

The Value of Electricity

When was the last time you purchased something for a penny? What does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the 2018 U.S. Mint Annual Report, it cost 2.06 cents to produce one penny.

About the only thing of value you can purchase for a penny is electricity. La Plata Electric Association, Inc. (LPEA) has an energy charge rate of 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which is 1.2 cents less than the average U.S. residential rate of 13.7 cents per kWh in 2019 according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Think about the value of electricity like this, 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity would cost LPEA members 12.5 cents, and a penny of electricity would provide 80 watts. That is enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb, the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb, for 8.9 hours, all for only a penny. Where else can you find this kind of value?

Walk into your local grocery store in Bayfield, Durango, Ignacio or Pagosa Springs and see how many eggs you can purchase for a penny? How much for a loaf of bread, a pound of bacon, meat or your favorite coffee beans? Did you know the average price of these items increased from 2009 through 2019? According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index a loaf of bread increased 2.3 percent, a pound of bacon 3.2 percent, meat 4.4 percent, and coffee at 9.2 percent. One kilowatt-hour of electricity increased by 1.5 percent nationally during this time period.

Using LPEA's 12.5 cents per kWh price, you can fully

charge your iPhone more than 14 times for a penny. That means you can charge it once every day of the year for about 25 cents total. Members can work 24 minutes on a 200-watt laptop computer or watch 2.5 hours of television using a 40 watt, 32-inch LED TV for one penny. Now that is worth a penny!

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because of our abundant use and continuous need for it. Electricity is not expensive. We use it for so many different things during our daily routines. We use electricity to light, heat and cool our homes and businesses, refrigeration and cooking of our food, cleaning, washing clothes and dishes, working inside and outside, entertainment, communications and even transportation these days around Archuleta and La Plata counties with electric vehicles.

Despite energy efficiency advancements, the average household uses more electronic devices, and needs more power to operate them every year. In fact, in 2018, the most recent year data is available, Americans spent nearly \$400 billion on electricity.

Clearly, our daily use of electricity shows no signs of slowing down even using the latest energy efficiency products. So, the next time you flip a switch, turn on your television, or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity you receive from LPEA. The LPEA Board of Directors and employees are looking out for you by working together to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

What can you get for a penny's worth of power?

- 8.9 Hours of light using a 9-watt LED lightbulb
- 24 Minutes on a 200-watt laptop computer
- 2.5 Hours of television on a 40-watt, 32-inch LED TD
- 14 Full charges of an iPhone



ELECTRIC SPACE HEATER SAFETY TIPS



Stay warm and safe using your electric space heater this winter season. Electric space heaters can help warm a room quickly. However, they can be as dangerous as convenient if used improperly.

LPEA urges everyone in the home to understand the importance of using space heaters safely:

Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and UL approved. Make sure the unit has an emergency tip-over shut-off feature and heating element guards. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Before using a space heater, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition.

Place the heater out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.

Never allow children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could cause serious shock or burns.

Visit <https://lpea.coop> for additional electric space heater safety information.



Concern for Community Making a difference in our communities



LPEA employees Aubrey Gillespie, Gayle Norman, Jeannie Bennett and Rachel Killinen hosted the 12th Annual "Fill the Bucket" food drive at the City South City Market in Durango. Members donated more than 3,590 pounds of food and \$468 in cash donations at the event in La Plata County.

La Plata Electric Association, Inc. (LPEA) employees and members recently contributed to the success of several LPEA programs supporting local organizations and making a difference in our communities.

"Fill the Bucket." LPEA personnel and the "bucket trucks" were stationed at the City Market in Pagosa Springs and South City Market in Durango on November 16th. Volunteers collected more than 5,350 pounds of nonperishable food items and \$850 in cash donations. The food and cash donations were distributed to the Community United Methodist Church Food Pantry in Archuleta County and the Durango Food Bank in La Plata County to provide assistance during the holidays.

La Plata Electric and Four Corners Broadcasting hosted the Project Merry Christmas (PMC) live radio broadcast at the LPEA headquarters on December 14th. Cooperative members stopped by and donated three truckloads of clothing, blankets, toys and more than \$1,500 in cash donations.

LPEA employees contributed \$1,600 to the PMC's Angel Giving Tree, located at their gift-wrapping station in the Durango Mall, to help children and families, senior citizens and disabled persons in La Plata County experiencing hardships in their lives during the Christmas holiday season.

LPEA hosted its Stuff the Red Kettle Green Chili Lunch at the LPEA headquarters in Durango on December 18th. More than 250 members donated \$5 each to enjoy a variety of green chili stews, tortillas, corn bread and a beverage. Employees also provided an array of homemade desserts for an additional donation. The event raised \$1,650 to assist the Salvation Army during the holiday season and support the Veterans Outreach Center in Bodo Park. Proceeds were divided evenly between the two non-profit entities.

Concern for Community. La Plata Electric employees and members share the same set of core principles and values being used to make a difference every day in Archuleta and La Plata counties.



LPEA employees collected more than 1,750 pounds of food and \$380 in cash donations at the "Fill the Bucket" event City Market in Pagosa Springs.



Members made a difference by providing clothing, blankets, toys and cash donations at this year's Project Merry Christmas event in Durango.



Sue Maxwell, Mariel Balbuena, Amanda Miles, Jeannie Bennett, Charlene Sandoval and Tiffany Quimby served lunch to more than 250 members at LPEA's Stuff the Red Kettle Green Chili Lunch.

New employees join Operations

LPEA's Operations Department has added two new employees to help better serve members. Trevor Mortensen and Trevor Bryant have joined the line crews as Apprentice Linemen in Durango.

Trevor Mortensen, born in La Jara and raised in Alamosa, has been looking forward to employment at LPEA for years and following in the footsteps of his brother Ty Mortensen, who is an LPEA Serviceman in Durango. Prior to joining LPEA, Mortensen attended Western Colorado Community College (WCCC) in Grand Junction and completed the Electric Lineworker certification program.

Born in Durango and raised in Pagosa Springs, Trevor Bryant was inspired by his father Nate Bryant, who is an LPEA Serviceman in Pagosa Springs, to pursue a career in the electric utility industry. Bryant also attended WCCC in Grand Junction earning his Electric Lineworker certification.

"We welcome both Trevor Mortensen and Trevor Bryant to our operations department in Durango," says Justin Talbot, LPEA manager of operations. "Our apprentice linemen work side by side with our lineman, learning the trade, and are responsible for overhead and underground line construction and maintenance work on electrical transmission and distribution facilities." What great individuals these two are and we are excited to have them join our team.

La Plata Electric has opportunities in many diverse roles, ranging from information technology, communications, marketing and member services, engineering and operations, and community and economic development to name a few. Visit www.lpea.coop for a list of career opportunities in Durango and Pagosa Springs.



Trevor Mortensen, Apprentice Lineman



Trevor Bryant, Apprentice Lineman

College scholarships available

All high school seniors, including home school students, who receive their electricity from LPEA are eligible to apply for the variety of college scholarship and awards available through the cooperative. Deadline for application is Monday, March 2, 2020.

LPEA directly offers the LPEA Scholarship (four-year) and LPEA/John Voelker Memorial Scholarship (two-year), per LPEA Board of Directors policies No. 411 and 416, plus provides for additional affiliated rural electric scholarships/awards offered by Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Specifically, LPEA will award two, four-year scholarships (140 credit hours) for students attending any college or university beginning with the 2020 academic year. LPEA will cover tuition, books and fees, up to \$28,000 over four years, given that the students maintain minimum qualifications.

The LPEA/John Voelker Memorial Scholarship recognizes two students attending accredited vocational schools, technical schools or junior college. This two-year scholarship covers fees, books, tools and supplies up to \$10,000 over two years, per student.

Funds for the LPEA and LPEA/John Voelker Memorial Scholarships come from LPEA's unclaimed Capital Credits. Those funds unable to be returned to members are then put back into the community – in this case, into college scholarships.

To assist high school seniors and their parents with the application process for college scholarships available through LPEA, the cooperative will host a special Open House, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at LPEA's Bodo Park headquarters (45 Stewart St., Durango). LPEA staff members will be on-hand to answer any questions. No reservations necessary and copies of all applications will be available.

For further information and to download scholarship applications, visit www.lpea.coop or contact Jeannie Bennett at (970) 382-3505, or jbennett@lpea.coop.

LIVE WIRES

Board meeting Jan. 15, 9a.m.

The next meeting of the LPEA Board of Directors is set for Wednesday, Jan. 15. The agenda will be posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at www.lpea.coop. All members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting shortly after 9 a.m. LPEA provides live streaming of the meetings. Log on to www.lpea.coop to connect via our website or other social media platforms.

Application deadlines

High school sophomores are reminded to apply for one very special youth leadership program:

- The Colorado Electric Education Institute's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

Application deadline for the youth leadership program is Friday, Jan. 24, 2020.

Round Up Grants

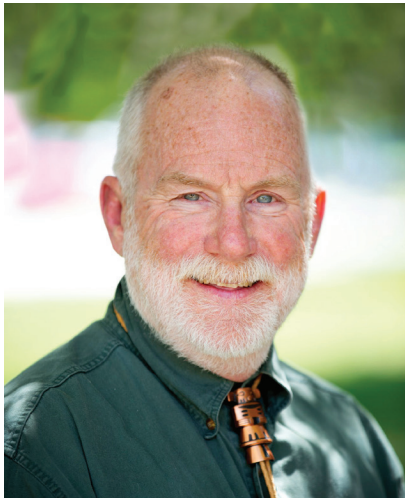
The LPEA Round Up Foundation Board awarded Round Up and Educational grants to Aspire, Boys & Girls Club, Riverview Elementary PTO and Center for Southwest Studies.

Holiday office closure

LPEA's offices in Durango and Pagosa Springs will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020 for New Year's Day and Monday, Jan. 20, 2020 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



LPEA Directors earn NRECA credentials



LPEA Director Kohler McInnis
Board Leadership Certificate



LPEA Director Holly Metzler
Credentialed Cooperative Director



LPEA Director Dan Huntington
Credentialed Cooperative Director

La Plata Electric Association, Inc. (LPEA) Board Directors Kohler McInnis, Holly Metzler and Dan Huntington recently completed the required Director Certificate Programs through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

LPEA Director Kohler McInnis, District 2-South & West La Plata County, completed two cooperative-focused board certifications from the NRECA. McInnis completed the courses required to earn both the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC).

LPEA Directors Holly Metzler, District 1-Archuleta County, and Dan Huntington, District 2-South & West La Plata County, also completed the courses required to earn their CCD Certificate by NRECA.

The CCD is a set of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership.

Director McInnis earned the BLC, the second part of NRECA's Board of Directors curriculum. The second part consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. These include issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

"I am honored to continue my professional development by completing the CCD and BLC courses offered through the NRECA," said McInnis. "This knowledge will help me in my role serving on LPEA's Board of Directors. I appreciate the trust my fellow members have placed in me."

Kohler McInnis resides in Durango with his wife Kathleen, and he was elected to the LPEA Board of Directors on May 16, 2015.

Holly Metzler lives in Pagosa Springs with her husband Kevin, and she was elected to on May 2, 2019. Dan Huntington resides in Hesperus and he was elected May 7, 2016.

"Congratulations to Kohler, Holly and Dan for completing the NRECA's Director Certificate Programs," said LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock. "LPEA is grateful for their time and dedication to serve the cooperative's membership, mission and vision. Thank you."

NRECA's Director Certificate Programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.

The NRECA offers director education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a variety of NRECA educational conferences and events across the country, in partnership with statewide associations and onsite at individual cooperatives.

LPEA

La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Mission Statement:

La Plata Electric Association provides its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

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Board of Directors:

Bob Lynch, President (District 1)
Britt Bassett, Vice President (District 3)
Guinn Unger, Secretary (District 4)
Tim Wheeler, Treasurer (District 4)
Dan Huntington (District 2)
Rachel Landis (District 3)
Joe Lewandowski (District 3)
Kohler McInnis (District 2)
Holly Metzler (District 1)
Davin Montoya (District 2)
Kirsten Skeeahan (District 1)
Jack Turner (District 4)

Chief Executive Officer:

Jessica Matlock

Social Media:

La Plata Electric Association is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

