



# THE PowerLines REPORT

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January 2017



Jasen Bronec, CEO

## Are you there? It's DMEA, your Co-op.

Of course you are! As DMEA members, you have proven time and time again that you are active, engaged, and passionate cooperative members. You've also proven that although paper newsletters are sometimes considered outdated and obsolete, ours still plays a major role in how we communicate with you.

In fact, our last member survey showed that your preferred types of communication were this newsletter and emails. And, as we monitor the growing preregistrations for Elevate Fiber, 42% of people say they heard about Elevate through this newsletter. The next closest is learning about Elevate from a friend or family member at 25%. We can't argue with those numbers.

We'll continue to use this newsletter as a prominent way to communicate about the co-op and Elevate, but we want to make sure we're covering the topics you want to hear about and answering your questions. So, I'm asking you to tell me what questions you may have, or what topics you would like us to discuss in future issues of this newsletter.

Take a moment to fill out the card below and send it back in with your payment. Or send an email directly to [communications@dmea.com](mailto:communications@dmea.com). By doing so, you'll help us continue to make this newsletter a great resource for all members. Plus, you'll be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate to a business of your choice in our service territory.

### We want to hear from you!

Some topics I'd like to see discussed in this newsletter are:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this in with your payment or email your requests to [communications@dmea.com](mailto:communications@dmea.com). By doing so, you'll be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate to a business of your choice in DMEA's service territory. Winners will be announced in March.

# ELEVATE INTERNET



powered by DMEA—delivering the fastest internet in town.

## Project Update

Installations continue in Paonia, take a look and see what members are saying. If you live in Paonia and have not had the chance to sign up please give us a call, 877-687-3632, and we can get you connected before our crews leave the area.



*Elevate has a huge impact on our valley. These workers are working their tails off trying to get everyone hooked up.*

*- Paonia Resident*



*Elevate has been a huge boost for our business! It has made data entry and maintenance much easier. We can now show customers one on one, our online catalogs materials and products with ease.*

*- Michael, Heart of the Dragon*



## DON'T MISS OUT. Preregister For Elevate Fiber Today.

- » Enter your address at [join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com)
- » Or give us a call at 877-687-3632
- » Or stop by one of our DMEA offices to visit with our local, knowledgeable customer service representatives.

### Do you live in the Cobble Creek or Orchard City areas?

Have you preregistered for service? Now is the time. Our crews will be headed to zones Orchard City 104 and Montrose 721 (Cobble Creek) in early 2017. It is important to get on our list now to secure your spot and the \$100, limited time, installation fee. For those of you who have preregistered, be on the lookout for email communications from our team and remember you can always visit the updates page at [join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com) to check out what's going on.

## You Save. We Pay.

More than \$100,000 Funneled Back to Members in 2016

In 2016, DMEA paid back \$105,959 to members in energy efficiency rebates. Funds are up for grabs again this year. DMEA's rebate program puts cash back into members' hands for purchasing and installing energy-saving appliances and equipment.

This year's program includes incentives for the following:

- Energy Star appliances
- LED lighting
- Heating and cooling systems
- Motors and pumps

A full listing of DMEA's rebates is available online at [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) under the efficiency section. Members are encouraged to review the applications and guidelines for each rebate. While rules can vary for each rebate, all programs require that the applicant be a DMEA member, provide proof of purchase, and request the rebate within 120 days of purchase.

### Top three rebates of 2016



LED Bulbs  
**\$37,147.42**



Energy Star Appliances  
**\$24,600**



Commercial Lighting  
**\$27,484.08**



DMEA linemen replace a streetlight in Hotchkiss with an LED fixture. In 2017, DMEA will again offer rebates for street & pole lighting.



## Join us for great conversation, coffee, and food at The Morning Buzz with DMEA.

What we talk about is up to you—rates, efficiency, Elevate, or renewables—the topics are endless. DMEA and Elevate representatives will be available to answer questions.

There is no formal presentation. Come and go as you please. Whether you just swing by before work to say hi or spend time asking questions, all are welcome. Plus, we'll be pick up the tab for the coffee and pastries.

**Friday, February 17**  
**Backstreet Bagel**  
**127 N. Townsend, Montrose**  
**7:00-9:00am**

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

DMEA is conducting random customer satisfaction phone surveys throughout the year. We appreciate your help in completing these surveys, as they will help us better serve you in the future.

**Thank you for participating!**

Months of surveys: March, June, Sept., Dec.

## Reminder: New Rates in Effect

DMEA's new rates take effect this month for any electricity consumed starting January 1, 2017. For a detailed listing of rates visit [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com). If you have questions about how these rates will affect your account or ways to save energy, contact DMEA Energy Services 877-687-3632.

# Preparing for Power Outages from Winter Storms

Winter can be a beautiful time of the year with white snow and sparkling ice, but that same winter weather can also wreak havoc on communities. It can cause roads to be treacherous, schools to be closed, and sometimes power outages. Making plans now for a potential power outage can make riding out a prolonged outage safer and more comfortable. A good way to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a winter storm is to put an emergency kit together. DMEA and Safe Electricity offer the following recommendations for kit:



- Water – stock up on bottled water for consumption
- Food – have at least enough for 3 to 7 days.
- Utensils – include a non-electric can opener, cooking tools, paper plates, and plastic utensils
- Blankets, pillows, and warm clothing items
- First aid kit, medicine, and prescription drugs
- Toiletries, hygiene items, moist towelettes
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Radio and clock – use battery-operated radios and clocks.
- Telephone – keep cell phone chargers (wall, car, and/or solar) on hand and, if you have a landline, a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- Emergency numbers – keep a list of emergency telephone numbers, including the local utility company
- Cash and credit cards
- Tools – keep a set in your kit that includes duct tape, screw drivers, pliers, wrench, work gloves, safety goggles, etc.
- Toys, books, and games
- Pet-care items
- Supplies for any alternate heating methods your home may have, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove

For more information on how to prepare for a winter storm and how to keep your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Autumn Stew



## Home Cookin'

Viva Kellogg, Paonia

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups water, divided
- 1 tablespoon reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 4 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 butternut squash (about 1 pound)
- 1 15-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 15-ounce can kidney beans, undrained
- 1 15-ounce can corn, undrained, or 2 cups frozen corn

### Directions:

Heat 1/2 cup of water and soy sauce in a large pot. Add onion, bell pepper, and garlic. Cook over medium heat until onion is soft and most of the water has evaporated, about 5 minutes.

Peel squash, then cut it in half. Scoop out seeds and discard. Cut squash into 1/2-inch cubes (you should have about 4 cups). Add to cooked onions along with tomatoes, 1 cup water, oregano, chili powder, cumin, and black pepper.

Cover and simmer until squash is just tender when pierced with a fork, about 20 minutes. Add kidney beans and corn and their liquids and cook 5 minutes longer.

Source: Healthy Eating for Life to Prevent and Treat Diabetes by Patricia Bertron, R.D.; recipe by Jennifer Raymond, M.S., R.D.

**APPLY NOW!**

DMEA is accepting applications for its 2017 scholarship program. Application deadline is Friday, January 27, 2017.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### 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](http://www.dmea.com) |

### Your Board of Directors:

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

### Recipes Info:

Submit 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](mailto:communications@dmea.com).

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.