

New Year, New Services

In an effort to better serve our members, we have implemented some innovative new programs for 2019. San Luis Valley REC understands the importance of communicating with our members during outages and emergencies. We also recognize the need for bill payment options to help different budgets within our service territory. Given these factors, we are introducing two new programs that provide members with more options.

REC would like to encourage our members to sign up for our automated text and email system. This allows members to be notified of outages and estimated time of restoration (ETR) automatically. This service provides us with more options to contact members with greater ease.

You will need to sign into the SmartHub, which is located on the website under the Pay My Bill button. We also encourage you to download the SmartHub app for your mobile device.

After signing in please go to the Notifications tab —> Manage Notifications —> Services, and then select the

Alert Type you would like to be notified with. Please see the screenshot included in this article for a visual reference. If you need additional assistance please call the office, 719-852-3538.

San Luis Valley REC is now able to offer members a prepayment option. This can be extremely helpful in budgeting for electric use throughout the year. We will be sending you a postcard in you are interested in taking advantage of this offer.

The prepayment option allows you to pre-pay your account, eliminates the need for a deposit, and encourages better management of electric usage by the member. Members will be able track and manage the balance of their accounts in relationship to their electric usage. For more information please contact us at 719-852-3538.

Alert Type	Description	Text Message	E-Mail
Marker Event	This is a notification to inform you when a marker is added, modified, removed to/from MDM.	None	None
Planned Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage is planned.	None	None
Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has occurred.	None	None
Power Outage ETR Update	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage estimated restoration date update has occurred.	None	None
Power Outage Restored	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has been restored.	None	None

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LOREN HOWARD

Electric Rates – Everyone’s Favorite Topic

Let’s be honest — we all would like the costs of living to quit going up and the utility bills we get each month are no exception. Electricity and heating costs are usually the highest bills residential and small commercial members receive every month, particularly in the winter. San Luis Valley REC has worked hard to keep the cost of electricity as low as possible and as fair as possible for all our members.

From time to time, we are asked why REC’s rates for electricity are higher than Xcel’s. The simple answer to that question is expressed in “customers per mile of power line.” Think about the San Luis Valley: Xcel serves Alamosa, Monte Vista, Del Norte, and many other valley towns. REC serves much of the rest of the Valley. REC’s meters per mile of power line is between 4 and 5, and while I don’t have the exact numbers, Xcel’s meters per mile of power line in the Valley is likely in the 20s. It’s easy to see why REC’s typical power costs are higher than Xcel’s.

Going back to keeping REC’s electric rates as low and as fair as possible, every three years a “cost of service” analysis is conducted that answers two questions: 1) Are the rates REC charges sufficient to cover the cost of supplying electricity to our members? And 2) Is the rate for each class of member (residential, commercial, irrigation, etc.) fair and equitable? In 2018, a triennial cost-of-service analysis was performed by an outside consultant, The Prime Group. The Prime Group is a nationally recognized rate consultant performing “cost of service” studies for many cooperatives and municipalities.

The results of the cost of service analysis showed that, overall, the revenue REC receives through its rates is sufficient to cover the cost of supplying electricity, which answered the first question above.

The study did, however, show that there were “subsidies” between some of the rate class groups, meaning that the cost to provide electricity to some rate class groups was more than the revenue being collected from the group and vice versa; some classes had costs which collected more than the cost of electricity. In addition to this rate design disparity, within a rate class there were subsidies taking place. For example, the current rates for members who are generating electricity from a renewable resource such as solar (called “net metered” members) was not collecting the revenue needed to cover the cost of being connected to REC’s system. As a result, other members in the respective rate class group were being charged more than their fair share. Please visit the REC website for specifics on each rate class for additional information.

In order to start to correct these discrepancies, REC will implement what is termed “three-part rates” for all rate classes. What this means is that the cost of supplying electricity to members will have a customer charge, a demand charge and an energy charge. An adequate explanation of how this three-part rate will work takes more than the space for this month’s Newsboy article, so stay tuned for further articles on this change in rates. In addition to future articles, meetings will be held, REC’s radio show “Power Up” will provide information, and direct mailings will be sent out to members discussing this rate change. Much effort is in the works in an effort to ensure all members have ample opportunity to understand these changes.

One last point to reiterate is these rate changes: overall, this change is not a rate increase, but is made to reduce the subsidies between rate class groups and within rate class groups, improving the fairness of rates to all members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Email: power@slvrec.com

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

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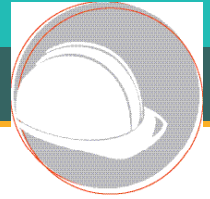
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GET SMART ABOUT ENERGY SAVINGS

“Smart” devices and appliances save time and offer convenience – but not all save energy. The guide below shows how several trendy smart home technologies stack up when it comes to energy savings.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Smart Energy Savers



- Thermostats
- Washing machines and dryers
- Dishwashers
- EV charging stations
- Pool pumps
- Air conditioners
- Light bulbs and fixtures
- Power strips



Just Smart

- Virtual assistants (like Amazon's Alexa or Apple HomeKit)
- Smart locks
- Smart alarms
- Smart video security cameras

INTERNSHIP



San Luis Valley REC will be opening a summer Engineering Intern position for a technically-oriented college student. While the position is ideally suited to a student enrolled in an engineering program, any technical curriculum will be considered.

This internship is intended to provide a learning opportunity through job shadowing and direct training, as well as contributing necessary tasks and projects for SLVREC. The position will provide real world experience in a professional environment with projects, business and experience suitable for any field or industry. Details and instructions will be available on SLVREC's website.



Co-op News

Procedure for Petitioning Onto the REC Board of Directors.

Are you interested in serving on the San Luis Valley REC Board of Directors? Members will vote on the seats for District 1, Rio Grande County, and District 7, Member at Large.

To petition on, members must complete a petition signed by 20 or more members to be considered as a candidate. All candidates, including incumbents, must submit signed petitions.

Petitions will be available by February 14 at the REC office and on the cooperative's website at www.slvrec.com under the About Us tab and then to the Annual

Meeting tab. The link will also be on our Facebook page at San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. Prospective candidates must return the petitions no later than April 29; however, to have a candidate profile featured in the April edition of the Newsboy, bios must be submitted by March 7.

If you have any additional questions please contact Human Resource Officer Michelle Trujillo at 719-852-6641.

Energy Efficiency

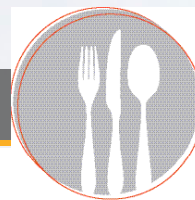


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov





RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

For the crust:

1/2 pound unsalted butter, at room temperature
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 cups flour
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

For the filling:

6 extra-large eggs at room temperature
3 cups granulated sugar
2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
(4 to 6 lemons)
1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 cup flour
Powdered sugar, for dusting

Lemon Bars

Heat the oven to 350 degrees F.

To make crust: Cream the butter and sugar in a bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until light and creamy. Add in flour and salt and mix on low until just combined. Dump the dough onto a well-floured board and gather into a ball. Flatten the dough with floured hands and press it into a 9 x 13 x 2-inch baking sheet, building up a half inch edge on all sides. Chill for at least 30 minutes. Bake crust for 15 to 20 minutes, until very lightly browned. Let cool on a wire rack. Leave the oven on.

To make filling: In a bowl, whisk the eggs, sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice, and flour. Pour mixture over crust and bake for about 30 to 35 minutes or until the filling is set. Let cool to room temperature.

Dust with powdered sugar and cut into squares.

INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons butter
1/2 onion, diced
2 ribs celery, diced
3 cloves garlic, sliced
1 pound ham, diced
1 bay leaf
1 pound dried split peas
1 quart chicken stock
2 1/2 cups water
salt and ground black pepper to taste

Split Pea and Ham Soup

Place the butter in a large soup pot over medium-low heat. Stir in onion, celery, and sliced garlic. Cook slowly until the onions are translucent but not brown, 5 to 8 minutes.

Mix in ham, bay leaf, and split peas. Pour in chicken stock and water. Stir to combine, and simmer slowly until the peas are tender and the soup is thick, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Stir occasionally. Season with salt and black pepper to serve.



Periodical Postage
Paid at Monte Vista, CO

POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

February 2019

Photo credit: Ronnie Spencer



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
The office is closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: February 26, 2019 @ 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

