

# COLORADO CO-OP REPORT



A MONTHLY REPORT ABOUT COLORADO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

JULY 2022 / CREA.COOP

## YOUTH TOUR SEES D.C. ONCE AGAIN

After two years of virtual tours and video meetings, the electric co-ops' Washington DC Youth Tour once again brought hundreds of young people from across the country to our nation's capital for a week of touring the city, visiting senators and representatives, seeing the monuments, visiting Smithsonian museums and more.

Colorado's electric co-ops took 29 students representing 15 co-ops to D.C. for June 12–17. The Colorado group spent Monday learning about electric generation, transmission and distribution at United Power in Brighton. Students also visited Tri-State Generation and Transmission and the Capitol and met with Gov. Jared Polis, Sen. Dennis Hisey and Rep. Shannon Bird.

Tuesday, they flew to Baltimore and visited Fort McHenry, where the battle that inspired the national anthem was fought, before taking a bus to Washington, D.C. for a week of learning more about American history, electric co-ops and leadership. Colorado was one of 28 states that brought 1,239 students to D.C. for this year's tour.

During the week, Elizabeth Clement, sponsored by United Power, was elected as Colorado's representative to the Youth Leadership Council. She will participate in another week of leadership training and attend next year's NRECA PowerXchange in Nashville, Tennessee.



▲ Colorado students stand in front of George Washington's famed Mount Vernon home during the co-op-sponsored Washington DC Youth Tour.

◀ Colorado's representative on the national Youth Leadership Council is Elizabeth Clement, sponsored by United Power.

### CREA LOOKING TO FILL SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL DIRECTOR POSITION

CREA continues its search for the right person to fill the safety and loss control director's position. Candidates should have experience as a journeyman lineworker for an electric utility, as well as a variety of safety experience and credentials.

Those interested in applying for the position can get more information at [crea.coop](https://crea.coop). Resumes may be sent to [ksinger@coloradorea.org](mailto:ksinger@coloradorea.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST 1–2

CREA MANAGERS

8:30AM/8AM • DURANGO

### AUGUST 2

BOARD & MANAGERS

11AM • DURANGO

### AUGUST 3

CREA BOARD

8AM • DURANGO

### AUGUST 4

GRAND VALLEY POWER

ANNUAL MEETING

# CREA BOARD MEETING JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

The CREA Board of Directors met virtually Friday, June 24, to review legislative and legal issues, hear department reports and review the 2021 financial audit.

The meeting opened with CREA Executive Director Kent Singer noting recent actions by the NRECA Resolutions Committee on resolutions proposed by CREA. The resolution on premature retirement of generation assets was further amended by the NRECA committee. The committee approved the resolution in support of demand response programs with an amendment.

In other business:

Singer reviewed several annual meetings he attended in June, the RESMA summer meeting and the CFC Forum. He also discussed CREA's efforts to replace its safety and loss control director and the schedule for the upcoming August board and managers meetings.

Director of Member Services and Education Liz Fiddes gave a recap of the successful Washington DC Youth Tour, which resumed in D.C. after a two-year hiatus. She also reported on the international project to Guatemala and the funds being raised to provide water filters and backpacks to villagers. Donations are still being accepted.

Director of Communications Mona Neeley reported on the upcoming Colorado State Fair Junior Livestock Sale and the importance of the co-ops' support of the sale. She also reviewed initial results of a recent readership survey that shows continued strong readership of *Colorado Country Life* magazine among co-op consumer-members. Readership was a full point higher than the last survey in 2016.

Director of Government Relations and General Counsel Craig Johnson looked ahead at legislative priorities for the 2023 session and discussed the upcoming elections and how CARE will select which candidates to support. He also shared information on PUC and regulatory matters, Xcel's activities and how those could affect electric co-ops, Tri-State's FERC proceedings and more.

The meeting closed after the board accepted the 2021 audit report, which was reviewed by auditor Kevin Kelso. There were no significant or unusual accounting irregularities found in CREA's financial reports.



## PLAN NOW FOR ENERGY INNOVATIONS SUMMIT/ FALL MEETING



Watch for an email to register for CREA's Energy Innovations Summit and Fall meeting. Registration opens in August. This year the event will be November 5–8 at the Westin Westminster, 10600 Westminster Boulevard.

The agenda includes two NRECA director courses: 2620 Board Operations & Process and 929.1 Current Governance Issues in Policy Development. In addition, CARE will hold its annual silent and live auction followed by a kick-off banquet Sunday, November 6. Monday, November 7 is the Energy Innovations Summit and Expo. Tuesday's business meeting will wrap up by 10 a.m.

There is also good news from the hotel. CREA challenged its contracted rate for rooms for the event after seeing lower rates online and the hotel dropped the rate \$20 per night. If participants fill the 295 rooms reserved, CREA will have saved the membership \$5,900 plus tax.



## LOSS CONTROL SEMINAR UNDERWAY IN LOVELAND

Co-op lineworkers and others from across the state are meeting in Loveland for two days of speakers, vendors and sharing information at the annual CREA Safety & Loss Control Seminar.

Speakers on grounding, vegetation management, FR clothing and fire mitigation and more will be part of the event sponsored by CREA.

# NEW INFO ON INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IN GUATEMALA

Flexibility is something needed with all international projects and CREA has had to bend and flex a lot before its team leaves for Guatemala.

The June team building exercise with the Oklahoma members of the team was canceled for the Colorado crew when its flight was canceled. Then the project was delayed several weeks because the power poles were late getting delivered to the village of La Montanita de la Virgen.

New plans are for the Colorado crew to arrive in Denver Sunday night, August 28, and depart for Guatemala early August 29. They will return September 16.

Unfortunately, with the change of dates, two team members canceled. With the alternate stepping up the team now includes: Zeb Birch, Grand Valley Power; Nathaniel Pennell, Mountain View Electric; and Clayton Shonk, White River Electric. Trenton Jole of Holy Cross Energy will lead the Colorado crew.

There is still time to support fundraising efforts for backpacks and water filters for villagers. Donate by visiting [crea.coop/](https://crea.coop/)



▲ A home in La Montanita de la Virgen waits for electricity.

[community-outreach/current-causes/](https://crea.coop/community-outreach/current-causes/) or by sending a check made payable to the CEEI, 5400 Washington Street, Denver, CO 80216. Note Guatemala in the memo line. Donations through CEEI are tax exempt.

## EMPLOYEE EDUCATION UPDATE

CREA's Principles of Leadership course kicked off in June. This nine-day course is broken into three, three-day sessions. The first session was at Poudre Valley REA in Fort Collins.

CREA also hosted a webinar on interconnecting batteries and solar systems.

In July, another webinar is planned that will give participants a look at changes in the 2023 NESC. Multiple classes on the NESC will be held around the state this fall going into more detail.

An OSHA-30 class will also be held at Mountain View Electric this month.

## REGISTER NOW TO JOIN TABLETOP CYBER EXERCISE

CREA's CyberForce employee group is planning an October statewide cyberattack simulation to help all Colorado's electric co-ops be prepared for such an event.

The CyberForce Mini-Grid Exercise will be Tuesday, October 11, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Wednesday, October 12, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Tri-State Generation and Transmission headquarters in Westminster. Register at <https://cvent.me/Oz8odB/>.

Electric co-op personnel from IT, operations, engineering, dispatch, member relations, information technology, communications, as well as board directors, managers and CEOs are encouraged to attend.

## REGISTER NOW FOR REGION 7 & 9 MEETING

Registration for NRECA's 2022 Regions 7 & 9 meetings in Portland, Oregon is open. The meetings, which include director classes the first day, will be September 27–29. The second day includes two general sessions, the CFC district meeting and the Resolutions Committee meeting. The event closes Thursday with the regional NRECA business meetings and the final general session.

Register at [cooperative.com](https://cooperative.com).

## COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

Campers from electric co-ops in Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma are enjoying Glen Eden resort northwest of Steamboat Springs this week as they learn about electricity and leadership at the annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Students will hear speakers, watch safety demonstrations, go river rafting, get up close with raptors and more this week. They will also form their own co-op and learn about what it means to be a member of a co-op. Watch for more information in next month's Co-op Report.



## RESAP INSPECTIONS CONTINUE AT CO-OPS

So far this year, 27 volunteers have agreed to participate in Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) inspections at co-ops throughout Colorado. CREA needs two more volunteers to serve during August.

Those interested should get permission from their operations manager prior to contacting CREA.

So far, 13 co-ops and Western United Electric Supply have authorized employees to serve on RESAP teams for the six upcoming RESAPs this year. Two RESAP observations have been completed.

## COLORADO CONFERENCES FOCUS ON ENERGY

There is still time to register for these energy conferences planned for later this year in Colorado:

- **16th Rocky Mountain Utility Exchange – September 26–29** in Avon. The event at the Westin Riverfront hotel in Vail Valley will be in person for mid-level staff of energy utilities serving Colorado and neighboring states. It will cover resource efficiency and sustainability, load management, distributed energy, and customer service operations. Find out more at <https://www.utilityexchange.org/rmue>.
- **Distributed Energy Conference – October 3–6** at Gaylord Rockies Resort, Denver. For more information, visit <https://10times.com/distributed-energy-conference>.
- **HydrogeNext – October 3–6** at Gaylord Rockies Resort, Denver. The event looks at the move toward a hydrogen economy. Register at <https://www.experience-power.com/hydrogenext/>.
- **CREA's Energy Innovations Summit – November 7** at the Westin on 104th Avenue in Westminster. Watch for more details.

## CALENDAR

### JULY 19-21

CREA Safety & Loss Control Seminar

### JULY 22-26

NRECA Summer School

### JULY 20

NRECA Webinar: Virtual Onboarding Essentials for New Members  
12pm MDT • [cooperative.com](https://cooperative.com)

### JULY 31–AUGUST 3

TFACC for tax, accounting and finance  
San Antonio, Texas  
Register at [cooperative.com](https://cooperative.com)

### AUGUST 1

CREA Managers Meeting  
8:30am • La Plata Electric • Durango

### AUGUST 2

CREA Managers Meeting  
8am • Strater Hotel  
Durango

### AUGUST 2

CREA Joint Board-Managers Meeting  
11am • DoubleTree Hotel  
Durango

### AUGUST 3

CREA Board Meeting  
8am • DoubleTree Hotel  
Durango

### AUGUST 3

CREA Town Hall for employees  
1:30–4:30pm • La Plata Electric  
Durango

### AUGUST 4

Grand Valley Power  
Annual Meeting • 5:30pm  
Colorado Mesa University

### AUGUST 8–10

NRECA Interact Conference for HR  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Register at [cooperative.com](https://cooperative.com)

### AUGUST 8–10

NRECA Legal Seminar  
Monterey, California  
Register at [cooperative.com](https://cooperative.com)

### AUGUST 9

CREA webinar: The Dos and Don'ts of Easement Acquisition • 9–10am  
Register at [crea.coop/education-courses](https://crea.coop/education-courses)

### AUGUST 9–11

Principles of Leadership #2 of 3  
Holy Cross Energy  
Glenwood Springs

### AUGUST 17–19

NRECA Safety Leadership Summit  
Austin, Texas  
Register at [cooperative.com](https://cooperative.com)

### SEPTEMBER 12–14

CREA Accountants Conference  
La Plata Electric • Durango

### SEPTEMBER 13

CREA webinar: Stray Voltage & Swimming Pools • 9–10am  
Register at [crea.coop/education-courses](https://crea.coop/education-courses)