

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2024



MAILING ADDRESS

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Akron, CO 80720



STREET ADDRESS

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Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

OFFICE HOURS

7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday – Thursday

Keep Your Eye on the Storm

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and, this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down and your electricity could be out for several days. You are low on everything: food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers, and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters at Ready.gov/plan.

Here are some tips from Y-W Electric Association to help prepare you for severe weather events:

Preparedness actions and items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials; make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and a portable, battery-powered radio, or television.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

With advance warning

If a severe storm is expected with high winds, heavy rain, snow, or ice, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all cellphones, laptops, and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to

handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, televisions, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge and help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws very little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered televisions and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check Y-W Electric Association's Facebook page for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Power in planning

Advanced planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather and can lessen the impact of a storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings. Or find our social media pages to stay current with restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.

BILLING CORNER BILLING NOTIFICATIONS

Have you checked our website at www.ywelectric.coop lately? Our website gives you the ability to check your monthly usage, payment history, and past billing invoices. Payments can also be made on our website using SmartHub. Once you have set up your SmartHub account, you can make payments, view your history, or contact our office. Your SmartHub account is also where you can manage your notifications.

You can choose to be notified by email and/or text message. These options will need to be turned on by going to Notifications and Manage Contacts to add an email address and cellphone number. You will

need to make sure the box to “Receive Text Messages” is checked. This is found by going to the Edit button on the Verified Contacts page. The phone number you enter should be the number at which you want to receive text messages and the box should be checked for text messages. Once this step is complete, click the green Continue button. If you agree to the terms and conditions, a phone verification code will be texted to you. After you enter this code in the box and save the contact, you are set up to receive text messages from Y-W Electric.

Once you have your email and/or text message contact information set up, click on Manage Notifications. Choose which

alerts you want to receive based on what is important to you. *Kelly Seward 7321xxxxx*

The SmartHub app can also be downloaded on a mobile device. It is compatible with both Android devices and iPhones.

Y-W Electric does not use a third-party for payments. If you are charged a fee for making a payment, you are not on our website. For your security, please ensure you are logged into our website, www.ywelectric.coop when making a payment. For secure payments, you can also use the SmartHub app.

Please contact our office if you have any questions about our website.

RECEIVE A REBATE FOR BEING SAFE

Install a double-throw generator transfer switch and collect a sizable rebate as a reward for being safe. Y-W Electric Association reminds members of the importance of connecting standby generators to the electrical system correctly.

Since 2001, the Y-W Electric Association Board of Directors has sponsored a rebate program to encourage all members with standby generators to install the proper double-throw transfer switches.

The program was initiated to provide safety for linemen working on downed power lines following storms.

For several year prior, Y-W Electric provided double-throw transfer switches at cost for members. However, even at cost, the purchase price discouraged members from installing the safety devices. The Y-W board reasoned that providing a rebate that covers approximately two-thirds of the cost of the panel would encourage members to install the switches for safety.

Rebate Requirements

1. A member may purchase a double-throw transfer switch with an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approval rating for service entrance equipment from any source and present the purchase invoice within 180 days of purchase.
2. A member may install equipment or hire others to install the equipment.
3. Switch installation must be inspected and approved by a Y-W Electric employee.

Rebates will be paid based on the schedule shown below.

Y-W Electric has contacted electrical contractors in our area to discuss the program with them. Many have expressed support for the program and Y-W Electric has no intention of competing with these contractors. Y-W Electric will gladly advise the consumer who wishes to do his or her own work, but Y-W will not install any of the equipment. *Dustin & Tosha Wise 8833xxxxx*

If you have any questions, call your electrical contractor or Y-W Electric Association at 800-660-2291. If you are in the Akron calling area, dial 970-345-2291.

SAFETY REBATES FOR DOUBLE-THROW SWITCHES

- 100 ampere, single phase . . . \$250
- 200 ampere, single phase . . . \$325
- 400 ampere, single phase . . . \$600
- 100 ampere, three phase . . . \$425
- 200 ampere, three phase . . . \$500
- 400 ampere, three phase . . . \$1,300

Y-W ELECTRIC AWARDS FIVE YOUTH A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME LEADERSHIP TRIP

Five Washington and Yuma County high school students are now better equipped to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Y-W Electric Association, Inc. recently honored Anderson Filla, Merek Charney, and Haylee Roseberry from Akron High School, Alyssa Roberts from Yuma High School, and Trent Hall from Idalia High School with an unforgettable leadership trip. Anderson, Merek, Haylee, Alyssa, and Trent were beaming with excitement when they returned from the all-expenses-paid, weeklong adventure at the esteemed Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

CYLC was held July 13–18 at the Glen Eden Resort, in Clark, Colorado, which is nestled in the breathtaking mountains about 20 miles north of Steamboat Springs.

Anderson, Haylee, and Alyssa were selected to return next summer as camp ambassadors. These three amazing students campaigned among 79 fellow campers throughout the weekend were among six elected by their peers to return to camp in 2025. Ambassadors play an important role in the success of camp. They are tasked with helping lead next year's campers and making sure they have a safe and rewarding experience.

Ryan McCaffrey was selected last summer to return as a camp ambassador this year.

“Without a doubt, ambassadors are the heartbeat of our camp's success. Ryan embraced this crucial leadership role and helped less-outgoing students become more comfortable and engaged,” CYLC Director Christina Calacci said.

CYLC gathered an impressive cohort of 79 students, five ambassadors, and 13 counselors from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. The camp not only provided an incredible experience but also imparted valuable knowledge about the cooperative



▲ Front left to right: Haylee Roseberry and Alyssa Roberts. Back row left to right: Trent Hall, Anderson Filla, Andy Molt, Ryan McCaffrey, and Merek Charney.

business model and crucial leadership skills that will undoubtedly shape future endeavors of the participants. *Wagner Farm Supply Inc 2830xxxxx*

The action-packed week included activities including a trip to the majestic peak of Mount Werner, a river rafting expedition, a visit to the Craig Station power plant, and various leadership activities.

Students vied for a spot on the trip by filling out an application and participating in an interview.

Looking ahead, aspiring young leaders can set their sights on the 2025 CYLC trip — applications will be available in October. The trip is available to high school students who will be juniors or seniors in the 2024–2025 academic year and whose parents or legal guardians purchase electricity from Y-W Electric Association. To apply, visit www.ywelectric.coop.

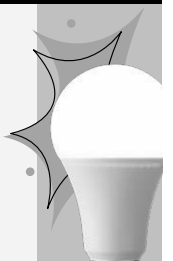
CYLC owes its success to the unwavering support of Y-W Electric Association along with Colorado Rural Electric Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Colorado Electric Educational Institute.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks, and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

Source: energy.gov



TAKE STEPS TO OPERATE A GENERATOR SAFELY

When the electricity goes out, your initial thought might be to run to the local hardware or big box store and buy a generator. However, using a generator should not be taken lightly — it can be dangerous and even life-threatening if used incorrectly. There are several steps you should take before ever starting one up.

Prior to purchase

Before purchasing a generator, the first step is to research the best option for your home and budget. The second, and more important step, is to educate yourself on how to use one safely.

Homeowners can choose from two types of generators: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly into the home's electrical system and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

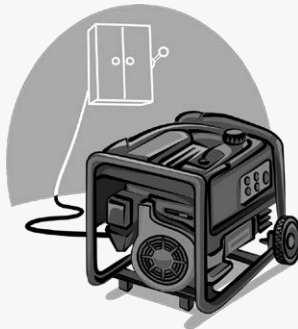
A portable generator is usually gas powered and is portable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator can create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Safety tips

When you refuel a portable generator, make sure the engine is cool. Keep children and pets away from the generator, as it could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated during inclement

What is a TRANSFER SWITCH?



A transfer or throw switch is an essential mechanism that safely shuts off power to the electrical grid before backup power is used. This switch is sometimes referred to as a double-throw switch, as it controls two separate circuits.

The switch's job is to safely transfer power from its primary source to a backup power source, enabling users to maintain power during an outage. It works by connecting a generator to your home's main circuits to provide backup power.

Properly installed transfer switches are essential because they prevent dangerous backfeed into the power grid, which endangers utility workers and others.

Make sure your permanent generator and switch are installed according to code and working properly. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet, as this can cause backfeed.

Learn more at:



weather. Use a generator only when necessary during wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. *Tyler and Nicole Smith 12418xxxx*

Generators can be deadly

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 20 feet from your home.

Misusing a portable generator or using a standby generator that is not installed correctly (and does not meet the electrical code) can cause backfeed, which puts others in danger. Backfeed happens when a generator feeds electricity back through a home's electrical system and meter into the power

lines. To prevent this dangerous scenario, standby generators should have a transfer switch installed by a licensed professional. Do not plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Instead, use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power. *Derrick Wu 3517xxxx*

When not in use

Operate your generator for 10 minutes every month to ensure it is running properly. Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Have a standby generator installed in an easily accessible, weatherproof area.

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Win a Bill Credit

Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers its members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your Colorado Country Life magazine, and pick up the phone. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

Winners claiming \$20 from the July 2024 issue: Richard Burton, Nickki Gelvin & James Cheek, Jaden D. Valdo