



CONSUMER

HOLY CROSS ENERGY » COMMUNITY » YOU!

CONNECTION

VOLUME 32 | ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2017

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Don't Bury Us With Snow!

Two HCE Board of Director
Positions Open



HCE's Energy Efficiency Team –
Eileen, Chris, Mary and Lisa

Connect with Us!
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Share It!



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

THANK YOU!

WITH YOUR HELP WE WERE ABLE TO MEET OUR
5-YEAR EFFICIENCY GOAL ONE YEAR EARLY

Look what we accomplished!
Together, we saved more than
34,500 megawatt-hours (MWh)
of electricity, or the amount
needed to provide electric energy
to more than 2,650 homes for an
entire year.

In 2013, Holy Cross Energy (HCE) launched a five-year energy efficiency plan with the ambitious goal to save 33,000 MWh of electricity. To make this happen, we needed to provide energy efficiency rebates and grants, residential and commercial audits, education and outreach events, and weatherization assistance to help you, our members, make changes and reductions in your electricity usage.

AND TOGETHER WE DID IT!

As Steve Lincks from Ptarmigan Sports (Edwards, CO) said, "I wish we hadn't waited as long as we did. The conversion to LEDs has been great. Not only did Holy Cross and Energy Smart give us a 50% rebate on the initial expense of the light bulbs, we have saved at least 40% on our energy bill monthly. Also, we have not had to replace a light bulb in over a year. I would highly recommend anyone considering to make the switch to do it now."

Over 3,000 of our members were inspired to improve the comfort, efficiency and safety of their homes or businesses by taking advantage of a variety of rebates offered by HCE. Our energy efficiency team partnered with the community in new and creative ways to make our rebate program even more appealing.

We currently offer rebates on everything from LEDs to heat tape timers, insulation and programmable or Wi-Fi thermostats to Electronically Commutated (EC) motors. We even created a rebate for solar livestock water tanks for our four-legged friends. This creativity has allowed HCE to distribute over \$4 million for our community in rebates in just four years.

Aside from the electric energy savings, we are making our air cleaner. In 2016, we avoided the emission of 27,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂). This represents the equivalent of changing nearly 868,000 incandescent bulbs to LEDs or removing 5,174 passenger vehicles from the road for one year (Source: www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator).



CONTINUED INSIDE »

www.holycross.com



HCE MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH CMC!

Colorado Mountain College (CMC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary with the theme "Because of You." CMC continues to evolve, thrive and reinvest in the fabric of our community – You! Throughout 2017, CMC will celebrate five decades of serving our communities – and they invite you to join in.

So many lives have been touched in 50 years! Are you a CMC alumni, faculty, student or friend? Do you have a story to share? Go to CMCBecauseOfYou.org to read the adventures and accomplishments of fellow community members and add your own.

Then come celebrate with CMC and Holy Cross Energy at the campus events within and around our service territory:

ASPEN CAMPUS: Friday, April 7, 3 – 6 p.m.

Art reception (4:15 p.m.) following the 50th Anniversary Program and Celebration. *Reminisce: 50 years of Art* created by CMC's Western Region's faculty & staff, past and present.

RIFLE CAMPUS: Friday, April 21, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Spring Art Show: A special Art Opening Reception followed by a 50th Anniversary Program and Celebration (8:00 p.m.) including hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music and conversation. Connect with old friends and new while perusing a wide variety of fine art created by the diverse artist community in Garfield County.

SPRING VALLEY CAMPUS: Friday, April 28, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Uncle Jimmy's Pig Roast and Campus Carnival: CMC 50th Anniversary Celebration Program (10 a.m.) followed by a Pig Roast luncheon and carnival (11:30 a.m.). Pig donated by Uncle Jimmy and family (aka the Nieslanik Family). The Nieslaniks were one of several ranching families who donated land 50 years ago for CMC's West Campus (now Spring Valley).

VAIL VALLEY CAMPUS AT EDWARDS: Friday, September 8, 5 – 10 p.m.

Dancing Through the Decades. A wine & cheese reception and 50th Anniversary Program followed by a fun and lively dance with music that defined the decades. A great evening of classic swoons & tunes, shared memories and friends – old and new!

Holy Cross Energy is a proud supporter of CMC's 50th Anniversary Celebration along with Jim & Connie Calaway, Alpine Bank, The Morgridge Family Foundation, and Sodexo.

To RSVP for an event, share your CMC story, see additional community events and more, go to: CMCBecauseOfYou.org.

BIG ENERGY SAVINGS GOAL REACHED

« CONTINUED FROM COVER

We also want to thank local and regional nonprofits who contributed to our overall success. Support from the Energy Smart Colorado program (including CLEER, CORE, and Walking Mountains Science Center) helped many of our members reduce their electric bills. In addition, HCE collaborated with Energy Outreach Colorado and Northwest Colorado Council of Governments to provide support to our income-qualified members with weatherization assistance.

Thank you for helping us reach our energy savings goal!

Want to get involved, make a change, or become an energy efficient superhero? Have a question about an energy upgrade to your home or business? Our energy efficiency team is here to help you throughout the entire process. Call us before you start your project at 970-947-5473 or email at rebates@holycross.com.

For more information on rebates or to read the five-year plan visit: www.holycross.com/rebates

SOLAR ARRAY UPDATE

On December 8, 2016, with a winter sun overhead, Holy Cross Energy (HCE) and GRID Alternatives Colorado (GRID) energized a new solar array at our campus in Gypsum. The 145-kilowatt solar array is expected to produce about 218,000 kWh/year of renewable electricity; enough for 15-20 homes.

The electricity from the array will be used to help reduce the electric bills of certain HCE members with a household income less than 80% of their respective county's median income. Applications have been accepted and are being reviewed. Members who are selected will begin receiving monthly bill credits in February 2017. Over the next two years, these participating members should see about a 50% reduction in their electric bills.

At the end of the two years, other income-qualified members will be given the opportunity to participate in the program. HCE encourages our members to visit www.holycross.com regularly for updates and information on the solar array.



INCOME-QUALIFIED WEATHERIZATION

Holy Cross Energy has teamed up with our partner agencies to provide FREE upgrades that improve the comfort and safety of your home while saving energy. If you qualify*, an energy coach will perform an assessment on your home. Energy upgrades are identified and installed – all at no cost to you!

In 2016, over one hundred Holy Cross Energy members received assistance through these programs that are available to both renters and homeowners who reside in a single-family home, mobile home, apartment, condo, townhome, or duplex.

Bobbie Tanaka received weatherization services through the program:

"This made a huge difference in my heating bill, and not just the expense – it's the comfort too. It makes such a difference when they seal all the holes – they sealed places you wouldn't even think of. The workers who came into my home were so nice, professional and efficient."

Bobbie highly recommends the program!

UPGRADES MAY INCLUDE:

- Insulation and air sealing
- Pipe insulation and water heater blankets
- Water heater repair or replacement
- Refrigerator repair or replacement
- Replacement of incandescent lights with LED bulbs



TO LEARN MORE OR SEE IF YOU QUALIFY:

Call Energy Outreach Colorado • 303-226-5061
Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Note: Annual income limits are updated each spring by CHFA (Colorado Housing and Finance Authority) and vary based on county and number of members in the household.

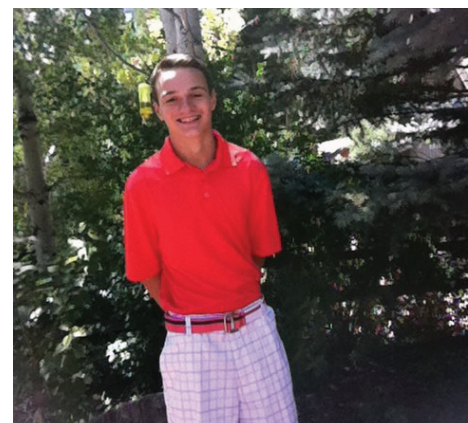
2017 CREA YOUTH TOUR UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUTH TOUR HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES!

The Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Youth Tour is an annual event held in June. Students from across the United States travel to Washington D.C., participate in tours of our nation's capital, meet with state representatives and learn about electric cooperatives. Up to two high school students entering 11th and 12th grades or graduating in the spring, are selected each December by Holy Cross Energy and enjoy a week-long all-expenses-paid trip.

The HCE 2017 CREA Youth Tour students selected are Claire Krueger of Battle Mountain High School and Jacob Nowicki of Vail Christian High School. Please congratulate these exceptional students.

Inquire about applications for next year's trip with your high school counselor or look for details on our website, www.holycross.com, in October 2017.



HOLY CROSS ENERGY ROUND-UP FOUNDATION

ROUNDING UP TWO NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The HCE Round-Up Foundation is a charitable assistance program that supports schools and other organizations to assist them with specific needs.



Round-Up is looking for two individuals to serve on its Board of Directors. This volunteer board usually meets on the third Tuesday of each month to review applications and make disbursements of funds collected through the HCE Round-Up program.

We need one individual from the Glenwood Springs-to-Parachute area and another from the Dotsero-to-Vail area.

Interested applicants must be at least 18 years of age and receive HCE electric service at his or her primary residence. Applicants must also be able to participate in the management of the business and affairs of the Foundation.

The Round-Up Board consists of one HCE employee, one current HCE Board Director and three HCE members.

Directors will not receive any salary or per diem for their services or attendance at meetings, but may be allowed reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

If interested in serving as a Director of the Round-Up Foundation Board, please submit a letter of interest to Sharon Williams by February 20, 2017 to her email at swilliams@holycross.com.

Sign up for Round-Up at holycross.com/roundup-program.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 22 electric distribution cooperatives in Colorado. Based on the number of meters served, Holy Cross Energy, organized in 1939, remains the third largest cooperative in the state.
- Like skiing or snowboarding? Holy Cross Energy has the privilege of providing electric service to Aspen Skiing Company (Aspen Mountain, Buttermilk, Highlands and Snowmass ski resorts), Sunlight Mountain Resort and Vail Resorts (Beaver Creek and Vail ski resorts).



TRENDING

REGIONAL EV GROUP BUY PROGRAM

Considering the purchase of an electric vehicle (EV) in the next six months? Wouldn't an additional "price discount", one that may be available from area car dealerships, sweeten the deal? Plans are underway for a "Regional EV Group Buy" program for residents in Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin counties. This discount opportunity is scheduled for a very limited time, starting April 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2017. More information about the program will be available at www.holycross.com in early March.



EV CHARGING STATION APPS

With battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in electric vehicles (PHEVs) beginning to make a splash in our area, please check out these cool apps that tell you where you might find the closest EV charging station: PlugShare, ChargePoint and Go Electric Nation.



CONNECTED THERMOSTATS

Imagine the convenience of using your smartphone to make adjustments to the settings on your home thermostat. The Department of Energy has released a report that reviews the current uses of connected thermostats (CTs) and considers how they might be used in other ways to advance residential energy efficiency efforts. To learn more about this emerging technology, go to: energy.gov/eere/articles/connected-thermostats-offer-gateway-increasing-energy-savings.

DON'T BURY US WITH SNOW!

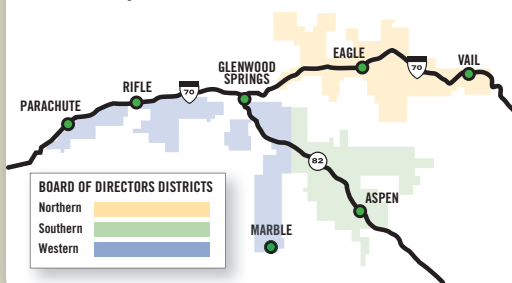
Snow is a wonderful thing, but sometimes we get more than we know what to do with. Please remember to be conscious of our pad-mounted equipment, particularly transformers, when you are removing snow from your streets, driveways or sidewalks. We ask that you not bury them under snow.

Our crews need unimpeded access to our equipment for maintenance and outage responses. So, please help us help you and pile snow elsewhere to leave plenty of room for our linemen to work.



TWO HOLY CROSS ENERGY BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS OPEN IN 2017

Two Director positions on the seven member Holy Cross Energy Board are up for election at the Annual Meeting of Members scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2017. One Director from the Northern District and one Director from the Western District will be elected at the meeting, each for a three-year term. Exact boundary information is available at Holy Cross Energy's Glenwood Springs office. For more information, please call 970-945-5491 or visit www.holycross.com.



ENERGY SAVING TIPS



1 Hot Water Tank Recommendations

Set the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. For every 10 degrees the temperature is lowered, you can save three to five percent in energy use. Wrap the water heater in an insulating blanket to save up to \$7/month.



2 High Efficiency Showerheads and Faucet Aerators

Water efficient fixtures save energy by reducing the amount of hot water you use. High efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators typically use one gallon per minute less water than standard water fixtures. Look for the EPA's WaterSense label on products to help you identify these water and energy saving fixtures. A WaterSense showerhead could save you up to \$70 per year and 2,900 gallons of water.



3 Occupancy Sensors

Install occupancy sensors in areas where lights are frequently left on. You may reduce wasted electricity used for lighting by as much as 30% when you replace manual light switches with occupancy or vacancy sensors.



SAVE THE DATE!



Community Enhancement Fund Distributions *February 14*

Checks will be mailed to Aspen, Avon, Basalt, Carbondale, Eagle, Gypsum, Minturn, Snowmass Village and Vail. This year, the total amount to be distributed is more than \$595,000.

HCE Lobby Access and Call Center Closure *February 20*

On Presidents' Day, Monday, February 20th, lobby access to our offices in Avon, Glenwood Springs and Gypsum will be closed. In addition, access to our Consumer Service Representative Call Center will also be closed. Both closures are necessary to accommodate an all-day Billing Department training. Normal business access and operations will resume on Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

Daylight Saving Time *March 12*

Don't forget that time will "move forward" one hour. As a reminder, please check the batteries in your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors.

2017 Audi FIS Ski World Cup Finals *March 15 – 19*

Aspen Snowmass will host the 2017 World Cup Finals. The races will bring the top 30 men's and women's racers per discipline to Aspen Mountain to compete in nine races over five days, chasing the coveted Crystal Globe trophies.

Solar Workshop *March 29*

Learn about rebates, new technology and financing at Community Banks of Colorado, 313 Chambers Ave., Eagle, CO. RSVP to BSanDiego@COBnks.com or call 970-432-6015.

78th Annual Meeting of Members *June 8*

Join us at 4 Eagle Ranch in Wolcott, CO, for an evening of fun for your whole family! More details will be available at www.holycross.com this spring.



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March 15 - 19

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alpine ski racers in the world.*



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Look inside for important news!



COMMUNITY CORNER

Giving Back To Our Communities

Giving back to our communities is a priority for Holy Cross Energy employees. Since August, we have enjoyed volunteering at Roundup River Ranch, helping build a Community Solar PV array, manning and ringing the bell at the "red kettle" for Salvation Army, and donating an assortment of toys, at Christmastime, to both Catholic Charities (Glenwood Springs) and Vail Valley Salvation Army (Avon). We support activities that bring about smiles, encouragement and hope!

