

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2024

**MAILING ADDRESS**P.O. Box Y
Akron, CO 80720**STREET ADDRESS**26862 U.S. Hwy 34
Akron, CO 80720**ph** 970-345-2291
tf 800-660-2291
fax 970-345-2154
web ywelectric.coop**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

Giving Back is the Cooperative Way

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It's a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like Y-W Electric Association, Inc. are committed to giving back to their local communities year-round.

Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people--the members we're proud to serve. That's why we give back by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through presentations at schools, scholarship opportunities, and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp programs, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due--to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because Y-W Electric operates at cost, we give cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

How do capital credits work?

Y-W Electric members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills. We track their business with the co-op over time. Y-W Electric pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is leftover, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the co-op's board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members. Y-W Electric sends you a check.

Since 1945, Y-W Electric has returned more than \$33 million to our membership.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a customer. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at Y-W Electric, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.

BILLING CORNER

YEAR END INFORMATION

2024 is ending soon and many of our consumers are reviewing their power consumption and costs from the past year. Because of the billing cycle, your December 2024 electricity use is not billed until the second week of January 2025.

Since the usage for the calendar year is not billed in the calendar year (December billed in January), what you have paid at a certain location during the calendar year is not necessarily your total 2024 electricity use. We can help you with any questions concerning your use or energy charges. When requesting yearly information, please specify whether you need the usage information from the year, the total amount paid during the year, or both.

If you have any questions, or need information about your accounts, please contact our Billing Department at 1-800-660-2291 or come into the Akron office. We can easily give you the kilowatt-hour and energy charge figures for 2024. If you require more information than this, please allow us a few days to collect that information. Keep this in mind when requesting yearly information.

All of us at Y-W Electric sincerely wish you a prosperous 2025.

PREVENT HOLIDAY FIRES

Keep Your Family Safe And Your Holiday Season Merry

Cooking safety in the kitchen

The kitchen is often the heart of holiday celebrations, but it can also be a hot spot for fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires, accounting for nearly 20% of holiday-related incidents. Here's how to stay safe:

- Never leave burners or the oven unattended. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby for emergencies.
- Ensure children stay away from the kitchen, where hot appliances and sharp utensils can pose risks.
- Install smoke detectors at least 10 feet away from cooking appliances and test them monthly to ensure they're working.

Candle safety

- Only burn candles where you can keep an eye on them.
- Extinguish candles before going to bed, leaving the room, or leaving the house.
- Use heat-resistant surfaces for candles, placing them out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep candles away from flammable items like trees, decorations, curtains, and furniture.
- Opt for using battery-operated candles near flammable objects.

Christmas tree fire prevention

- Choose a fresh tree. Fresh trees have needles that are hard to pull from branches and have a sticky trunk bottom.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources

such as fireplaces, space heaters, and vents.

- Check the water level daily to prevent the tree from drying out.
- Place the tree away from high-traffic areas and doorways.
- If using an artificial tree, ensure it is labeled as fire-resistant.
- When discarding a real tree, place it far from your home and other combustible objects, as dried trees are highly flammable. *Ty & Dawn George 11329xxxxx*

Holiday lighting safety

Decorative lights add cheer to the season, but safety is key:

- Purchase lights from reputable retailers and ensure they are approved by recognized testing labs like UL or CSA.
- Only use lights designed for outdoor use when hanging outside.
- Use circuits equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters for outdoor lights.
- Avoid water and snow when using extension cords and outdoor lights.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines while hanging lights.
- Check for broken sockets and frayed wires before use.
- Avoid plugging too many devices into a single outlet.
- Turn off indoor and outdoor decorations when going to bed or leaving the house.

Fireplace safety tips

A cozy fireplace is a holiday favorite, but it requires careful handling.

- Decorate wisely. Avoid hanging flammable decorations including stockings and greenery directly on the mantel.
- Perform annual maintenance. Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned at least once a year..
- Use a screen. Install a screen to prevent embers from landing on floors or carpets.
- Burn responsibly. Never burn trees, wreaths, or wrapping paper in the fireplace, as they can ignite rapidly and cause flash fires.

By following these fire safety tips, you can enjoy a joyful and safe holiday season with your loved ones.

CHECK YOUR LIGHTS

Before decorating, check each light strand for broken bulbs and sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.

Do not use the lights if you find damage.



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 October issue: Douglas & Erin Dietz and Patricia Payne

DON'T MISS OUT ON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION



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 970-345-2291. We will be happy to answer any questions.

Ashley Pruitt 28220xxxxx

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
- You must provide a copy of your grade transcripts to Y-W at the end of each semester to receive renewable funding for specific scholarships
- You must maintain minimum GPA requirements
- Applications were made available on our website at www.ywelectric.coop beginning in October, 2024
- Applications must be e-mailed or delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. on January 30, 2025
- Applications received after January 30, 2025 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED!





APPLY TODAY!

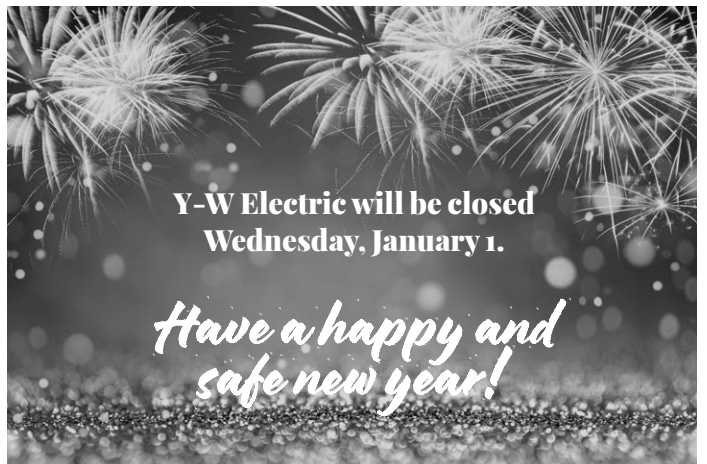
Efficiency Tip

Seal in comfort and savings with weatherstripping. Check for air leaks around your windows and doors and install weatherstripping where needed. Prevent drafts to reduce energy loss and lower your heating and cooling bills, improving energy efficiency year-round.

Jan L. Hall 52410xxxxx

Safe Electricity.org



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!



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.

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. *Bruce L. & Rhonda K. Prentice 12421xxxxx*

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.

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.

