

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO: FIVE POINTS ON POWER RELIABILITY



**Jessica Matlock, CEO at LPEA**

In the wake of February's rolling blackouts in Texas, LPEA has been fielding questions on the reliability of our power supply now and into the future. Some people blame an over-reliance on renewables as the primary cause of the Texas outages and worry that LPEA's shift to low-carbon energy will mean less reliable power in the future.

LPEA's VP of Grid Solutions, Dan Harms, penned a great op-ed on this topic, which appeared in The Durango Herald on February 27th, but I think many points bear repeating.

**ONE:** the outages in Texas were not solely the fault of renewable energy technologies. Freezing

temperatures caused issues with supply infrastructure across energy technologies including natural gas, coal, and wind.

**TWO:** the Texas scenario is very unlikely to happen here in Southwest Colorado for two primary reasons. First, unlike Colorado which uses freeze-protection devices, Texas was not prepared to deal with the impacts of freezing temperatures on its energy infrastructure. Second, Texas operates its power grid largely independently, meaning it has less options to secure back up power. Colorado is part of the Western Interconnect grid, the largest and most geographically diverse grid in North America, which helps us deal with regional events more effectively.

**THREE:** LPEA aims to reduce our carbon footprint 50% below 2018 levels by 2030 by adding more carbon-free power sources to our energy portfolio. While some of this carbon-free energy will come from traditional renewables like solar and wind, we will also continue to use dispatchable generation (resources like natural gas that can be ramped up and down as needed) to balance the intermittency of renewables.

**FOUR:** though LPEA will continue pursuing our carbon footprint goal, we will NEVER sacrifice reliability to get there. 100% renewables is simply not

feasible right now, and we have not set that as a target, because we still lack the technology to achieve it.

**FIVE:** the second part of LPEA's Strategic Goal is to achieve this carbon footprint reduction while also keeping electric rates lower than 70% of our Colorado cooperative peers. This means any future power supply options selected by the board will be less expensive than our current portfolio. Our mission remains to supply you affordable, reliable, safe, and low-carbon electricity.

Stay tuned as more develops on this front. I encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about LPEA's exploration of future power supply options to visit: [lpea.coop/powersupply](https://lpea.coop/powersupply)

*Simplify Your Spring*

De-clutter your life this spring and go paperless! Switch to paperless billing in March or April and we'll **ENTER YOU TO WIN** one of many fun prizes, including gift cards, electric outdoor equipment, and LPEA bill credits. To go paperless and win, **visit [lpea.coop/paperless](https://lpea.coop/paperless) or call us at (970) 247-5786.**



**LOOK UP**  
BEFORE YOU LIFT



**Home projects often require a ladder.**

Always carry it horizontally and look up for overhead power lines before placing and climbing it.

**STAY SAFE.**

**Safe**  
Electricity.org

## LPEA HEADLINES AT-A-GLANCE

The latest news, services, programs, and resources from LPEA. Have a question or comment? Email us at [comments@lpea.coop](mailto:comments@lpea.coop).



### BOARD MEETINGS

April 21st and May 19th

The agenda, board packet, and access/location details will be posted online in advance of the meeting. Public comments are heard at the beginning of the meeting shortly after 9 a.m. Board meetings are open to the public and live streamed.

More at: [lpea.coop/lpea-board-directors-resources](http://lpea.coop/lpea-board-directors-resources)



### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### Finance + Audit

April 15th and May 13th  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.\*

#### Broadband

April 13th and May 11th  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.\*

#### Committee on Policies

May 26th  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.\*

*\*All meetings are open to the public and live streamed.*

More at: [lpea.coop/board-directors-committees](http://lpea.coop/board-directors-committees)



### LPEA GRANTS

The Round Up Foundation Board of Directors approved **three grants totaling \$7,950** in February for Durango Trails, Ruby Sisson Memorial Library Foundation, and Merely Players.



Here's the latest news headlines from LPEA. For more details on these and other stories visit [lpea.coop/posts](http://lpea.coop/posts).

- Durango School District 9-R has been awarded up to \$328,803 to purchase and install a **fully electric school bus** and related charging infrastructure, thanks to a joint grant application by the school district and LPEA. They were one of eight grant awardees out of 38 total applicants. The 81-seat bus is expected to be operational by the fall of 2021.
- Two **bill-assistance efforts** lead by LPEA have disbursed nearly \$65,000 in funds to support more than 860 LPEA members in need.
- Durango's **first-ever electric vehicle DC fast-charging station** is coming to the Durango Transit Center parking lot by June 2021. Co-funded by the city, the Colorado Energy Office and LPEA, the station will allow up to two vehicles to charge simultaneously, delivering a full charge in approximately 20 minutes. By comparison, the Level 2 charger takes roughly four hours to deliver a full charge.
- LPEA members interested in running for a seat on the LPEA Board of Directors now have access to the **2021 Board Director Candidate Packets** on LPEA's website. Applications are due by 1 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021.

Ticket to  
**SAVINGS!**

## Outdoor Electrical Equipment and E-bike

# REBATES

25% of the price of an electric bike, snowblower, lawn mower, leaf blower, pruner, chainsaw etc. (up to \$50 - \$150 per item).

Combined maximum rebate \$300 per member per year.

More at: [lpea.coop/rebates](http://lpea.coop/rebates)



LPEA