



GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

JANUARY 2023



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We want to be social with you!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to find out about GCEA events, energy efficiency tips, safety tips and so much more.



facebook.com/
GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@gcea_news

WINTER HOURS

GCEA office hours are Monday through Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 pm

RESOLVE

BY ALLIY SAHAGUN MEMBER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR



ALLIY SAHAGUN

For the past several years, I have enjoyed selecting a single word that encapsulates my goals and feelings as I approach the start of a new year. Words like “elevate,” “pivot” and “incline” have been my mantras as I have thought about the year ahead and what attitude I’d like to adopt as I begin my next journey around the sun. As I consider the many uncertainties that lie before us in a world of economic downturn, political divide, energy mix changes and supply chain issues, the word that keeps popping into my mind this year is “resolve.” I may not have control over everything that happens to me in the coming year, but I can resolve to make small adjustments in my own sphere of influence.

“Resolve” implies an expressed or clear decision or determination to do or refrain from doing something. Last year, we invited GCEA members to resolve to take climate action and collectively reduce our carbon footprint. PowerWise Pledge™ gave members a way to financially work together to support GCEA’s development of local renewable energy projects, and the PowerWise Pledge™ funds are boosting our rebate program. Our individual efforts to be more energy efficient and swap fossil fuels for cleaner electric power will benefit us now as well as prepare us for the future.

If you want to resolve to be cleaner in your energy use, GCEA can help. We provide an app called SmartHub that can

be downloaded to your phone so you can monitor your electric usage in the palm of your hand. As you start to notice patterns of high usage, think back to energy use behaviors that may have contributed to the higher consumption. If possible, resolve to shift your usage to off-peak hours when electricity is less expensive to generate.

Or you can resolve to purchase an energy-efficient appliance that will help cut down your monthly electric bill. Rather than driving a gas-powered vehicle, maybe it’s time to switch to electric and take advantage of state and federal tax credits, plus GCEA rebates on home charging equipment and installation. If that step is currently out of your reach, try going electric with your outdoor power equipment or bicycle. You may be surprised at how fun electrification can be.

Whether your reasons are to improve the environment or simply save money, resolving to go electric is a step in the right direction. GCEA’s grid infrastructure is ready to handle additional electric load. We have rebates to help you save money. And we are creating new rates to accommodate members’ needs for adding distributed generation to their properties. The future is now. Together we are resolving to power possibilities with each step that we take. Happy New Year and thank you for being our valued GCEA member.





The Inflation Reduction Act, Colorado Senate Bill 51, and GCEA Rebates:

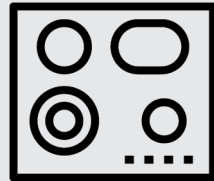
Tax Credits and Rebates Available in 2023

BY ALANTHA GARRISON ENERGY USE ADVISOR

The recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act will provide Americans with opportunities to offset the cost of energy-efficiency improvements to homes and commercial properties; upgrade heating systems and appliances; install rooftop solar; and purchase electric vehicles. The offsets will be available through tax credits, exemptions and rebates. In addition to IRA funding, the state of Colorado is offering tax credits and exemptions, and GCEA provides rebates for a multitude of energy-efficient items.

This is an exciting time that represents greater accessibility to energy-efficient products that may have been out of reach for many Americans. These energy-efficient products, when installed, will bring down the cost of power bills while increasing comfort in homes and businesses. This results in a carbon emissions reduction, which benefits both our environment and all of us. The federal government's goal is to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2030 from the residential sector through the IRA compared to 2005 levels. Data from the state of Colorado estimates that our state's total greenhouse gas emissions could be cut in half if electric heat pumps were primarily used to both heat and cool buildings. Although there is a lot of work to be done, tools to help are becoming available.

The adjacent lists show the different types of tax credits and rebates available through the IRA, the state of Colorado and GCEA. There are different eligibility requirements, such as income levels, that determine the tax credit and rebate amounts. Learn how you can determine what and how much you might qualify for through the IRA by visiting rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator. Consult with your tax advisor for details on claiming the tax credits. For the most up-to-date IRA information, including incentive amounts and eligibility requirements, visit whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy.



FEDERAL IRA HOME ENERGY-EFFICIENCY

IMPROVEMENT REBATES:

- Electric stoves
- Electric heat pump water heaters
- Electric heat pump clothes dryers
- Smart electrical panels
- Updated electrical rewiring
- Energy-efficient window and door upgrades
- Insulation, air sealing, and ventilation upgrades



FEDERAL IRA HOME ENERGY-EFFICIENCY

IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDITS:

- Home energy audits
- Adding insulation or installing energy-efficient windows and doors
- Installing an electric heat pump including electrical system upgrades to make a home heat-pump ready



FEDERAL IRA HOME ROOFTOP SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM TAX CREDITS:

- Solar systems can be paired with battery energy storage systems
- Standalone battery energy storage systems



FEDERAL IRA ELECTRIC VEHICLE AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

EQUIPMENT TAX CREDITS:

- New EVs for income-qualified households
- Used EVs for income-qualified households
- EV chargers installed in rural area

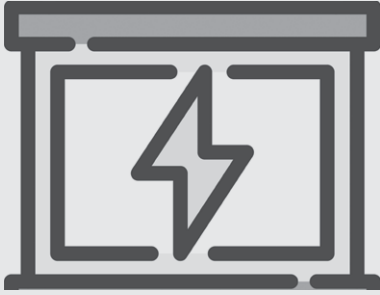


FEDERAL IRA ENERGY-EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDING TAX

DEDUCTIONS:

- Building envelope improvements
- Lighting systems
- Heating systems
- Water heating systems
- Commercial properties must have a plan to reduce total energy and power costs in certain systems by 25%

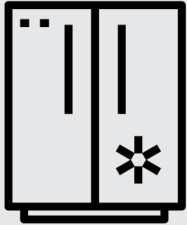




In addition to the federal tax incentives and rebates available through the IRA, the state of Colorado passed Senate Bill 51, which allows a 10% income tax credit and a 2.9% sales and use tax exemption through January 1, 2025, for the following:

- Air-source, ground-source or water-source heat pump systems, including variable refrigerant flow heat pump systems in residential or commercial properties
- Any residential or commercial heat pump water heater
- Battery energy storage systems

- Air-source, ground-source, or water-source heat pump systems
- Induction stoves
- Electric water heaters and electric heat pump water heaters
- Energy Star electric clothes dryers and electric heat pump clothes dryers
- Battery energy storage systems
- Used EVs
- EV charging stations
- Smart thermostats



Finally, there are also GCEA rebates to help bring the cost down even further. GCEA energy evaluations are always free, and our full list of rebates, amounts, and eligibility requirements can be found online at gcea.coop. Following is an abbreviated list of GCEA's energy-efficiency rebates that can be stacked with the tax credits and other rebates:

There are many more opportunities to build for a cleaner future than ever before, and we hope our members will take advantage of the increased funding to help make their homes and businesses more energy efficient and comfortable.

For more information, contact GCEA at 970-641-3520.

 **STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**
YOU ARE THE FUTURE!


POWERING STUDENTS' Futures

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

GCEA awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors, returning college students, and nontraditional students.

- Eligibility dependent upon receiving electrical service from GCEA.

Scan the QR code for the applications.



DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST

970-641-3520  **GCEA** Applications at gcea.coop

GCEA REBATES

DON'T MISS OUT ON SAVINGS !



SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

THANK YOU, MARCIA WIREMAN!

BY ALLIY SAHAGUN MEMBER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

December 30, 2022, marked the end of a gratifying 27-year career for GCEA Chief Financial Officer Marcia Wireman, and we wish her well as she moves on to retirement and the next chapter of her life.

After graduating from Western Colorado University with a degree in comprehensive accounting, Marcia joined the GCEA team as an accounting assistant in 1996. With previous banking and accounting experience working for a CPA, she was the perfect fit for the position and her proven leadership skills quickly promoted her to the manager of finance and accounting position in 1998. In 2005, Marcia added the billing, IT, and member services departments to her area of responsibility and was named chief financial officer. As part of GCEA's executive team, Marcia's work, along with that of the chief executive officer and chief operations officer, provided leadership and direction for GCEA's 42 staff members. She also worked closely with the board of directors by presenting financial reports and recommendations in the monthly board meetings.

When asked about her career, Marcia recalled the amazing journey it has been to contribute to an industry that supports rural



▲ Marcia Wireman and former GCEA COO Roger Grogg pose with POWER at a GCEA member event.

America. Serving our members and working with an amazing team were a couple of highlights for Marcia, as well as doing her part to ensure GCEA's fiscal responsibility to our members. Not only did she care about her team, but her team cared about her, too. Financial/HR Specialist Paula MacLennan worked with Marcia for most of her tenure at GCEA. She looked to Marcia as a mentor and leader from her very first day. She appreciated Marcia's hard work and dedication and the fresh perspective Marcia brought to difficult situations.

CEO Mike McBride adds, "Marcia's contributions to GCEA and its members have been profound and numerous. She has always been thoughtful and thorough. I have benefited greatly from her wisdom and insight and have appreciated the frequent opportunities to bounce ideas off her and to have her either challenge or improve each idea. Marcia truly cares about both the members and the people she works with, and she continually goes the extra mile."

Executive Assistant Sherry Shelton recalls fondly, "Marcia is a mentor and a friend. I will miss her guidance and support, book recommendations, and conversations of kitty cat antics. I wish her all the very, well-deserved

best in her future adventures. I may daydream I've joined her when I'm plodding through policies without her."

Even after Marcia's departure from GCEA, we will continue to benefit from her strong work ethic and wisdom. She felt it wise to remember that the "moments" in your career are just that: moments in time. Always act with integrity despite the outcome, and those moments will turn into an incredible span of time and reveal the lasting character of one's work.

Marcia looks forward to spending quality time with her family and allowing time to take care of herself — reading, quilting, hiking and learning new things will help her ease into this new chapter of life. She also looks forward to opportunities to give back and connect with our community.

Marcia, we will miss you greatly and appreciate all you have done for GCEA. Best wishes to you as you enjoy your retirement.

Marcia's contributions to GCEA and its members have been profound and numerous.



▲ Marcia Wireman