

## TextPower for SLVREC

In an effort to better communicate with our members, SLVREC is excited to announce that we will soon be using TextPower! This system will allow us to communicate real-time outage information with our members and consumers of Cielo. The system allows us to send alerts for outages, restoration, and reminders of bills coming due — plus many additional options.

REC decided to implement the system as we recognize the need to provide up-to-date information in the most timely manner possible. While we have great engagement with our members through social media, we realize there are challenges with that system, as it is simply not monitored 24/7.

TextPower will allow members to text information in to the office, as well as receive alerts. We look forward to having this system in place. It is important that members provide us with the most current mobile numbers on their accounts. This is the primary point of contact for the system. We invite you to call in and update this information. (719) 852-3538.

“TextPower provides text messaging solutions for mission-critical applications ranging from immediate communications with customers/staff to high security authentication of users.”

### Utilities can send critical updates to their customers

Inform your customers about outages, payments, usage and even prepaid meter status via text message. Studies show that 80% of utility customers - of all demographics - prefer receiving outage and payment alerts via text instead of email or calls.

#### THIS ISSUE

TextPower for SLVREC

Tips for Understanding Demand

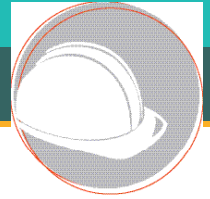
Loren Howard

Meet Your Co-op!

Recipes

AUGUST 2019 | VOLUME 46 | ISSUE 8

# Tips for Understanding Demand



## Understanding Demand

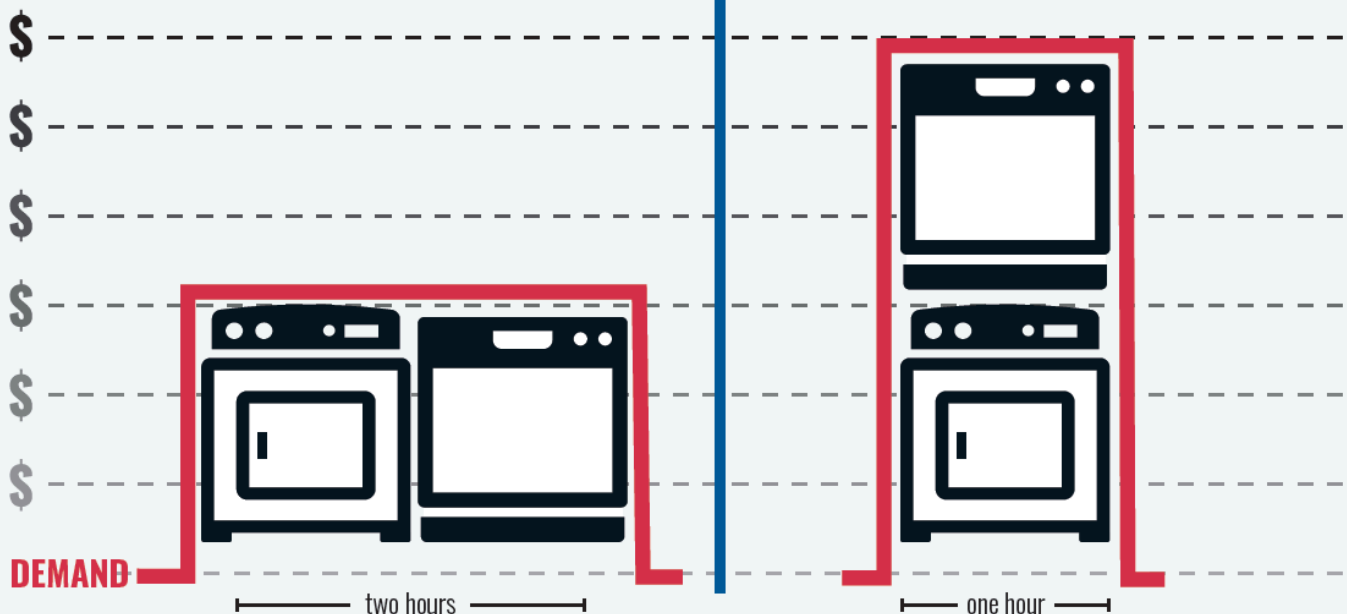
As more appliances in your home run simultaneously, your demand for power increases. The members in the following example use the same amount of energy (kWh) to run their appliances, but each member is putting a different demand (kW) on the electric grid.



**Mary:** Mary cooks her food for one hour. Then she runs the dishwasher the next hour.



**Joe:** Joe cooks his food and runs the dishwasher while he's cooking.



Average Appliance Use (60 min. runtime)  
Range: 1500 Watts = 1.5 kWh / 1.5 kW  
Dishwasher: 1800 Watts = 1.8 kWh / 1.8 kW

Mary  
Energy: 3.3 kWh  
Demand: 1.8 kW

Joe  
Energy: 3.3 kWh  
Demand: 3.30 kW



## LOREN HOWARD

### Back to School

It's a new school year, and kids of all ages are getting ready for a fresh year of learning! From kindergarten through college, students attend school to gain knowledge about a broad variety of subjects and learn new skills that will prepare them for the future. In a similar vein, San Luis Valley REC is continually learning in order to advance technology that improves electric service, reliability, safety and in turn, enhances quality of life for the members we serve in our local communities.

REC keeps abreast of industry trends because the energy sector is rapidly changing. Innovations in technology and energy types are fueling demand for more options. On the consumer front, people are looking for more ways to manage their energy use with smart technologies. Consumers expect more convenient payment methods — whether through automatic bill pay, pre-pay, online or in person. REC offers all of these options and SmartHub is a great resource to help manage your account.

We're working to help sift through the options for our members in ways that benefit the greater community. At the same time, we never lose sight of the top priority — providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

**Technology improves operational efficiency**  
For example, automated meter reading (AMR) is the technology of automatically collecting energy consumption data and transferring it from the electric meter to the co-op. Because this information can be collected remotely, it enhances our system's efficiency, helps control costs and improves work processes.

Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) is an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and consumers. In the event of an outage, AMI helps to distinguish between events that impact a single home or multiple outages. This is critical, because resolving either issue is

a very different process. The two-way communication is integral to AMI because it provides a means to verify that power has been restored after an outage. However, one of the biggest benefits from improved technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather is pinpointing the outage location, which helps to reduce risk for crews out on the road during severe weather events.

In addition to providing essential information during major outages, SLVREC analyzes AMI data for anomalies including faults, damaged meters or energy theft. Detecting these problems early helps our cooperative save money and improve reliability for the whole community.

#### Energy for the future

Consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high. Nationally, the increasing use of solar energy is paving the way for new methods of generating and using electricity. In our region, community solar programs allow co-op members to share in a remote solar array that generates electricity from the sun. U.S. energy experts say we will not be able to meet national energy goals unless we increase our solar energy capacity.

That's why REC continues to research how best to adjust our energy mix. Humphrey's Hydro and Penitente Solar are two of our renewable programs.

Whether it's examining green energy options or exploring how emerging technologies can better serve our members, for REC, our "school year" is never over. We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities for the future, and we will continue to study and research the issues so that we can better serve you, now and in the future.

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

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## Meet Your Co-op!

### Meet Our Intern!

Jose Manriquez, a recent graduate from Alamosa High School, has joined the SLVREC Engineering team for the summer.

Jose will be interning with us before he heads to Notre Dame this fall. He will be pursuing his studies in either environmental, electrical or mechanical engineering.

He has been tasked with several projects, including collecting EV charging station information, job shadowing, assisting in staking and job design work, working with GIS and mapping data research, and a linemen iPad update to access shared information and reference materials for the line crews.

Jose hopes to solidify his perspective on becoming an engineer through his experience at REC. He feels this will provide a real world view and applications of engineering. Jose hopes to return to the San Luis Valley after his time at the University of Notre Dame and bring with him his knowledge.



## Conservation Corner



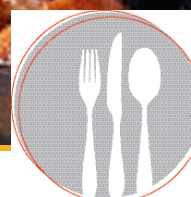
### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

*Source: energy.gov*







## RECIPES OF THE MONTH

### INGREDIENTS

2 ears of corn, shucked  
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided  
2 cups new potatoes  
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
2 tablespoons sesame seeds

### 5-Ingredient Corn Soup

Cut the kernels off the cobs and cut the cobs in half.

Heat 2 tablespoons of the butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add the corn kernels and sauté for about 2 minutes.

Add 2½ cups water, the corn cobs and potatoes and bring to a boil over medium heat. Cover the saucepan and simmer until the potatoes are tender, 12 to 15 minutes..

Remove and discard the cobs. Transfer three-quarters of the soup from the pot to the bowl of a food processor or blender. Puree until smooth and then return it to the pot with the remaining soup. Add the cayenne and season with salt and pepper.

Melt the remaining butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Cook until the butter begins to turn golden and smell nutty, 6 to 7 minutes. Add the sesame seeds to the hot butter and cook until golden brown, about 1 minute.

To serve, drizzle the soup with the sesame seed brown butter.

### INGREDIENTS

**SPICY CAJUN BUTTER**  
6 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1 tablespoon chile powder  
2 teaspoons smoked paprika  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
½ teaspoon dried thyme  
½ teaspoon dried oregano  
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1 pinch red-pepper flakes

#### SKEWERS

1 pound baby potatoes (red or yellow)  
1 pound unpeeled shrimp  
1 pound smoked andouille sausage, sliced  
4 ears corn, each cut into 4 to 6 pieces  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley  
1 lemon, cut into wedges

### Shrimp Boil Skewers with Corn, Sausage & Potatoes

**MAKE THE CAJUN BUTTER:** In a small pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Stir in the chile powder, paprika, garlic powder, black pepper, thyme, oregano, cayenne pepper and red-pepper flakes; heat for 30 seconds to 1 minute. Set aside.

**COOK THE POTATOES:** Put the potatoes in a medium pot and add enough water to cover by 1 inch. Bring to a boil and cook until just barely fork tender, 7 to 8 minutes. Drain.

**ASSEMBLE THE SKEWERS:** Arrange 3 shrimp, 3 pieces of sausage, 3 potatoes and 2 pieces of corn on each skewer.

Brush each skewer generously with the Cajun butter and season with salt and pepper. Working in batches, cook on a preheated grill or grill pan until nicely charred on both sides, 4 to 5 minutes per side.

Serve immediately, garnished with parsley and lemon wedges.



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## POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

August 2019



## 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](http://www.energyoutreach.org)

Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: August 27, 2019 @ 9:30 a.m.  
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each  
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

