



POWERLINES

YOUR CO-OP MEMBER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

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The Power of Coal

Coal has played a major role in electrical production since the first power plants were built in the United States in the 1880's. Today, nine out of every 10 tons of coal mined in the United States is used to generate electricity, and more than half of the electricity used in this country is generated by coal. According to the Energy Information Administration, on average, the typical American uses about 20 pounds of coal per day (more than 7,000 pounds per year).

Here in DMEA's service territory, there are three active coal-mining operations: **Mountain Coal Company, Oxbow Mining, and Bowie**

Resources. Together they produce a combined total of over 16 million tons of coal per year. The coal mines are DMEA's largest accounts because modern mining machines require a lot of electricity and create a huge demand for power.

The North Fork coal mines, however, provide a lot more than coal. They also help fuel the economy in our communities by providing jobs and

generating tax revenue. Among the three coal mines, a total of approximately 900 miners work in the North Fork Valley. These skilled workers consume local goods and services, buy homes, and pay taxes. It is estimated that generally each dollar earned recycles 2.5 times in our local economy.

Ironically, it is not the coal mines in the North Fork that generate the electricity that DMEA members use. The coal produced in Delta County is clean-burning, high-quality, low-sulfur coal that is shipped back east where it is combined with lower quality coal mined in states such as Kentucky and Virginia to produce an energy source that

is acceptable for use across the nation.

Delta-Montrose Electric Association is one of 44 member co-ops that own **Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association**, a wholesale electric power cooperative that generates and transports electricity to its member systems throughout a 250,000 square-mile service territory across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming. Tri-State uses coal

(continued on pg. 2)



Cover photo caption: DMEA Directors Ed Marston (r) and Charles Klaseen (l) present a check in the amount of \$29,405.53 to Mountain Coal Company's General Manager, Pete Wyckoff. The check represents part of the coal mine's portion of nearly \$1 million in capital credits returned this year.

The Power of Coal

(Continued from pg. 1)

to produce 67% of the electricity generated by the G & T. Its six coal-fired generation plants are located throughout the Association's service territory. With the exception of Tri-State's newest plant, Springerville, that uses coal from the Powder River Basin in



The 600-ft. stacks at Craig Station are visible beyond a massive pile of coal that is brought in daily by dump trucks and railcars to feed Craig's three coal-fired generating units.

Wyoming, the low-sulfur coal used by each plant generally comes from nearby mines. For example, Craig Station (the largest coal-fired generating station in Colorado) uses coal from the Trapper and Colowyo mines, both of which are located within 35 miles of the plant.

On the national level, coal is used to generate more than two-thirds of the electricity that electric cooperative consumers use. Because of this, a resolution on global climate change was approved earlier this year by the **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)**, the national service organization that represents cooperative electric utilities across the nation and the consumers they serve, that included recognition and appreciation of the importance and

value of coal in the generation of electricity. The resolution expressed the co-ops' support for ongoing research and development of clean coal technologies that "improve the efficiency of electricity generation while continuing to encourage the use of coal, America's most abundant domestic energy resource."

As our nation strives for greater energy security and the development of a

range of domestic energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydrogen and biomass, coal continues to prove itself as a critical energy resource for the nation. Coal is the workhorse that gives us reliable, affordable electricity and enables DMEA and many other co-ops across the nation to "keep the lights on." (Sources: U.S. Dept. of Energy; Energy Information Administration; American Coal Foundation, and NRECA)



The Rising Cost of Wholesale Power

**I n c r e a s i n g
e n e r g y
c o s t s
a r e
o n
t h e
m i n d s
o f
m o s t**

**A m e r i c a n s
b e c a u s e
o f
s o a r i n g
g a s o l i n e
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c o s t s
f o r
o t h e r
f u e l s .** The cost to bring you reliable electric service is also on the rise. Like electric utilities across the nation, DMEA is experiencing rising wholesale power costs.

Next February, DMEA members will see an increase in their electric bills. This increase is a result of a "pass-through" increase from our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission. Tri-State's wholesale rate increase to DMEA will be effective in January, and the corresponding increase to our members will be reflected on the February electric bills. More details about the rate increase will be available as we receive them.

In November a rate hearing will be held at DMEA's headquarters office at 11925 6300 Road in Montrose to discuss how the increase will impact our co-op

members. We invite and encourage DMEA members to attend. We anticipate additional informational meetings to be scheduled and held throughout our service territory in order to communicate to our members what the source of this increase is.

Delta-Montrose Electric Association constantly looks for ways to minimize the effect of rate increases to our members. For this reason, we hold informational and educational energy events every year. On page 4 of this newsletter you will find an agenda for DMEA's upcoming **ENERGY WEEK** in October, a series of events that are designed to help DMEA members understand and manage their energy use. The Board and staff of DMEA urge you to take advantage of this opportunity and to learn how you can help by using energy more efficiently in your homes and businesses.

Alliance to Save Energy Praises DMEA's Energy Efficiency Efforts

The Alliance to Save Energy (www.ase.org), one of the world's leading organizations in the advocacy of cost-effective energy resources and policies that promote energy efficiency, has recognized DMEA's contributions to minimizing costs to energy consumers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on the global climate.



"Energy Hog, the Alliance to Save Energy's national spokessvillain, was spotted rooting around the western slope at the commencement of DMEA's 'Home Energy Makeover' contest."

"In light of your exemplary commitment to energy-efficient policies and practices, the Alliance would like to recognize the achievements of DMEA to further energy efficiency in a new publication entitled *Illustrations of Leadership and Best Practices in Energy Efficiency 2006*," wrote Kateri Callahan, Alliance to Save Energy's President.

"The purpose of the publication is to both recognize the tremendous initiatives underway to advance energy

efficiency around the world and to inspire others to follow the lead of the outstanding companies, organizations and governments that were nominated for this year's Alliance to Save Energy annual awards."

"The Alliance Board, Associates and staff applaud your efforts to advance energy efficiency and thereby improve our economy, protect our environment and enhance our national energy security, and we hope you will agree to grant the Alliance full reprinting rights to your award submission so that we might showcase your leadership."

The publication *Illustrations of Leadership and Best Practices in Energy Efficiency 2006*, will be made available on-line, according to the Alliance.

"DMEA's Board and staff are honored by this recognition and we thank DMEA's members for their participation in and support of our energy efficiency education campaigns and programs," said Dan McClendon, DMEA's General Manager.

Take the Pledge to "Change a Light"

DMEA is proud to be an ENERGY STAR® Partner working to protect the environment and help our consumers by promoting the purchase of ENERGY STAR® qualified products. You can help support this effort by going online to www.energystar.gov and adding your name to the growing number of Americans committed to saving energy by changing a light in your home to one that is ENERGY STAR® qualified. When you do, please click on "referring organization" and list Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA); your support of this pledge drive will help us expand energy efficiency programs in other areas by putting our cooperative on the map as a national ENERGY STAR® leader.

Brighten Our Communities: Buy Your ENERGY STAR® lights from Local Non-Profit Groups!

Fulfill your pledge by buying money-saving Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs from any of the local community groups participating in our "Brighten Our Communities" effort. A list of these non-profit organizations is in our lobbies and can also be found at www.dmea.com.



Did You Know...

There are many "long life" incandescent light bulbs on the market. While a "long life" bulb does last longer than a standard incandescent bulb, it still uses a lot of energy and it doesn't last as long as a CFL. A long life 60-watt incandescent bulb usually lasts for 2,000 hours, but an equivalent 13-watt ENERGY STAR® qualified CFL will last 6,000 hours or more, and use at least 2/3 less energy. ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs help you save money in energy and household costs and you won't have to buy and change bulbs as often.

(Source: www.energystar.gov)



Plug Into Renewable Energy During *Energy Week* October 5-13

You read the headlines this summer: near record oil prices, other fossil fuels becoming increasingly expensive, heat waves killing dozens of people, rolling black outs. All Americans are facing energy challenges. On the brighter side, electric cooperatives like DMEA across the nation are reminding the millions of Americans we serve that *"Together, We Have the Power to Make a Difference."*

Amp up our local power to make a difference!

DMEA invites its members to participate in one or more of the events we're sponsoring from October 5th through the 13th. We want to help the communities we serve become more energy efficient and accelerate the development and use of renewable energy technologies. Space is limited, so you must RSVP to attend. Seminars/events will be held at DMEA's Montrose facility, 11925 6300 Rd., unless otherwise indicated. Specific seminar schedules are also subject to change, so please call DMEA or go to www.dmea.com in early October for more details on the following events:

Thursday, Oct. 5
Plug Into the Sun and Wind
10 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

This seminar will provide an overview of the technological and public policy changes that are making small-scale renewable energy systems increasingly economical.

Friday, Oct. 6
Building a Brighter Future
3-5 p.m. - Location TBD

Architects, builders, contractors, developers, lenders, realtors, building officials, policy makers and other interested persons are invited to discuss the advantages of building and marketing more energy efficient homes and other buildings.

Saturday, Oct. 7
Delta County Solar Home Tour
(For details, please call 921-5072)

This tour, coordinated by **Solar Energy International** and the **American Solar Energy Society**, will showcase homes in the North Fork Valley that use solar energy to generate electricity, produce hot water for domestic use and in-floor heating, and use the sun's radiant energy for space heating. A reception follows the tour.

Tuesday, Oct. 10
BioDiesel/BioFuels Seminar
1:30-3:00 p.m.

This seminar is geared toward vehicle fleet operators and policymakers interested in using biodiesel and other renewable fuels.

Tuesday Evening
"Home Energy Savings 101"
7-8:30 p.m.

This seminar will showcase no-cost and low-cost tips for saving money this winter as well as the investments in energy efficiency that can "pay for themselves." The cost to finance energy improvements is more than offset by savings on energy bills, putting money in your pocket every month. Grant and loan opportunities for homeowners available from USDA's Rural Development will also be featured.

Wednesday, Oct. 11
"Home Energy Savings 101"
7-8:30 p.m.
Delta County Location TBD

This is a repeat session of the topics covered Tuesday evening. Mark your calendars now and call DMEA in late September for the specific Delta County seminar location.

Thursday, Oct. 12
***Energy Efficient Commercial/
Public Buildings***
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This workshop is designed for government officials, school boards, architects, engineers and building industry professionals interested in the design and construction of efficient facilities. Cost: \$95 (includes breakfast, lunch and a copy of the new LEED-NC version 2.2 rating system.) For registration details please contact Kourtne Harris: kourtne.harris@state.co.us (303) 866-2401.

Friday, Oct. 13
USDA Grant Workshop
1:30-3:30 p.m.

USDA Rural Development staff will present two one-hour seminars on USDA's **"Value-Added Producer Grant Program"** for agricultural producers and farm-based renewable energy. They will also explain the **USDA's Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (9006) Grant Program** that can fund 25% of the costs of renewable energy projects or 25% of the cost of energy efficiency projects for rural businesses.

WIN* Kevin Hayden, Paonia

home cookin'



Omelets

When you have guests at your home for breakfast, serve them individualized omelets by having each one write their name on a quart-size freezer bag. Then crack 2 eggs into each person's bag (not more than 2) shake to combine eggs. Put out a variety of ingredients such as cheeses, ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, hash browns, salsa, etc. Each guest adds prepared ingredients of choice to their bag, then shake the bag.



Make sure to get the air out of the bag and zip it up. Place bags into boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. You can usually cook 6-8 omelets in a large pot. Open the bags and the omelet will roll out easily. Be prepared for everyone to be amazed. Nice to serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake. Everyone gets involved in the process and it makes for great conversation.

- Patricia Ewen, Montrose

Alternative Baked Potatoes

Prepare potatoes for baking, puncture several times. Spray with olive oil cooking spray (Pam or any other brand), sprinkle with Grill Mates Montreal Steak seasoning. Wrap in foil and bake as usual - very yummy, flavorful potatoes.

- Bill Dunn, Cedaredge

Chocolate Trifle

- One fudge cake, baked, (but do not frost) and crumbled (reserve 1/2 cup)
- 1 large pkg. instant chocolate pudding mix, prepared as per package directions
- 1/2 cup strong brewed coffee
- 1/4 cup Kahlua



- 1 large carton whipped topping, thawed
- 6 crushed Heath bars (reserve about 1/3 of the crushed mixture, and add to reserved crumbled cake)

Use a nice clear bowl, approximately 2-quart size. A trifle bowl is, of course, ideal.

Mix coffee and Kahlua together, set aside. Make two layers in this way:

Half of cake crumbles on the bottom, then sprinkle with half coffee/Kahlua mix, half of pudding, half of cool whip. Now sprinkle all of crushed Heath bars that aren't mixed with cake crumbles evenly as possible. Next, add remaining cake crumbles, coffee/Kahlua mix, pudding, and remaining whipped topping,

garnish with reserved Heath/cake mixture crumbles.

Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving.

- Jeanie Stephenson, Eckert



Win a Small Appliance!

Find Your Name (Win* name, city) in this newsletter, or send your favorite recipe or bright idea (include your name and city) to:

**DMEA Newsletter • P.O. Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402
or email jschmalz@dmea.com**

When your name is selected, or your recipe/bright idea is used, you win a small appliance! Call 249-4572 or 874-8081.

bright ideas

To avoid tangled appliance cords, cut a 1" diameter PVC pipe in 5" lengths and spray paint them. (Larger or smaller PVC pipe can be used, depending on the cord size.) Now they can be neatly folded into the pipe and no more problems.

- Lee Reinhard, Montrose

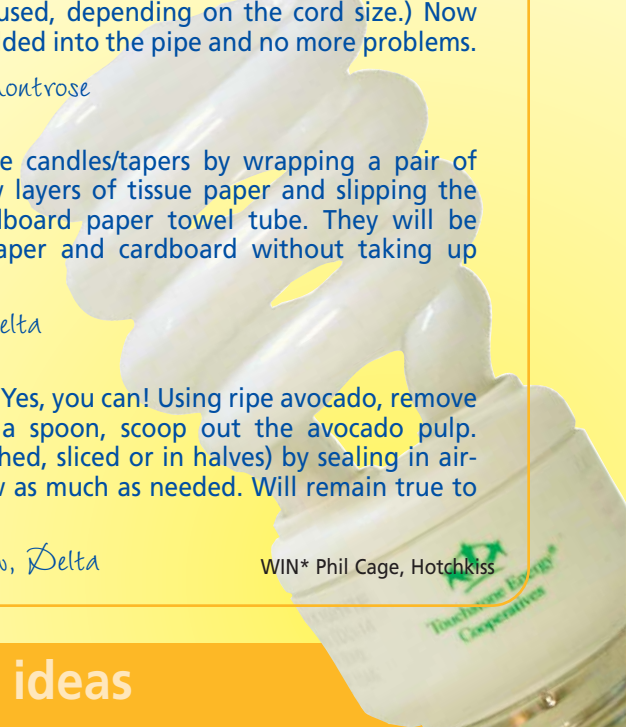
Protect your loose candles/tapers by wrapping a pair of candles in a few layers of tissue paper and slipping the package into a cardboard paper towel tube. They will be cushioned by the paper and cardboard without taking up much room.

- Shelly Trembly, Delta

Freeze avocados? Yes, you can! Using ripe avocado, remove the seed. With a spoon, scoop out the avocado pulp. Freeze avocado (mashed, sliced or in halves) by sealing in airtight container. Thaw as much as needed. Will remain true to color and taste.

- Ruby Gould Brew, Delta

WIN* Phil Cage, Hotchkiss



Investing in the Future

How DMEA, Tri-State, and Basin Electric help local students achieve their dreams of higher education

Delta-Montrose Electric Association, your member-owned rural electric cooperative, has a history of making a difference in our communities and in the lives of our members. One important way the co-op does this is through its scholarship program. This year, DMEA awarded a total of \$11,000 in scholarships from the co-op's Unclaimed Capital Credits fund (designated for educational and charitable purposes) to local students from DMEA member families. Additionally, power suppliers Tri-State Generation & Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative provided a total of \$2,000 in scholarships to local graduates.

"We appreciate the generosity and support of Tri-State and Basin Electric in helping to make college a reality for so many of our students throughout the years," said Board president Les Renfrow.

Nine of the DMEA scholarships were awarded to qualified graduates from area high schools as well as non-traditional or alternative school settings in both Delta and Montrose counties. Additionally, two scholarships went directly to the administrations of Mesa State College Montrose

Campus and the Delta-Montrose Technical College, to be awarded according to their respective criteria.

Combined, DMEA, Tri-State and Basin Electric make a powerful team, demonstrating their longstanding commitment to our communities and investing in the future.



DMEA's Board President Les Renfrow (back row, left) and DMEA general manager Dan McClendon (back row, right) with 2006 scholarship winners. Shown in the front row are (l to r) Emma Watson, Melanie Cornelius, Marci Jensen, Chelsea Lange, and John Deneen. In the back row are (l to r) DMEA Board president Les Renfrow, Kyle Barnes, Stephen Moll, Jessica Smith, Zachary Kubin, Hannah Elliott, and Dan McClendon. (Not shown are DMEA scholarship recipients Jessica Watkins and Sean Lee.)



Nursing student Carol Maestas of Montrose received the DMEA scholarship that was presented to Mesa State College Montrose Campus

this summer. "This scholarship gives me the opportunity to move forward where I had no other means to continue my education," said Carol, who is seeking her Associate of Applied Science in Nursing.

Take Advantage of Home Ownership with a Tax Saver Loan from Members Federal Credit Union

If you own your own home and are in the market for a new vehicle, you may be able to save big! A **Members Federal Credit Union Tax Saver Loan** is set up like an auto loan except your interest may be tax deductible.* In addition you can take one-tenth (1/10) of 1% off superior auto and RV loan rates offered through the Credit Union.

Home ownership = New car + Lower rate + Tax deductible interest*

IT'S A SIMPLE EQUATION THAT REALLY ADDS UP!

For more information and to apply for a Tax Saver loan, contact Katrina or Jancy at (970) 240-0481 or visit website www.members-cu.com.

*Consult your tax advisor for tax deductibility W.A.C.

WIN* John Bergman, Montrose

DMEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Paul Gottlieb, District #1; Ed Marston, District #2; Charles Klaseen, District #3; Gary Richardson, District #4; Brent Hines, District #5; Marshall Collins, District #6; Les Renfrow, District #7; Ken Norris, District #8; Nancy Hovde, District #9, At Large

BOARD MEETINGS: DMEA Board Meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend. Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times and locations.

DMEA MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 910 Montrose, CO 81402 • **WEBSITE:** WWW.DMEA.COM

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plugging into our communities