



# POWERLINES



## The Quiet Power of Membership

by Jack Johnston, CEO

It started with a call.

A member noticed something didn't look right. On a quiet Saturday, they took a moment to reach out and let us know a nearby power pole was leaning. They saw something, said something, and that call made a difference.

An on-call lineman responded immediately and found that the pole had lost two of its anchors. While the lights were still on, the situation needed attention. A crew was brought in, equipment was staged, and the pole was stabilized before it could impact service or safety. The work was completed quickly and carefully, allowing power to continue flowing while the weekend proceeded as planned.

Just a week prior, a driver struck a power pole at the top of a busy highway at 2 a.m. The damage involved a broken pole supporting a complex three-phase line that serves homes, businesses, and essential services. While most members in the area were sleeping, a decision was made to take a controlled outage to swiftly and safely replace the pole. In the early hours, under challenging conditions, they focused on one priority: restoring service safely and efficiently.

These moments are part of the everyday story of electricity—often unseen but always centered on the people who depend on it.

Electric service is about more than infrastructure. It's about being ready at any hour, responding when members call, and taking the time to do the work the right way. It's about investing in skilled crews, safety practices, and a system designed to serve members for the long term.



When the lights turn on with the flip of a switch, it's easy to take that moment for granted. But behind that simplicity lies a shared commitment—to reliability, safety, and the members who count on us every day.

Sometimes, that commitment starts with a single call. One member took a moment to speak up, noticing something that didn't look right. That call set a chain of care in motion—allowing our system operators to assess the issue and our linemen to respond before a leaning pole became a broken one or an outage for nearby neighbors.

From system operators and linemen to substation technicians and other field crews, our teams are ready to act to keep power flowing safely and efficiently. Their expertise, coordination, and dedication ensure potential problems are addressed before they become larger disruptions.

This is the quiet power of membership: neighbors looking out for one another, skilled professionals answering the call, and a shared commitment to protecting the service we all rely on.

FEBRUARY 2026

- 1| The Quiet Power of Membership
- 2| Energy Assistance
- 3| Elevate Impact: Internet for All
- 4| This Giving Goes Further

# ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you or someone you know need help paying your electric bill, the following agencies offer financial assistance.

## **Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)**

Assistance available November 1 - April 30.

**Delta County: 970-874-2030**

**Montrose County: 970-252-5000**

[cdhs.colorado.gov/leap](https://cdhs.colorado.gov/leap)

## **Energy Outreach of Colorado (EOC)**

Assistance available year-round. If you do not qualify for LEAP assistance, you may still apply for heating assistance through EOC's partner agencies.

**(303) 825-8750 • [energyoutreach.org](https://energyoutreach.org)**

## **Colorado's Affordable Residential Energy Program (CARE)**

Provides income-qualified Coloradans in participating counties with free home energy efficiency upgrades for homeowners and renters.

**303-825-8750 • [energyoutreach.org/care/](https://energyoutreach.org/care/)**

## **Free Home Weatherization**

The Colorado Energy Office and Housing Resources of Western Colorado provide income-qualified residents with free weatherization services. Eligible members receive an energy audit to determine needed improvements, which will be made free of charge.

**970-241-2871**

## **Delta County Human Services**

**970-874-2030**

## **Montrose County Health and Human Services**

**970-252-5000**

## **Delta Family Center, Delta County**

**970-874-9517**

## **Salvation Army, Montrose County**

**970-399-3584**

## **DMEA Operation Round Up**

Operation Round Up distributes donations from participating members based on need and community impact.

[dmea.com/operation-round-up](https://dmea.com/operation-round-up)

## **Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation Denver (CEAF)**

Provides energy bill assistance, weatherization, and energy efficiency programs for low-income Coloradans.

**303-825-8750**

**For additional assistance or information, please call **877-687-3632** or [dmea.com/assistance-programs](https://dmea.com/assistance-programs)**



**YOUR CO-OP  
YOUR VOTE**

**2026 DMEA Board of Directors Election**

Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is governed by a nine-member, democratically-elected board of directors. Every year, members elect three local representatives to serve on the board.

## **2026 Candidate Nomination & Election Information**

**DMEA Board nominations open March 9.** Districts 6 and 7, and the North Region are up for election this year. Members with a primary residence in one of these areas can submit a petition to run for the board. To confirm your residency and to learn more about the nomination process, please visit [dmea.com/elections](https://dmea.com/elections).





## INTERNET FOR ALL

Affordable, reliable internet is essential in today's world, but some families struggle to afford this modern necessity. Elevate is committed to providing community members in our rural area with high-speed internet, ensuring households can stay connected and thrive.

<b>IMPACT Discount</b> <b>\$20/month</b> for internet	<b>Internet Made for You</b>	<b>Regular Price</b>	<b>IMPACT Discount</b>	<b>+Lifeline Discount</b>	<b>MONTHLY COST</b>
	<b>Essential (400 Mbps)</b>	\$54.95	<b>\$34.95</b>	<b>\$25.70</b>	
	<b>Streamer (1 Gig)</b>	\$79.95	<b>\$59.95</b>	<b>\$50.70</b>	
	<b>Family (2 Gig)</b>	\$99.95	<b>\$79.95</b>	<b>\$70.70</b>	
	<b>Legend (6 Gig)</b>	\$149.95	<b>\$129.95</b>	<b>\$120.70</b>	

### HOW TO APPLY:

Apply for IMPACT and Lifeline at [elevateinternet.com/assistance-programs](https://elevateinternet.com/assistance-programs) and provide official proof of eligibility.

[elevateinternet.com](https://elevateinternet.com)   

**844-386-8744** **Hablamos español**

Available in live service areas only. Installation is zero money down and \$10/mo., for 10 months or \$100 upfront. Internet service may be required for TV and phone. Internet speeds up to 6 Gig for wired connections. Prices subject to change. Qualifying subscribers receive a monthly discount of \$20.00, which can be coupled with the Lifeline Discount (\$9.25), resulting in a total discount of \$29.25/month for any plan. Impact participants are required to renew annually.

**ELEVATE**  
**LEGENDARY INTERNET**



Hotchkiss  
police officers  
with new  
Motorola APX  
N50 radios

# CONCERN *for* COMMUNITY *Cooperative Principle #7*

## This Giving Goes Further: Amplifying Those Who Serve Through Partnership

Supporting our communities goes beyond delivering reliable electricity—it means reinvesting in the people and organizations who care for and protect our neighbors. Through the Unclaimed Capital Credits (UCC) Grant Program, capital credits that go unclaimed are returned to our communities to support charitable and educational initiatives, ensuring member dollars continue to make a local impact.

In 2025, DMEA awarded UCC grants to two essential organizations: the Hotchkiss Police Department

received \$9,000 to strengthen local law enforcement through equipment and operational support, and North Fork Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was awarded \$22,786 to support lifesaving services, training, and critical equipment throughout the North Fork Valley.

Through our partnership with CoBank's Sharing Success program, both organizations also received an additional \$7,500 each, extending the impact of these investments through cooperative collaboration.

We are grateful to the Hotchkiss Police Department and North Fork EMS for their dedication to our communities and we are proud to support their vital work. We also thank CoBank for its partnership, which demonstrates the power of cooperatives working together to strengthen rural communities.

*"We are proud to partner with an organization that shares our dedication to public safety and community wellbeing. Please know that this support is deeply valued and will have a lasting positive impact."*  
Scott Green,  
Chief of Police  
Hotchkiss Police  
Department

## Learn More

To learn more about Unclaimed Capital Credits, visit [dmea.com/capital-credits](https://dmea.com/capital-credits). Interested organizations can apply for UCC funding at [dmea.com/sponsorships](https://dmea.com/sponsorships).



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

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

### Contact Us:

877-687-3632 | [dmea.com](https://dmea.com) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/dmea) [y](https://www.youtube.com/dmea) [i](https://www.instagram.com/dmea)

### Your Board of Directors:

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

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](https://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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



# Spark

## SESSIONS

POWERED BY DMEA

### A Glowing Invitation

Join us for one of our upcoming Spark Sessions—four relaxed, come-as-you-are gatherings where cooperative members can chat face-to-face with senior staff and board leaders. This is your chance to ask questions, share ideas, and get to know the folks powering your wires behind the scenes. Drop in, say hello, and have a refreshment on us.

### Save these dates!

**Tuesday, February 17**

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

#### Montrose

Looney Bean Coffee Roasting Co.  
3480 Wolverine Dr.  
Montrose

**Thursday, February 26**

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

#### Delta

Rise and Shine Fuel Coffee  
520 Highway 92  
Delta

Find more information at  
[dmea.com](http://dmea.com) | 877-687-3632

## THE ELECTRIC STRIP

"SOFT & SAFE"

...SOMEWHERE IN DELTA & MONTROSE COUNTIES

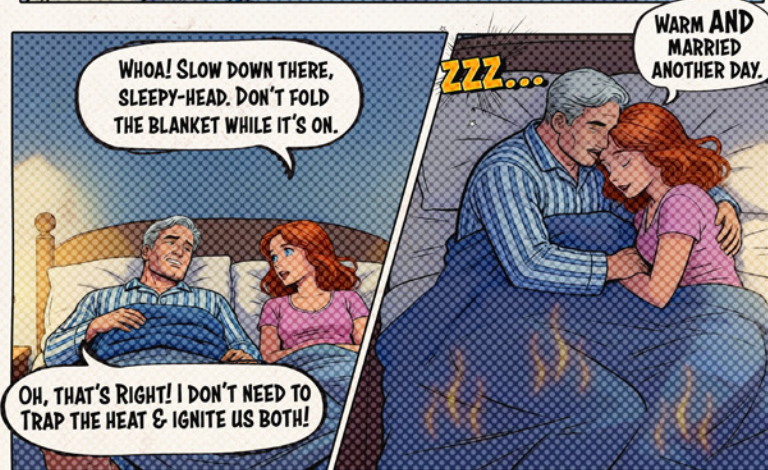


AHHH, ELECTRIC BLANKET TO THE RESCUE.



LOOKS GOOD!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR FRAYS, CRACKS, BURNS-- ANYTHING SKETCHY.



WARM AND MARRIED ANOTHER DAY.

ZZZ...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T NEED TO TRAP THE HEAT & IGNITE US BOTH!

#### STAY SAFE WITH ELECTRIC BLANKETS:

IF YOU SEE FRAYED WIRES OR CHARRED SPOTS,

IT'S TIME TO REPLACE IT.

DON'T EVER FOLD THE BLANKET WHILE IN USE.