



# THE PowerLines REPORT

- 1  Rate Change
  - 2  Elevate Fiber
  - 3  Youth Leadership
  - 4  Smart Hub
- October 2016

## Rate Changes on the Horizon for 2017



Jasen Bronec, CEO

There are times when I get to talk to you about how the programs we offer can help you save money or how we're working to improve the quality of life in our communities. Then there are times like today, when I have to talk to you about the tough stuff. In this case, it's a rate increase. DMEA is proposing a rate increase of approximately 4% that will be divided between both your energy charge and your access fee (formerly called the base charge).

These increases are a result of a pass through on energy costs from our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and the continued increase in the costs of doing business. With wholesale power costs accounting for nearly 70% of our operating expenses, Tri-State's rates heavily influence our ability to hold your rates steady. Although we have been able to hold rates steady since January 2014, it is important for DMEA to increase rates incrementally, especially as we see increases in wholesale power costs.

In January 2017, we expect Tri-State to increase our wholesale power rate by as much as 6.8%—something we can't ignore. If we were to hold rates low for too long, we would be forced to introduce a large increase that would be a significant burden you, our members.

DMEA's board of directors is currently reviewing the results of a cost-of-service study to determine what changes need to be made in all rate classes. When we have the specific changes set, I'll be sure to communicate them with you through this newsletter and our local newspapers. The timeline for implementing the new rates is as follows:

**October:** Board will review proposed rate changes and determine which ones they intend to implement in the New Year.

**November:** Board will hold a rate hearing at their regular board meeting and take member comments. At this time, they will also vote on the proposed increases.

**January 2017:** New rates will take effect for all energy consumed beginning January 1, 2017.

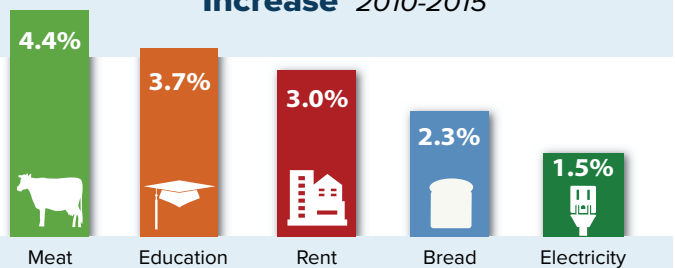
The dates for the above board meeting are not yet set, but we will post each date in advance in our offices and online at [www.dmea.com/content/agendas-minutes](http://www.dmea.com/content/agendas-minutes).

As we move into the future, we know that legislation, greater demand, alternative resources, and inflation will all play increasingly significant roles in our rates. Most projections show rates moving upward. Our goal is to keep you informed about what the co-op is facing and provide you with solutions to help manage future bill increases. This is why DMEA provides programs and services to help you improve the energy efficiency of your homes and businesses today. Changing your consumption behavior and employing efficient technologies can help us all manage future costs.

### Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

#### Average Annual Price Increase 2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

Join us for Member Appreciation Days as we celebrate what truly makes us great—you! Stop by our offices for delicious pastries, warm drinks, great conversation, and tons of door prizes.

» **Read Service office:** 10/26 | 9:00-11:00 a.m.

» **Montrose HQ:** 10/28 | 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Special event featuring the **GRAND OPENING** of our Montrose technology experience center. You won't want to miss it.



**DO  
MORE**

with Elevate internet and voice.

So much more than just an internet connection. **Do more with fiber.**

Elevate is not just backed by fiber, like some other providers claim, we are delivering a **100% fiber network** directly to your home or business.

**Delivering...**

- » the most reliable connection
- » extremely fast speeds—100 Mbps and 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps)
- » prices as low as \$49.95
- » increased property values
- » community partnerships and future sustainability

Plus, since Elevate is powered by DMEA—your local provider—you know you are getting the best from the community partner you know and trust. Get ready to do more with fiber and partner with us today by preregistering for service. **Let's take our community forward together.**

**Learn more and preregister today at [join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com), give us a call at 877-687-3632, or stop by a local DMEA office.**

[join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com) / 877-687-3632 / 

 **DMEA** / **ELEVATE**

# Manage Your Energy Use with SmartHub

These days we have apps to track our steps, monitor our bank accounts, check in on our homes, and even locate our parked cars when we can't seem to find them in the sea of Subarus at the grocery market. In fact, there seems to be an app for almost anything, including managing your energy.

As a DMEA member, you have access to your electric account 24/7 through our online account management application, SmartHub. This handy app lets you pay your bill on the go, but it also provides almost real-time information about your energy use. Bottom line, it helps you better understand how and when you use energy.



ENERGY SERVICES SUPERVISOR, PHIL ZIMMER, EXPLAINS THE HOURLY HOME ENERGY USE FEATURE ON THE SMARTHUB MOBILE APP.

By being more aware of your energy consumption, you can identify small changes that you and your family can make to save energy. You'll also be able to see spikes in your use and connect that to your life. Did you have guests? Was it unseasonably hot or cold? Did you add a new load, such as a hot tub? In some cases, these spikes can also help you identify issues with home appliances before they become emergencies.

But most of all, it puts the power in your hands. In order to reduce your electric bill, you must consume less energy. In order to consume less energy, you must make changes in your behavior, appliances, or home. DMEA's SmartHub app will give you a baseline from which to judge what changes make the most impact and the ability to monitor your progress in real-time.

## Green Chile Stew

### Home Cookin'

#### Ingredients:

- 1 large potato
- 8 ounces fresh ground beef
- kosher salt, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 teaspoons green chili powder (optional)
- 4 cups cold water
- 1/3 cup flour (might need more, depending on how much grease is in the meat)
- 3/4 cup mild green chili, preferably fresh
- 1/2 cup hot green chili, preferably fresh
- 1 1/2 cups corn, preferably cut off cob
- Grated cheese (optional)
- Sour cream (optional)

#### Directions:

Peel and cube the potato into 1/2 inch diameter pieces and set aside. In a sauté pan on medium heat, cook the ground beef and lightly sprinkle with salt and pepper. Break into serving sized pieces. Cook the green chili powder, if you are using, into the beef.

While beef cooks, place 4 cups water in a stock pot with the potatoes and bring to a boil. Cook the potatoes until fork tender; do not cook until the potatoes mash. When beef is cooked, turn off the heat. Slowly add the flour while mixing into the beef in order to make a roux. Mix the flour into the beef completely until no dry flour remains.

Once your roux is complete, add to the stockpot with the cooked potatoes. Add the green chiles, corn, 2 teaspoons salt and 2 teaspoons black pepper. Fully mix all the ingredients and place the stockpot back on the stove top. Bring up to temperature on medium heat, stirring occasionally, for approximately 30 minutes. Add cheese or sour cream, if desired.

*Recipe provided by Tocabe*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

#### Montrose Office

11925 6300 Road  
Montrose, CO 81401  
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

#### Read Office

21191 H 75 Road  
Delta, CO 81416  
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

#### Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) | 

#### Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District 1*  
Brad Harding, *District 3*  
Marshall Collins, *District 5*  
Mark Eckhart, *District 7*  
Tony Prendergast, *South*

Kyle Martinez, *District 2*  
Jim Elder, *District 4*  
Terry Brown, *District 6*  
John Gavan, *North*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly, beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call (970) 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times, and locations.

#### Recipes Info:

Submit recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:  
DMEA Newsletter  
PO Box 910  
Montrose, CO 81402  
Or email your information to [communications@dmea.com](mailto:communications@dmea.com).

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.





## 2017 Youth Programs

What's better than getting together with hundreds of your friends to learn about leadership, communication, and co-ops? How about doing so in our nation's capital? Or in the mountains outside Steamboat Springs? That's exactly what DMEA's summer youth leadership programs offer.

Open to high school sophomores and juniors, DMEA's summer youth leadership programs are weeklong adventures that will help your teen learn important leadership skills, build lifelong friendships, and have fun.

### Washington D.C. Rural Electric Youth Tour

DMEA will send one student to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour taking place June 8-15, 2017. Students will spend a week in the nation's capital witnessing government in action, shaking hands with senators and members of congress, and learning about the electric utility industry. They'll also experience history outside of the textbook when they visit the many memorials and historical monuments, including the Smithsonian Museums. To cap off the trip, more than 1,400 students will rock the night away on a dinner and dance cruise down the Potomac River.



### Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

DMEA will send up to five students to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Clark, CO, just outside Steamboat Springs taking place July 15-20, 2017. At camp, the teens will set up their very own cooperative in order to immerse themselves in the cooperative business model. They'll also visit a power plant and coal mine and participate in hands-on leadership and communication workshops – all without having to sit in a classroom!

There is plenty of time for fun and exploring too. Campers will raft the Colorado River, hike to Fish Creek Falls, and ride the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner in Steamboat Springs.

### HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 18 at the time of the program and currently enrolled as a sophomore or junior in high school. They must be dependents of a DMEA member. Download the application at [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) or have your teen visit their high school guidance counselor. Applications are due Friday, December 9. For more information contact Phil at (970) 240-1207 or [phil.sanchez@dmea.com](mailto:phil.sanchez@dmea.com).

«You're Invited»

# MEMBER appreciation DAYS

Thank you members!

Join us for Member Appreciation Days as we celebrate what truly makes us great - you! Stop by our offices for delicious pastries, warm drinks, and great conversation. Come and go as you please.

We'll be on hand to answer any questions you might have about DMEA or our new internet company, Elevate Fiber. Plus, take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for our new member experience center at the Montrose Headquarters. We hope to see you there!

**October 26**  
**9:00 - 11:00am**  
**Read Service Center**

**October 28**  
**9:00 - 11:00am**  
**Montrose Headquarters**

Stop by for yummy pastries, warm drinks, and your DMEA coffee mug. Come and go as you please. No RSVP necessary.

«Thank You»