

THE CO-OP CONNECTION

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2023

WHY DO NATURAL GAS PRICES AFFECT MY ELECTRIC BILL?



Steve Johnson, CEO

One question our employees and board members have been asked frequently with the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) and rate increases is, why does natural gas affect the price of my electricity bill? Many of our members don't have natural gas servicing their homes, which can be

incredibly confusing. Here are a few of the reasons why natural gas pricing can have an impact on your monthly electricity bills.

Commodity Pricing

Our power supplier, Xcel, purchases baseload gas based on monthly predicted usage. If the demand exceeds these predictions, it can lead to a power supplier needing to purchase gas on the spot market. Purchasing gas this way can lead to large PCAs, as we saw during Winter Storm Uri in 2021. During this storm alone, natural gas prices shot up more than 300% to \$190 per 1 million BTUs. Xcel purchased natural gas during these unprecedented price spikes, which led to the \$9.78 million bill YVEA received following the storm.

What Does Xcel Use Natural Gas for?

You may not receive natural gas at your home, or you may receive gas from another provider, so the link to Xcel is tricky to understand. Many of Xcel's power plants are fueled by natural gas. When there is greater demand for these plants to produce power so members can depend on electricity to heat their homes, more natural gas is needed from either reserve or to be purchased on the open market. Xcel's energy mix includes 29% natural gas for the State of Colorado, which is why these prices impact our wholesale power bill from Xcel.

What is YVEA Doing to Help Control These Costs?

In partnership with our power supplier, we monitor storms that could impact fuel costs, similar to the 2021 storm in Texas, which led to the February Xcel Power Cost Adjustment. During a December 2022 storm, Xcel was sending us updates on the cost of natural gas. They sent us emails letting us know when prices were within the price threshold, approaching the point, or exceeding the threshold. We communicated this to our membership through Messenger emails, so members were receiving notifications as we received them from Xcel. When we receive these notices, we do our best to notify our members through email, social media, and our website. If members are not signed up to receive our emails, don't hesitate to contact Member Services for assistance by calling us at 970-879-1160.

As members may have heard, we filed a lawsuit with FERC regarding Xcel's actions during Winter Storm Uri in the hopes that we can prevent future incidents from happening. Additionally, we sought Requests for Proposals (RFP) for power suppliers to ensure we are acting in the best interest of our members when it comes to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to our entire membership.

We strongly encourage our members to contact their board members if they have additional concerns about these prices. The best part about being a part of an electric cooperative is this is a democratically run business. Members can run for board seats, vote, and make their voices heard at monthly board meetings. We welcome feedback to address questions directly with members, as we did in this column.

Steve Johnson

Chief Executive Officer



2023 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Yampa Valley Electric Association Scholarship is designed to encourage the academic achievements of the high school seniors or current undergraduate students who live in the YVEA service territory. These scholarships are funded with unclaimed capital credits.

To learn more and apply, visit www.yvea.com/scholarships.

**Application deadline
is April 5th, 2023**



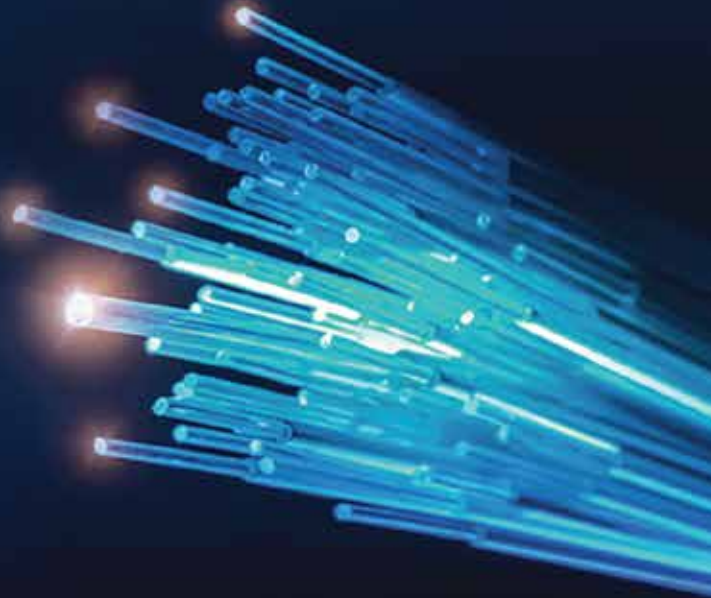
EV Ride and Drive Event

YVEA, in partnership with the City of Steamboat Springs, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, Clean Energy Economy for the Region, and Northern Colorado Clean Cities are proud to announce the next EV Ride and Drive event in Steamboat Springs May 7, 2023. Reservations are required, so sign up today!

bit.ly/EVTestRide

Fiber is more than just fast internet.

You've heard a lot of talk about Fiber Internet. Sure it's fast and reliable, but do you know its many other benefits? Here are a few things you may not know about Fiber:



Fiber is “future-proof.”

In the Internet industry, Fiber is considered a future-proof technology. In other words, Fiber provides such a fast, reliable connection that it can handle not only the data demands of today, but the demands that experts expect us to have for many years to come. It's not only the best technology for now—it will continue to be the best.



Fiber raises your home's value.

The Fiber-to-the-Home Council completed a study using a nationwide study of real estate prices and found that access to Fiber Internet increases the value of a house up to 3.1% or in some cases, particularly in rural unserved areas. Fiber improves your daily life and your long-term prospects if and when you decide to sell your home.



Fiber powers a lot more than your computer.

It used to be that we only used the Internet on our computers. Today, though, our thermostats, gaming systems, Smart TVs, refrigerators, cell phones, tablets, and—yes—computers all use an Internet connection. The world of the “Internet of things” is here, and Fiber provides enough power to keep you connected.



Fiber solves the multiuser problem.

Have you ever experienced a situation where someone is watching Netflix, you're browsing online, your kids are playing games, and all of a sudden everyone is yelling because the Internet is too slow or keeps cutting out? With Fiber Internet, those situations become a thing of the past. Fiber lets you easily stream HD video and other data-heavy applications on multiple devices at once—no more fighting over the Internet connection at home.

Fiber Internet isn't just the latest thing—it's a technology that will serve you well for years to come. We're excited to be able to bring you the same technology that is generally only available in the largest urban areas. Fiber makes a difference, today and into the future.



Luminate
BROADBAND

ANNUAL MEETING

Elections and Timeline

The best part about being a member at a co-op is your voice matters.

Our Annual Meeting and Board Elections are coming up. The districts that are up for election this year are District #2: Debbie Cook; District #3: Sasha Nelson; District #6: Tom Fox. Here is a timeline for our members to know about:

- April 28th, 2023** ▶ Members must submit their election packets to the YVEA Craig Drop Box or Steamboat office on or before April 28th, 2023.
- May 26th, 2023** ▶ Members should have received ballots, biographies, and notice of Annual Meeting. Please note that if all election seats are uncontested, ballots will not be sent out for a vote.
- June 27th, 2023** ▶ YVEA's Annual Meeting will be held at our Steamboat Campus, located at 2211 Elk River Road, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487.

For additional Annual Meeting information, please visit www.yvea.com/annual-meeting-election

Steamboat Springs Office
Monday-Friday, 7am-4pm
2211 Elk River Road
Office: 970-879-1160

Craig Office
CRAIG OFFICE CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
DUE TO A PLUMBING ISSUE.
3715 US-40
Office: 970-824-6593

www.yvea.com
To report an outage
please call:
970-879-1160





NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION DAY

Every year on April 18, we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day. It's important to recognize the hard work and dedication of our electrical lineworkers. Day and night, rain or shine, our crews are on the front lines keeping your lights on and your EV charged.

*THANK YOU TO ALL
OF OUR DEDICATED
LINEWORKERS!*





DEVILED EGGS

Are you looking for the perfect Deviled Eggs to serve at your Sunday brunch? You have to try out this recipe for eggs your guests are sure to rave about!

Ingredients

12 large eggs

¼ cup mayo

1 Tbs butter softened to room temperature

2 Tsp yellow mustard

2 tsp Dijon mustard

2 tsp sweet gherkin pickle juice

1 tsp sugar

1/8 tsp salt

1/8 tsp pepper

Dash of tabasco sauce (optional)

Paprika for sprinkling

Bacon pieces (optional)

Directions

Hard Boil the Eggs

1. Place eggs in a large saucepan and cover with water.
2. Transfer to stovetop over high heat until water begins to boil.
3. Boil for one minute, cover with a lid, and remove from heat. Allow to sit for 17 minutes and then drain and transfer to an ice bath.
4. Peel eggs and set aside.

How to Make Deviled Eggs

1. Slice eggs in half lengthwise.
2. Remove yolks and transfer to a medium sized bowl.
3. Add mayo, butter, mustards, pickle juice, sugar, salt, pepper, and Tabasco sauce. Use fork to mash well.
4. Spoon filling into each egg white. Sprinkle with paprika and bacon (if using) and serve.
5. If desired, top with a small slice of sweet gherkin pickle.