

# THE PowerLines REPORT

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JULY 2022

## Next Steps for the Garnet Mesa Solar Project

*Alyssa Clemens Roberts, CEO*

Many of you may be wondering what's next for the Garnet Mesa Solar Array project. In March, the Delta County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted against permitting this energy project, citing agricultural and irrigation concerns. Today, I have an update.

DMEA, Guzman Energy, and the project developer, Citra, have been working to improve the application, addressing the community's and commissioners' concerns. Together, we hosted a community open house late last month to answer member questions and listen to feedback. In addition to our open house, we met with neighboring landowners to better understand their concerns and answer questions, explicitly addressing the agricultural and irrigation questions raised at the last permitting review.

We are confident that the Garnet Mesa Solar Array is ready for a second review with the Delta County BOCC. This

additional permitting review will come at the August session on Tuesday, August 16, at 10:00 a.m.

The goal of local energy projects, like the Garnet Mesa Solar Array, is to improve service to members. Local energy projects boost our grid's resiliency and help us continue stabilizing your rates by providing affordable energy. We are confident that Garnet Mesa Solar can bridge Delta's rich agricultural heritage with a new energy future.

While today's message may not have included the finality that many of you wanted, it is a giant step in the right direction. We cannot sufficiently express our gratitude for the outpouring of community support for our efforts to create a local, renewable source of power in DMEA's service territory. Lastly, we would be remiss not to thank the Delta BOCC for reconsidering our application at next month's session.

## BENEFITS OF SOLAR POWER



### AFFORDABILITY

DMEA will purchase a portion of the energy produced by Garnet Mesa Solar at a competitive price point, helping us to continue stabilizing our members' rates.



### LONG-LASTING

The typical lifespan of solar electric facilities is 30 years, and over that time, solar plants require much less maintenance than traditional fossil-fueled plants.



### ABUNDANT SUPPLY

With an average of 300 sunny days a year in Colorado, solar panels have ample time to capture the sun's rays and transform them into electricity. They do this without gas emissions.



### MULTI-USE LAND

The Garnet Mesa Solar Array has been designed for energy and agricultural production. The land will continue to be irrigated and grazed, most likely by domestic sheep.

← → ↻ http://www.elevateinternet.com

# BIG INTERNET FOR SMALL BUDGETS

## LIFELINE & ACP INTERNET BILL ASSISTANCE

▶ Two government assistance programs are available that provide discounted internet service for eligible low-income households.

Elevate Internet participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and Lifeline, which provide discounts on internet service to qualifying consumers. Created to ensure all families have access to high-speed internet regardless of income, these programs can help reduce your internet bill by as much as \$39.25 per month. Consumers must meet income-based requirements or already participate in Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, Federal Public House Assistance, or Veterans Pension and Survivors Act.

### Elevate Internet Service

Regular Price 150 Mbps	After ACP & Lifeline
\$54.95/month	\$15.70/month

To see if you qualify, visit [nv.fcc.gov/lifeline](http://nv.fcc.gov/lifeline).

# ELEVATE™

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# GOOD MORNING

**JOIN US FOR A FREE BREAKFAST**  
Wednesday, August 17 • 8am-10am  
The Busy Corner White Kitchen, Olathe

**Spark**  
SESSIONS

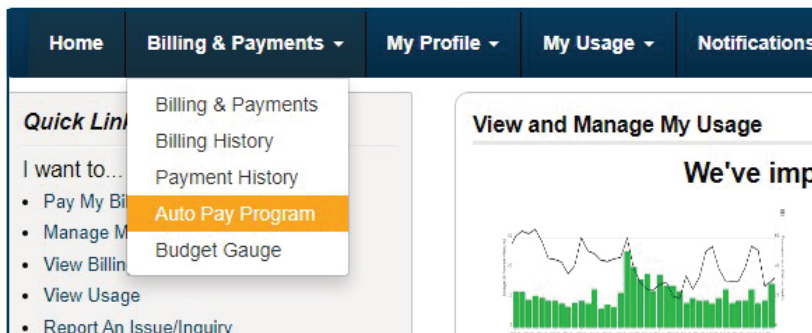
We think it's a pretty great thing to be a member-owned cooperative because your needs and interests spark change here at DMEA. So, let's chat. Drop in to our all-new Spark Sessions for free food, awesome gifts, and one-on-one time with your DMEA and Elevate staff and leadership team. There's no formal agenda and no boring PowerPoint—just a few fun hours where your co-op team listens to what you have to say!

# HOW TO SET UP **AUTO PAY**

Set up your SmartHub account today at [dmea.smarthub.coop](http://dmea.smarthub.coop).

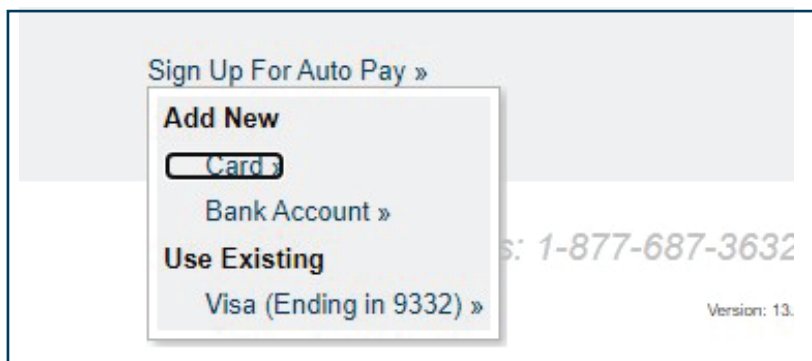
## STEP 1 SELECT AUTO PAY

Log in to your online SmartHub account. Under billing and payments, select the 'Auto Pay Program' option.



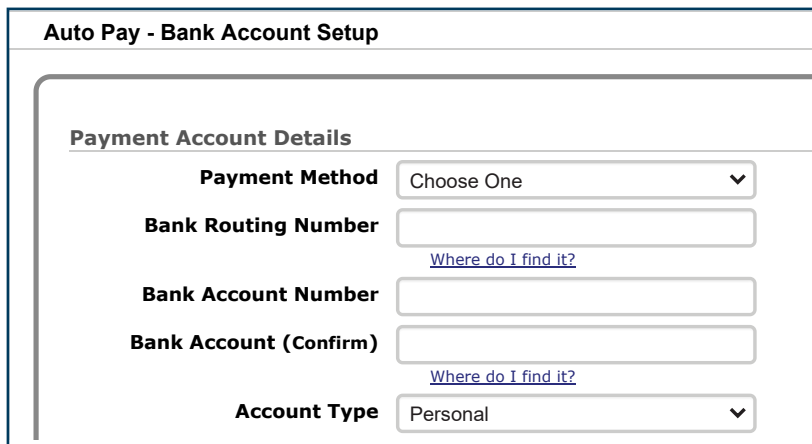
## STEP 2 CHOOSE HOW TO PAY

Under the Actions section, click 'Sign Up For Auto Pay' and choose either a new card, a bank account, or an existing card.



## STEP 3 VERIFY YOUR INFO

You will then be prompted to enter your payment account details. Verify all your information is correct and click submit. Your account is now set up for automatic payment. Payment will be withdrawn on the due date of the bill.



**Montrose Office**  
11925 6300 Road  
Montrose, CO 81401  
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm  
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

**Read Office**  
21191 H 75 Road  
Delta, CO 81416  
W; 8:00am-5:00pm

**Contact Us:**  
1-877-687-3632 | [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) |    

### Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1  
Jacob Gray, District 3  
Kevin Williams, District 5  
Enno Heuscher, 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.

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 [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](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, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.instake@usda.gov](mailto:program.instake@usda.gov).

# **DMEA** *Destinations*

Seasonal adventures,  
right in your backyard.

## COLORADO STATE PARKS

With three beautiful state parks in our service territory, there's never a shortage of places to picnic, hike, and explore!

### Paonia

#### Paonia State Park

Just east of Paonia on Hwy 133, Paonia State Park is the perfect spot to pitch a tent near a babbling stream, water ski on a mountain reservoir, and spot Colorado wildlife.

### Crawford

#### Crawford State Park

With breathtaking views of mountains and the iconic Needle Rock, Crawford State Park is the perfect backdrop for fishing, water sports, hiking, and camping!

### Delta

#### Sweitzer Lake State Park

Just minutes away from downtown Delta, this state park is a must-visit for water lovers! Picnic on the sandy shore, float the day away on your paddleboard, or enjoy catch-and-release fishing.

What's your local go-to for fun? Submit your suggestions to [communications@dmea.com](mailto:communications@dmea.com)

# FIRE PREVENTION



## ELECTRIC GRID SAFETY

### DMEA on Fire Prevention Mode

With the continued high temperatures and dry, windy weather, DMEA has put in effect its fire prevention procedures. This special mode of operations greatly reduces the risk of a fire being started by electrical equipment but does come with ramifications: **DMEA members may find that power outages last longer than under normal conditions.**

**It's especially important to report any issues or damage to DMEA immediately.**

DMEA asks members who experience an outage or observe anything that seems out of the ordinary concerning power lines or power equipment to:

- 1 Stay clear of the area in question**
- 2 Call DMEA at [877-687-3632](tel:877-687-3632) to report the situation.**

DMEA will return to normal operating procedures when the fire danger rating decreases to a safe level. Please report all outages and do not rely on others to call in. Email and social media are not reliable for reporting outages, as they are not continuously monitored.

Visit [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) for fire prevention updates.