

# WATTS & VOLTS

The Official Publication of **IREA**

May 2017

## Energy aid, road safety at Capitol

### IREA takes positions on several legislative issues

Colorado's 71st General Assembly has been busy as the legislature has spent the bulk of its time working out compromise bills to solve some of the state's largest problems.

As our state continues to grow in population, key issues that have sparked disagreement for years at the General Assembly, such as transportation funding and construction litigation reform, have reached a fever pitch this year. While transportation funding and the lack of affordable housing due to onerous builder liability laws have garnered many of the local headlines, the electric utility industry has not been completely ignored by lawmakers this session.

As we have in the past, IREA takes positions on proposed legislation that will affect our association and its members in an effort to continue to provide reliable service at a low cost. Below are descriptions of three such bills our Government Affairs staff have engaged in on behalf of our customers:

- IREA supported House Bill 17-1116, "Continue Low-Income Household Energy Assistance," from Reps. Millie Hamner (D-Dillon) and Tony Exum (D-Colorado Springs), and Sen. Beth Martinez-Humenik (R-Thornton). The bill continues funding for low-income energy assistance by the Department of Human Ser-

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## Time left for ed grant entries

### Help offset college costs with \$1,000 from IREA

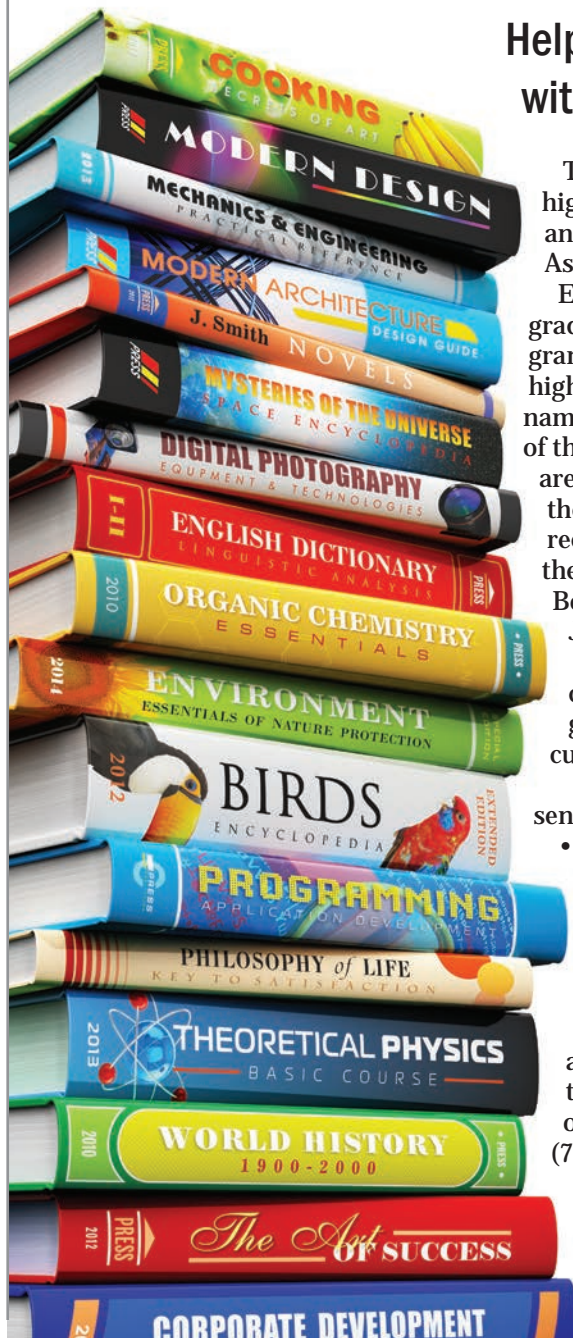
There's still time for graduating high school seniors to apply for an Intermountain Rural Electric Association Education Grant.

Each year IREA awards 21 graduating high school seniors grants of \$1,000 each toward higher education expenses. The names of three students from each of the seven IREA director districts are randomly drawn to receive the grants. Applications must be received by June 15, 2017, and the drawing will take place at the Board of Directors meeting on June 22, 2017.

To be eligible, the applicant – or applicant's parent or guardian – must be an IREA customer. The applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior in 2017;
- Submit an acceptance letter from a college, university or vocational/trade school; and
- Return a completed entry form by 5 p.m. June 15 to the IREA Sedalia office.

Applications are available at [www.IREA.coop/education-grants](http://www.IREA.coop/education-grants), or you can have one mailed to you by calling (720) 733-5478.



**NOTICE**

Date of Notice: May 1, 2017

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RATES AND REGULATIONS OF  
THE INTERMOUNTAIN RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**

You are hereby notified that The Intermountain Rural Electric Association (“the Association”) proposes to make changes to its Rates and Regulations to become effective July 20, 2017, or such later date as determined by the Association’s Board of Directors. **The proposed amendments do not increase rates.**

**PROPOSED RATE CHANGES****Non-Metered Service (F) Rate (New Rate)**

The Association proposes to adopt a Non-Metered Service (F) Rate that applies to non-residential consumers using a non-peaking load of 1000 watts or less that is not individually metered, such as a communication antenna attached to an Association distribution pole or streetlight. The rate will be based on a \$1.09/kW demand charge, \$0.08750/kWh energy charge, and \$5.00 monthly basic facilities charge.

**Lighting Schedule (L)**

The Association proposes to revise the language of the Lighting Schedule (L) Rate for security and street lighting owned, installed, and maintained by the Association.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO THE RATES AND REGULATIONS**

The proposed amendments to the Rates and Regulations are summarized as follows:

1. **Reorganized Format** – The Association proposes to merge the four existing sections (Rates, Regulations, Extension Regulations, and Administrative Regulations) into one document and reorganize the text into the following parts: Part I – General Statement, Part II – Definitions and Computation of Time, Part III – Rates, Part IV – Electric Service Regulations, Part V – Extension Regulations, and Part VI – Complaint Procedure.
2. **Complaint Procedure** – A new Complaint Procedure to replace the Administrative Regulations is proposed to establish a progressive review process for complaints regarding the rates charged by the Association, the manner in which electric service is provided, proposed changes to the Rates and Regulations, and the application of any immediate shut-off policy.
3. **Meter Tampering** – A \$200 flat fee is proposed to be charged to a consumer who reconnects a meter, breaks or removes the meter seal, or tampers with the meter without diverting any energy.
4. **Consumer Deposits** – A new or additional deposit is proposed for consumers whose use increases from the historical use at the location by more than 100%.
5. **Reconnecting Idle Meters** – An amendment is proposed to state that the Association will not reconnect a service that has been disconnected for six months or more until the consumer obtains approval from the state or county electrical inspector.
6. **Meter Testing Equipment** – An amendment is proposed to update requirements for meter testing equipment to reflect standards for technology now in use.
7. **Meter Locations** – A prohibition on placement of meters within courtyards or fenced areas is proposed to be added.
8. **Small Power Production and Cogeneration Facilities (“Qualifying Facilities”)** – A new section is proposed setting forth requirements for interconnecting Qualifying Facilities with the Association’s electric system.

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9. **Transferring Past Due Amounts** – A provision regarding the transfer of past due amounts to new or existing accounts is proposed.
10. **Removal and Relocation of Facilities** – The amendments propose to delete the provision for crediting consumers for any salvage value of removed or relocated facilities.
11. **Miscellaneous** – Minor changes are proposed regarding pole attachments, installment billing, disconnect notices to certain dwellings, wiring inspections, and joint trench use.
12. **Clerical Amendments** – The amendments propose to reorganize and consolidate provisions, delete obsolete provisions, and standardize language throughout the Rates and Regulations for clarity and ease of use.

Copies of the proposed changes to the Rates and Regulations are available online at [www.irea.coop](http://www.irea.coop) and at each of the following offices of the Association:

Main Office

5496 North U.S. Highway 85  
Sedalia, Colorado 80135

Strasburg Office

1497 Main Street  
Strasburg, Colorado 80136

Conifer Office

13404 Old U.S. Highway 285  
Conifer, Colorado 80433

Woodland Park Office

800 North Highway 67  
Woodland Park, Colorado 80863

Consumers who have questions concerning the proposed changes may call the Association at (720)733-5497. Anyone who desires to complain about the proposed changes shall file a written complaint with the Association at P.O. Drawer A, Sedalia, CO 80135-0220, at least fifteen (15) days before the proposed effective date.

The Association may hold a hearing to determine what changes will be authorized. Anyone who desires to receive notification of the hearing, if any, shall submit a written request to the Association at the above address at least ten (10) days before the proposed effective date.

/s/ Patrick B. Mooney  
Chief Executive Officer

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vices, Energy Outreach Colorado and the Colorado Energy Office for the next five years. Additional funding for the program comes through donations. For example, IREA matches donations made by our customers to Energy Outreach Colorado dollar-for-dollar, up to \$75,000 a year. For info on how to contribute to this program through your monthly bill, or make a one-time payment, go to [www.IREA.coop/community-involvement/energy-assistance/](http://www.IREA.coop/community-involvement/energy-assistance/).

- IREA opposed Senate Bill 145, “Electric Utility Distribution Grid Resource Acquisition Plan,” by Sen. Steve Fenberg (D-Boulder) and Rep. Mike Foote (D-Lafayette). This bill would have required utilities to submit a proposal for approval by the Public Utilities Commission to integrate distributed

energy resources, such as rooftop solar and battery storage, into their plans to acquire new infrastructure as part of new electrical grid architecture. Cooperative utilities like IREA voted years ago to entrust elected boards of directors to make such decisions on behalf of the members who elected them, and are not currently required to seek approval from the PUC to make these decisions. This bill would have changed the way Colorado’s cooperative utilities’ members choose to operate their own co-ops. The bill also would have required utilities to procure an indeterminate amount of solar resources using ratepayer money. We are pleased that the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Fenberg, recognized the problems the bill would have caused and asked that the Senate Agriculture

Committee postpone it indefinitely. The bill died by unanimous vote.

- IREA also supported Senate Bill 229, “Penalties When Passing Stationary Vehicles,” from Sen. Chris Holbert (R-Parker) and Reps. Polly Lawrence (R-Roxborough) and Diane Mitsch Bush (D-Steamboat Springs). The bill adds public utility service vehicles to the list of vehicles that drivers must take additional care when passing on roadways. Commonly referred to as the “move over” law, it increases penalties if death or bodily harm is caused by a driver not following the law.

For more information about Intermountain Rural Electric Association’s legislative advocacy efforts, visit [www.IREA.coop/community-involvement/political-advocacy/](http://www.IREA.coop/community-involvement/political-advocacy/).

# IREA sets record straight on solar interconnections

IREA has received in the past several months an increasing number of customer calls relating to issues with solar installers and providers. Many of these customers have been given erroneous and misleading information regarding IREA's policies and positions on rooftop solar installations.

We would like our customers to know IREA accepts applications for all interconnection types – including solar, wind, biomass, hydropower, recycled energy and hydrogen fuel – provided they meet the criteria set forth in our Small Generation Interconnection Procedure or Qualifying Facility Large Generator Interconnection Procedure, both of which can be found at [www.IREA.coop/rates-policies/generation-interconnections](http://www.IREA.coop/rates-policies/generation-interconnections).

It is important for anyone considering rooftop solar to know the following:

- IREA does not require a contract with any rooftop solar vendor for solar panel installation within our service territory. We accept any and all interconnection applications that meet the criteria listed in our aforementioned SGIP or LGIP.

- Though we have a list of solar installers with which we have worked and currently work [see sidebar], IREA does not prefer or recommend one vendor or provider over another, and we will work with installers with whom we have not previously worked. We have no referral agreements with any individual solar installers, nor do we have a “preferred” company for this type of service.

- IREA does not and cannot prohibit any solar providers from installing their products in our service territory. A representative from a rooftop solar vendor who makes statements to the contrary is misleading the customer. Customers have reported that some solar installers either blame IREA for their own company's business decisions or misunderstand IREA's position. There are sever-

The following solar providers have installed systems in our service territory. Customers are not limited to vendors on this list, however, as IREA accepts any and all applications.

#### ARE Solar

(720) 334-1928, [www.aresolar.com](http://www.aresolar.com)

#### Bestway

(719) 213-1279, [www.bestwaymech.com](http://www.bestwaymech.com)

#### Buglet Solar

(303) 903-9119, [www.bugletsolar.com](http://www.bugletsolar.com)

#### CCS Solar

(303) 570-5404, [www.ccs-solar.com](http://www.ccs-solar.com)

#### City Electric

(720) 328-5795, [www.cityelectriccolorado.com](http://www.cityelectriccolorado.com)

#### Complete Energy Solution

(720) 670-6164, [www.densolar.com](http://www.densolar.com)

#### Ecomark Solar

(720) 998-6505, [www.ecomarksolar.com](http://www.ecomarksolar.com)

#### Endurance Solar

(720) 536-5297

#### Golden Solar

(303) 955-6332, [www.goldensolar.net](http://www.goldensolar.net)

#### Photon Brothers

(813) 442-3000, [www.photonbrothers.com](http://www.photonbrothers.com)

#### Solar Power Pros

(303) 250-0682, [www.solarpowerpros.net](http://www.solarpowerpros.net)

#### Solar Side Up

(303) 271-0656, [www.solarsideup.com](http://www.solarsideup.com)

#### SolarCity

(888) 765-2489 Ext. 58624, [www.solarcity.com](http://www.solarcity.com)

#### Stellar Energy Contractors

(303) 483-5661, [www.energy-contractors.com](http://www.energy-contractors.com)

#### Suntegrity

(720) 809-1229

#### Sunlight Solar Energy

(719) 663-0300, [www.sunlightsolar.com](http://www.sunlightsolar.com)

#### Sunrun

(303) 704-8241, [www.sunrun.com](http://www.sunrun.com)



al vendors who do install rooftop solar systems for IREA customers, and IREA willingly works with those vendors.

- We recommend that customers contact more than one provider when researching or pricing rooftop solar installations. A list of solar providers in your area can be found at [www.cleaneenergyauthority.com/solar-installers](http://www.cleaneenergyauthority.com/solar-installers).

IREA urges customers interested in

rooftop solar to contact us at (303) 688-3100, Ext. 5302, to request an information packet that includes a cover letter, list of required documents, interconnection agreement and rules and regulations. More information, including answers to frequently asked questions about generation interconnections, can be found at [www.IREA.coop/rates-policies/generation-interconnections](http://www.IREA.coop/rates-policies/generation-interconnections).