

Frequently Asked Broadband Questions

Last month, DMEA announced Phase I of its fiber-to-the-premises project, identifying South Montrose, Paonia, and Orchard City as the first areas slated to receive service. Since then, we've received a lot of questions about when to sign up, the specific boundaries of Phase I, and how much our services will cost. While we can't answer all of these questions, DMEA will remain as open about this project as we can.



DMEA's fiber-optic crew splices live communication cables, connecting three substations together for the foundation of DMEA's broadband services. This mobile workshop is a controlled environment and equipped with the necessary tools to allow fiber-optic technicians to work, day or night.

Is my location included in Phase I?

By mid-June, members in the Phase I areas will have the opportunity to begin signing up for service through a crowd-funding style website. You will be able to visit this website and enter your specific address to find out if your residence or business is located in Phase I. If it is, you will be given the option to pre-sign up for service.

What services will you offer, and how much will they cost?

DMEA plans to offer a variety of packages and pricings for residential and commercial customers. We will offer high-speed broadband internet, telephone, and television. These will be available as a bundle or as stand-alone options. You will also be able to select from a variety of speeds up to 1 GB. Package details and prices are not yet available.

How long will it take to get service after I sign up?

This will vary for each customer. We hope to be providing service to at least some customers in Phase I by the end of 2016. By choosing to move forward in a phased approach, DMEA's Board of Directors protects the cooperative and manages costs. The phased approach also requires a set amount of customers to sign up before build out can begin in each area. You may wait longer if you are located in an area where pre-sign ups are slow. We estimate it will take at least four to five years to build out our network to the entire service territory.

I'm not in Phase I. When will I get to participate?

Specific details on future phases and the corresponding locations are not available at this time. However, you are encouraged

to visit the website described earlier for up to date information. You can monitor progress and find information about build zones when they are released.

How can I help this process move forward?

DMEA's Board of Directors unanimously voted to move forward with a fiber-to-the-premises business and member support is vital to making this project successful. We encourage you to pre-sign up for service when you are able. Share your enthusiasm for our project with your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. Because, only together – cooperatively – will we light up the countryside once again!

Tuscany Cauliflower Home Cookin'

- Judy Moore, Montrose

Ingredients:

½ cup of olive oil
1 clove garlic, smashed
4 cups fresh peeled, seeded, diced tomatoes
1 head of fresh cauliflower, break into 1" florettes
½ cup boiling water
½ cup fresh chopped Italian flat leaf parsley

Heat oil in large skillet. Add the clove of garlic and allow to begin to brown. Remove garlic clove and discard.

Add tomatoes to oil, cook over medium heat, approx. 5 minutes until tomatoes begin to break down.

Add cauliflower and boiling water. Cook over medium heat, uncovered for 30 minutes until cauliflower is tender.

Season with salt and pepper to taste and top with fresh parsley. Serve warm or cold.

Recipes & Pop Quiz Info:

Submit pop quiz answers and 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.

If your recipe is published or you are announced as a pop quiz winner, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District 1*
Olen Lund, *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 4th Tuesday monthly, beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call (970) 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times, and locations.

Locations:

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



DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



THE PowerLines REPORT



1 | Member Support Appreciated



2 | DMEA's Excellence in Solar



3 | Energy Star Efficiency



4 | Broadband Right on Track

April 2016

Member Support for DMEA's Renewable Efforts Appreciated



Jasen Bronec, CEO

In mid-February, DMEA learned that its wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, filed a petition with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in reaction to a 2015 FERC ruling which stated that DMEA was required to purchase energy from local qualifying facilities regardless of provisions set forth in our contract with Tri-State.

As a result, Tri-State is now asking FERC to approve a rate penalty on utilities, like DMEA, when they purchase electricity from local renewable generation projects. Tri-State is seeking to impose a lost-revenue fee in order to recover funds that they would no longer be receiving if DMEA purchased power from a qualifying facility.

DMEA and its Board of Directors believe this action is in direct violation of the 1978 federal law called PURPA (Public Utilities Regulatory Act). If approved, Tri-State's rate penalty would make it uneconomical to purchase energy from our local generation sources, threatening the ability to develop renewable generation and the economic boost that comes with it.

The public comment period on this issue closed last month. We are now awaiting a ruling from FERC and will be sure to notify our members of the result through this newsletter and our local newspapers. In the meantime, I would like to thank all of our members who have shown support for DMEA's efforts to develop local generation resources. Undertakings such as this take a cooperative effort. We greatly appreciate the grassroots efforts of our members on this important issue. For those of you who filed a letter of support for DMEA with FERC, please know that your voice, combined with your fellow co-op members, will not go unheard.



DMEA Annual Meeting of Members

Connecting our Communities to Vital Services Since 1938

Thursday, June 16, 2016
Montrose County Friendship Hall

4:30pm - Registration & Voting Begin
5:00 - 6:30pm - Booths & Entertainment
5:30 - 6:30pm - Grilled Dinner
6:30pm - Business Meeting

Music and dinner entertainment by
Jeneve Rose Mitchell

Plus, a tribute to law enforcement by
Montrose Police Department



FREE gift

DMEA cast iron skillet for members.

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

In 2013, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution designating April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. It's our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and dedication of electrical lineworkers nationwide. At DMEA, we feel that our linemen are the backbone of our cooperative. National Lineman Appreciation Day is a time to express our utmost appreciation to the great men and women who work so hard for us every day. To honor DMEA's linemen, we invite members to take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do. Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support for the men and women who light up our lives, or take a moment to drop a card of thanks in the mail.

DMEA
c/o Thank a Lineman
P.O. Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

Above: A DMEA lineman works on a distribution line in the early morning hours near Austin, Colorado.

DMEA Recognized for Excellence in Solar

DMEA was honored this month as the 2016 Rural Electric Association (REA) Co-op Solar Partner of the Year by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (COSEIA).

COSEIA presented the award to DMEA Renewable Energy Engineer, Jim Heneghan, and recognized DMEA's groundbreaking efforts to develop locally generated renewable energy. Last year, DMEA petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) asking them to clarify issues regarding the cooperative's ability to purchase locally generated power. FERC ruled that DMEA has the responsibility to purchase power from local qualifying facilities and the right to negotiate a purchase price. This historic ruling will boost renewable energy development and the local economies within DMEA's service territory.



On behalf of DMEA, Jim Heneghan accepts the REA Solar Cooperative of the Year Award from the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association.

COSEIA also recognized DMEA for its tradition of supporting and promoting alternative energy and efficient technologies. DMEA was a trailblazer in geothermal technology and is currently one of a handful of cooperatives across that state that offers community solar and an attractive net metering program. Most recently, DMEA has partnered with Grid Alternatives and the Colorado Energy Office to develop an affordable community solar array. Low- to middle-income members will have the opportunity to buy into the array for a discounted price made possible by a grant from the Colorado Energy Office.

The award also acknowledges DMEA's philosophy of efficiency first. The co-op offers a substantial portfolio of rebates for ENERGY STAR appliances, LED lighting, motors, air-source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps, split system air conditioners, variable speed drive retrofits, and much more. Additionally, DMEA provides free walk-through energy audits for all members. The co-op's qualified energy services team will help individuals identify areas in their homes or businesses where they can reduce energy consumption and save money. For a full listing of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, visit www.dmea.com.



GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES



Your ENERGY STAR appliances are already efficient. That's why you bought them. But thanks to a choice of settings, you can reduce energy use even further.

LAUNDRY

On average, an ENERGY STAR clothes washer uses 30% less electricity and 50% less water than a conventional washer. To save even more, select a lower water temperature, such as a cold wash/cold rinse setting, and choose a lower water level for smaller loads. You will reduce your water heating costs and cut your overall water use.

The most efficient way to dry clothes is the time-tested method of line drying, but not all of us have the space or ability to do so. In fact, more than 80% of American homes have clothes dryers. Luckily, ENERGY STAR clothes dryer were recently introduced to the market. The standard models are estimated to use 20% less energy than a conventional dryer by using moisture sensors to detect when clothes are dry and automatically shutting off.

Other models also employ a heat-pump system where moisture is removed from the air during the drying process and condensed into water. The dry air is then re-circulated to continue the drying process. ENERGY STAR heat pump dryers typically consume about half as much electricity as a conventional dryer.

Regardless of your dryer's model, one of the easiest ways to save energy is by emptying your lint filter after every load. It's also recommended that you check your dryer's venting system. Lint, dust, and debris can all disrupt air flow and extend drying time. Also, drying consecutive loads of laundry allows you to reuse the heat already in your dryer from the previous load.

IN THE KITCHEN

Today, most ENERGY STAR dishwashers come with a booster heater that heats the water coming from your home's water heater. This means you can set the temperature on your home's water heater at 120 degrees to save energy without compromising the cleanliness of your dishes.

It is also a best practice to make sure you have a full load before running your dishwasher in order to make the most of your energy, water, and dish detergent. Many new ENERGY STAR dishwashers offer adjustable racks, multiple cycle options, and air-drying. All of these features lead to additional savings by allowing you to load your dishwasher more effectively, size your cycle to your dish load, and air dry your dishes.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT DMEA'S REBATES!

Refrigerator / freezer	\$30
Refrigerator / freezer disposal	\$70
Clothes washer - front load	\$40
Clothes washer - top load	\$30
Electric Clothes dryer	\$30
Clothes dryer - hybrid heat pump	\$90
Dishwasher	\$20
LED bulbs & fixtures	up to \$10 / item; max 50% of cost

NEW

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for all rebate programs are available for download at www.dmea.com. Review your application for any guidelines specific to the rebate you are applying for.

Remember: In order to be eligible to receive a rebate, you must be a DMEA member in good standing, apply within 180 days of purchasing your appliance or equipment, and provide proof of purchase with your application.

Return your completed applications to DMEA:

DMEA Rebates
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for rebate processing. Rebates \$150 or less will be credited to your account.