

POWERLINES



OCTOBER 2025

1| Celebrating the Power of Cooperation

2| Small Changes, Big Savings

3| Welcome TDS Customers

4| Snap It: Fall Photo Contest

Celebrating the Power of Cooperation

by Jack Johnston, CEO

October is National Cooperative Month, and at Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), it's the perfect time to celebrate what makes our cooperative unique. Since our founding in 1938, DMEA has existed to serve the people of Delta and Montrose counties—not outside investors. That local, member-first focus has shaped everything we've done for over 85 years.

When the first power lines were strung across our valleys, the goal was simple: bring reliable, affordable power to rural Colorado. That mission has never changed. Today, we serve more than 30,000 members, deliver safe and dependable electricity, and continue to innovate through locally generated energy and fiber expansion. But at the heart of it all is the same cooperative spirit—neighbors coming together to build something more substantial.

One of the most significant benefits of being a cooperative member is knowing that your interests

come first. Because we are not-for-profit, every decision we make is with you in mind. That's why we've kept electric rates stable for six years, even as costs rise nationwide. It's also why we reinvest in programs that support efficiency, locally generated energy, and community well-being.

The cooperative model gives you a voice. Members elect a local board of directors, guide our priorities, and help shape our region's energy future. It's democracy in action, and it ensures that DMEA remains accountable to the communities we serve.

Our success comes from the seven cooperative principles (center) that guide all cooperatives. These principles are not just ideals but the foundation for daily operations.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, I want to thank our members for your trust and engagement. Together, we've built more than just a utility. We've built a cooperative that delivers stability, innovation, and community value for generations to come.



#1: VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



#2: DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



#3: MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



#4: AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE



#5: EDUCATION, TRAINING, & INFORMATION



#6: COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



#7: CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



SMALL CHANGES

BIG SAVINGS

Tips for Decreasing Your Energy Use

The first step in keeping your home warm in colder months is to take care of air leaks. Seal these gaps with caulk, expanding foam or weather stripping. This helps keep warm air in during winter, and hot air out during the summer.

Common trouble spots include:

- ▶ Recessed lighting
- ▶ Chimneys
- ▶ Attic hatches or pull-down stairs
- ▶ Pipes, ductwork, and wiring

FIND MORE ENERGY SAVING TIPS!

Visit dmea.com/efficiency



Huddle up for a
free community night
hosted by
DMEA and Elevate!

FREE ADMISSION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 7 PM

CEDAREdge VS. NORTH FORK

NORTH FORK HIGH SCHOOL



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 7 PM

MEEKER VS. OLATHE

OLATHE HIGH SCHOOL

– Welcome to –

ELEVATE

Legendary Internet

Hey!
Are you ready for
Legendary Internet?

**Elevate Internet would like to
extend a warm welcome
to our new TDS customers!**

We're unpacking our cables, polishing our service, and firing up the fiber in preparation for the move. But before we unbox the routers and connect the Wi-Fi, we want to keep you informed so you can plug in, power up, and press play without missing a beat.

Scan the QR Code below or visit
elevateinternet.com/welcome-tds to
learn more.

–Gigfoot & The Elevate Team





Snap It!

FALL PHOTO CONTEST

Enter Your Best Fall Photo

Calling all members! We're excited to announce our Snap It Fall Photo Contest, and we want to see your best shots. Whether it's a beautiful landscape, a candid moment this fall, or something that captures the spirit of your town in DMEA territory, your creativity could win you a prize!

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your photography skills, and celebrate our community. Snap your photo, send it in for the chance to be featured in upcoming newsletters, and win a fall prize package from DMEA!

Who: All members are invited to join in! Amateur and professional photographers alike are welcome. One photo per month, per person, please.

What: A Fall Community Photo Contest open to anyone - show off your best autumn shot. People, pets, kids, food, and sunsets are all fair game. Photos must be less than 10MB in size and .jpg or .jpeg format.

When: Submit your photo **by October 31, 11:59 PM MST.**

Where: Send entries to **communications@dmea.com**. Include the photographer's name and a short caption.

How: Photos will be judged on technical quality, creativity, emotional impact, and relevance to the fall theme.

Prize Alert: Not only will your photo be featured in the newsletter, but the winner will also receive a special prize! Winners will be announced and published in the November issue.

DMEA reserves the right to use photos in other member communications and to resize or crop entries for publication requirements.



Montrose Office
11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M, W, F: 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th: 8:00am-6:00pm

Lead Office
21191 H75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M - F: 8:00am-5:00pm

Contact Us:
877-687-3632 | dmea.com | [f](#) [v](#) [i](#)

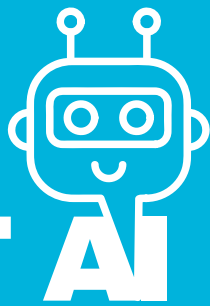
Your Board of Directors:

Ryan Sedgeley, District 1
Jacob Gray, District 3
Kevin Williams, District 5
Enno Heuscher, District 7
Ken Norris, South
Steve Metheny, District 2
Emily Sanchez, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, North

DMEA Board Meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly beginning at 3PM with the public comment period at 5PM. Call 970-240-1212 to confirm date, time, and location.

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT AI



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a tool being used across every industry and in many households. Here are some things to keep in mind on your online journey, and when using AI yourself:



Uses for AI

Common ways to use this tool are to summarize long documents, generate a list of ideas, or spot patterns in text or visuals. It will never replace your expertise.



Review results

If you are using AI to draft language, always be sure to review and refine results to ensure you get the best solution possible. These machines are still learning—and sometimes they just get it wrong.



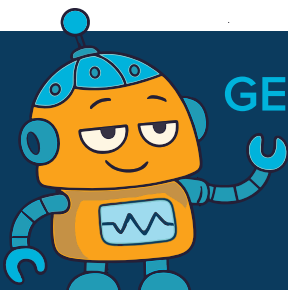
Accuracy depends on prompts

Provide clear instructions, background information, and details about your audience. You should also use precise language and keywords strategically, and remember to refine your prompts based on the AI's responses.



Bad Actors use AI too

Don't trust something just because it looks or sounds real — verify through multiple sources. Use our free ElevateIQ app, which filters threats and potential scams at your router.



**GET ElevateIQ
TODAY!**



DON'T WING IT - HUNT SAFE

DMEA's rights-of-way may look like attractive hunting grounds, but **Safety Crow** asks you to steer clear of power lines, substations, and workers.

KNOW YOUR TARGET
AND WHAT'S BEYOND IT.
NEVER SHOOT NEAR
POWER LINES OR OTHER
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT!



Report any damage to
electrical equipment
you may come
upon to DMEA
immediately by calling
877-687-3632.