

THE PowerLines REPORT

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March 2020

Our Commitment to Affordable and Stable Rates

A message from Jasen Bronec, CEO

I've written a lot about our transition to a new power supplier, Guzman Energy, over the past year. Our main purpose for changing power suppliers is to stabilize your electric rates over the long term. But power supply isn't the only factor that impacts what you pay.

So, let's talk about controllable costs. This category of costs includes things like operations and maintenance costs, customer service, vehicles, supplies, and facility costs. Simply put, controllable costs are the expenses that your board and the staff at DMEA have the ability to control or change. Currently, DMEA's controllable costs account for approximately 21% of our overall expenses.

How does DMEA stack up when it comes to controllable costs? I'm proud to say that we do a better job than most at managing our expenses. Since 2008, DMEA has continued to maintain some of the lowest controllable expenses per consumer in the country, the state, and among all Tri-State co-ops. Across the country, DMEA's controllable costs are lower than 72% of the other 814 co-ops! Across the state, DMEA's controllable costs are lower than 73% of the other

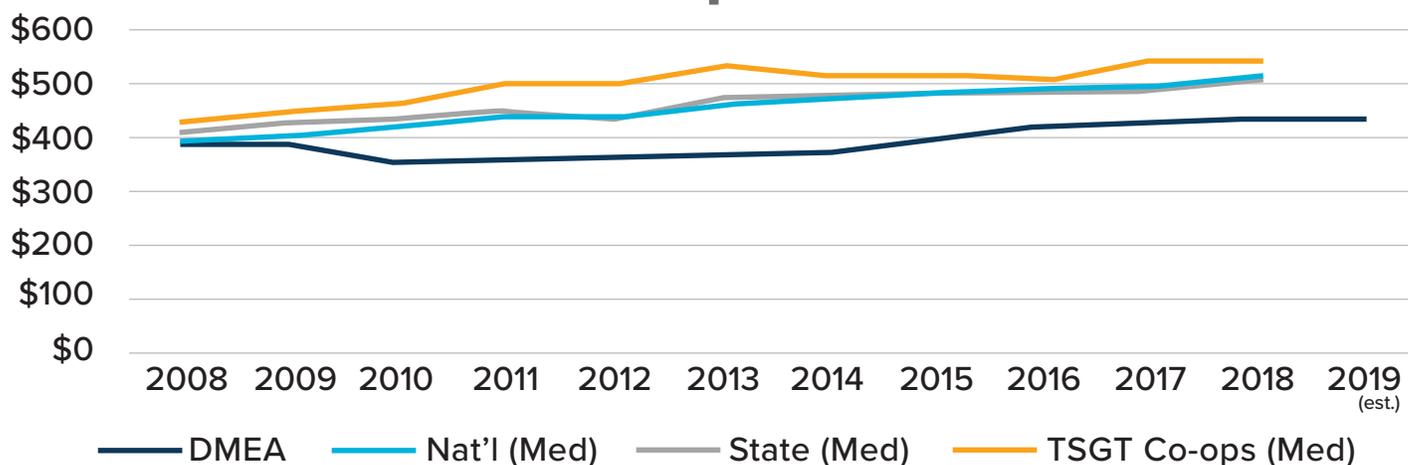
22 co-ops. And within the Tri-State cooperatives, DMEA's controllable expenses are lower than 86% of our other 42 peers.

What is one thing DMEA has done to impact our controllable costs in a good way? Dare I mention the paper statement charge? Albeit one of our more contentious decisions, it has meaningfully impacted our controllable costs. The cost of printing and mailing bills to more than 30,000 accounts each month has been escalating significantly every year.

Encouraging members to go paperless has since saved the cooperative more than \$280,000! On a side note, if you're still reading this in print and would like to save \$2 a month, please consider going paperless and reading this newsletter electronically each month.

If there is just one thing you take away from the chart below, I hope it's this: the people who walk in the door at DMEA everyday to serve you want to keep your rates steady and affordable. That's why we'll continue to both transition to Guzman Energy and keep a prudent eye on our controllable costs.

DMEA's Controllable Expense Per Customer Per Year



24/7 Bill Pay with your SmartHub account

Paying your energy bill any day, any time is simple from your SmartHub account. Follow the steps below for easy online bill pay.

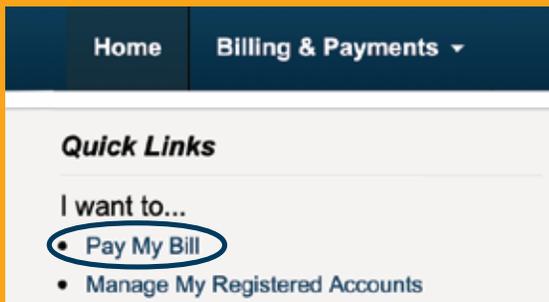
1

Visit www.dmea.com and click 'View or Pay My Bill' in the upper left corner.



2

Once you are logged in, click 'Pay My Bill' under Quick Links on the top left of your screen.



3

Select the account for the bill you want to pay

4

Type in amount you wish to pay.



Click 'Pay Now', enter payment info, and you're all set!

2020 CENSUS INFO

The next United States Census is approaching. Households will begin receiving their census invitations in mid-March.

HOW IS CENSUS DATA USED?

- Reapportions seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Redraws congressional, state, and local district boundaries
- Determines the need for new roads, hospitals, schools, and other public sector investments
- Distributes more than \$675 billion in federal funds for states and local communities
- Informs businesses of changing needs of the U.S. population

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?



The Census Bureau does not ask for a Social Security number, bank account information, or political party affiliation. The census form will not include any questions about a person's religion or citizenship status.

For more information, visit 2020census.gov.

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. 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.



Hearing every crystal-clear word on the conference call

Streaming just one more episode of 'NCIS' after a full day

Uploading final project files to the cloud

Video chatting with your kids at college

Ordering the highest-rated headphones from Amazon

Leaving your favorite new coffee shop a 5-star review

HOW DO YOU CONNECT?

WHAT'S CONNECTED IN YOUR HOME?

We all use the internet differently, whether it's for work, entertainment, or just making our lives easier. No matter how you use the internet, you need a connection that's fast and reliable.

Fast Internet | Simple TV | Reliable Home Phone

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ELEVATETM
FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

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Montrose, CO 81401
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com |    

Read Office

21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1
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Chris Hauck, District 5
Vacant, District 7
Jock Fleming, South
Kyle Martinez, District 2
Ken Watson, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, 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 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 (269)598-9386 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.

WE DO MORE

(because fast internet is a given)



If your internet company isn't giving you fast internet, they probably shouldn't be your internet company. Tell us what it would take to make you switch to Elevate - you just might be surprised.

It's a pain to switch your internet.

While we can't take away every hassle, we can make switching to Elevate just a bit easier. That's why we'll never play any pricing games, hit you with hidden fees, or charge you for your Wi-Fi router. And yeah, we might just throw in a quick family dinner too.

Get more than just internet. Get internet and a little spaghetti and meatballs while you're at it.



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Available in live service areas only. Includes 1 Gig service for the first 3 months for the price of 100 Mbps (\$49.95/mo). After 3 months, regular pricing (\$79.95/mo) applies. Subscribers may switch to 100 Mbps at any time. Installation is zero money down and \$10/mo., for 10 months or \$100 upfront. Initial 12-month contract required. Internet service is required for TV and phone. Speeds are up to 1 Gig.

Fast internet

per month

100 Mbps

\$49.95

1,000 Mbps (1 Gig)

\$49.95
for three
months

~~\$79.95~~

Simple TV

Locals (20+ channels)

\$29.95

Expanded (70+ channels)

\$84.95

Extreme (120+ channels)

\$109.95

Reliable home phone

Unlimited local & long distance

\$30.00

ELEVATE™

FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

HOME COOKING



Spicy Peanut Noodle Bowl

Erin Atkinson, Paonia



Ingredients:

2 tsp sesame oil
4 cloves garlic, chopped
1 tsp ginger, grated
1 tsp Thai curry paste
4 c vegetable broth, divided
1 can (14 oz) full fat coconut milk
1/2 c peanut butter
2 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp sweetener (maple syrup, agave, etc.)
2 limes, juiced
12 oz ramen noodles

Topping suggestions:

Favorite veggies
Thai chilis
Sesame seeds
Cilantro
Peanuts

Directions:

Sauté garlic and ginger in sesame oil on medium high heat for 1-2 minutes. Add curry paste and cook for 1 minute more. Add 3 cups of veggie broth and coconut milk. Reduce heat to low and simmer.

Whisk together remaining broth and peanut butter. Add to pot and whisk to combine. Add soy sauce, sweetener, and lime juice. Simmer on low for 5-10 minutes. Add ramen noodles before serving (review package for cooking time). Serve immediately with your favorite toppings.

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.

HOW'S YOUR PASSWORD STRENGTH?

Strong passwords are worth the hassle.



Passwords can be a pain, but they serve as the lock and key to all your digital information. Having weak passwords makes you an easy target for hackers. Here are some tips for creating stronger passwords:

- ▶ Don't use the same password for everything.
- ▶ Use a combination of at least 8 characters, including upper and lower-case letters, numbers, and symbols.
- ▶ Don't pick passwords that are easy to guess like anniversaries, phone numbers, or consecutive letters on the keyboard.
- ▶ Always use two-factor authentication when possible. This is especially true for your email accounts because your email is connected to all of your other accounts, from social media to banking institutions.
- ▶ Change your password every 90 days.
- ▶ Select harder security questions. Most people use first names, pets, or relatives, but all this information is easily found on social media profiles.
- ▶ Always log off your account if you're leaving your device lying around.
- ▶ Never log into your accounts on unsecured networks.

Have an internet safety question you'd like us to address? Send us an email: communications@dmea.com.