

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 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

There Is a Cooperative Difference

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

In the United States, the vast majority of people receive their electricity from one of three types of utilities: investor-owned, municipal-owned, or an electric cooperative, which is owned and controlled by the people who use its services. Let's take a closer look at these three business models and see why it matters to you.

In the investor-owned model, the corporation is owned by a great number of stockholders who may or may not be customers of the utility. Investor-owned utilities tend to be large corporations, such as Xcel Energy. IOUs typically serve areas with high load densities, with many meters per mile — large cities, suburban areas, and some rural areas. In most cases, IOUs have few employees who live in the communities where they operate. This, combined with the fact that they have outside investors whose sole motive is to make a profit on their investment, generally tends to lead to less personalized service. Consumer surveys confirm that IOUs have the lowest customer satisfaction ratings. About 72% of the U.S. population is served by IOUs.

Municipal electric systems, as the name implies, are government owned. They can serve large cities, such as Loveland, Fort Collins, or Colorado Springs, and sometimes smaller areas, including Yuma or Wray. In municipal systems, the electric system is typically managed by employees that report to an elected board of trustees. About 16% of the market is served by municipal utilities.

Rural electric cooperatives serve the smallest number of consumers, about 12% of the market, which equals 42 million people. There are more than 800 electric co-ops in 47 states — including Y-W Electric Association, Inc. While co-ops serve the fewest number of people, our electric lines cover more than 75% of the U.S. landmass. This is because we provide power where other utilities once refused to

go because of the low population density, and in many cases, very few meters per mile of line. Electric co-ops rank highest in member satisfaction among the three types of utilities. We believe this is because we serve member-owners, not customers.

As the electric utility business continues to evolve, we at Y-W Electric are committed to you — our members — to provide for your electric energy needs. Unlike large IOUs, we are rooted right here in northeastern Colorado. Over the years, we answered the call to provide additional benefits and services because it is extremely important to us that our community thrives and prospers. (Karen J. Holtman 9832xxxxx)

A few of the additional benefits that Y-W Electric offers to members are: energy efficiency rebates, energy usage audits, safety programs, and scholarships to support our youth. Another important benefit to you, our member-owners, is the return of margins in excess of expenses in the form of capital credits.

There is a cooperative difference. You are the owners, and we are here to serve you.



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 September issue: Tyler and Nicole Smith, and Dustin and Tasha Wise.

Y-W ELECTRIC WILL BE

CLOSED

Thursday, Nov. 28th

FOR OUR EMPLOYEES
TO ENJOY THE
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY



WE WISH YOU A
HAPPY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING!



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Y-W ELECTRIC WILL BE

CLOSED

Monday

Nov. 11th

For our employees to observe
VETERANS DAY

BILLING CORNER

Is Your Contact Information Correct?

Having accurate information for each of our consumers is vital. Y-W Electric Association occasionally has planned outages to repair equipment that will affect consumers in a specific area. When we know this will happen, we use Facebook or phone calls to notify the consumers in the area affected. However, we are

finding that many consumers' phone numbers we have on file are not correct. Your main phone number is printed on your billing invoice. If this is not the number you want to be contacted at or is incorrect, please call Y-W Electric to update your contact information. (Patti L. Tribbett 8431xxxx)

Take Care During Winter Outages

Maintaining warmth is a priority during a winter storm. Loss of body heat or hypothermia can be life threatening. When a winter storm causes a power outage:

- Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms. (Daniel Martinez 25210xxxx)
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.



DON'T MISS OUT ON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION FOR 2025!

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO COMPETE FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS:

Y-W Electric* \$1,000/year Scholarships, renewable up to \$4,000

Y-W Electric* \$1,000 Scholarships

Basin Electric \$1,000 Scholarships

Y-W Electric \$500 Scholarships

Y-W Electric* \$500 Continuing Education Scholarship

Tri-State G & T \$500 Scholarships

Y-W Electric* \$1,000 Line Technician Training Scholarship

* *Y-W Electric Scholarships are funded by Unclaimed Capital Credits Account*

For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291. We will be happy to answer any questions.

TO QUALIFY FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Your parents or guardians must receive electric service from Y-W Electric
- You must be a graduating student from a local high school or approved home schooling program or be a continuing college** student
- You must maintain full time resident student status
- Semesters must be continuous excluding summer (Philip S. and Sue Heath 13631xxxxx)
- You must provide Copy of Grade Transcript to Y-W at the end of each semester to receive renewable funding for specific scholarships
- You must maintain minimum GPA requirements
- Applications are available on our website at www.ywelectric.coop.
- Applications must be e-mailed or delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. January 30, 2025
- Applications received after January 30, 2025 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED!



ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC



APPLY TODAY!



ATTENTION STUDENTS

During the week of July 12-17, 2025, about one hundred students who are selected and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The camp takes place near Steamboat Springs and is designed to help students develop leadership skills to handle the challenges of the future. The camp also provides a better understanding of power generation and the rural electric cooperative program. The camp — run by the campers — is also a lot of fun. Campers have plenty of time for volleyball, swimming, whitewater rafting, dancing, a banquet, talent show, and meeting many new friends.

- All expenses for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp are covered by Y-W Electric. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric.
- Applications are available on our website at www.ywelectric.coop. The selection process is conducted like a job interview.

For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291; he will be happy to answer any questions.



Apply for these trips of a lifetime by December 20, 2024!



One winner chosen from the applicants will join other students from Colorado electric co-ops and co-ops across the United States June 16-22, 2025. (Matthew Mooney 27010xxxxx)

A week of activities begins in Denver on June 16. Delegates will visit the Colorado Capitol before heading to Washington, D.C. Once in Washington, D.C., students will meet many of our Colorado congressional members and learn about electric cooperatives and the issues facing the electric industry today.

There will plenty of time for fun and touring. The lucky student chosen to represent Y-W Electric will visit Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Library of Congress. Stroll through the Smithsonian museums, visit the monuments and memorials, and much more.

There will be an opportunity to learn about electricity generation, transmission,

and distribution, while having the time of your life with more than 1,500 other students. An evening at the theatre and a cruise on the Potomac River are also part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience that creates many memories to bring home and share.

All expenses for the Washington D.C. Youth Tour are covered by Y-W Electric Association. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric.

Applications are available on our website at www.ywelectric.coop. The selection process is conducted like a job interview.

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