

### **EVERYDAY VALUE**

BY JEFF WADSWORTH PRESIDENT & CEO



# As we welcome a new year, we're filled with excitement about the opportunities that lie ahead.

It's a time for setting resolutions, both personal and professional, and reflecting on how we can achieve our goals. At Poudre Valley REA, we're not just dreaming about the future; we're actively planning to ensure a successful year for our cooperative and our members.

One of our primary focuses this year is enhancing and illustrating the value we bring to you, our members. In 2025, we're introducing new products and services designed to help you save even more of your hard-earned dollars. As we prepare for these offerings, it's essential to ensure our system continues to be ready and reliable.

A key aspect of this involves our proactive approach to vegetation management in our rights of way. For those unfamiliar, a right of way refers to the designated areas around our electric lines and equipment that must remain clear to prevent service interruptions caused by falling branches or other debris.

Managing these rights of way is no small task. It requires meticulous planning and daily diligence. With thousands of miles of line to maintain, our dedicated teams, alongside contracted specialists, work tirelessly to ensure that trees and vegetation are appropriately managed so your energy stays ready and reliable. Highly trained and qualified personnel

tackle this ongoing maintenance with care to advance power reliability and wildfire prevention.

If you notice trees or other vegetation growing into our rights of way or equipment, please contact us so

our trained professionals
can safely address these
hazards. Easily submit
a tree trimming request
online at www.pvrea.coop/
tree-trimming-request

or call 800.432.1012.

Read more about our dedicated vegetation management crew on page 7.

At Poudre Valley REA, our commitment goes

beyond immediate concerns. We prioritize the long-term success of our cooperative and the community we call home. Unlike utilities that may prioritize short-term profits or shareholder dividends, we are deeply rooted in our community. Our thoughtful approach focuses on responsible practices that sustain the safety and reliability of our services for years to come.

As we embark on this journey of a new year, we wish you all the best in pursuing your own resolutions and plans. Rest assured, we are here to safeguard the reliable service you need so you can turn your aspirations into reality. This is just one of the many ways your cooperative is committed to providing you with everyday value.

Together, let's make this year a success!

### **ABOUT YOUR CO-OP**

PVREA serves energy solutions to more than 56,000 homes and businesses in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld counties. We are a memberowned co-op, led by those we serve.

#### **OUR MISSION**

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, efficient energy solutions with exceptional service to our members.



#### **CONTACT US**

1.800.432.1012 pvrea@pvrea.coop www.pvrea.coop



### **MAILING ADDRESS**

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#### SOCIAL

facebook.com/PoudreValleyREA x.com/PoudreValleyREA instagram.com/poudre\_valley\_rea

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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WHEN ASKED WHAT HE DOES, PVREA TREE TRIMMER SCOTT SAID: "WE HELP PREVENT TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION FROM FALLING ON OUR EQUIPMENT."

That oversimplifies the impact of these vegetation management professionals on our members. "Some people rely on our energy for health reasons or to keep warm," Scott said. "Some people don't have other places to run to or the means to go somewhere else, so keeping the power on helps keep them safely in their homes."

"It's the very real fact that we remove hazard trees and prevent outages that keeps me coming back every day," said Tim, tree trimmer foreman. "There's no doubt that what we do is tangible and beneficial."

"I am very fortunate to have two great guys who have good attitudes about what we do," Tim said. "What we do is not pretty or glamorous. It's tough work, and their attitude makes it easier."

Safety is paramount while they work. Proximity to high-voltage power lines requires the crew to use special safety precautions, training, and tools.

"It is learning what to do and when to do it," said Dan, apprentice tree trimmer. "Safely removing a hazard tree means considering the desired fall direction, if it's dead or alive, where it's leaning, the slope, time of year, moisture, basically everything."

Dan also said personal relationships with members are crucial. "That's why I give 110%. You have to look at every job as if it were your house. If that was my house and someone was coming to do a job, I'd want them to do it right. You know, treat it like it's your own — that's the cooperative difference."

All three men discussed this cooperative approach,

emphasizing that personal touches distinguish PVREA from larger utility companies.

Education is another key component of what the tree trimming crew does daily. Their work alongside line crews and other PVREA personnel allows them to learn more about electrical safety and the energy industry.

In turn, they educate fellow teammates, members, and community partners about tree management best practices to address immediate concerns and prevent future issues to enhance community safety.

"The whole magic of electricity is often lost on a lot of people," said Tim. "But once you have a tree bigger than a 35-foot pole, it's a good visual to get people to stop and think about how they get electricity and how trees can impact that."

Your co-op's vegetation management team also stressed the importance of their work to mitigate wildfire risk and advised members on how to help.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Report suspected issues if you see vegetation encroaching on our rights of way or dead trees near power lines.

Help crews access our rights of way to perform maintenance and preventative work. Your support directly enhances our system's resiliency and protects the safe, reliable delivery of power to you and your neighbors.

Please read our online resources to understand what vegetation species to select and where to plant them so they minimally impact our system infrastructure.

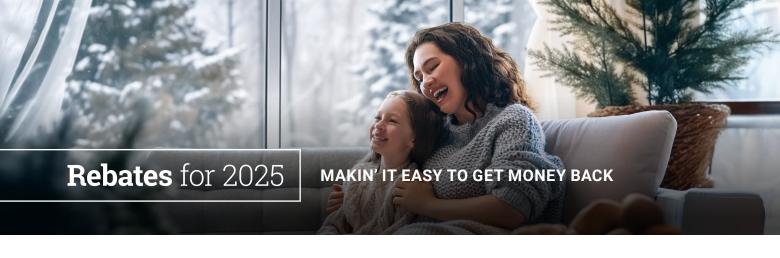
Visit www.pvrea.coop/tree-trimming-request for resources, requests, and other related information.

**How to Submit** a Tree Trimming Request

If you have trees and other vegetation that need to be trimmed or removed because it is too close to our power lines or equipment, please send us a tree trimming request.

By phone at **800.432.1012** or scan the code.





We have simplified and streamlined rebate applications so you can easily request money back after purchasing new, qualified electric products and appliances. Explore all your rebate options online now!

### **CHANGES TO HEAT PUMP REBATES IN 2025**

- Cold climate and standard heat pumps are now the same rebate application.
- Less calculations to determine rebate dollar amount.
   Instead of per-ton calculations, rebates are \$800 for systems equal to or less than the 1.5 tons threshold and \$1,800 for system capacity greater than 1.5 tons.
- Fewer ratings to meet. Only worry about HSPF2 ratings, not other rating classifications such as SEER, SEER2, or ENERGY STAR®.

### **HOW TO APPLY FOR REBATES**

Find all current rebate information and applications online at www.pvrea.coop/rebates

Purchase your new electric product/ appliance before submitting your rebate. Submit rebate application(s) within 90 days of purchase. Include your receipt(s) along with all requested documentation.





## **Deadline** Approaching

Submit applications before the due date for our free, summer youth camps. Join us at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, or tour Washington, D.C., at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



Trip details and applications are found online at www.pvrea.coop/my-community/for-our-kids/



**8** January 2025

SAFETY CORNER

## Stay Safe & Warm Your Winter Home Readiness Guide

### Preparing your home for winter now to ensure safety, efficiency, and comfort.

Here are top tips to help you prepare for dropping temperatures, along with a few ways to stay safe during a temporary interruption in electric services.

### INSPECT YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

- · Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- · Replace air filters regularly, every 30 days or once a month.
- · Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.
- · When using an alternative heat source like space heaters, follow operating instructions and ventilate properly.
- If your home heating system generates heat by burning fuel, verify the system is sealed and not allowing carbon monoxide and other harmful combustion byproducts to enter your home.

### **MAINTAIN SMOKE & CARBON** MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- · Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- · Regularly test detectors to ensure proper functioning.

### INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- · Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- · Place a draft block at the bottom of doors.
- · Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- · Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

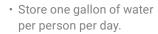
### PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

 Inspect the wiring and equipment for heat tape on pipes and gutters, heat lamps for animals, and stock tank heaters.

- · Trim trees and bushes away from the house to prevent damage from heavy snow.
- · Contact your co-op to trim trees near power lines.
- · Store electric appliance batteries in areas with minimal cold temperature extremes and fluctuations.

### STOCK EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

· Have enough nonperishable food, water, and medical supplies for 72 hours in case of power outages or severe weather.



- · Make an emergency kit that includes: first-aid, flashlights and batteries, warm clothing, blankets, phone chargers and backup charger sources.
- · Gather important documents, such as medical records.
- · Don't forget your pets! Ensure you have enough supplies for them as well.

### **USE GENERATORS SAFELY**

- Always follow operating instructions.
- · Move fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the home.
- · Keep the generator dry if wet outside by placing it on a tarp.
- Position it under a portable canopy and never a carport.
- · Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet.

For more information on keeping your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit www.pvrea.coop/outages-safety.



Source: SafeElectricity.org

Colorado Country Life

YOUR CO-OP NEWS

### Payments **Made Easy**

Set up automatic payments and opt-in to text or email alerts.



Skip waiting on the mail. Instantly know when your bill is ready and due. Also get prompt payment reminders and confirmations.

> Sign up for Auto Pay today



### New Year, New You?

**HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?** 

Update us on your account's contact and access information.

Doing so helps us ensure we can quickly and easily provide you with account notifications and gain access to equipment for service maintenance and outage restoration efforts.

Verify your contact information in your online account or PVREA mobile app. To report any changes to your access preferences, such as gate codes, call 800.432.1012 or scan the code.



**JOIN US FOR** 

# Your Cooperative's

**2025 Annual Meeting** 

Saturday, April 5, 2025 **Embassy Suites** in Loveland, CO



- · Business meeting starts at 9am
- · Breakfast will be provided
- · Entertainment, gifts, & prizes available
- · Come early for safety demonstrations & bucket truck rides

An official invitation will be sent to all members.

Per our board election cycle, members will receive a voting ballot in the mail. Or cast your vote in person on the day of the Annual Meeting.

More details available at www.pvrea.coop/annualmeeting

**JANUARY 2025 Energy Efficiency** Tip of the Month

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills.

Check if furniture, curtains, or other items block any air vents around your home. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form.

If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a

vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.