

Focus on our members

Point3 Farma

Quality, integrity and value: these three words are used to explain the San Luis Valley's new 1700-acre hemp farm and processing facility, Point3 Farma.

Located in Center, Point3 is a premier supplier of CBD (cannabidiol), CBG (cannabigerol) and other cannabinoid products. Point3 was founded in 2018 by investors, entrepreneurs and farmers who believe strongly in the health and medicinal benefits of hemp. Establishing themselves in the heart of the Valley, the farm grows cannabis with less than .3 percent THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), hence the company's name.

Point3 begins with planting a high-quality seed, then follows through with a quality harvest and processing; there is full traceability through each stage. Point3 develops and cultivates the seed, harvests the plant and dries in the field. They also store, extract and process all CBD products from the biomass on-site. Product quality is controlled through each step. Point3 focuses the majority of their efforts on growing hemp for the extraction of CBD isolate and distillate.

Point3 was very selective when choosing where to launch this operation. They had specific features in mind for the area they wanted: terroir, environmental conditions, a spacious area and more. The San Luis Valley fit the bill, and according to the Point3's Facebook page, "the Valley has exceeded their expectations."

Giving back

Point3 is committed to using Valley resources, in turn giving back to the local economy; the farm has used Valley electricians, engineers, contractors, hired employees and more.



Hemp plant



Point3 Farma in Center

Courtesy Photos

Committing to an electric load of four one-megawatt transformers at the processing facility and 500 kilowatts of service near the LaGarita greenhouses, the San Luis Valley REC has benefited as well. With financial backing from Point3, the REC constructed transformers and rebuilt three miles of line to handle the company's demand.

As the hemp industry continues to grow, Point3 plans to "be able to support the needs of the largest corporate buyers, while operating under the standard business practices expected of any other industry." They will continue to make an impact, not only on those in the hemp market, but those in the Valley as well.

THIS ISSUE

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Concern for community/Rate FAQs

Loren Howard

Meet Your Co-op!/ Conservation

Recipe

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Military Parents with a Purpose



Courtesy Photos
The Military Parents with a Purpose put together 40 care packages for local troops to be sent out prior to the holidays. The packages were received with appreciation in the weeks that followed. The San Luis Valley REC is a proud supporter of this incredible project. Great job to the community of folks that organized the packages!

Frequently asked questions

Changes to our electric rates this year have resulted in a significant number of questions. We've attempted to answer some of the most common ones below.

Did the San Luis Valley REC raise electric rates to collect more revenue overall?

We expect to generate about the same amount of revenue from electric consumers this year and next year as we did last year. Although we've heard concerns from some members who saw their bills increase, there has been a roughly equal amount of savings for other members. The goal was **not** to generate more overall revenue but to more equitably share costs among members based on how and when they use power and the demands they put on the electric grid, the system of power generation, transmission and distribution that provides reliable power 24/7.

Why were demand charges introduced for residential consumers?

Electric rates with a demand component, which charges for relatively brief spikes in a member's electricity usage, have been around for a long time for farmers who irrigate and other large commercial users. But previously, the technology didn't exist to measure these spikes in usage among residential consumers.

In the last few years, the REC has changed residential members' meters. The new meters allow the REC to measure not just how much total electricity consumers use over a month but more precisely when that electricity is used.

Why is it important to measure and charge for spikes in demand?

Demand pricing more fairly shares the costs that these spikes in electricity usage place on the electric grid. It can encourage people to make simple adjustments to their electricity usage patterns to reduce overall costs to the system – and that benefits everyone.

The electric grid must have enough capacity to meet the highest spikes in demand when a lot of consumers use a lot of power at the same time. Spreading out electricity use and avoiding big spikes reduces the demands **continued on Page 5**

See FAQs



Loren Howard

Beneficial electrification

In the past couple of years, the term “beneficial electrification” has been used in many different contexts and by many different organizations. So, what is beneficial electrification? Let’s start with the obvious – electricity does many useful functions for each of us. Electricity lights our homes, directly or indirectly heats and cools our homes, provides us entertainment via TV or in the more recent past, the Internet. Electricity is also instrumental in our work whether that is a retail business, ranching or farming. In short, electricity has become crucial in almost all aspects of our lives, even more so than when REC brought electricity to the unserved in the Valley more than 80 years ago.

How much more can electricity do? I think the term beneficial electrification is meant to consider that question. Let’s talk electric vehicles. Now whether you think an electric vehicle is in your future or not, electric vehicles have become more affordable, charging stations more ubiquitous and mandates for increasing their adoption more pressing. In 2019, the Colorado legislature passed five bills relating to the increased adoption of electric vehicles. Some states have implemented requirements on the number of electric vehicles sold, though Colorado has not gone that far. While

still rather pricey, electric vehicles will be like cell phones and will, in my estimation, be a large percentage of the vehicles on the road in 10 years.

Where else will electricity supplant or replace other forms of energy use? Without delving into the recent issue regarding the change in REC’s electric rate design, heating and cooling via the use of either air source or ground source heat pumps are also prime candidates to replace natural gas or propane heating systems and existing air conditioning systems. This change will not occur until there is a significant replacement of the existing house population, but I think the future will include a trend to this type of HVAC. One of REC’s members is currently installing an advanced air source heat pump that will make these units more available in climates like exist in the Valley.

Electricity has many advantages as an energy source – multiple methods to generate it, easy to use, easy to distribute and easy to manage. Once the challenge of efficiently storing electricity is solved, electricity will be used in many ways to continue making lives more convenient, the environment cleaner and each of us more productive.

Finally, I wish for a blessed winter season for you and the REC family.

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REMINDER: 2020 SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE FAIR COMING TO SKI HI PARK ON FEB. 4-6
For more information: www.montevistachamber.org

Meet Your Co-op!

Leaves, salsa, popcorn... she does it all

From raking leaves to providing delicious homemade salsa, Erin Dowers, building and grounds maintenance, takes on a full scope of job duties for the San Luis Valley REC. Hitting her 18-year mark in December, Erin's tasks have grown and changed over the years with the advancement of the REC.

Erin came to the San Luis Valley from Oregon 20 years ago with a friend to help build a house. She then managed a hardware store's rental department in Monte Vista before joining the REC.

Over the years Erin has watched the "tiny electric cooperative" transform into the 53-employee coop it is today. Additional outbuildings and much more square footage has come with the progression, adding to her daily job description. Not to mention, the trees on the grounds have grown immensely; gathering leaves for the seventh time this fall has Erin ready to move onto the next season.

"I check the weather daily, because it dictates what I do. Like today, I've got to get the leaves up before the storm comes in," she said. No day is ever quite the same— she could be adjusting a garage door, waxing floors, changing out light bulbs or even popping kernels for "Popcorn Thursday."

Honoring employee requests are a part of what Erin does best, hence the ice-maker with "Sonic ice" in the breakroom. "Everyone has their little quirks," she said. Whether it's finding an employee a different chair, rearranging an office or adding paint to the walls, Erin does her best to oblige.

She said, "there's always plenty to keep me busy." Erin is thankful for Eileen who comes in twice a week to assist her and to Glen who helps with "lots of stuff."

Erin's helpful, giving nature is appreciated by employees and members alike.

One thing that always seems to bring a smile to her face is her sidekick Sophie. The nearly six-year-old long haired chihuahua can often be seen strolling the REC halls during holiday celebrations. "She's kind of like the REC mascot."

Sophie was rescued from the Conour Animal Shelter when she was five months old and has become a fixture in

Erin's life ever since.

Retirement is on the horizon for Erin; she plans to hang it up in five years and head back to Oregon. There her brothers have promised to build her a house, and she can spend her days walking on the beach with Sophie by her side instead of raking leaves for the eighth time.



Sophie & Erin

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov





Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 10 hard boiled egg whites, diced
- 1 avocado, mashed
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 Tbsp plain Greek yogurt
- 1/3 cup green onions, chopped
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- Pinch of sea salt
- 2 slices uncured turkey bacon, chopped

EGG WHITE AND AVOCADO SALAD

1. In a large bowl, mash avocado and add in mustard, Greek yogurt and lemon juice, mixing until smooth.
2. Stir in green onions, celery, paprika, salt and pepper and set aside.
3. Begin chopping the egg whites, discarding the yolks, and fold into the avocado mixture until completely combined.
4. Add in the turkey bacon and serve on whole wheat bread with fresh arugula, enjoy!

www.eatyourselfskinny.com

Just for fun

ENERGY SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are many ways you can help save energy in your home?

Read the energy efficiency tips below and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



O E S P W F W A T E R S Y E S
 A L L R S A E T D E I A L S R
 T E X K E J T O G H C E P X E
 L C O O G G Z E N X C N M N W
 B T B F M X R R R T B X Q K O
 G R I S M M R A R H C L I D H
 X I S Y K Y E O H X E V A F S
 I C B X X I N Y B C N A P J I
 A I G Y Z I H F H X C F T Y E
 U T U N C W U Y X Z O M B E S
 U Y Z S E M F P O R V N V T R
 R E F R I G E R A T O R H E Q
 E V J M Q S D M D F V G N Y L
 W M E O F P N T K W I H X Q I
 G N I H T O L C R L S S B R D

- Turn off **lights** any time you leave a room.
- Keep the **refrigerator** door closed to save energy.
- Wash **clothing** in cold water to reduce the load on your **water heater**.
- Unplug items that consume **electricity** even when they're not in use, like cell phone **chargers** and coffee makers. These are known as "phantom load" **electronics**.
- Take **showers** instead of baths – showers require less **water** use.

FAQS

continued from page 2

on – and the overall costs of maintaining – the power grid. Remember that users can moderate these spikes in usage. One example would be staggering when they run appliances that use a lot of power and not turning them all on at once.

Why were the rates revised again this year, starting Dec. 1?

REC members concerned that they were paying more under the new rate structure filed complaints with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. One complaint was filed by a couple dozen members and another was filed by the Town of Crestone. Earlier this year there was a preliminary hearing to discuss those complaints, but it was agreed to try mediation instead to see if an agreement could be reached without a drawn-out and potentially expensive legal process. In line with the agreement reached in the mediation process, the demand charge was significantly reduced, effective Dec. 1 and will remain at that rate until April 1, 2021.

Do you have additional questions about these issues? Email them to jalonzo@slvrec.com and we'll pick questions to answer in future editions of the Newsboy.



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Photo by Marvin Martinez



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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

ENERGY ASSISTANCE
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www.energyoutreach.org

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 28, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Application Deadlines Approaching

SCHOLARSHIPS
Feb. 6, 2020



Details at
www.slvrec.com

Youth Camp/Tour
Jan. 14, 2020

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