

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Powering Possibilities

MARCH 2019



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 180
Gunnison, CO 81230-0180



STREET ADDRESS

37250 West Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230



ph 970-641-3520
tf 800-726-3523
fax 970-641-7333
web www.gcea.coop
email gcea@gcea.coop



facebook.com/
GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@GunnisonREA

EV PREPAREDNESS IS EVERYTHING!

BY ALLIY SAHAGUN
MEMBER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

A couple months ago, I wrote an article explaining how important it is to plan ahead and be prepared when driving an electric vehicle in cold weather conditions. Since then, I have been careful to plug in Gunnison County Electric Association's EVs while they're parked outside, to enhance battery efficiency and prevent them from freezing. And I've been sure to bundle up and dress warmly, so my EV driving experience will be comfortable, even in our subzero temps we commonly see in Gunnison during the winter.

A few weeks ago, I decided to run out the door and sneak in a quick subzero test drive in our Nissan LEAF and unfortunately, in my haste, I neglected to follow some of my EV prep preaching. As I headed out toward Blue Mesa Reservoir on a chilly negative 5 degree morning, I started with 63 percent battery and aimed for a 20-25 mile round-trip drive. As I approached my intended



“I looked down and saw the warning lights telling me I had zero miles left and 9 percent battery.”

destination, I realized I had only 30 percent battery left and figured I'd better be smart and turn back around. Up to this point, I had the radio, seat heaters, steering wheel heater and cabin heater all on.

Knowing how quickly these accessories and systems drain the EV battery, I began



turning them off one by one until I had nothing turned on except the car itself.

I also slowed the speed down by about 10 miles per hour. Let me tell you, it was a slow, freezing ride and I wished I had worn my mittens and hat. As I rounded the last bend and passed the Lake City bridge cutoff, I looked down and saw the warning lights telling me I had zero miles left and 9 percent battery. This is when the prayers started. As I inched my way back to Gunnison, I kept hoping the little EV battery I had left would somehow get me back into the garage. And it did.

Thankfully, my story ended up without disaster and Roger Grogg having to come pick me up on the side of Highway 50. But it could have gone so much better with more thoughtful planning and preparation.

EVs can withstand all types of weather and can even chug through the snow without too much effort. They are pretty reliable little cars. But when temps get extreme and conditions are a little rough, it is extremely important to plan ahead, get a good charge and take off on a full battery if you're planning to drive farther than just around town.

Don't let my experience scare you, though. Come check out one of our EVs for yourself. We are proud to own several electric vehicles, and we are happy to loan them out to our members. Call me today to schedule your weeklong EV loan with either our Chevy Spark or Nissan LEAF. Just remember to wear your mittens and hat!

For more information on the EV program, Alliy can be reached at 970-641-7356 or asahagun@gcea.coop.

Welcome, **Ali Ackley!**



We are excited to announce that Ali Ackley is our new member support specialist at the Gunnison office. Ali brings with her over six years of customer service experience in the medical field. Ali is from Pennsylvania and she really enjoys the outdoors. In her free time she loves to go backpacking, hiking, camping and dirt biking. During the winter months, you can find Ali skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling. If you come by the Gunnison office, welcome her to the co-op family.



▲ (Left to right) Alliy Sahagun, Alantha Garrison and Loren Ahonen

Energy Efficiency Workshop at the Library

Alantha Garrison, Alliy Sahagun and Logann Long hosted two energy efficiency workshops at the Gunnison and Crested Butte libraries in January. They were joined by Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority representative Loren Ahonen to discuss with attendees ways to be more energy efficient, especially during the cold winter months.

Employee Anniversaries

24 years

Erica Soerensen

GIS administrator

13 years

Sherry Booth

Executive assistant

12 years

Alantha Garrison

Energy use specialist

9 years

Tracy Wheeler

Crested Butte member support specialist

3 years

Antoinette Wilson

Member support specialist

3 years

Brent Boyce

Lake City lead lineman



BE ALERT

Those who steal copper are not only risking their own lives, but also the safety and well-being of others. Report suspicious activity near common targets, which include farm equipment, air conditioners, vacant buildings, construction sites and electric utility properties, including substations and power poles.



GCEA MEMBERS, DO YOU OWN AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE? GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC WANTS TO SHARE WITH EV OWNERS ALL THE INCENTIVES AND REBATES THEY OFFER TO MEMBERS FOR CHARGING AT HOME ON THEIR TIME OF USE RATE. AND, IF YOU DON'T CURRENTLY OWN AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE, CALL GCEA TO SCHEDULE A FREE EV TEST DRIVE. CALL GCEA TODAY AT 641-3520 TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM!



▲ Christopher Myers



▲ Rena Eifenbein

Two Students Selected to Represent GCEA at Youth Tour

Two students from the service territory were selected to represent GCEA on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this June.

As a part of GCEA's commitment to the community it serves, GCEA sends students to participate in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. This year GCEA chose to send Christopher Myers and Rena Eifenbein of Crested Butte to represent GCEA. The students are about to embark on a trip of a lifetime. They will visit the nation's

capital with 1,900 other students from across the country. Their trip will begin at the Colorado Capitol before heading to Washington, D.C. In D.C. they will meet members of Congress and visit national monuments, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian museums and much more. GCEA is excited to have these two young adults represent GCEA in Washington, D.C., as tour participants.



▲ Joslyn Hays

GCEA Chooses Leadership Camp Participant

GCEA is excited to sponsor one young adult from its service territory to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in July.

As a part of GCEA's commitment to the community it serves, GCEA sends students to Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, at the Glen Eden Resort.

Joslyn Hays was selected to represent GCEA at the 2019 Leadership Camp this summer. She will join nearly 100 students from electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming for a week filled with learning about cooperatives and developing leadership skills that will help them in their future endeavors.

AL THE ELECTRIC GAL

Ally "Al the Electric Gal" Sahagun has been busy teaching young children about electrical safety.

In January she visited the preschool class at Tenderfoot Preschool. The young kids were intrigued with how electricity works but also had some good tips about electrical safety to share as well. The kids enjoyed learning about static electricity and having a balloon rubbed on their heads to show as an example.

Al also attended the Gunnison County Library story time where she taught young kids and their parents about how electricity works and how to be safe around it. Once again, the kids really enjoyed the hands-on examples explaining electricity.

Al the Electric Gal can teach electrical safety to any group. If you would like Al to attend your class or event, please call 970-641-3520.



▲ Al the Electric Gal demonstrates how electricity works to a group of little learners at the Gunnison County Library.

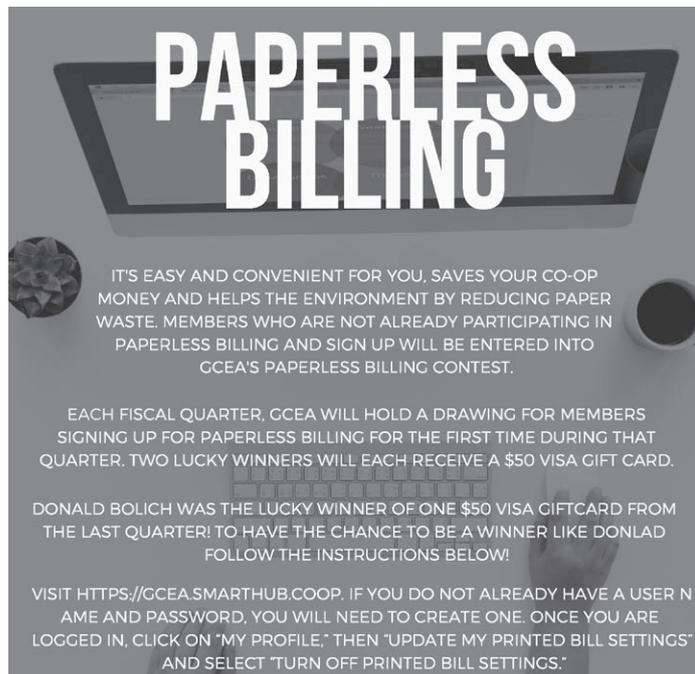
Energy-Friendly Updates to Your Home

There are plenty of energy and home buyer-friendly projects to consider, even if return-on-investment statistics are not readily available:

- Install energy-efficient appliances in your kitchen. Most buyers appreciate new appliances that run on less energy and impact their energy bill's bottom line.
- Repair old weather stripping around doors and windows to prevent air leaks.
- Have an energy audit done on your home to see what other improvements you can make to prevent air loss.
- Depending on their age, consider updating your heating and cooling components and water heater to more energy-efficient versions. If you are doing this strictly for the sale of your home, consult your real estate agent first.
- Consider new and more energy-efficient roofing if your roof is older. If you are selling your home in the near future, consult your home-selling expert for advice.

FIT FOR FLYING?

As the arrival of spring approaches, kids can't help but head outdoors. Be sure your children know about the electrical dangers surrounding them. For example, kites, model airplanes and drones could make contact with an overhead power line. A kite in the line could cause an electric shock. And kids could get electrocuted trying to retrieve an airplane or drone. Teach kids to look up before their toys take flight.



PAPERLESS BILLING

IT'S EASY AND CONVENIENT FOR YOU, SAVES YOUR CO-OP MONEY AND HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING PAPER WASTE. MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN PAPERLESS BILLING AND SIGN UP WILL BE ENTERED INTO GCEA'S PAPERLESS BILLING CONTEST.

EACH FISCAL QUARTER, GCEA WILL HOLD A DRAWING FOR MEMBERS SIGNING UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THAT QUARTER. TWO LUCKY WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE A \$50 VISA GIFT CARD.

DONALD BOLICH WAS THE LUCKY WINNER OF ONE \$50 VISA GIFT CARD FROM THE LAST QUARTER! TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE A WINNER LIKE DONALD FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW!

VISIT [HTTPS://GCEA.SMARTHUB.COOP](https://gcea.smarthub.coop). IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE A USERNAME AND PASSWORD, YOU WILL NEED TO CREATE ONE. ONCE YOU ARE LOGGED IN, CLICK ON "MY PROFILE," THEN "UPDATE MY PRINTED BILL SETTINGS" AND SELECT "TURN OFF PRINTED BILL SETTINGS."



LIMITED TIME OFFER FOR GCEA MEMBERS!

Credits to Cash is a new capital credit program that will give Gunnison County Electric Association members an option to receive 35% of the amount of their allocated, unretired 1994-2015 GCEA Capital Credits early.

If you choose to participate in the Credits to Cash program, please complete the form you received in the mail and return to GCEA.

Your check will arrive within 30 days of GCEA receiving your opt-in request.



DEADLINE:

OPT-IN FORMS MUST BE RETURNED OR POSTMARKED BY MARCH 31, 2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 970-641-3520.



SEVERE WEATHER?

Have a plan in place and a storm kit ready to keep **everyone** safe!

[Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

GREEN POWER CLUB

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, DID YOU KNOW THAT 30% OF YOUR POWER NOW COMES FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES SUPPLIED BY TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION?

JOIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE GREEN POWER PROGRAMS!

100% OFFSET	+	30% FROM TRI-STATE	=	130% OFFSET OPTION
70% OFFSET	+	30% FROM TRI-STATE	=	100% OFFSET OPTION

GREEN CHOICE
12 CENTS PER 100 KWH BLOCK PER MONTH

Please print: Name: _____ Account Number: _____
 Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Signature: _____

25% OF WHAT YOU PAY FOR GREEN POWER WILL GO INTO A LOCAL RENEWABLE FUND TO HELP FINANCE LOCAL RENEWABLE PROJECTS IN THE FUTURE.