



October is National Co-op Month.

# CNMEC Newsletter

Innovative approaches to renewables create a brighter, cleaner energy future for our local community.

## A Sustainable Future

October, 2019

Every industry is subject to trends and fads, and the energy industry is no different. So when we hear about smarter technology, changes in the way renewable energy is captured, and advances in energy efficiency, it's important to make sure we think carefully about how we can make these advances work best in our communities.

Fortunately, CNMEC is an electric cooperative. That means we're a community-focused organization working to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable, and safe energy to our consumer-members. It also means that we are led by consumers like you, who understand and listen to the community.

As a result, when it comes to utilizing cleaner sources of energy, or things like wind and cooperative solar, we're smart in our decisions. We know that there is no one-size-fits-all approach in this business: We have to do things in ways that make sense for the needs of our cooperative and the greater community.

An advantage of being an electric cooperative is that we belong to the communities we serve. So that when our members make improvements to the energy efficiency of their homes or businesses, they can go a long way toward keeping energy more reliable and affordable for everyone. We want our consumer-members to save energy (and money).

It shouldn't be any surprise that what's good for our members is good for the whole cooperative. After all, we were built by the communities we serve. At the end of the day, that difference is perhaps our greatest strength. It's also why, for our members, a little efficiency can go an awfully long way.



Matthew Collins  
CEO



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Our cooperative approach to a clean grid starts now

We are a member of an energy cooperative. Together with our power supplier, Tri-State, we are pursuing an ambitious transition to a cleaner energy supply.

## Our transition

- ① Developing a Responsible Energy Plan that provides a coordinated approach to compliance with applicable state laws and regulations pertaining to renewable energy, greenhouse gas emissions reductions and resource planning, as well as applicable federal environmental requirements.
- ② Engaging with former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter and the Center for the New Energy Economy to facilitate an advisory process that will contribute to our Responsible Energy Plan.
- ③ Creating more opportunities for our members to develop local renewable energy by increasing the types of memberships and contracts we offer.
- ④ Increasing our renewable resources, with new cost-effective wind and solar projects and a request for proposals for even more.
- ⑤ Exploring opportunities with solar and energy services providers for community-scale solar, energy storage and electric vehicle infrastructure.

## Our efforts so far

### TODAY

Tri-State, our cooperative power supplier, has 475 megawatts of utility-scale wind, solar and other renewable projects. Tri-State and member renewable projects power the equivalent of 500,000 homes. Tri-State is retiring two coal-fired generating units. Nucla Station will retire in early 2020 and Craig Station Unit 1 by the end of 2025.

### 2019

Tri-State announced their largest renewable energy projects to date: 100 megawatts of solar and 104 megawatts of wind. This will increase our collective wind and solar energy by 45%, powering an additional 75,000 homes, with more projects on the horizon.

### 2018

Nearly a third of the energy used by our cooperative consumers came from renewable energy.

### 2017

Power production began at the 75-megawatt Twin Buttes II wind farm and the 25-megawatt Alta Luna solar project. Tri-State also retired their share of the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station in New Mexico.



TRI-STATE



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