

Member Information

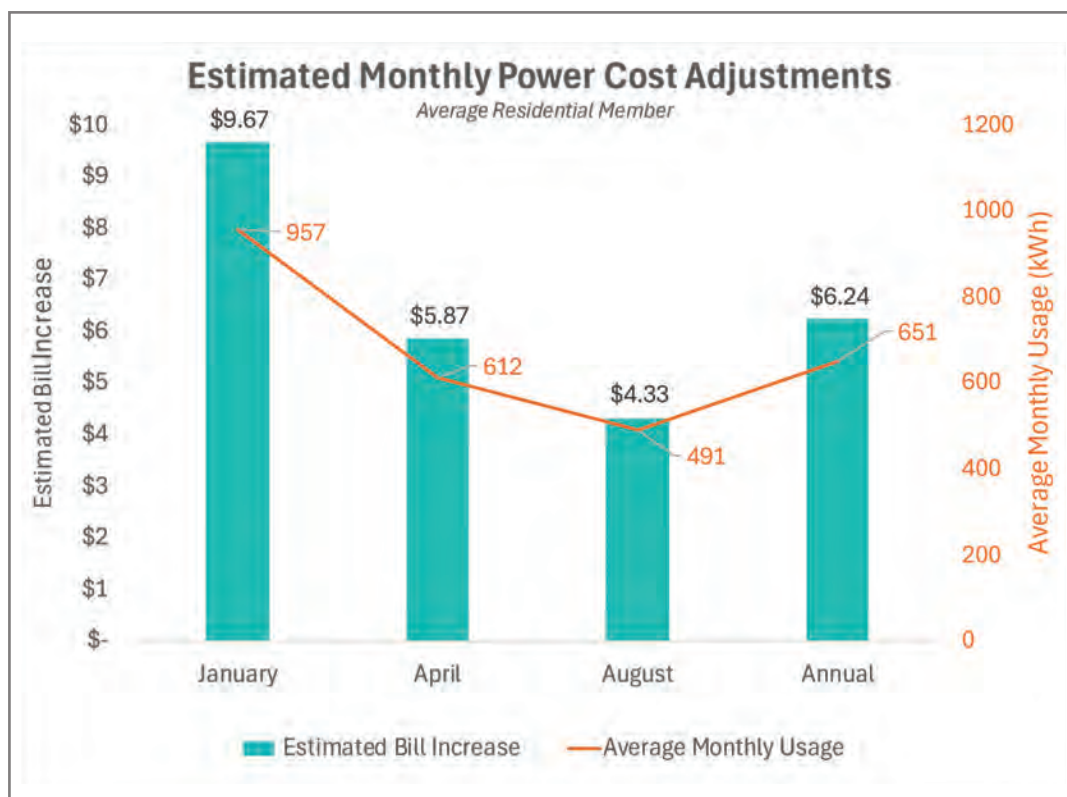
For the average residential member, *estimated* monthly Power Cost Adjustments are as follows:

January: Based on average use of 957 kWh, bills will increase by approximately \$9.67.

April: Based on average use of 612 kWh, bills will increase by approximately \$5.87

August: Based on average use of 491 kWh, bills will increase by approximately \$4.33

Across all 12 months, the annual average adjustment is estimated at a \$6.24 increase per month for a household using an average of 651 kWh.



Concern for Community

Living Wisdom Village becomes a reality for Crestone's seniors

The first residents of Living Wisdom Village (LWV) in Crestone have officially moved in, and a grand opening and ribbon cutting have marked an exciting milestone for this much-needed community project.

LWV is an innovative project designed to meet

the growing need for affordable, independent senior housing in Saguache County and the San Luis Valley. With assisted living costs continually increasing and few local housing options, many older adults—



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Living Wisdom Village

Photo courtesy of Crestone Peak Community Housing

THIS ISSUE

Member Info/Concern for Community

Community/Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Meet your Coop

Recipe/Efficiency

DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 52 | ISSUE 11

Concern for Community

Employees clean up Speiser Cemetery



What does it mean to be part of a community? For SLVREC/Ciello, it means rolling up our sleeves and helping where we can.

Concern for Community is one of the seven cooperative principles, and we take it to heart—always working to strengthen the places where we live, work and play. In October, a group of employees cleaned up Speiser Cemetery between Hooper and Center—just one small example of our commitment to giving back.

This project was part of the cooperative's Leadership Program, where employees volunteer each year to support service projects throughout the San Luis Valley.

New office hours starting Dec. 1

Beginning Dec. 1, San Luis Valley REC and Ciello's lobby and phone hours will be 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

This small change gives our team time to complete essential tasks, so you receive the best possible dedicated service once our doors and phones open.

We appreciate your understanding as we make this adjustment to serve you better. Thank you for your continued support!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov

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Eric Eriksen

The season of giving

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another—and at San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and Ciello, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase—it's one of the core principles that make electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, our neighbors and our friends. We Care!

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take our SLVREC Energy Foundation Round-Up program, for example. Thanks to the generosity of members like you who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we're able to provide real help to local families who are struggling to make ends meet. Every little bit adds up, and it makes a big difference.

SLV REC prioritizes secondary education when giving back to the

Valley. With over \$200,000 given in the past five years, REC will award up to nine scholarships in 2026 to local students, including one four-year scholarship to Adams State University.

We're also proud to support local students through the Youth Tour and Youth Camp programs, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., and Steamboat Springs, to see democracy in action, develop leadership



Safety Demonstration at Adams State Career Fair

skills and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way—by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

Do you have a high school junior or senior? Apply today. Scholarships, Youth Tour, and the Youth Camp applications are open now. For more information, go to <https://slvrec.com/community>.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too, and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work—coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on non-profit boards, and

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Email: 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.

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Meet your Coop

Fiber tech steps into accounting role

Kelby Maestas, who has been with SLVREC/Ciello for nearly nine years, transitioned into the finance department as an accountant in October.

He was initially hired as a customer service representative in April 2017, became a fiber tech in November 2019 and has now stepped into the accountant

role. Kelby was ready for a new challenge and wanting to utilize his degree, prompting him to apply for the position.

“Every day since starting in this new position I am learning new skills and processes. I enjoy being mentally challenged; I’m asking a lot of questions,” Kelby stated. He is enjoying working with a new team within REC/Ciello. “Everyone is very welcoming and always willing to help.”

Kelby and his wife, Alex have three boys: Liam, Maddex and Jett. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing, weightlifting and riding his Harley Davidson. Good luck in your new role, Kelby; we know you’ll do great!



Concern for Community

Opportunities for high school students

Every year San Luis Valley REC sponsors the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and Cooperative Leadership Camp for high school juniors and seniors. Students’ parents must have an active SLV REC account in their name (member receiving electricity from SLV REC).

One student receives the “trip of a lifetime,” an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 15-21, 2026. They will join more than 1,800 other high school students from towns in rural America to spend a week in the nation’s Capital as part of the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

One additional student will be chosen to attend the Colorado Electric Education Institute’s Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) in Clark, Colo., just outside of Steamboat Springs, from July 11-16, 2026. There they will join approximately 90 students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to improve upon their leadership skills, set up and operate a cooperative, participate in legislative forums and enjoy some classic Colorado activities like rafting and touring the Trapper Mine.

To be the lucky winner of the Youth Tour or the Youth

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LWV

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especially those living on fixed incomes—struggle to find sustainable solutions close to home. LWV offers cost-effective, ADA-accessible homes in Crestone for residents 55 and older who wish to remain independent and connected to their community.

Guided by a nonprofit board and built with sustainability in mind, LWV represents the first multi-unit senior living community in the area— “created by elders, for elders.”

GIVING

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partnering with people and organizations to keep our local economy strong. Because when you’re part of a co-op, giving back isn’t a requirement; it’s just what you do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options or you simply have questions—please don’t hesitate to reach out. You can find a list of our current member-focused programs at www.SLVREC.com under the “PROGRAMS” tab. This includes our Electrify & Save program, where 100

The San Luis Valley REC Energy Foundation is proud to support this important effort, awarding a grant to Crestone Peak Community Housing in 2023 to help make Living Wisdom Village a reality. In addition, REC recently assisted the housing manager with the solar application process for the new housing units—further reinforcing our shared commitment to sustainable, community-focused development in the Valley.

percent of participants (residential, small commercial, irrigation) have saved real money. Be watching for our new HomeServe program to be rolled out in 2026. We’re here to help, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At SLVREC/Ciello, we believe concern for community is more than a value—it’s the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we’re especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.

Historical Happenings

From the October 2002 Newsboy: Coming up to code

In the last two years, repairing problems with SLVREC's office has become a priority for the cooperative. The building was constructed in 1957. An addition was constructed in 1974.

In 1957, the cooperative employed 26 and served 3,592 meters. In 1974, 36 employees worked at SLVREC and the cooperative served 5,572 meters. Today, the cooperative employs 58 people and provides service to just over 11,000 meters.

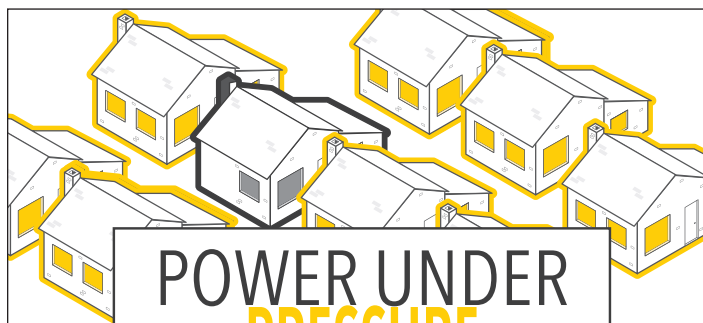
A lack of both office space and warehouse space are the most obvious problems with the current facility. However; more serious issues include inadequate ventilation, a lack of fire walls within the building, and an inappropriate mix of occupancy types. For example, the shop is the primary location for welding and cutting. It is located next to several offices and storage areas for flammables.

Over the past 45 years, a number of offices have been added in locations that were not designed to house workers. The most significant problems occur near the warehouse. Offices in this area become polluted with diesel and gas exhaust in the mornings and evenings when crews are loading and unloading supplies. Additionally, clearances near electric supply panels are too tight. Other issues that must be addressed include roof leaks and inadequate heating and cooling systems.

Earlier this year, a comprehensive building review was completed and presented to the board of directors. A three-phase plan has been developed. This staged approach will allow the cooperative to remedy the worst problems first. In preparation for the implementation of the plan, the cooperative purchased the property adjacent to the current facility. Construction of a new shop will begin just west of the current office building this fall.

The new 50' x 100' shop building will have three drive-through bays that will be large enough to accommodate the largest of the cooperative's vehicles—unlike the current shop. The new building will house all flammables in a secure room, thus reducing the potential for catastrophic records loss in the existing building and reducing the potential for injury to employees.


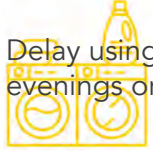


The financing mix for the project has not been fully decided. It will include some combination of deferred capital credits (maximum of two years), long-term financing, and use of reserve funds held for capital investment project needs like this one.



POWER UNDER PRESSURE

Four Ways to Ease Grid Strain this Winter

Energy use spikes during periods of extremely cold weather, which adds strain to the electric grid. When our community works together to reduce energy use, we can make a big impact in supporting reliability. Here are four simple ways you can help:

1. Lower your thermostat. Even a difference of a few degrees can help. 
2. Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evenings or midday when demand is lower. 
3. Lower your water heater to 120 degrees and avoid back-to-back showers. 
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items. 

YOUTH

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Leadership Camp, the application process includes submitting a 500-word essay or a three-minute video. The deadline for submitting applications is January 7, 2026. More details can be found online at slvrec.com (Community tab). Call or email Jennifer Alonzo at 719-852-6660 or jalonzo@slvrec.com with questions.



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December 2025

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, 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.

