at a fair price.

Comparison to other power providers reveals Tri-State's rates are as much as 30% higher than their competitors. United Power has a duty to explore our options and an obligation to pursue the path that is most advantageous to our members, even when that path isn't easy.

To that end, United Power asked Tri-State in June of 2018 if they would consider converting to a partial requirements contract. Currently, Tri-State supplies United Power with substantially all its energy needs under what is referred to as a full requirements contract. Giving United Power the ability to blend a mix of power from other, less costly providers while continuing to purchase the higher priced power from Tri-State would have allowed us to decrease the overall cost of power to our members with as little disruption to all parties involved as possible.

continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM ACTING CEO BRYANT ROBBINS

The request for a compromise was denied and so, with little other choice, United Power requested a buyout number from Tri-State in August of 2018. The response we received a short time later was an amount that could only be described as outrageous. Regardless, United Power continued to work within Tri-State's sluggish committee structure seeking relief for our pricing frustrations. A year later, having had no satisfaction or resolution to our concerns, United Power initiated the process to explore other alternatives. After receiving indicative pricing from numerous power suppliers, it was clear to the Board and the management team at United Power that there was no choice but to pursue relief with a higher authority.

In November of 2019, we filed a complaint with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) seeking a fair buyout charge. With similar concerns, another Colorado cooperative filed a comparable claim and the PUC combined the matters. This summer, we received a favorable ruling from the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) assigned by the PUC to hear our case. Both cooperatives submitted proposed methodologies for determining a buyout number. The ALJ selected United Power's methodology as the most reasonable, just, and non-discriminatory.

Tri-State has tried to circumvent the PUC, primarily by seeking jurisdiction under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Again, in an effort to protect our members from Tri-State's self-preserving tactics, United Power sought the assistance of a higher power. In May of 2020, we filed a case with the Adams County District Court alleging that Tri-State had recruited three non-utility entities with the sole purpose of gaining FERC oversight and thereby eluding the jurisdictional control of the PUC. We believe this was a conspiracy to defraud United Power and an attempt to hold us captive in an expensive and restrictive power contract. Court documents outline how the years-long scheme intentionally misled Tri-State's members and ultimately caused financial harm to United Power and the more than 95,000 members we serve.

On August 28th, FERC reversed an earlier decision and determined they have sole jurisdiction over the exit fee matter. United Power remains hopeful that the PUC and Adams County District Court will provide relief in the form of invalidating the addition of the three non-utility members and thereby eliminate FERC's jurisdiction over Tri-State. This would place control back in the hands of the PUC who, along with United Power, has invested countless hours in contemplating the matter of determining a reasonable, just, and non-discriminatory exit fee.

I think it's important that I share the background and details of this battle with you, our members, so that you can hear directly from your cooperative what we are doing and why.

If we are successful in our efforts, we estimate that we can reduce your retail electric rates by 15%-25%.

Once we secure a reasonable exit charge from Tri-State, our Board can determine the appropriate action to take to save you money on your electric bill. If we are successful in our efforts, we estimate that we can reduce your retail electric rates by 15%-25%. We believe you'll agree, that's not insignificant.

We continue to hope for a resolution with Tri-State that benefits all parties and reduces costs for United Power members. I will continue to provide updates through this newsletter and at unitedpower.com.

Respectfully,



Bryant Robbins

Acting Chief Executive Officer

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How did United Power determine the buyout methodology they proposed?

United Power retained the services of a well-known expert in the field. She evaluated the financial statements of Tri-State and determined the most reasonable, fair, and non-discriminatory method for calculating a buyout would be to have United Power pay its proportionate share of Tri-State's long-term debt.

As a validation of the methodology, if you apply this same calculation to previous exits that Tri-State itself said were fair to its remaining members, you get a very similar number to the exit prices they paid. The initial buyout number Tri-State provided us was three to four times higher than what our method or the previous negotiated exits would have been. We will continue to propose this methodology as the most fair and reasonable method as the process continues at FERC.

Tri-State claims that United Power is dumping more than \$1 billion in costs onto other cooperatives. Is this true?

As mentioned above, applying our methodology results in a reasonable, fair, and non-discriminatory exit price that is proportionally aligned with the exit price paid by two previous co-ops upon their exit. If the exit prices paid by those two cooperatives were fair and non-discriminatory and did not result in cost-shifting to other co-ops, how could our exit fee be any different?

The methodology proposed is calculated based on United Power paying its fair share of Tri-State's long-term debt. Once the exit is complete, the remaining members should be no worse off than before. In fact, if any cost-shifting has been going on it's the shifting of costs to United Power as the largest and fastest growing member of Tri-State that's been happening for the past several years.

Tri-State claims to be moving toward more renewable resources. Isn't that a good thing?

United Power is a huge supporter of renewable energy. We have been recognized nationally for our integration of renewable resources, our growth in rooftop solar, and even our work on the country's first community solar field, Sol Partners. We applaud Tri-State's effort to integrate more renewables into their system, but that doesn't address the overall cost issues. As a matter of fact, many of Tri-State's past decisions have added to both the current low use of renewables and their non-competitive power cost. For United Power members, this shift to more renewable resources could possibly be too little, too late.

Is the case at the PUC decided and can United Power move forward with a buyout now that a methodology has been approved?

Unfortunately, our battle doesn't end here. Earlier this year, Tri-State filed with FERC asking them to preempt (or rule invalid) any decision being made at the PUC. FERC reversed an earlier order and, on August 28th, declared their sole authority and jurisdiction over Tri-State's exit fees. Having not yet received a final ruling from the PUC, unless a settlement agreement is reached in the near future, we will be forced to go through a second wave of hearings similar to the PUC hearings, this time at FERC. Since Tri-State was already pursuing FERC approval of their exit charge methodology (referred to as the CTP), some preliminary work has already begun. In their initial comments on the case, FERC stated, "*Our preliminary analysis indicates that the CTP Methodology has not been shown to be just and reasonable and may be unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory or preferential, or otherwise unlawful.*"

Will United Power definitely exit their contract with Tri-State if they receive a fair and reasonable exit charge?

No. My staff will present to the Board all the options available to United Power and make a recommendation for what we believe to be the best path forward. Our Board has a fiduciary duty to the membership to make a decision that represents the overall best interest of our members. We continue to be available to Tri-State for discussions on this matter and remain open to their suggestions on ways other than an exit to resolve our concerns.

**For updates or to submit comments or questions, please visit our website:
www.unitedpower.com/PowerSupply**

LOCALLY OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE



www.unitedpower.com



Member-Owned Electric Utility

United Power, a member-owned utility founded in 1938, provides electric service to more than 95,000 meters, or 250,000 residential, agricultural and business consumers along Colorado's northern Front Range. The not-for-profit electric cooperative is guided by a member-elected board of directors comprised of eleven directors who serve three year terms.

Surrounding Denver on three sides, United Power serves 900 square miles along the north central range of the Colorado Rockies. Our service territory wraps around the north and west borders of Denver International Airport, and includes the north metropolitan development corridors of Interstate 25, Interstate 76, State Highway 85, and E-470.

Cooperative Principles

Cooperative businesses, like United Power, are special because they are owned by the consumers they serve and they are guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the best interests of those consumers.

All cooperative businesses adhere to these seven guiding principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership.
2. Democratic Member Control.
3. Members' Economic Participation.
4. Autonomy and Independence.
5. Education, Training, and Information.
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives.
7. Concern for Community.

Wholesale Power from Tri-State G&T

United Power purchases wholesale electricity from Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Tri-State is the supplier of electricity to United Power and 41 other customer-owned utilities in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Nebraska.

Currently, wholesale power from Tri-State constitutes more than 77% of our total costs paid by our members. Since 2018 United Power has been actively seeking to reduce our costs for wholesale power, and to have more control over the generation mix of that power.

Issues driving our fight for competitively priced power for our members

Our members deserve cleaner, more affordable power. United Power is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric power, and as a cooperative, we're always looking out for our member-owners.

United Power has been a leader in innovative and renewable energy projects. From developing the state's first cooperative solar farm, to several large-scale solar projects, and to operating the state's largest battery storage facility, we have been driven by what is financially and environmentally best for our members.

We are limited by our Tri-State contract to incorporate any additional renewable energy. United Power has been consistently at the table asking for solutions that give our members what they want. We know our members want more local, renewable power serving their homes and businesses.



Giving A Helping Hand

Members Show Support for One Another through Operation Round-Up Foundation

Every month thousands of United Power members voluntarily have their bills rounded up to the next whole dollar through an organization known as Operation Round-Up. In a normal year, a board made up of fellow members of the cooperative would redistribute donated funds to nonprofits throughout the area to help provide meals, living assistance and other services to those in need.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this year has been anything but normal. The resulting fallout from proactive plans to prevent the spread of the virus impacted many of the cooperative's members. In an effort to ensure impacted members were able to receive the same level of services from area nonprofits experiencing a surge in number of clients, Operation Round-Up responded by going above and beyond, while also maintaining its commitment to several partner organizations.

Recognizing an immediate need in the service territory, the foundation's board in May issued grants to the Weld County Food Bank and Food Bank of the Rockies, which both have sizeable reach to the cooperative's members. In the following months, another grant was issued to Pastor's Pantry, a food bank located in Coal Creek Canyon. The combined distribution of meals from the food banks was greater than 100,000 in May and June alone.

These grants were made in addition to ongoing support to several groups providing essential services to community members over the past few years, including Almost Home in Brighton, Catholic Charities in Ft. Lupton, Carbon Valley Help Center in Firestone and Canyon Cares in Coal Creek Canyon. The quarterly contributions to

these organizations allow them to continue providing assistance to members who may need help paying utilities, rent or other expenses, which has been especially meaningful during this pandemic.

It's members like you who make these contributions possible. Operation Round-Up is entirely funded through voluntary member donations. Your donations allow the foundation to distribute thousands of dollars to organizations that provide these services. However, this unusual year has stretched it to its limits, and the foundation needs your help to continue meeting these needs.

"As a longtime board member, I can say our board truly believes in the purpose of Operation Round-Up," said Dale McCall, president of the foundation's board. "But we couldn't do what we do without the support from our members or the staff at United Power who are responsible for getting others to believe in our purpose, as well."

A crippling nationwide pandemic was an interesting way for Operation Round-Up to celebrate its 25th anniversary, but provided a grand stage to show how generous member support has been for the foundation. Since its inception in 1995, it has distributed more than \$2 million in assistance to members in need.

Donations average just \$.50 per billing statement, or just \$6/year. To show your support and sign up for Operation Round-Up, go to www.unitedpower.com. To increase your contribution or make a one-time donation, please call our Member Services team at 303-637-1300.

RECIPES



Cinnamon Oat Peach Crisp

- 5 lb peaches (about 12), cut to 1/2" slices
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 cups old fashioned oats
- 2/3 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 4 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1 cup chilled unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 2 pints vanilla ice cream (optional)

Toss peaches, granulated sugar and 2 Tbsp flour in a large bowl to combine. Let sit, tossing occasionally, for 30 minutes. Place rack in center of oven; preheat to 350°F.

Meanwhile, whisk oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, salt and remaining flour in a large bowl to combine. Using an electric mixer on low speed, gradually add butter. Once it has all been added, increase speed to medium-high and beat until dry ingredients are incorporated (should be no dry bits left).

Scrape peaches and juices into 9x13" baking dish and evenly scatter oat topping over peaches. Bake until topping is deep golden brown, 60-70 minutes. Let cool for 1 hour.

Recipe at www.epicurious.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

5,000th Rooftop Solar Connection

United Power has built a reputation as an innovator and early adopter of new technology that improves the way it delivers safe, reliable, affordable – and renewable – power to its members. It has been able to do that in part because of members that celebrate the cooperative's accomplishments and who are just as passionate about the co-op's energy mix.

In August, United Power connected its 5,000th member-owned rooftop solar installation, celebrating yet another significant milestone for the cooperative. Members have continued to show a strong interest in the adoption of solar energy the past several years. The consistent growth in rooftop solar has ranked United Power among the highest tier of cooperatives in connected solar nationwide year after year.

Since powering Colorado's first community solar farm – Sol Partners – in 2009, United Power has been at the forefront of adopting solar energy projects. The project sold out quickly to members excited about the prospect of utilizing solar energy in their own homes. Today, member-owned rooftop solar connections account for an increasing percentage of the cooperative's total meters and produce millions of kilowatts of energy annually, nearly matching the solar energy production of United Power's four utility scale solar farms.



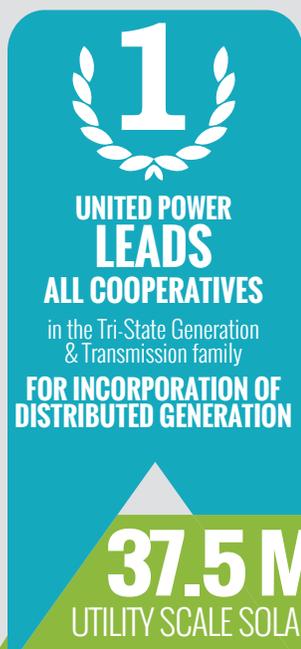
2020 RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

United Power continues to be a leader in renewable energy integration. Since United Power energized Colorado's first community solar farm, the cooperative has continued to look for new and unique ways to integrate renewable sources.

United Power recognizes that the future of electrical generation will be an "all of the above" strategy of investing in a variety of generation sources, and responding to the wants and needs of our membership. Projects like our large scale solar fields and the methane recapture plant make sense on multiple fronts. These

projects reduce carbon emissions, but they also make economic sense. They produce generation that we can purchase for our members at a predictable cost, with a predictable lifespan.

The addition of these projects, from our utility scale solar farms to our state-leading battery storage facility, helps us build some cost stability for our members.



TOTAL RENEWABLE
GENERATION

72 MW

14% capacity • 5% energy



POWERING **11,000** HOMES

13% OF ALL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

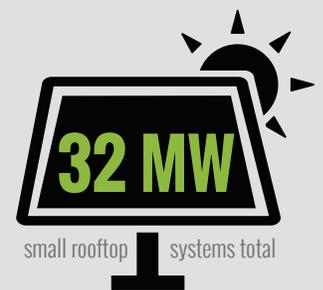
Operators of
COLORADO'S LARGEST
BATTERY STORAGE
PROJECT

2019
STORAGE
TOP 10
SEPA

Rooftop Solar



5% of total meters



RANKED

5th
in the nation

among co-ops
for cumulative solar
installations

2018 Utility Solar Market Snapshot—July 2019
The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)

2015 CO-OP PARTNER OF THE YEAR
by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Assoc. (COSEIA)



Now is an Exciting Time to Invest in EVs

What once seemed like a hopeful concept for the future has become a reality. Today, you're more likely to see multiple electric vehicles while you're driving to work or the grocery store than not, and it's becoming more common for gas stations and public spaces to install charging stations to accommodate electric vehicle drivers. You probably support a business with an electric vehicle fleet or know someone who has invested in either an electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid.

"It's safe to say electric vehicle adoption has far outpaced our expectations," said Tyler Bain, a United Power electrical engineer and longtime EV driver. "A sizeable number of EV drivers live in United Power's service territory, and there's still a lot of opportunity for growth – for both us and potential EV drivers."

Why has there been so much recent growth in electric vehicles? Nigel Zeid of Boulder Nissan explains it has a lot to do with understanding and education. Many potential buyers face concerns and hesitations about integrating an electric vehicle into their daily lives.

"There's a perception that electric vehicles aren't capable of meeting the average person's needs," Zeid says. "Every main concern can be boiled down to that root perception, which is an incorrect one. With a little information, we can turn hesitation into excitement. Electric vehicles have all the benefits of any other vehicle without much of the cost."

Range anxiety, for example, is one of the hardest barriers for people to overcome, Zeid says. He recommends using your vehicle's trip odometer to calculate how far you commute in a given day, either to and from work or for various other errands. People usually drive far less than they estimate, and that can demonstrate how range anxiety is typically more psychological than reality.

The growth also has to do with pricing and availability. There are more options at more price points available today than there have been in any year prior. Many major car brands have announced new and upcoming electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids. Some will even come as a trim option on already popular models for a small premium, which can be more than offset by current state and federal rebates and incentives.

Join United Power from September 26 – October 4 for National Drive EV Week as the cooperative and Zeid walk you through the finer points of EV ownership and much more. Follow our journey and find out more at www.unitedpower.com/DriveEVWeek.

OWNER TESTIMONIAL

Tyler Bain

Electrical Engineer, United Power
Electric Vehicle: Tesla Model S



"I made the switch from gasoline powered vehicles to electric vehicles nearly seven years ago, and when I made the switch, I encountered many of the same concerns and hesitations many of you are encountering now, such as range anxiety.

The longer I've driven electric vehicles, the more I've realized those hesitations haven't impacted 99 percent of my driving patterns, and with a little planning, even road trips are possible with electric vehicles. Generally speaking, EVs are quieter, quicker, more efficient and cheaper to operate. While your electric bill may go up, your savings on gas alone will more than make up the difference.

As an electrical enthusiast and electrical engineer for a power cooperative, making the switch to electric vehicles was less of a challenge for me than many other people. Today, many of the concerns I faced are shrinking with higher range vehicles and a larger charging infrastructure. With a little research, you will quickly realize they're more practical, more functional and more fun than standard gas engine vehicles."

Q&A: EV HESITATIONS

Nigel Zeid

EV Outreach & Education, Boulder Nissan
Electric Vehicle: Nissan Leaf



Nigel Zeid of Boulder Nissan addresses some of the most common concerns and hesitations United Power members may be feeling about the possibility of purchasing 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 are 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.

Inside This Issue

SEPT/OCTOBER
2020



Prioritizing Fire Mitigation

During an active fire season, what is United Power doing to protect members?

Page 2



National Drive EV Week

Join us Sept. 26 - Oct 4. to put your questions about EVs to rest.

Page 11

SPECIAL MEMBER INSERT: CO-OP'S FIGHT FOR COMPETITIVELY PRICED POWER

United Power has made headlines recently for an increasingly tense relationship with its wholesale power provider, Tri-State G&T, as it seeks to offer members more affordable rates. In this issue, acting CEO Bryant Robbins answers member questions about the ongoing dispute.

Pages 5-8

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

email.....UnitedNewsline@UnitedPower.com

online.....www.unitedpower.com

f.....facebook.com/UnitedPower

t.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

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

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

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Nate Carr, Longmont
- 2nd Place:** Tammi Williams, Lochbuie
Kathleen Jones, Commerce City

See your name listed as a winner? Call 303-637-1248 to claim your Reader Rewards.

- Board of Directors** Ursula J. Morgan
- Chairman** Beth Martin
- Vice-Chairman** Tim Erickson
- Secretary** Keith Alquist
- Treasurer** Tamra Waltemath
- Asst. Sect./Treasurer** Dean Hubbuck
- Newsline Editors** Ginny Buzcek
Brian A. McCormick
Heidi Storz
Laurel Eller
Susan Petrocco
Zachary Kinder
James Vigesaa
- Acting Chief Executive Officer/** Bryant Robbins
- Chief Operating Officer** Ursula J. Morgan
- Chief Financial Officer** Laurie Burkhardt
- Government & Regulatory Relations Officer** Troy Whitmore
- Chief Energy Resource Officer** Tamra Waltemath

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.
© 2020 United Power, Inc.

UNITED NEWSLINE

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton CO 80603



PRSR1 STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ft. Collins, CO
Permit No. 266