

THE PowerLines REPORT



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August 2019

Elevate Internet – Full Speed Ahead

A message from Jasen Bronec, CEO

I'm taking a breather and switching gears to something just as important, but significantly more celebratory. So, let's talk Elevate—I think it's time for an update.

Where we started:

Elevate hit the ground running in June 2016, and since then it's been full steam ahead. All because of members like you. Why? Because your story of having to accept unreliable, expensive, and abysmally slow internet speeds was all too familiar. It was the same story our forefathers heard 80 years ago when this area was being denied reliable and affordable electricity. Just like then, you, the members banded together looking for a cooperation solution, and Elevate was born. We launched it to the public on June 16, 2016 with the promise of bringing truly high-speed internet to all DMEA members.

Where we are now:

Fast forward three years and we have passed more than 16,000 homes and business with our fiber network, which means 50% of you now have access to the fastest internet speeds in Western Colorado. More than 6,000 members have taken service and are hooked to our 100% fiber network. They are enjoying an enviable experience—streaming Pandora, sending emails, and uploading their latest vacation pics all without buffering. We continue to grow, adding around 50 new customers each week. Here is quick breakdown of our success below, as of last month:

Internet customers-6,234

TV customers-434

Phone customers-1,068

Where do we offer service?

I'm so proud of the progress that our team has made to get all those members connected, but the reality is that many are still waiting for our service. That wait means that some members are still overpaying for subpar internet—frustrating to say the least. So, where do we offer service? Below are the zones that now have live service:

Cedaredge: 125, 126, **Crawford** 57 Subzone,

Delta 412 Subzone

Hotchkiss 48, **Olathe** 138, **Orchard City:** 104, 112

Paonia: 45, 47, 55, **Montrose:** 336, 415, 417, 418, 425, 426, 427,

W428 B,721, W741, 813

If your home or business is in one these zones, we're ready to get you live service in just two weeks. If you aren't sure what zone you're in, visit elevateinternet.com and search your address at the top of our site. You'll find your zone assignment, and from there, you can order live service. If you're not in a live zone, I encourage you to complete a preregistration. This will help your zone get to its preregistration goal so we can build Elevate in your neighborhood.

Where are we headed?

In 2019, we hope to surpass 7,200 customers, which will put us in an even stronger position to pursue more new zones next year. State and federal grants will continue to be a priority as we work to find the most economical way to build fiber in some of our most rural and most expensive areas. Our outreach efforts will also continue to all members encouraging them to preregister or sign up for live service.

I'm also asking for your help. The construction of Elevate's network throughout DMEA's territory is a multi-year project. Tell your friends, neighbors, and fellow business owners how important truly high-speed internet is—whether you're just looking to stream Netflix on family movie night or desperately need a good connection so you can work from home and provide for your family.

Thank you for your continued support of Elevate, a local internet company powered by local people.

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE BEST INTERNET AROUND?

ORDER SERVICE OR PREREGISTER

▶ visit elevateinternet.com

▶ call 844-386-8744

▶ stop by your local DMEA/Elevate office



SIMPLE TV



Enjoy the moment.

Relax. Take a minute. Enjoy. Elevate TV has you taken care of.

- **App-based TV.** Download the app and stream video on up to three devices at the same time, TVs, laptops, phones; you name it.
- **All the channels.** Get the channels you actually want without the junk. We have local channels, sports, news, DIY, movies, and anything else you can think of.
- **It's life-proof.** Save up to 100 DVR hours or go back up to 72-hours later to catch any show you missed.
- **So easy.** No contract. Two-year price lock. Free installation.

Locals \$29.95/mo.

Just your basic, crystal-clear, ultra-reliable local TV service with tons of extra on-demand TV & movies. No biggie.

Expanded \$84.95/mo.

Cover all your families' needs with this mix of channels, including sports, family, movies and popular networks.

Extreme \$109.95/mo.

You want it all? You'll get it with this package. It's the ultimate in entertainment, with every option and plenty to discover.

elevateinternet.com / 844-386-8744

Live service not available in all areas. Preregistration goals must be in met your zone before service can be made available. Installation is zero money down and \$10/month for 10 months or \$100 upfront. An initial 12-month contract is required. Internet service is required for TV and phone. Internet speeds are up to 1Gig. Other terms may apply.



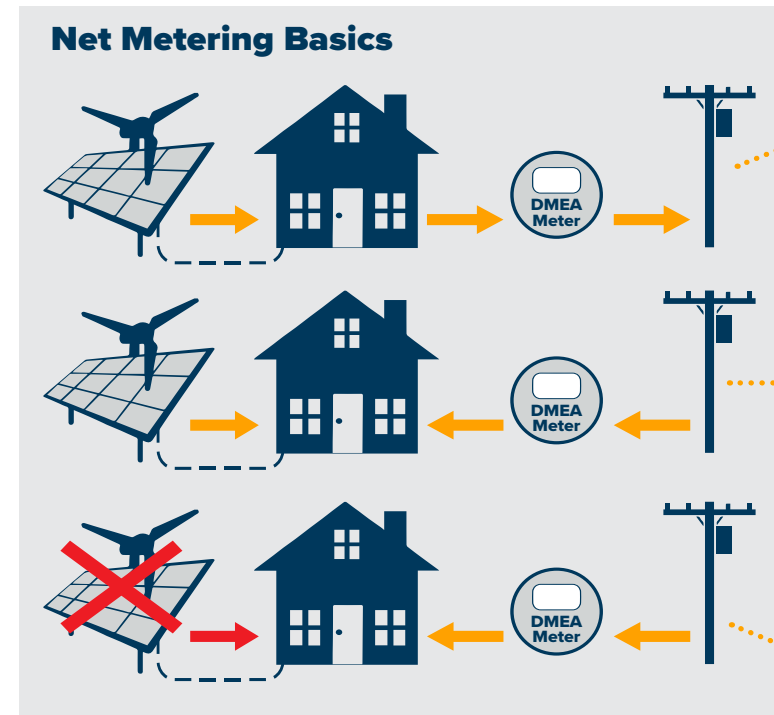
Net Metering and What it Means for You

More than 550 lucky DMEA members are generating their own renewable electricity these days through solar panels at their home or business. These types of systems are called solar photovoltaic or solar PV, and they convert the sun's rays directly into electricity to power their lights, coffee makers, televisions, and the like.

Members who have their own renewable energy system, like solar PV, are connected to DMEA's grid via a special meter—a net meter. But, what is a net meter and why is it important for members who want to generate some of their own energy?

Net Metering Basics

A traditional electric meter measures the amount of energy you consume, all of which comes from DMEA's power grid. A net meter goes one step further and it measures both the amount of electricity you consume from DMEA and the amount of electricity you put back on the grid if your renewable energy system is producing more than you're using. Let's break it down below.



EXCESS ENERGY

Your system is online and is producing more than enough energy to power your home's needs. All the extra energy flows through your net meter, which is also measuring it, and back onto DMEA's power lines so it can be consumed by another member. Since you are consuming your own energy, this means not only are you not paying for any energy to power your home, you are also banking the kilowatt hours you are putting back on the grid. This appears as accumulated net generation on your bill.

COMBINED ENERGY

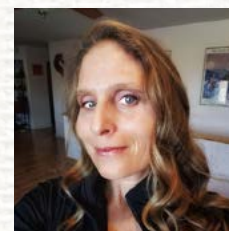
Your system is online and producing energy that your home is using immediately. However, it's not quite enough. You are also pulling power from DMEA's grid, so this time, your net meter is measuring the amount of power flowing into your home from the grid. In this case, you are consuming energy from your system and DMEA, and you'll only pay for the energy you receive from DMEA. Or, if you've banked kilowatt hours as accumulated net generation, we'll apply those credits first before billing.

DEFICIENT ENERGY

Your system is offline—perhaps it's too cloudy or you're performing maintenance. Therefore, all your energy needs must be met with energy from DMEA's grid and your net meter is measuring the amount of energy flowing into your home. Since your system is offline, you are only consuming energy from DMEA. Just like above, if you have any accumulated net generation, those will be applied to your bill first. If not, you'll be charged for the full amount of energy you consumed.

Interested in learning if solar is a right fit for you? Contact our energy services specialist, Rod Geiger, today at rod.geiger@dmea.com or 970-240-1258. We here to help you embrace renewable energy in a way that works for you.

Photo Contest Winner



Jennifer Nichols

Hi! My main job right now is maintaining my 36 acre farm, where I raise hay and gaited Rocky Mountain horses. I got into photography in order to market my horses, as well as to share the beauty of this part of the country with friends and family from all over the country. Though I feel that I'm still more of a novice behind the camera, I see improvements each year in my photography. Getting out into nature, whether on a hike or on a trail ride with my horses, helps to keep me calm and centered.

I've had such a blast going out on hikes sponsored by the Heddles Rec Center, and have seen many beautiful areas through those experiences. Fall is one of my favorite times to get out on the road, in order to explore the back roads in our area. I love pulling together cards and calendars as gifts for family and friends every year, so that I can share my travels via the images. I hope to improve enough in my photography skills over time to the point where I feel confident enough to offer sales of my prints one of these days! One of my other hobbies at the moment is making silver jewelry. This hobby has been quite a challenge for me, but fun. It also gets me away from the hard work on my farm occasionally. My farm website is www.jensrockies.com.



Setting up your DMEA Account Online


Ever wanted—or needed—to pay your DMEA bill at 8:00 p.m.? Or, perhaps you're looking to compare the past six months of your energy use so you can better understand how and when you use energy? Maybe you want a one-stop-shop where you can sign up for autopay and switch to paperless billing? The answer is DMEA's online account portal, SmartHub.

When you register your account online, you'll have access to it 24/7/365, which means you can pay your bill in a pinch and check out your billing and payment history. This information is important and gives you the upper hand if scammers call you insisting you pay or be shut off. No more wondering about your account status!

Plus, you'll also find yearly, monthly, and even hourly comparisons of your home's energy use. This data helps you identify spikes or trends in your energy consumption, giving you the information you need to better understand what behaviors you can change to start saving.

Register your account today at dmea.smarthub.coop. And, be sure to download our app on your phone, just search SmartHub (select the purple app that's pictured here). It's easy, free, and puts the power in your hands.

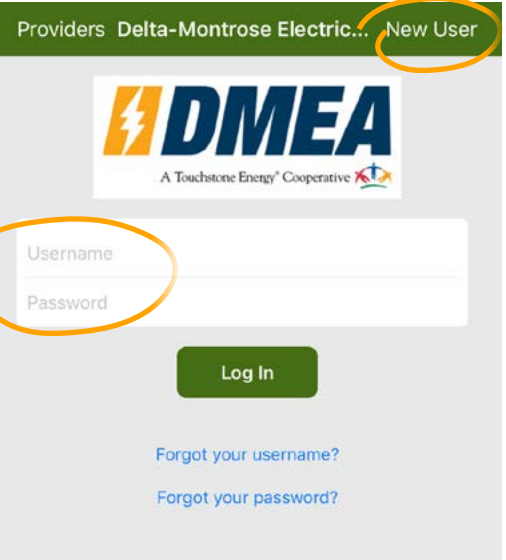
1. Download the app.




SmartHub
Productivity
★★★★☆ 227

OPEN

2. Log in or select new user 3. Pay bill or view payment history



Providers Delta-Montrose Electric... New User



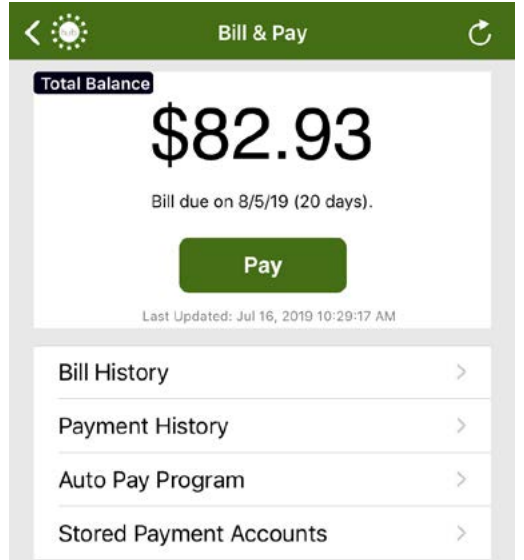
Username

Password

Log In

[Forgot your username?](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)



Bill & Pay

Total Balance

\$82.93

Bill due on 8/5/19 (20 days).

Pay

Last Updated: Jul 16, 2019 10:29:17 AM

Bill History >

Payment History >

Auto Pay Program >

Stored Payment Accounts >

Get smart before school starts



Heading back to school can be hard on a family, from the students to the parents. Try these tips for a smoother transition.

▶ **Start the day right.** Being torn from a deep sleep by a blaring alarm clock is not the way most of us want to start the day. Fortunately, there is a kinder way to wake up. Students (and adults) can wake up peacefully with an alarm light that gradually brightens the room, simulating the dawn of a new day. Nature noises, or your child's favorite wake-up music, can also be programmed to ensure they get up on the right side of the bed.

▶ **Be organized from the start.** Students taking notes is good, but often notes end up in multiple places including on scraps of paper, on their phones, and in their lockers. Not to worry. With products like Rocketbook, written notes are saved to the cloud where they can be accessed, organized, edited, and enhanced! The days of searching for notes are over.

While many would prefer an endless summer, heading back to school doesn't have to be a struggle. This year, use technology to help you conquer the back-to-school blues.

SAFE STREETS FOR STUDENTS



Since cell phone use became a mainstay of everyday life, studies of distracted behavior have become more and more common. Distracted driving, like texting and emailing, is widely recognized as dangerous behavior, and now people are starting to understand that even distracted walking poses safety concerns.

As kids begin school this fall, consider sharing the following tips and incorporating new tools to help your child travel safely.

Encourage hands-free devices. Even when walking or traveling at slow speeds, it is important for people to be aware of their surroundings. Hands-free devices, like Bluetooth headphones with a microphone, allow your child to use their phone without taking out their phone.

Install a distracted driving app. There are many apps out there (like LifeSaver) that implement safety features when a car is in motion. Some apps allow you to lock a phone when traveling at certain speeds, create custom messages, use voice controls, send notifications to parents, and more. Explore the options and find one that has the features and tools that will work for you.

Avoid the agony of notifications. Ignoring the ping of a new notification can feel like torture. Help your child avoid the temptation by encouraging them to turn off notifications when they are not in a safe place to respond. If you are worried about them not being reachable, adjust the settings on their phone so calls from emergency or starred contacts will always ring through.

Put it away. Holding your phone in your hand quickly becomes a habit. Encourage your student to get used to putting it away, either in their pocket, bag, or backseat.

There is no quick fix to this issue. Frequent check-ins with your children, and yourself, will be needed to avoid distractions and keep bad habits from taking hold.

HOME COOKING



Mock Apple Butter

Jo Taylor Martin, Hotchkiss

Ingredients:

- 4 cups zucchini puree
- 4 Tbsp vinegar
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- dash of allspice
- 2 drops red food color

Directions:

Peel, seed zucchini, and chop. Put in blender with vinegar, blend until smooth. Pour into sauce pan with all remaining ingredients. Cook, stirring occasionally until mixture reaches desired thickness. Cool and refrigerate.

Mock Raspberry Jam

Jo Taylor Martin, Hotchkiss


Ingredients:

- 5 pureed green tomato-blended
- 4 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 6 oz. raspberry jello

Directions:

Boil the green tomato puree, sugar, and lemon juice for 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Add 6 oz. raspberry jello. Mix well. Place into refrigerator or freeze.

WE'RE IN NEED OF YOUR RECIPES!
Submit your best recipe, along with your name, address and photo of your dish, to communications@dmea.com
If we print your recipe, you win a \$25 gift card.



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

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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 date, time, and location.

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.
If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1209 within 60 days.

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.