

## Member Information

### Tri-State resource plan further advances solar

Tri-State filed its 2023 Electric Resource Plan (ERP) with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on Dec. 1, 2023. Tri-State's preferred plan identifies the addition of 1,250 MW of new renewable energy resources and energy storage through 2031, including 240 megawatts of solar resources.

In 2025, Tri-State expects 50 percent of the power used by its members' consumers across four states will come from clean energy and by 2030, that number is expected to grow to 70 percent.

Combined with Tri-State's existing 85 MW of solar located in Colorado and New Mexico, Tri-State forecasts to have 920 MW of utility-scale solar on its system serving its members in 2031.

As we look to the future, Tri-State will continue to meet the needs of members with more renewable energy. Solar

energy adds to the cooperative's diverse portfolio of clean energy, which includes wind power and hydropower. Tri-State is committed to providing clean energy at low cost to all members.

#### About Tri-State

Tri-State is a not-for-profit cooperative of 45 members, including 42 electric distribution cooperatives (including San Luis Valley REC) and public power districts in four states, that together deliver reliable, affordable and responsible power to more than a million electricity consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the West.

For more information about Tri-State and the Responsible Energy Plan, visit [www.tristate.coop](http://www.tristate.coop).



### Attention irrigators

On-peak hours for IRRIGATION will be from 12 P.M. to 10 P.M. Monday through Saturday until further notice. All other hours of the day, including Sundays are off-peak.

Please call 719-852-3538 with any account changes on your meters ASAP. You will need the responsible billing party for the meter: the name, address and phone number of the individual to be billed for the account.

## Concern for Community

### Scholarship winners announced

For the past several years, San Luis Valley REC has made secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With more than \$200,000 given in the past five years, the REC annually awards several scholarships to local students.

The board of directors have announced the 2024 scholarship recipients:

*SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship:* Ashley Dominguez, Sanford High School

*Martin Christensen Memorial Lineworker Scholarship:* Joshua Holman, Sanford High School

*Michael Rierson Scholarship:* Sienna Gallegos, Alamosa High School

*Robert Wolfe Scholarship:* Augustus Miller, Monte Vista High School



Adams State Four-Year Scholarship Winner  
Ashley Dominguez,  
Sanford High School

See **SCHOLARSHIP**  
continued on Page 4

### THIS ISSUE

Member Information/Concern

Concern/Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Lineman Appreciation

E-bikes/Historical Happenings

APRIL 2024 | VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 4

# Concern for Community

## Career fair attended at ASU



San Luis Valley BOCES, the Colorado Army National Guard and Colorado Workforce Center hosted a career fair on March 13 at Adams State. High school students from across the Valley took part in the event. Apprentice Lineman Stetson Edgar, Telecommunication Tech Andy Price and

Marketing/ Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo talked with students about the numerous employment opportunities electric cooperatives, such as REC have to offer.

## SLVREC Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 7 p.m. at Ski Hi Events Center

Instructions on how to become a director are available online at [slvrec.com/annual-meeting](http://slvrec.com/annual-meeting). *Deadline is April 11, 2024.*

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

*Source: energy.gov*

## ciello THIS IS OUR WHY...

“Great local people who respond quickly. They are friendly and very helpful. They really helped us out in an emergency! They do the right thing because it’s the right thing to do.”

*—Makenna Canty, Google Review*

POWERED BY REC

719.852.3538 • [www.ciello.com](http://www.ciello.com)

Ciello is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to [jalonzo@slvrec.com](mailto:jalonzo@slvrec.com).



**Eric Eriksen**

## The power to save is in your hands

### Free assessment

Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with winter in full swing, we'd like to present you with a **FREE** co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why SLVREC offers

**FREE** virtual home energy assessments through our new **Electrify & Save** program.

An energy assessment provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. An energy assessment can also identify potential safety issues surrounding electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer. You could say this is a good kind of assessment.

So how does it work? Start by requesting a home energy assessment by completing our online form at [www.SLVREC.com/electrify-and-save](http://www.SLVREC.com/electrify-and-save).

The free assessment is conducted virtually by Zero Homes, or ask about scheduling a local energy advisor to visit your home. Virtual assessments are quick and convenient, while in-person assessments are on-site and allow for additional testing. Both options provide a detailed report with effective

recommendations by a trusted SLVREC authorized energy advisor.

### What to expect

The assessment is comprised of three parts: scheduling, evaluation and recommendations.



First, schedule an energy assessment on our program webpage.

Second, an energy advisor conducts a walk-through (virtually or onsite) of your home, examining energy use and identifying problem areas. The advisor will look at specific elements of your home impacting energy use such as doors, windows and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances including your heating and cooling system and conduct a room-by-room assessment. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

In-person energy advisors may evaluate the seal of your home by conducting a blower door test to identify the source of any air leaks or drafts. The advisor may also conduct thermal imaging of the home to detect heat loss that is invisible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging can reveal inadequate insulation levels, HVAC airflow, radiant heat malfunction and additional key factors.

### The power to save is in your hands

Third, a report of your home findings

**See SAVE continued on Page 4**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keenan Anderson, President  
719-849-8304

Stephen Valdez, Vice President  
719-588-0430

Wade Lockhart, Secretary  
719-588-9246

Carol Lee Dugan  
719-588-4711

Creede Hargraves  
719-588-0741

Scott Wolfe  
719-852-0966

Kim Wakasugi  
719-588-3440

Email: [power@slvrec.com](mailto:power@slvrec.com)

Your email will be forwarded based on the direction you provide in your subject line.

## CEO

Eric Eriksen  
719-852-6630

SLVREC Office (toll free)  
800-332-7634

SLVREC Office (local calls)  
719-852-3538

## PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Newsboy (publication #551-450) is an official publication of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.; 3625 US Hwy 160 W, Monte Vista, CO 81144. The Newsboy is published monthly for SLVREC members. Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Postmaster, send Form 3579 to NEWSBOY, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144-3625.

© 2024 San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. All rights reserved.



[www.facebook.com/SLVREC](http://www.facebook.com/SLVREC)



[www.twitter.com/SLVREC](http://www.twitter.com/SLVREC)



## Road Show ongoing

The SLVREC Road Show has so far taken CEO Eric Eriksen to four San Luis Valley counties. Discussions with county officials have centered around the 2024 road map, detailing the coop's mission, values, goals and strategic plan. In addition, the new Electrify and Save On-Bill Repayment Program has been highlighted. Upcoming shows include meeting with the Alamosa County Commissioners on April 10 and Conejos County Commissioners on May 16.



Above: CEO Eric Eriksen presents to the Mineral County Commissioners on March 6 in Creede. Right: Director Kim Wakasugi, Communications/Marketing Manager Jennifer Alonzo and Eric visited San Luis for the Costilla County Commissioners meeting on March 5.



## SAVE

continued from page 3

along with detailed recommendations will be provided to you. This is a written report with a description of your home, an analysis of your energy use, recommendations regarding energy consumption and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money—empowering you with energy efficiency saving opportunities.

One of the greatest values of an energy assessment is helping you understand how you use electricity and more importantly, identifying ways to use it more efficiently.

Additionally, making improvements and upgrades based on the evaluation can increase your property value— even more reason to schedule an assessment for your home.

**SHAWN  
RANDY  
WADE  
RYAN**

**MARVIN  
KEVIN  
RUDY  
RUBEN**

**JORDAN  
DAKOTA  
RUSTY  
GABE**

**SPENCER  
STETSON  
CHAD  
AL**

**JEFF  
KURT**

**SHAN**

National  
**LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY**  
April 8th

Thanks for being a part of the SLVREC team!

## SCHOLARSHIP

continued from page 1

*SLVREC Past Director/Tri-State Scholarship:* Diego Chavez, Centauri High School

*SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard/Tri-State Scholarship:* Riley Valdez, Centauri High School

*SLVREC Dependent Scholarship:* Mario Villalba, Alamosa High School

*Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship:* Antonio Reyes, Centauri

Free energy assessments are just one of the many perks of your co-op membership, so we hope you'll take advantage of this valuable service. If you choose to make home energy efficiency improvements, then we also hope you consider letting us help through our new Electrify & Save On-Bill Repayment program. Go online to learn more. These programs and services are designed with SLVREC members in mind, putting the power to save in your hands.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person or through our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

# Member Info

## E-bikes and the future

Are e-bikes part of the new transportation revolution? During the warmer months and even year-round when the roads are not icy they can be seen out and about. These bikes sometimes look like scooters with their smaller wheels and headlights, but many look just like a mountain bike. Most e-bikes are hybrids meaning they are pedal powered, battery powered and a combination of both called pedal assist. They usually weigh a bit more than a regular bicycle, and their travel range depends on their use and battery capacity. Find more info online: <https://electrek.co/2020/06/12/how-far-can-an-electric-bicycle-really-go-on-a-charge/>

### Tax credits

A Colorado state e-bike tax credit will be available to residents starting on April 1, 2024. There will be a \$450 discount off a qualifying e-bike purchase (at the point-of-sale) from one of several participating retailers across the state. A Colorado resident may receive the discount on the purchase of one e-bike from a participating retailer each calendar year. The purchaser is responsible for paying the full sales tax on the bike, even if the discount exceeds the bike's price.

Visit the Colorado Energy Office online for information: <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/ebike-tax-credit>

## Do it yourself

For the mechanically inclined, or if one does not want to spend the money on a new e-bike, or both, for a fraction of the cost of a new e-bike, there are conversion kits to electrify an existing mountain bike. There are several products out there that generally have good reviews and are not overly challenging. Unfortunately, there currently are no rebates available for these kits.

### Seven great benefits of an electric bike

1. Convenience and ease of use for anyone, including the elderly or disabled
2. Easier commute to work without excessive sweating
3. Energy efficiency. According to a study conducted by Efficiency Vermont, e-bikes were shown to displace meaningful amounts of driving miles.
4. Cost efficiency (no parking fees, no gas expenses, no high maintenance fees)
5. A cleaner alternative of transport for commerce and products for inner-city deliveries
6. No red tape! E-bikes are still considered a bicycle, so if you don't like the process of registration or getting license plates or insurance, getting an E-bike can be a good choice!
7. Healthy and aids in stress relief from regular physical activity with the electric cycle

# Historical Happenings

*Recipe of the Month will return in June*



## December 1985

Lawrence Heald and Rod Golden ventured to the top of Wolf Creek to work on the AT&T tower.

*Photos courtesy of Jim Clare*





Periodical Postage  
Paid at Monte Vista, CO

**POWERING A VITAL VALLEY**

P.O. Box 3625  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

April 2024



Director Keenan Anderson, Jennifer Alonzo, Eric Eriksen and Director Wade Lockhart



Photo by Blain Decker

# POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE**  
866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)  
[www.energyoutreach.org](http://www.energyoutreach.org)

Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**  
Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 30, 9:30 a.m.  
The REC Board of Directors typically meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

