

GVP SERVES MEAT AND POTATOES TO MEMBERS

BY TOM WALCH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The meat and potatoes job of every rural electric cooperative is to provide reliable, affordable, and safe power for its members. This has always been a challenging job, and it isn't getting any easier. Grand Valley Power does a great job with reliability. While we have had some challenges in 2024, we routinely rank among the best in the state of Colorado for keeping the lights on. We have made great strides in safety, culminating recently when we received the Colorado Rural Electric Association annual Achievement of Excellence Award for Performance in Safety. That leaves us with ... affordability.

At GVP's last annual meeting I addressed a question raised by a member who asked why different electric cooperatives have different rates. My smart aleck answer: Different cooperatives have different rates because they are different.

In all seriousness, there are a number of things that factor into the costs co-ops incur serving their members, as well as the rates co-ops charge to recover those costs. Much of it has to do with economies of scale. Bigger co-ops that have more consumers and more commercial and industrial loads can typically operate a little more efficiently and keep costs a little lower. Then there is load. Smaller co-ops that serve smaller loads have more of a challenge. Another big factor is density.

Co-ops that serve remote areas have greater costs and fewer consumers to help pay those costs. Some of it has to do with climate. Co-ops that have hot summers and large air-conditioning loads generally have higher wholesale power costs because they place more demand on the system on hot days. The amount of distributed generation — rooftop solar — can impact a co-op's operating costs. And different co-ops have

different wholesale power arrangements that can impact their costs.

The inquiring member asked why GVP's rates were higher than those of other Western Slope cooperatives. I noted that in GVP's case, the factors that impact our costs and our rates include the following:

- We get a higher percentage of our revenue from residential consumers than any other co-op in Colorado; on the flip side, we don't have as much commercial and industrial load to help cover our costs.
- We serve a lot of remote areas with challenging terrain. Think about serving consumers on Glade Park, on the Grand Mesa, or at the end of Unaweep Canyon. That's a lot of cost, and not a lot of cost recovery.
- Our power costs are driven by air-conditioning load during hot summer months, when wholesale power costs are at their highest. This isn't an issue that consumers at co-ops like Holy Cross Energy in Glenwood Springs or La Plata Electric Association in Durango — where the summers are cooler — have to deal with.
- We have the highest penetration rate of rooftop solar of any cooperative outside of the Denver metro area. This causes a cost shift that impacts our rates.

We know that keeping our power costs affordable ... is important to our members.

Despite these challenges, we haven't increased our rates in almost two years. Our rates compare favorably with most of our peers on this side of the divide. On page 8, you'll see data from a survey conducted by the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities that compiles and compares the rates charged by participating utilities across the state. If you look at all the co-ops on or near the Western Slope, GVP's residential rates are lower than those at Yampa Valley Electric, White River Electric, La Plata Electric, Gunnison County



TOM WALCH

Electric, Sangre de Cristo Electric, and San Isabel Electric.

Having said all this, we know that keeping our power costs affordable — back to our meat and potatoes — is important to our members. That's why our board took the big step to exercise a contract option and terminate power purchases from Xcel, effective in 2028. That's why we signed a new power supply agreement with Guzman Energy — this will help keep our rates stable and affordable.

And speaking of Xcel, there's a remarkable data point on the CAMU rate survey. Note that Xcel charges its retail customers \$116.47 for 700 kilowatt-hours of electric energy — more than \$7.50 more per month

COMMENTS TO THE CEO

You are a member of a cooperative and your opinion does count. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please let Tom Walch know by writing to *Ask the CEO*, P.O. Box 190, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502, or send an email to me at twalch@gvp.org. Check out our website at gvp.org.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

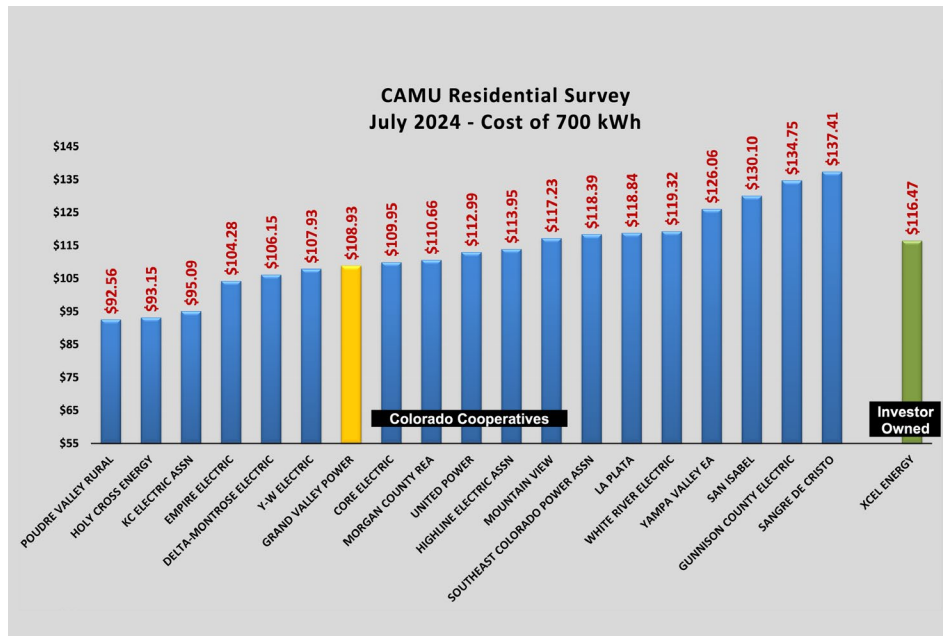
Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to members, consumers, and the public. Due to schedule conflicts, the November meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, November 21 at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website.

If anyone desires to address the Board of Directors, please let us know in advance and you will be placed on the agenda.

for the same amount of energy from GVP. Given all the advantages Xcel has — density, load, economies of scale — and even with a vertical monopoly by virtue of owning and operating its own generation and transmission facilities, Xcel’s retail residential power costs are higher than ours. I have been tracking the CAMU rate comparison for more than a dozen years, and this is the first time that our rates have been lower than Xcel’s retail residential rates.

What does this mean for you? It means that GVP is successfully executing on its core job providing reliable, affordable, and safe power for our members. It is the meat and potatoes of what we do, and on the Western Slope, it is what matters most.



Grand Valley Power Receives \$1.9 Million Federal Grant to Mitigate Wildfire Risks on the Grand Mesa

Grand Valley Power has received \$1,947,204 from the U.S. Department of Energy to enhance wildfire protection and resilience by making critical upgrades to its electric system on the Grand Mesa.

Grand Valley Power is a member of a consortium of 38 electric co-ops and other rural utilities selected to receive federal funding through the Wildfire Assessment and Resilience for Networks project.

The cooperative will use the funding to underground 4.1 miles of existing overhead power line serving the Mesa Lakes area.

“These funds are critical to GVP’s ability to increase reliability and mitigate the risk of wildfire on the Grand Mesa,” said Matt Williams, Grand Valley Power’s chief operating officer. “The line is largely inaccessible except on foot or, in times of bad weather, on snowmobile. With the conversion to underground, residents can anticipate fewer power outages. Underground lines also offer significantly more protection from the threat of wildfire ignition by utility equipment.”

Grand Valley Power will provide matching funds for the project. The cooperative is working through the planning and permitting process, which must be completed before activity can begin on site. Work to underground the lines likely will not begin until mid-2025 at the earliest. GVP will schedule a community function on the Mesa before work begins to share the project plan, a timeline, and to answer questions.

Led by Holy Cross Energy in coordination with NRECA Research, WARN will provide more than \$145 million in wildfire mitigation funding to co-ops across 16 states in the central and western United States to drive energy resilience in high-risk rural areas. WARN funding comes from DOE’s Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Co-op Calendar

- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS** - Sunday, Nov. 3
- TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE BEGINS** - Monday, Nov. 4
- VETERANS DAY** - Monday, Nov. 11
- THANKSGIVING DAY (Office Closed)** - Thursday, Nov. 28
- DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING (Office Closed)** - Friday, Nov. 29





Director Janie VanWinkle presents Director Kyle Coltrinari with the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from NRECA.

GVP Board Director Earns Industry Certificate

BY TANYA MARCHUN COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Grand Valley Power Board Secretary/Treasurer Kyle Coltrinari has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. NRECA Director Certificate Programs ensure that cooperative directors recognize, understand, and navigate industry trends and apply this knowledge effectively within cooperatives. The courses offer three tiers of professional development that provide directors with opportunities to grow and advance their knowledge of the industry.

First, the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate comprises five courses focused on the necessary skills to serve as an elected official: director duties and liabilities; understanding the electric business; board operations and process; strategic planning; and financial decision making.

Second, the Board Leadership Certificate is earned after the five CCD courses plus 10 additional credits from a variety of specialty areas including grassroots, power supply, cooperative business model, governance, financial, communications, technology, and risk management.

The Director Gold Credential is the final tier that consists of the CCD, BLC, and three additional education credits from the BLC specialty areas.

Thanks to the investment in their professional growth, Grand Valley Power and our cooperative members gain educated, knowledgeable, and committed directors who are well-equipped to serve.

**NEWLY CERTIFIED
CYBER
CRIME FIGHTER
JIMMY WEBER**

Network & System Administrator

CAPABLE OF THREAT DETECTION, HIS MISSION IS TO ENSURE THAT GVP'S VIRTUAL WORLD REMAINS A SAFE SPACE. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR COMPTIA CERTIFICATION!

TOYS FOR TOTS

Official drop-off site
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Grand Valley Power
845 22 Road, Grand Junction

**DROP OFF NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS
BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**

MARINE CORPS RESERVE
TOYS FOR TOTS

**Thank You
FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Your commitment to defending our freedom should never go unnoticed. Your bravery and resilience are an inspiration to us all. Thank you, veterans, for the sacrifices you've made in service to our great nation.

<p>U.S. Army</p> <p>Robbie Barela SERVICE PLANNER</p>	<p>U.S. Marine Corps</p> <p>Cole Crider APPRENTICE LINEMAN</p>
<p>U.S. Army</p> <p>Joseph Foster SAFETY COORDINATOR</p>	<p>U.S. National Guard</p> <p>Tony Ippolito SERVICE PLANNER</p>
<p>U.S. Army</p> <p>Mike Gardner DISTRIBUTION DESIGN SUPERVISOR</p>	<p>GRAND VALLEY POWER Empowering Lives with Hometown Service A Touchstone Energy Cooperative</p>



Kirstin Maska

Kirstin is a third generation Grand Valley native who enjoys playing sand volleyball and spending time with her family.



Jenifer Young

Jenifer wants to visit all 12 Disney Theme Parks! Her favorite memory is putting up the Christmas tree each year with her kids.



Linda Schroder

Crafting is in Linda's blood! One day she hopes to mark a civil war tour of the South off her bucket list.



Tanya Marchun

Tanya loves being creative in many mediums and enjoys hiking, biking, camping and fishing with her husband and two sons.



Tyler Piland

Golfing is his game! Tyler hopes to one day watch the Masters Tournament in person.



Ryan Roesch

Ryan is working on getting his UAV pilot license. One of the best pieces of advice he's ever received, "Do what you love, and you will never work a day in your life."



Branson Padgett

Work smarter, not harder! That advice is what Branson keeps in mind everyday as he serves the members of Grand Valley Power as an apprentice lineworker. When he is not working, he enjoys being outdoors and hunting.



Mike Kansgen

Prior to GVP, Mike worked at CMU for 11 years. His hidden talent is making amazing French Toast, yum!

WELCOME To the team



GRAND VALLEY POWER
Empowering Lives with Hometown Service
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WIRED WISDOM

Knowledge for Powering Your Life

Holiday lighting safety tips:

Check the cords: Over time, cords can become cracked or frayed. If so, toss them and get a new string of LED lights.

UL Listed: A red UL label means your holiday lights have been tested for rain, humidity, and other outdoor situations. A green UL label means your lights are suitable indoors.

Don't use metal: Staples or nails can pierce insulation and cause a shock or fire hazard to you and your home. Use plastic hooks.

Questions? Call GVP to learn more: (970) 242-0040

WASHINGTON D.C. Youth Tour

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP .CAMP.

ATTENTION PLEASE!

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS

who get their electricity from Grand Valley Power

Each year, GVP selects one high school junior or senior to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. and two students to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Clark, Colorado, just outside Steamboat Springs.

It's your opportunity to get involved, learn new skills, meet new friends, and have a blast!

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| <p>Washington, D.C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 16-22, 2025; all expenses paid • Visit museums and historic monuments • Meet elected officials • Sponsored by Grand Valley Power and our statewide and national rural electric associations | <p>Steamboat Springs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 12-17, 2025; all expenses paid • Build leadership skills • Make new friends • Ride a gondola, raft, play volleyball, swim and more in the beautiful Rocky Mountains |
|--|---|

Applications Due January 6, 2025
gvp.org/youth-leadership-programs