

Member Information

What are the three charges on my bill?

Customer Charge

- Meter Reading
- Billing/Accounting
- Customer Service



Demand Charge

- Infrastructure to Serve Peak Usage (Peak Capacity)
- Tri-State Demand



Energy Charge

- Wholesale Energy Cost (Tri-State)
- Distribution System Operation/Maintenance



Are you interested in being on the BOD?

Petitions for the nomination of director candidates for the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) are now available. Members can find information online at slvrec.com (About Us tab, "Annual Meeting"). For a petition packet, call Michelle at 852-3538 or email mttrujillo@slvrec.com to have a petition packet mailed or pick up at SLVREC's office at 3625 US Hwy 160 W., Monte Vista.

At the June 10, 2025 SLVREC Annual Meeting, two directors will be elected: one from Saguache County, District 3 and one from

See BOD
continued on Page 5

Concern for Community

REC employees give back



REC/Ciello employees Jennifer Alonzo, Eric Eriksen, Carol Silva, Stacy Valdez, Monroe Johnson, Michelle Trujillo and Shawn McKibbin served breakfast at the 43rd Annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference at the Ski Hi Complex on Feb. 5.



THIS ISSUE

Member info/ Concern for Community

Member Info/Conservation/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Member Information

Recipe of the Month

MARCH 2025 | VOLUME 52 | ISSUE 3

Member Information

EFFECTIVE WAYS

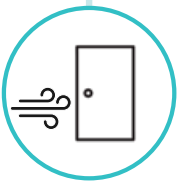
To Lower Home Energy Use

Outside factors, such as fuel and equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.



Thermostat Management

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Dept. of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



Seal Your Home

According to ENERGY STAR®, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping. This is a simple, effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



Maintain Equipment

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.

Electric cooperatives bring unique value to local communities

Electric cooperatives stand out from other types of businesses because we are built and led by the communities we serve. As independent, not-for-profit electric utilities, we are owned and governed by our local members— not by outside shareholders or investors. That is a powerful differentiator.

Here are a few ways electric co-ops like San Luis Valley REC bring unique value to the local communities they serve:

We put people before profits. Co-ops are not-for-profit and provide at-cost electric service. Any excess revenue is returned to our members in the form of capital credits, typically as a bill credit or check.

Community comes first. We live and work here too, and we care deeply about our local communities. That's why we engage in development and revitalization projects, sponsor local students for scholarships and youth programs and give back to local organizations like the Monte Vista Food Bank and La Puente to help our neighbors in need.

Affordable, reliable power is our priority. SLVREC purchases electricity from Tri-State Generation and

See COOPS continued on Page 5

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.

ciello

This is our why...

"We are incredibly appreciative of Andy's patience and support in helping us diagnose an issue after hours! Thank you, Andy and the Ciello team."

— Vajra Vidya,
Google Review

POWERED BY REC

719.852.3538 • www.ciello.com

Ciello is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com.



Eric Eriksen

SLVREC provides powerful value

Are you getting the best value from your rural electric cooperative?

Consider that if you're like most, there are aspects of life that become sort of a daily routine... get ready for work and drive to the coffee shop on your way to work. At lunchtime, drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch and fill up the gas tank. At home, spend the end of the day streaming an episode or two of your favorite show before bed.

Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so accessible and affordable, we don't think much about it.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it really is a great value, especially when compared to other common services. In the San Luis Valley, the average monthly residential member power bill is about \$118 (574 kwh). That's only about \$3.93 a day! We know that number can fluctuate, but when you think about the current average price of gas in Alamosa at \$3.61/gal, Netflix subscription at \$17.99/month, a 12oz vanilla latte at \$6.90, and a burger, fries and drink meal for \$9.39. All these other daily expenses totaled around \$19 per day, \$143 per week, and \$572 per month.

We don't always "see" the value of the electricity we use. You can run your dishwasher for \$0.30 per load, watch TV for



four hours for \$0.29, or keep your food cold all month for \$9.24. When you think about being able to power just about everything in your home for only \$3.93 per day, then we can recognize it as a great value and becoming more valuable every day.

The future of energy is electrification. From electric vehicles, more efficient heating systems, like heat pumps, and the use of advancing AI learning technology, the increasing presence of electricity in your life is undeniable. And as the cost of electricity remains historically stable, the **VALUE** of those kilowatts just keeps growing—with more uses, cleaner resources and advanced technology.

When evaluating the value of your electric cooperative you might also want to compare with other rural electric providers across the nation. In a rural area the distance between member homes is greater, which results in more poles and wires to serve. Since the Valley is more rural than much of America we have more miles of powerlines per member. In fact, we have between 4-5 members per mile while the national rural cooperative average is 7-8. You might expect an average cooperative in our service area to be one of the most expensive, but SLVREC is an excellent rural cooperative where members experience well below the national average costs for electricity. And at the same time, members are receiving better reliability at 99.999%.

The national average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57, compared to

See VALUE continued on Page 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keenan Anderson, President
719-849-8304

Stephen Valdez, Vice President
719-588-0430

Wade Lockhart, Secretary
719-588-9246

Carol Lee Dugan
719-588-4711

Creede Hargraves
708-638-0039

Scott Wolfe
719-852-0966

Email: power@slvrec.com

Your email will be forwarded based on the direction you provide in your subject line.

CEO

Eric Eriksen
719-852-6630

SLVREC Office (toll free)
800-332-7634

SLVREC Office (local calls)
719-852-3538

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Newsboy (publication #551-450) is an official publication of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.; 3625 US Hwy 160 W, Monte Vista, CO 81144. The Newsboy is published monthly for SLVREC members. Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Postmaster, send Form 3579 to NEWSBOY, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144-3625.

© 2025 San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. All rights reserved.



www.facebook.com/SLVREC



www.twitter.com/SLVREC



Member information

New rates effective April 1, 2025

2025 RATES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2025		2024	2025
Rate Name	Charge Type		
A-Single Phase Residential Rates 01,02,04,05,07,13,15	Customer Charge	\$ 40.00	\$ 42.86
	Demand Charge	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.25
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.104	\$ 0.104
C-Single Phase Commercial Rates 41,45,47	Customer Charge	\$ 40.00	\$ 42.86
	Demand Charge	\$ 3.35	\$ 4.35
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.078	\$ 0.073
A-TOD Single Phase Time of Day Rates 08,09	Customer Charge	\$ 40.00	\$ 42.86
	Purchased Power Demand	\$ -	
	Distribution Demand	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.25
	On-Peak kWh 4PM to 9PM	\$ 0.256	\$ 0.228
	Off-Peak kWh 9PM to 4PM next day	\$ 0.067	\$ 0.074
B -Three Phase Rates 03,06	Customer Charge	\$ 62.00	\$ 62.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 5.43	\$ 7.00
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.095	\$ 0.092
A-TOD Three Phase Time of Day Rates 10,11	Customer Charge	\$ 62.00	\$ 64.86
	Purchased Power Demand		
	Distribution Demand	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.25
	On-Peak kWh 4PM to 9PM	\$ 0.256	\$ 0.228
	Off-Peak kWh 9PM to 4PM next day	\$ 0.067	\$ 0.074
I - Irrigation Rates 60,62,63,65 Rates 80,82,83,85 Following Rates 20, 22, 23, 25	Customer Charge	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
	Following Customer Charge	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00
	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 1PM TO 9PM Mon-Sat, Sundays excluded)	\$ 10.40	\$ 12.35
	Distribution Demand (minimum of 10 kW) (Highest demand in last 12 months)	\$ 5.18	\$ 5.68
	Following Demand Charge (minimum of 5 kW)	\$ 1.75	\$ 2.00
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.054	\$ 0.039
LP-A Large Power Less than 500 kW Rates 50, 55	Customer Charge	\$ 95.00	\$ 95.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 15.17	\$ 17.57
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.067	\$ 0.067
LP-A Time of Day Less than 500 kW Rates 54,56	Customer Charge	\$ 95.00	\$ 95.00
	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 1PM TO 9PM Mon-Sat, Sundays excluded)	\$ 12.75	\$ 14.00
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in month)	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.95
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.054	\$ 0.050
LP-B Large Power Greater than 500 kW Rates 51, 52, 53	Customer Charge	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 20.12	\$ 23.81
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.0540	\$ 0.0510
YL Yard Light	Non-Metered	\$ 12.77	\$ 13.44
	Metered	\$ 6.10	\$ 6.35
Renewable Resource Surcharge	Per 100 kWh block, per month	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.40
EV TOD Rates EVP, EVO	Customer Charge	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in month)	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50
	On-Peak kWh 1PM to 9PM	\$ 0.315	\$ 0.315
	Off-Peak kWh 9PM to 1PM next day	\$ 0.054	\$ 0.054

VALUE

continued from page 3

REC's \$3.93 daily rate, noted above (see actual rates at left). You are powering your entire home every day for less than the price of a medium latte. You could brew your own coffee, cook your own meals, binge a television series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. That's real value.

The last couple of years have brought real challenges as we all have felt the effects of inflation and watched prices of almost everything rise. For example, SLVREC has experienced about a 40 percent increase in average material costs since 2022. As a member-owned nonprofit cooperative, SLVREC does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains the best value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity— some within our control but most beyond it.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured; San Luis Valley REC always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money. I hope you are as proud as me of your San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and our great people.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person or through our social media channels. However, you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

See sources on page 5.



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

- ½ lb. bacon
- 2 heads fresh broccoli, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 small red onion, sliced into bite-sized pieces
- ¾ c. raisins
- ¾ c. sliced almonds
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- ½ c. white sugar
- 2 T. white wine vinegar

BROCCOLI SALAD

1. Gather all ingredients.
2. Place bacon in a deep skillet and cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown, 7 to 10 minutes; drain, cool, and crumble.
3. Combine bacon, broccoli, onion, raisins, and almonds together in a bowl; mix well.
4. To prepare the dressing: Mix mayonnaise, sugar, and vinegar together until smooth.
5. Stir into the salad.
6. Let chill before serving, if desired.

allrecipes.com

COOPS

continued from page 2

Transmission, our wholesale energy partner. Tri-State is a generation and transmission cooperative formed by a group of electric co-ops in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and New Mexico. This cooperative business structure allows us to pool local resources and provide electricity at a lower cost than if we purchased it from outside sources.

As a new year begins, we're focused on our members' energy needs— not only for today but for the long haul. We're advocating for smarter energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all. We recognize we must be inclusive of all energy sources, which is why we work closely with Tri-State to ensure use of a diverse mix of sources, including hydropower, wind and solar, and from a highly dependable and cost-effective fleet of coal and natural gas power plants, to generate the electricity we provide to our members.

Reliable, affordable electricity is more important than ever before, and our focus will continue to be the best interest of the local communities we serve. To learn more about SLVREC, visit slvrec.com.

BOD

continued from page 1

Conejos County, District 5.

Completed petitions must include 15 valid SLVREC member signatures and be returned to SLVREC no later than Wednesday, April 9, 2025 (or Wednesday, April 2 to have a brief bio included in the Annual Report). It is recommended to obtain 20 signatures in the event that any of the signatures are invalid. Please call Michelle at 719-852-3538 with any questions.

If you're interested in having a brief bio included in the Annual Report and online, please contact Jennifer Alonzo at jalonzo@slvrec.com by Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

SOURCES from Page 4 (VALUE):

Fuel Cost: www.way.com/gas/prices/colorado/alamosa

Refrigerator cost: habcomfg.com

Dishwasher: www.directenergy.com

TV 4 hours: www.energysage.com

Netflix: help.netflix.com/en/node/24926

Sonic Combo Meal: www.sonicdrivein.com/menu

Starbucks Vanilla Latte: www.starbucks.com/menu

SAN
LUIS
VALLEY

REC

A Powerful Connection

ciello

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

March 2025

Periodical Postage
Paid at Monte Vista, CO



Adam State University Grizzly sponsorship



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE
866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors typically meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



SAN
LUIS
VALLEY

REC