

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER All Month	September is National Preparedness Month
OCTOBER All Month	October is National Co-op Month
APRIL 13, 2022	Annual Meeting & Director Election



Celebrating with Members

Every Meter Represents a New Co-op Member

Co-op Hosts Members at Carbon Valley Open House Celebration in August

United Power joined a small group of elite cooperatives in June when it surpassed 100,000 meters served off its lines. It became just the second Colorado co-op, and 31st nationally, to cross the meter milestone. To commemorate the achievement, the co-op hosted an Open House Celebration for members at its Carbon Valley Service Center, located off the I-25 Frontage Road just west of Firestone and Frederick, on August 28.

Several hundred members attended the Open House Celebration, which featured a variety of family-friendly activities, educational

opportunities and prize giveaways. It was the first in-person member event the cooperative has hosted since the pandemic began in March 2020. The come-and-go structure of the event enabled members to maintain social distancing by discouraging crowds and allowing attendees to walk through at their own leisure. Breakfast and refreshments were also provided as attendees made their way through the exhibits.

“It is important that we as a cooperative get back to our roots of engaging and interacting with our members,” said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “This was the perfect platform to showcase our newest facility and celebrate our historic meter accomplishment with our members while also accounting for their health and safety.”

United Power packed its garage with interactive exhibits to give members a hands-on experience with everything from electrical safety to electric vehicle ownership. The cooperative’s safety demonstration team, which presents for first responders, safety officials and other cooperatives throughout the state, kicked things off near the event entrance with a condensed version of its high voltage demo. A series of large equipment and bucket trucks on display for attendees then



funneled them toward an EV demonstration at the garage’s northeast doors. Northern Colorado Clean Cities, United Power and Tri-State G&T provided several electric vehicles for attendees to get up close with. Northern Colorado Clean Cities even provided an opportunity for short test drives.

Outside, attendees were offered a brief informational presentation about the cooperative’s battery storage facility followed by a tour. The Tesla PowerPack battery system, originally energized in 2018, was the first of its kind in Colorado and remains the largest utility-scale battery storage facility in the state.

Inside the Carbon Valley Service Center, the cooperative transformed its community room into a series of educational booths where

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www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Customer Service 303-637-1300

Along These Lines

A Message from United Power's President & CEO



Mark A. Gabriel

President & Chief Executive Officer

Have Feedback For Us?

Submit your questions, comments, concerns or general feedback at www.unitedpower.com/CEO.

Recently, two solar salesmen came to my home in Brighton offering to convince me of the value of adding solar. Their main sales pitch was a false narrative that United Power rates were slated to increase “dramatically” over the next several years due to our ongoing conversations with our power supplier, Tri-State G&T, about a contract modification. Ironically, just that day at our board of directors meeting, we presented a first look at our budget for 2022 which showed no immediate increase and a potential decrease in rates at some point in the foreseeable future. Their sales pitch was an out-and-out lie.

There are many factors driving the decision to add solar or storage, including economics, environmental responsibility or the desire for energy independence. We wholeheartedly support your decisions, whatever the rationale, but want to make sure the decision is being made with a full knowledge of the costs. Sadly, there are many unscrupulous salespeople who do not have your best financial interests at heart as we do at United Power. Please contact us for the facts as you make these significant investment decisions. You can also visit our website for more information about installing a solar system on your home, including questions to ask potential solar contractors, at www.unitedpower.com/going-solar.

As a member-owner, it is important to realize the professionals at United Power are here to serve your needs with unbiased, fact-based information to make sure every electron is used in the most cost-effective way possible. This covers critical opportunities, such as our Rush Hour Rewards program, energy efficiency measures and rebates on everything from appliances to battery-powered lawn equipment. We are honored to serve as a resource for our members to help calculate the benefit of any decision when it comes to alternative energy options. We support decisions to add rooftop solar or storage to your home or business and are proud that nearly 7,000 of our members have made the decision to add solar to their homes. Another 3,000 of us are now driving electric vehicles, and soon members will be able to lease an electric vehicle charger for your home or business at a low monthly cost.

These are exciting times in the electricity business as technology expands its reach into everything from automobiles and vertical/indoor farming to advanced manufacturing and lawn tools. In this era of beneficial electrification, United Power is at the forefront of these amazing opportunities.

The growth at United Power – we are now more than 100,000 meters strong – has meant an influx of new members to our communities and a new relationship with your electricity provider. If you are new to the concept of an electric cooperative, as part of the “family” you are a part owner and reap the benefits in several ways:

- As a member-owner, you will share in any excess margin in the form of capital credits, determined annually by the board of directors. Capital credits are returned to our members as either a check or a credit on your billing statement.
- Participating in a uniquely cooperative process of democratic engagement in our governance. Members vote for who sits on our board or may even run as a candidate themselves.
- Having a utility partner that directly supports community activities like the Adams County Fair. United Power also sponsors events like Summerfest in Brighton, Trappers Days in Fort Lupton and Miners Day in Frederick.
- Being treated as a member – not just a customer – if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Finally, as I outlined in my letter to members in August, we are continuing to find a happy medium in our power supply with Tri-State G&T. It is critical that Tri-State continues to provide valuable transmission-related services, especially as we enter the new era of electricity markets. It is equally critical that United Power be able to follow its own destiny when it comes to the choice in at least a portion of its energy supply in order to lower our rates and be competitive in this changing market.

As winter approaches, we stand by to work with all our members on the efficient, sustainable use of the precious resource of electricity. Please call or email me at any time.

United Power 2nd Colorado Co-op to Reach 100,000 Meters



attendees could enter to win prizes, learn more about member-exclusive programs and engage with United Power experts on things like energy efficiency. Attendees could also present questions and win prizes from the cooperative's board of directors. The room's open layout, which spread booths out along the outer edges of the room, was designed to display its size and capabilities for community groups looking for an available space for meetings and business events.

"We are so excited and thankful to be able to celebrate 100,000 meters with our members in person," said Ursula Morgan, United Power's Board Chairman. "After more than a year away, we could not have been happier to see and interact with them again, especially for such a big occasion. Without our members, there is no cooperative, there is no United Power."

United Power members who attended the event were eligible to win one of ten \$100 bill credit prizes, announced following the event's conclusion. Members also donated canned and packaged food items for the Carbon Valley Help Center, which provides food and clothing to those in need in and around the Carbon Valley area.

Earlier this summer, United Power honored its 100,000th meter family, John and Hailey Takacs and their son Drake, at their new home in Commerce City's fast-growing Reunion community. Cooperative board members and executive leadership, along with Commerce City Mayor Ben Huseman and Tri Pointe homes representative Mariel Schlander, presented the Takacs' family with a prize package containing home essentials, such as a variety of tools and home equipment, including an electric lawn mower.

United Power has seen significant growth over the past several years, gaining more than 25,000 new meter connections since 2015, and is on pace to add several thousand more meters this year. The cooperative joined CORE Electric Cooperative, formerly

Intermountain REA, as the only other Colorado cooperative to surpass 100,000 meters despite serving an area less than one-fifth the size.

"We are adding meters at an unprecedented rate," Gabriel said. "But more importantly, we are adding members. Each new meter represents a new family on our lines or a new business helping shape the economy of the communities we serve. Our members make us stronger, and they make our communities stronger. As your cooperative, it is our privilege to be able to serve each one of our members."

October is National Co-op Month

Cooperatives are more than a local business. Not only do they provide the same products and services as their for-profit counterparts, they also go beyond the business, placing great emphasis on community involvement and the flourishing of its members. Without you, there would be no United Power. We're invested in making each and every one of our communities the best version of itself and empowering our members to be a part of that vision.

This October, United Power invites our members to join us in honoring National Co-op Month, a celebration of the commitment cooperatives have for their communities and members. There are more than 64,000 cooperatives stretching across almost every industry that touches our daily lives, and nearly 1,000 of them are electric co-ops. Birthed out of the hard work of our members, electric co-ops were established to deliver power to parts of the country larger investor-owned companies had no interest in serving.

While some have remained small and rural, others have outgrown their rural roots. As communities have grown from rural farming communities to suburban commuter communities or even urban centers, so has United Power's commitment to those communities. No matter where you live or how you use electricity, you can count on United Power to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy and to make serving you its priority.



Clear the clutter with
**Paperless
Billing**

Make the Switch to Paperless by October 1st
for a chance to win an iPad Air or AirPods Pro



unitedpower.com/paperless

Go Paperless to Win an iPad

Make the switch to paperless billing and you could win an iPad to view your electronic statements.

Sign up for Paperless Billing by Friday, October 1 to be entered to win an iPad or a pair of Apple AirPods Pro. Winners will be announced on October 5. For more information, go to www.unitedpower.com/paperless.

To enroll in Paperless Billing, login and click on Update my Paperless Settings in the My Profile screen.

For a full list of official contest rules, visit the United Power website at www.unitedpower.com/paperless.

To enter to win without enrollment in Paperless Billing, mail a postcard with your name, phone and email to: United Power, Attn: Paperless iPad Giveaway, 500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603. Entries must be received by Oct. 1, 2021 to be eligible. Co-op not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

Does Your Family Have a Disaster Plan?

September is National Preparedness Month

United Power members have experienced historic and record-breaking storm events in Colorado over the past couple years, including the bomb cyclone in March 2019 and the summer derecho in June 2020. Colorado has more recently felt the effects of devastating wildfires and the reality of crippling mudslides in their aftermath. These only highlight the unpredictability of severe weather and potential disaster situations. Natural disasters may come in an instant, and it's important to make sure you and your family are prepared. Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to take simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies that could affect us where we live, work and visit. This year's theme, "**Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love,**" touches on four distinct aspects of emergency preparation.

Make a Plan. Expecting the unexpected begins with having a plan, and those conversations can begin casually over a meal or strategically in a family meeting. If you have children, include them in the disaster planning process. Prepare with your friends, family and neighbors to develop a communications plan. Finally, practice your plan.

Build a Kit. Gather supplies for several days, considering the unique needs of your family. Include items such as food, water and any necessary medications or pet items. You may also include items such as a first aid kit, flashlight and/or radio. Remember to update your kit regularly.

Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness. Take the small, but important, steps now to prepare you and your family for disasters tomorrow, such as knowing what types of disasters may occur in your area or the areas you're visiting. In Colorado, we can experience devastating floods, debilitating blizzards or even strong tornadoes. Incrementally make your home stronger in the face of storms and make sure your insurance is up-to-date.

Teach Youth About Preparedness. It's important to teach your children about emergency preparation, such as how to communicate in the event of separation or what to do if you're away. They should know how to communicate with you, their friends and emergency responders. Provide sufficient information and carefully walk through individual steps of your disaster plan or have them practice building their own emergency kits.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, including sample emergency communications plans, organizations you can volunteer with during disasters and more, visit www.ready.gov.



READER REWARDS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2021



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$100 Bill Credit

2nd place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

Submit Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com



Visit www.unitedpower.com and click on 'News & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

When was United Power's Carbon Valley Open House?

By submitting this entry I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newline if I am selected as a winner.

Members may also enter by mailing the following entry form to:

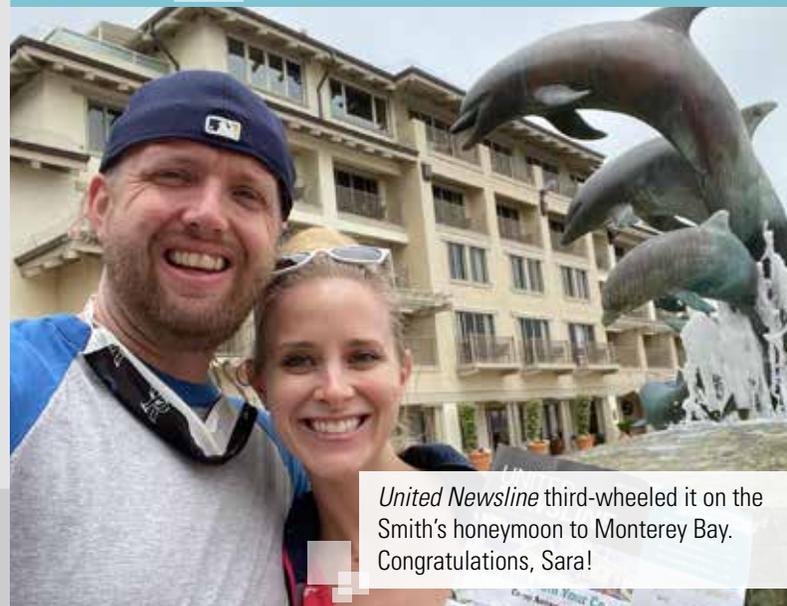
United Power • Reader Rewards • 500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

UNITED POWER PRIDE



United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the United Newline and you'll get a \$100 bill credit if we print it. Submit your photo along with your name, address, email and a description of the photo online at www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride.

Laurie Burkhart, CASA of Adams & Broomfield Co.

The hallmark of an electric cooperative is not simply providing reliable power to its members. United Power is deeply rooted in the communities it serves and committed to their success. We manage our resources in a way that allows us to give back to our communities and empowers our employees to do the same.

Many United Power employees volunteer their own time and resources at local nonprofits and educational foundations throughout the service territory. They leverage both their professional experience with the cooperative and personal interests to become leaders who are critical to powering these organizations.

Laurie Burkhart, United Power's Chief Financial Officer, has a special passion for helping children in vulnerable places and in June completed her certification to become a court appointed special advocate with CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties. As an advocate, Burkhart is appointed to spend valuable time with young children to help ensure their physical and emotional needs are being met during a time of crisis.

CASA is a volunteer-based nonprofit that recruits, trains and supervises community advocates to represent the best interests of child victims of abuse and neglect who are in the judicial system. The desired result is that children have a safe, permanent home where they can thrive. Alongside an advocate, these children are more likely to find a home and succeed in school and less likely to re-enter the foster care system.

"I was looking for a way to get engaged with our community, and when I learned about CASA, I felt compelled to get involved," Burkhart said. "It's such a good cause and really hit home with me in that it focuses on helping disadvantaged kids, which has always been a passion of mine."

Advocates are sworn in by a judge and appointed to a case involving a child or family of children. Volunteers must commit several hours each month to working their case and getting to know the children while gathering important information to help a judge make an informed decision.

"My favorite part about serving as an advocate is getting to spend time with these special kids who are in need of stable and healthy relationships with supportive adults," Burkhart said. "These kids have suffered some sort of trauma and likely some significant changes to their personal circumstances, such as being removed from their home. It's important for them to know that even in the midst of this turmoil, there are grown-ups they can count on."

Being an advocate means developing deep and meaningful relationships with the children they are assigned to work with.

Recently, Burkhart was able to deliver Rockies tickets and backpacks full of school supplies from the CASA organization to the family she's representing. The family was thrilled to attend their first Rockies game, and was also extremely grateful for the school supplies, which they said would save them hundreds of dollars on necessary supplies for the upcoming school year.

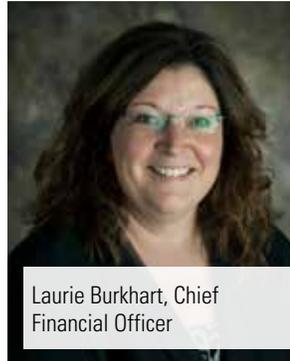
"They were so excited to receive this unexpected treat, and their mom was so grateful for the free supplies," Burkhart said.

Although Burkhart's involvement with the organization is a personal passion, she said she envisions leveraging her professional experience to become more involved and provide CASA with additional support from the cooperative.

"In the future, I am hoping to become a board member," she said. "As a member of the board, I will be able to assist on a more professional basis representing United Power as a sponsor organization."

CASA volunteers like Burkhart have advocated for nearly 650 children over the past year. However, there are many more children without a volunteer to be their voice and speak up for them in court. Each year in Adams and Broomfield Counties, there are approximately 1,600 children with open abuse and neglect cases. CASA needs more volunteers and more funding to close this gap and serve more children.

To help CASA meet its goal of leaving no child without an advocate in court, members can volunteer of their own time and become an advocate or donate to the organization. Go to www.casa17th.org to learn more.



Laurie Burkhart, Chief Financial Officer

RECIPES



Creamy Spicy Chicken Pasta

- 1 lb short-cut pasta
- 4 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lb chicken tenders, cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 Tbsp, plus 1-2 tsp, cajun seasoning
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 bell peppers, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped or grated
- Crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 cup low sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup milk
- 2 oz cream cheese, at room temp
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan
- 2 Tbsp fresh basil, chopped

Cook and drain pasta in salted water according to directions. In same pot set over medium-high heat, add 2 Tbsp olive oil, the onion, chicken and 1 Tbsp cajun seasoning. Cook until browned all over. Remove chicken.

Add remaining olive oil, bell peppers and garlic. Cook until peppers are soft. Stir in remaining cajun seasoning, pinch of pepper flakes, salt and pepper. Cook until fragrant. Add broth and milk. Add cream cheese and whisk until smooth. Bring to gentle simmer and cook until thickened. Stir in parmesan. Toss in chicken and pasta and cook 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat, add basil. Serve immediately.

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power Recipes
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, CO 80603



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT | 2021

United Power continues to be a leader in renewable energy integration. Since United Power energized Colorado's first community solar farm, the cooperative has continued to look for new and unique ways to integrate renewable sources.

United Power recognizes that the future of electrical generation will be an "all of the above" strategy of investing in a variety of generation sources, and responding to the wants and needs of our membership. Projects like our large scale solar fields and the methane recapture plant make sense on multiple fronts. These

projects reduce carbon emissions, but they also make economic sense. They produce generation that we can purchase for our members at a predictable cost, with a predictable lifespan.

The addition of these projects, from our utility scale solar farms to our state-leading battery storage facility, helps us build some cost stability for our members.

1

UNITED POWER LEADS ALL COOPERATIVES
in the Tri-State Generation & Transmission family
FOR INCORPORATION OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

46 MW

UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

 **2015 CO-OP PARTNER OF THE YEAR**
by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Assoc. (COSEIA)

TOTAL RENEWABLE GENERATION

84 MW

14% capacity • 5% energy



POWERING 11,000 HOMES

13% OF ALL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Operators of

COLORADO'S LARGEST BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT

2019

STORAGE TOP 10

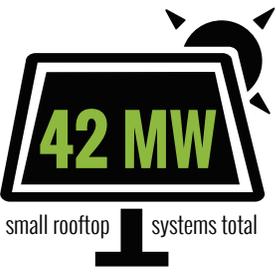
SEPA

Rooftop Solar



6,800+

rooftop systems



42 MW

small rooftop systems total

5% of total meters

RANKED



5th

in the nation

among co-ops

for cumulative solar installations

2018 Utility Solar Market Snapshot—July 2019
The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)

Major Renewable Milestones

2009	2011	2012	2016	2017	2018	2018	2020
<p>First community solar in Colorado 32 members lease 96 panels located on United Power's property</p>	<p>Erie Landfill Methane to Megawatts project 3 MW 90% baseload powering 2,400 homes</p>	<p>United Power's first utility scale solar 2 MW Hangar160 Solar Field powering 333 homes</p>	<p>Silicon Ranch Partnership energized 20.5 MW utility scale solar Ft. Lupton: 13MW Mead: 7.5MW</p>	<p>Third Silicon Ranch Partnership 16 MW solar field powering 4,500 homes</p>	<p>Record year for rooftop solar 1,000 rooftop systems added/6 MW of solar added in one year ranked 1st in the nation for rooftop solar growth</p>	<p>United Power & Engie North America energize two Tesla Battery Storage Systems totaling 4.5 MW/18 MWH</p>	<p>An additional 6 MW of utility-scale solar energized December 2020</p>

Tips & Tricks to Becoming Energy Efficient

United Power Recognizes Energy Efficiency Day on October 6

On October 6, United Power is joining more than 800 other organizations to celebrate the sixth annual National Energy Efficiency Day, a day to remember easy ways we can reduce our energy use and save money.

Energy efficiency simply means using less energy to perform the same tasks or eliminating energy waste. Being energy efficient protects our pocketbooks and the environment by lowering demand for energy and, by extension, greenhouse gas emissions.

If you're a homeowner trying to manage your electric usage on a budget, energy efficiency may seem more fantasy than reality. Energy efficiency is often seen as an expensive and unobtainable goal for many homeowners, but it doesn't have to be. Trimming your electric usage is as quick and simple as making a few modest behavior changes and a little investment in cost-efficient technology.

Here are some of the most common ways United Power members can ditch high energy bills and become more efficient in their daily energy usage. For some of our members who may want to go a step further in the journey toward energy efficiency, the article below demonstrates why an electric vehicle may be right for you.

10 Energy Efficient Tips

- 1. Make the Switch to LEDs.** There's been a strong push for the switch to LEDs for years, and for good reason. LEDs last up to 25x longer and consume 90 percent less energy.
- 2. Seal Those Leaks.** Have you ever left a window cracked in the winter and realized how quickly the cold air can cool your home? Little leaks can be equivalent to leaving a 3 ft x 3 ft window open.
- 3. Install a Smart Thermostat.** While an initially high investment, a smart thermostat will pay for itself over time by learning your routine and adjusting accordingly. You can even control it remotely. Members can also enroll in United Power's Rush Hour Rewards program to save even more. More info at www.unitedpower.com/rush-hour-rewards.
- 4. Heat & Cool Efficiency.** Heating and cooling accounts for almost half your energy use. Don't waste money on an empty home. Raising or lowering the temp on your thermostat also won't compromise comfort.
- 5. Use a Ceiling Fan.** Using a ceiling fan in combination with proper cooling will allow you to raise your thermostat by as much as 4 degrees without losing any comfort.
- 6. Maintain Your HVAC System.** A dirty furnace has to work harder to move air. Don't forget to change air filters during both heating and cooling seasons to keep energy costs low.
- 7. Look for the ENERGY STAR® Label.** The label means this appliance is certified energy efficient. United Power also offers rebates on ENERGY STAR® refrigerators, dishwashers and washing machines.
- 8. Turn Off Electronics.** Electronics on "standby" contribute to "vampire loads," which is when a device draws energy even with it appears to be off. Turn off all idle electronics that aren't in use.
- 9. The Sun is Key.** In the winter, open curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home. In the summer, excess sunlight will make your A/C work harder, so keep those curtains closed.
- 10. Don't Peak in the Oven.** Opening the oven door while cooking or baking can cause the internal temperature to drop by as much as 25 degrees making it work harder to return to the right temperature and also affecting cooking times of your dinner or dessert.

Time to Begin Looking at Electric Vehicles

National Drive EV Week is September 25 – October 3, 2021

Excitement surrounding electric vehicles is beginning to pick up steam, and now is the perfect time for United Power members to assess the practicality of EV ownership for their daily lives. Join the cooperative in recognizing National Drive EV Week, a nationwide celebration to raise awareness about the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Living in Colorado already provides members who are interested in electric vehicles an immediate advantage. Consistently ahead of the curve in environmental sustainability, Colorado ranks inside the top 10 in electric vehicle ownership and charging infrastructure. That saturation will only continue to grow after Gov. Jared Polis signed a sustainable transportation bill in May that will invest nearly \$1 billion in electric vehicle programs over the next 10 years.



The cost of ownership for electric vehicles is at an all-time low, with certain brands even offering highly affordable pricing options and sales or leasing incentives. In October, Consumer Reports published a detailed assessment of electric vehicles and concluded savings worth thousands of dollars over comparable gas-powered options. Coupled

with the skyrocketing cost of gas, especially when compared to the relative affordability of electricity, the reasons to consider an electric-powered vehicle only become that much more enticing.

These savings are not only derived from gas, but also because electric vehicles do not require standard maintenance, such as oil changes, making them much cheaper to operate.

If you've ever considered an electric vehicle, there has never been a better time. To help members educate themselves on what's available, United Power launched Choose EV. Choose EV contains a significant amount of information, including vehicle information, comparisons and a savings calculator (fuel to electricity). To learn more about the tools available to United Power members, go to www.unitedpower.com/chooseev.

