



JULY 2024

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



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GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation)



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**GCEA OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

# Introducing Electrify and Save™ On-bill Repayment Program

BY ALLIY SAHAGUN MEMBER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR



ALLIY SAHAGUN

Are you in the market to install new insulation, windows and doors, water heaters, HVAC systems, and other energy-efficient technology in your home? GCEA is excited to kick off a new on-bill repayment program called Electrify and Save® that allows members to make energy efficient home upgrades and pay them off over time on their GCEA bill, breaking down barriers to accessing energy efficiency and electrification benefits.

Electrify and Save® is administered through the partnership between Colorado Clean Energy Fund, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Zero Homes. Below are some of the highlights of this program.

**+ NO MONEY DOWN, NO CREDIT CHECK, NO LOANS**

Instead of a loan, payments are added to your monthly utility bill and can be repaid over one to 10 years, with interest rates between 4% and 4.99%. Since there's no loan, your home upgrades won't affect your credit score or add to your debt.

**+ SAVE ON HIGH EFFICIENCY UPGRADES**

Make your home more comfortable while reducing your long-term energy bills. Upgrades include new insulation, windows and doors, water heaters, electric HVAC systems, electric vehicle chargers, and more. Depending on the efficiency upgrades, your utility bill may even be less.

**+ FREE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS**

Work with a Zero Homes assessor either virtually or in person to evaluate your home's energy use and identify areas where energy-saving improvements can be made. Through data driven assessments we can identify what measures will have the most impact – from insulation to windows to HVAC.

**+ VETTED CONTRACTORS**

Our vetted and authorized network of qualified contractors are knowledgeable of program requirements and can perform installations of qualifying upgrades. Rest easy knowing our contractors will make decisions accounting for your project's overall energy efficiency and electrical needs.

GCEA is empowering consumers to reduce their emissions and energy costs. Together, we'll Electrify and Save.

Learn more and apply at [gcea.coop/electrify-and-save](http://gcea.coop/electrify-and-save).



## COLD PLUNGES NOT YOUR THING?

**DIVE INTO SAVINGS WITH A NEW  
HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER**

Get financing for energy efficient upgrades for your home or business with no money down, no credit check and low-interest rates. Together, we can Electrify and Save.



LEARN MORE AT [GCEA.COOP](http://GCEA.COOP)



**GCEA**



**ELECTRIFY AND SAVE®**  
ON-BILL REPAYMENT PROGRAM

## **ELECTRIFY AND SAVE WITH THE GCEA REBATE PROGRAM**

**Alantha Garrison, Energy Use Specialist**

GCEA is proud to offer a range of energy efficiency and beneficial electrification rebates to our members. Installing energy-efficient appliances, lighting, and heating systems helps save energy and money, bringing down the cost of the member's bill. Using energy efficient items also helps us get closer to meeting our carbon emissions reductions and beneficial electrification goals. When you replace a gas-powered item with an electric appliance or power tool powered by an increasingly clean power grid, it results in fewer emissions for the same amount of use. There can be impressive cost savings for you as well, such as when you replace a propane water heater with a heat pump water heater.



To help bring down the cost of your energy-efficiency upgrades, take advantage of GCEA rebates, and federal and state tax credits.

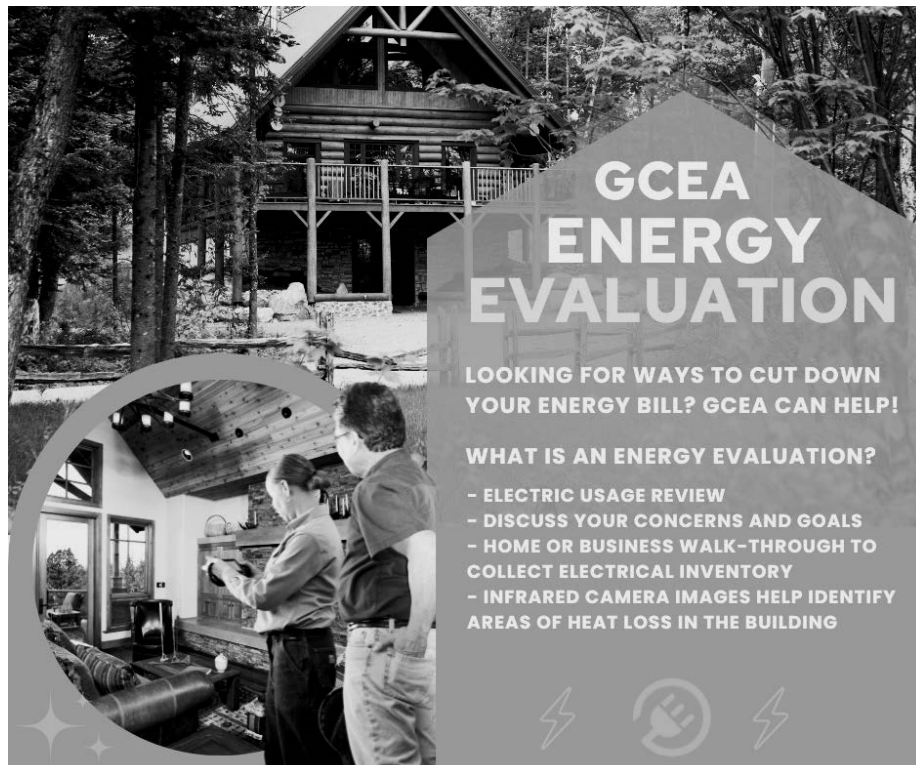
Upfront discounts for select energy-efficient items will be available later this year or in 2025 through the Inflation Reduction Act.

You can learn more about our rebates at [www.gcea.coop/energy-efficiency/rebates/](http://www.gcea.coop/energy-efficiency/rebates/).

## **LEARN HOW YOU CAN SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL**

If you're struggling with high energy bills and are not sure where to start looking for energy and cost savings opportunities, consider requesting a free energy evaluation from GCEA. The energy evaluations focus on electrical energy and how you can use energy more efficiently through upgrades to the building or house, understanding usage of electrical items in the building, replacing inefficient appliances and lighting, and behavior modifications resulting in lower energy use.

Call 970-641-3520 or visit <https://www.gcea.coop/energy-efficiency/energy-evaluations/> to sign up for your home or business energy evaluation.



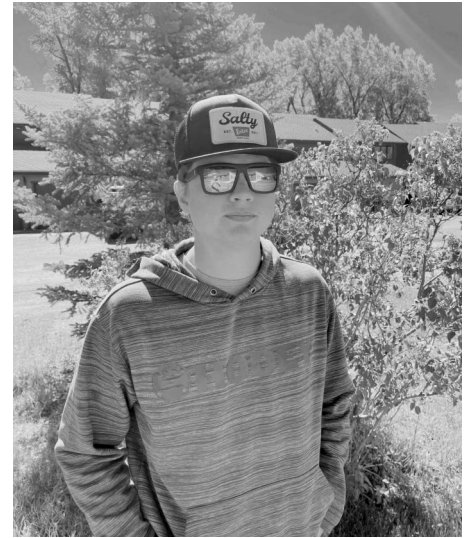
# GCEA HIRES LAKE CITY APPRENTICE LINE WORKER

GCEA is excited to announce Kendall Gardner as the newest member of our team, joining as our new Lake City Apprentice Line Worker.

Kendall is a graduate of the Electrical Line Worker Program at Colorado Mesa University. He holds various certifications, such as CPR from the American Red Cross and the Stop the Bleed Certification from the American College of Surgeons,

the CREA Forklift Certification, the OSHA 10 Certification, and the WCCC Hurt Man Rescue Certification.

Kendall's hobbies include hunting, fishing, farming, and various sports. Kendall will work alongside Lake City Foreman Brent Boyce and Journeyman Lineman Logan Rhodes. Please help us in welcoming Kendall to the GCEA team, we look forward to having him on our team.



## GCEA SUMMER EVENTS

Join us at our upcoming summer events to learn more about GCEA programs designed to help you be smart about your electric usage and save money!

<b>11 JULY</b>	<p><b>COFFEE WITH YOUR CO-OP</b>                      9:30 AM - Join GCEA reps for free coffee and conversation!                      ↘ Lake City Park, Lake City</p>
<b>25 JULY</b>	<p><b>COFFEE WITH YOUR CO-OP</b>                      9:30 AM - Join GCEA reps for free coffee and conversation!                      ↘ IOOF Park - Gunnison</p>
<b>8 AUG</b>	<p><b>COFFEE WITH YOUR CO-OP</b>                      9:30 AM - Join GCEA reps for free coffee and conversation!                      ↘ GCEA Crested Butte Office, Crested Butte</p>
<b>11 sep</b>	<p><b>BRATS &amp; KILOWATTS</b>                      4:00 - 6:00 PM - Join GCEA representatives for bratwursts and learn about the on-bill repayment program, rebates, and renewable projects.                      ↘ Rainbow Park, Crested Butte</p>

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

## MATT SCHATZ CONTINUES THE ADVENTURE AT GCEA!



Matt Schartz has taken on the role of staking engineer. Initially hired in 2023 as a warehouseman, we are thrilled about his new venture at GCEA! Matt has shown excellence in his warehouse role, and we are eager to witness his success in the engineering department.

# STAY SAFE WHILE SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS

As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great summer.



## Boating and swimming

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized. Never go swimming near boats that are plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause electric shock drowning.



## While spending time outdoors

According to the National Weather Service, lightning causes 2 fatalities and 12 injuries each year in Colorado. Between 1959-2019, Colorado ranked 4th in the Nation for lightning fatalities. Lightning injuries and deaths occur while people enjoy outdoor leisure activities such as boating, fishing, spending time on the beach, and swimming. In addition, deaths arise during sporting events like soccer, golf, and running.



## During a storm

When angry clouds roll in, take them seriously. Have a weather app installed on your smartphone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.



## When playing

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys, or kites, fly them in a wide-open area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric utility and a crew will address the issue safely. If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

For additional electrical safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# PAPERLESS BILLING CONTEST



Each fiscal quarter, GCEA holds a drawing for members who signed up for paperless billing for the first time during that quarter. Two lucky winners will each receive a \$50 bill credit.

You will need to login to your SmartHub account, if you do not already have a login, you will need to create one.

Once you are logged in:

- Click on my profile
- Update my printed bill settings and
- Select "turn off printed bill settings"



Scan the QR code with your phone to sign up for SmartHub.



For more information, please call 970-641-3520.