



NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

The Good Company of Co-ops

A fair question people often ask is, “What’s in it for me?” This makes sense, as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is that we answer the question, “What’s in it for me?” with “This is what’s in it for we.”

When the market refuses to offer a good or service, or does so at such a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

Nearly 80 years ago, when San Luis Valley REC got started, the folks in our community shared at least one self-interest—they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve over 42 million people in 47 states.

It’s good to know that your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of REC. People coming together to meet a particular need is at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people that banks do not want to serve. In urban areas and college communities, housing co-ops offer people a safe, reliable and affordable place to live.

Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy (Land O’Lakes), grapes (Welch’s), organic milk (Organic Valley), or any of the hundreds of other food products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they too had a common self-interest: Stay in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe’s.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the United States are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as co-op members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good company with your local neighbors—and with people all around the world.

THIS ISSUE

The Good Company of Co-ops

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Loren Howard

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Recipes: Gifts of Food

DECEMBER 2016 | VOLUME 41 | ISSUE 12

2017 Rate Information



We are all dealing with the stress of the economic situation at home and at work, so we empathize with our fellow co-op members who may be struggling to pay their bills.

Based on our most recent cost-of-service study, it was determined that our rates must be restructured in order to distribute the cost of power to our members on a more equitable basis.

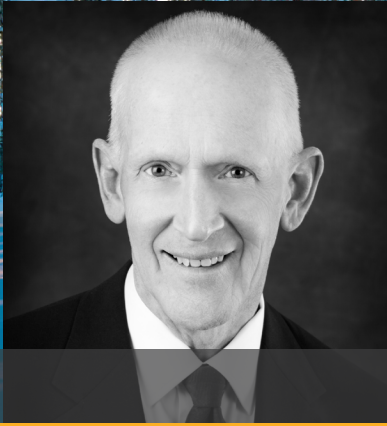
Because we are a not-for-profit electric cooperative, the only way

to recover the cost of purchasing and supplying power to you is to pass on those costs in your power bill. Remember that electric cooperatives were created by communities to provide a much needed service, so everyone must pay their share of the cost to operate.

This increase will be a 2% from Tri-State and 1% from REC in order to be compliant with the REC cost-of-service study and reduced irrigation (kWh) sales over the past two years.

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Rate Schedules 1/1/17

Rate Name	Charge Type	Old Total	New Total
A-Single Phase Rates 01,02,04,05,07,12,14	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 29.75	\$ 29.75
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.135	\$ 0.140
A-Single Phase Time of Day Rates 08, 09	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 33.75	\$ 33.75
	On-Peak kWh (6 am to 10 am & 2 pm to 10 pm)	\$ 0.154	\$ 0.159
	Off-Peak kWh (10 am to 2 pm & 10 pm to 6 am)	\$ 0.063	\$ 0.066
A - Single Phase Prepaid Metering Rate 15	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 32.25	\$ 32.25
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.135	\$ 0.140
B -Three Phase Rates 03,06	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 40.50	\$ 40.50
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.126	\$ 0.132
B-Three Phase Time of Day Rates 10, 11	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 45.50	\$ 45.50
	On-Peak kWh (6 am to 10 am & 2 pm to 10 pm)	\$ 0.154	\$ 0.159
	Off-Peak kWh (10 am to 2 pm & 10 pm to 6 am)	\$ 0.063	\$ 0.066
I-Irrigation Block Rate is 150 kWh/HP/Mo Rates 30,32,33,35,38	Annual HP Charge (Billed at \$2.65 a month)	\$ 31.80	\$ 31.80
	Annual Following HP Charge (Billed at \$1.75 a month)	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00
	Energy Charge (1st Block)	\$ 0.128	\$ 0.133
	Energy Charge (2nd Block)	\$ 0.085	\$ 0.090
	Energy Charge (3rd Block)	\$ 0.045	\$ 0.052
I-Irrigation (Demand) Block Rate is 200 kWh/HP/Mo Rates 34, 37	Annual Demand Charge (Billed at \$2.65 a month)	\$ 31.80	\$ 31.80
	Energy Charge (1st Block)	\$ 0.128	\$ 0.133
	Energy Charge (2nd Block)	\$ 0.085	\$ 0.090
	Energy Charge (3rd Block)	\$ 0.045	\$ 0.052
I - Irrigation Time of Day Rates 60,62,63,65 Rates 80,82,83,85	Annual HP Charge (Billed at \$2.65 a month)	\$ 31.80	\$ 31.80
	On-Peak kWh (12:00 pm to 10:00 pm)	\$ 0.165	\$ 0.172
	Off-Peak kWh (10:00pm to 12:00 pm)	\$ 0.045	\$ 0.052
	Sundays - all hours off peak		
LP-A Large Power Less than 500 kW Rates 50, 55	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 6.15	\$ 6.15
	Energy Charge (First 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.1083	\$ 0.1115
	Energy Charge (Next 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0868	\$ 0.0900
	Energy Charge (Over 400 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0673	\$ 0.0699
LP-A Time of Day Rates 54,56	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
	Billing Demand Charge	\$ 6.15	\$ 6.40
	On-Peak kWh (6 am to 10 am & 2 pm to 10 pm)	\$ 0.1315	\$ 0.1347
	Off-Peak kWh (10 am to 2 pm & 10 pm to 6 am)	\$ 0.0673	\$ 0.0699
LP-B Large Power Greater than 1000 kW Secondary Metered Rate 51	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00
	Energy Charge (First 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0960	\$ 0.0989
	Energy Charge (Next 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0813	\$ 0.0842
	Energy Charge (Over 400 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0673	\$ 0.0710
LP-B Large Power Greater than 1000 kW Primary Metered Rates 52, 53	Wires & Maintenance Charge	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 6.79	\$ 6.79
	Energy Charge (First 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0957	\$ 0.0986
	Energy Charge (Next 200 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0808	\$ 0.0837
	Energy Charge (Over 400 kWh/Billing kW)	\$ 0.0665	\$ 0.0703
YL Yard Light	Non-Metered	\$ 11.70	\$ 12.05
	Metered	\$ 5.65	\$ 5.75
Renewable Resource Surcharge	Per 100 kWh block, per month	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.40



LOREN HOWARD

The Co-op Way

As some of you might know, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions—from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of San Luis Valley REC value year round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. REC participates in many community service activities, including the La Puente Giving Tree, food bank donations around the Valley, and coat drives. We also sponsor Relay for Life and several other community outreach projects.

REC members help us give back, too. Through the SLVREC Energy Foundation Inc. program, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community.

So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly, or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back this holiday season. You'll be glad you did.

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COMPANY NEWS

Yvonne Barnes, In Her Own Words...

To be hired on as a GIS analyst at the REC is the pinnacle of my career so far! After nearly 20 lean years of a solo mapping career to be able to have a consistent pay check every month is a dream come true. A GIS (geographic information system) analyst is basically a computer mapmaker that can crunch mapping data to come up with all kinds of interesting information.

For an electric coop the GIS analyst spends a lot of time maintaining a computer map of all the co-op's field inventory—yes all of it! That's 42,000 poles, 2,775 miles of line, 12,300 meters and many, many more items! All of this field inventory is tied to the others in the GIS, just like in the real world. It is sometimes referred to as a model of the whole electric system.

When people ask what it's like doing GIS mapping work at a coop I often say it's like building the same puzzle everyday—a puzzle that will never be completed and a puzzle with over 200,000 pieces!



Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons – holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com





Give the gift of food!

RECIPES OF THE MONTH



INGREDIENTS

1 cup white sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup cocoa powder
2 teaspoons salt
25 cups unsalted popped popcorn
3 cups roasted, salted almonds

Chocolate Almond Popcorn

Preheat oven to 200°F.

Mix together the sugar, corn syrup, butter, cocoa powder, and salt in a saucepan over medium-low heat until the mixture is smooth and begins to simmer. Place the popcorn into a very large bowl, mix in the almonds, then pour the chocolate syrup over the mixture. Stir until all the popcorn and almonds are coated. Spread the chocolate popcorn out onto several large baking sheets in a single layer.

Bake in the preheated oven until thoroughly dry, about 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes or so to dry all sides of the popped corn. Allow to cool on the sheet, then transfer into sealed containers.

INGREDIENTS

30 crushed peppermint hard candies,
divided
1 1/2 pounds milk chocolate candy,
coarsely chopped
1 1/2 pounds white chocolate, chopped
1 teaspoon oil-based peppermint flavoring,
or to taste

Peppermint Bark

Spread 1/3 of the peppermint candy over a 9x13-inch baking pan lined with waxed paper.

Melt the milk chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just-barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching, just until melted. Pour the melted chocolate over peppermint candy in the prepared pan. Sprinkle another 1/3 of the peppermint candy on top of the milk chocolate. Refrigerate until the chocolate hardens, about 30 minutes.

Melt the white chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just-barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching. Stir in the oil-based peppermint flavoring. Pour the white chocolate over the milk chocolate, then spread the remaining 1/3 peppermint candy on top.

Refrigerate until the white chocolate hardens, about 30 minutes. Cut or break into pieces to serve.



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POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

December 2016

Holiday Closures:
Thursday December 22, 2016
Monday December 26, 2016
Monday January 2, 2017



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
The office is closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting—December 13 @ 9:30 a.m.
The Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

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Cooperative 

