

Bright idea

**Upgrade to LED,
let IREA recycle your
old holiday lights**

IREA will again collect unwanted holiday lights for recycling and energy assistance for low-income Coloradans.

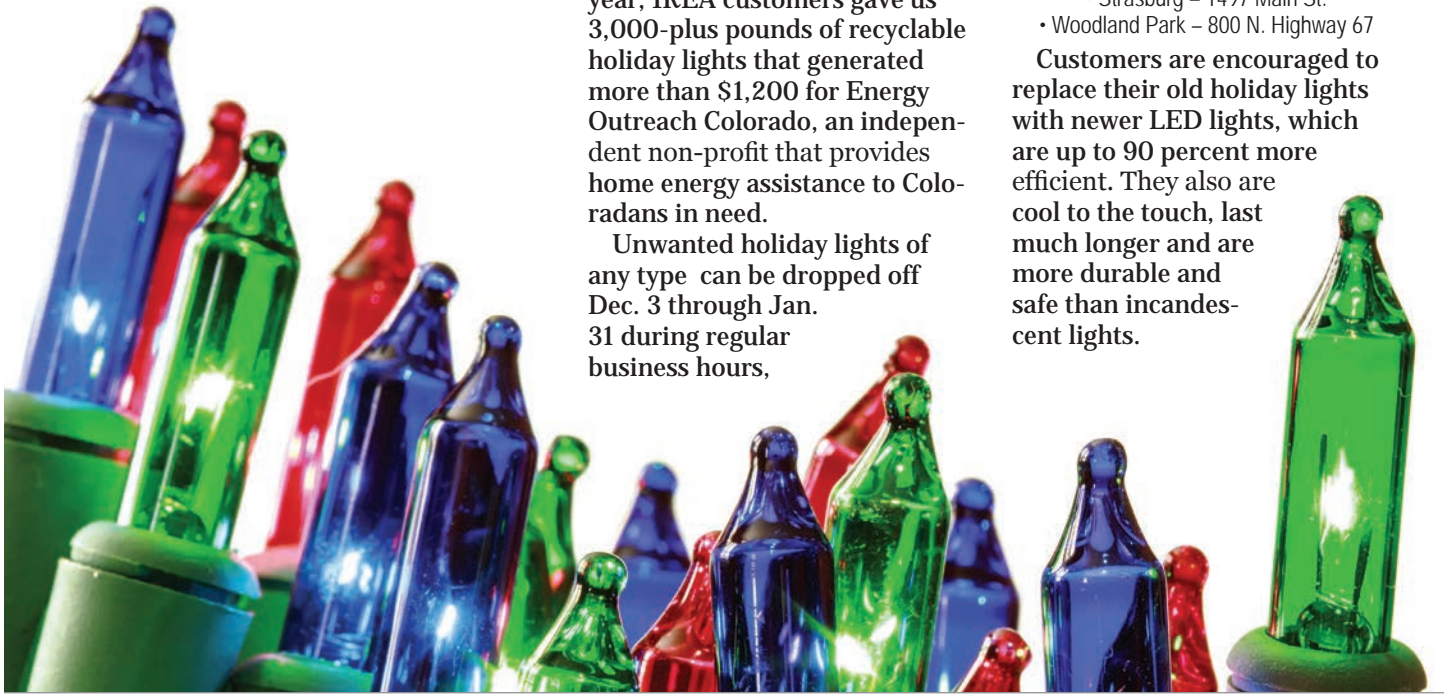
In the program's inaugural year, IREA customers gave us 3,000-plus pounds of recyclable holiday lights that generated more than \$1,200 for Energy Outreach Colorado, an independent non-profit that provides home energy assistance to Coloradans in need.

Unwanted holiday lights of any type can be dropped off Dec. 3 through Jan. 31 during regular business hours,

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, in designated lobby bins at any of IREA's four offices:

- Conifer – 13404 Old U.S. Highway 285
- Sedalia – 5496 N. U.S. Highway 85
- Strasburg – 1497 Main St.
- Woodland Park – 800 N. Highway 67

Customers are encouraged to replace their old holiday lights with newer LED lights, which are up to 90 percent more efficient. They also are cool to the touch, last much longer and are more durable and safe than incandescent lights.



Board proposes revenue-neutral rate changes

IREA's Board of Directors has authorized the publication of a notice of proposed changes to the Association's rates and regulations.

The principal changes include an increase from \$10 to \$12.50 in the monthly residential service charge and reductions in energy charges that will offset that \$2.50 increase for the average customer. Many customers will see lower monthly bills, while others might see a small increase of no more than \$2.50 per month. IREA's monthly service charge will still be one of the lowest – if not the lowest – such charges among

Colorado electric cooperatives. We also plan to reduce disconnect and reconnect fees for customers with new AMI meters, which by the end of 2020 will include all IREA customers.

Changes to rates also will provide commercial and other large power customers options that can reduce their costs, depending on their load profiles. The net effect of the changes will reduce by about \$1.5 million the revenue IREA collects from customers under current rates.

Formal notice of the proposed changes to the rates and regulations can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Notice of proposed amendments to the rates and regulations of IREA

You are hereby notified that The Intermountain Rural Electric Association (“the Association”) proposes to make changes to its Rates and Regulations to become effective February 1, 2019, or such later date as determined by the Association’s Board of Directors.

The revenue collected by the Association is expected to decrease as a result of the proposed rate changes, although individual residential consumers will see either a decrease or increase in monthly charges depending upon their usage. Proposed changes include an increase to the basic monthly service charge on residential accounts with a corresponding decrease to the energy rate. Certain non-residential consumers will have the option to switch to a three-part demand rate class, which may decrease their bills depending on their usage.

PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

The Association proposes to make the following changes to the Rates:

Increase the residential basic service charge from \$10.00 to \$12.50 per month and decrease the energy rates for **Residential Service (A)** from \$0.123100 to \$0.12052 and **Residential Incorporated City or Town Service (CS)** from \$0.11317 to \$0.11004.

Adopt a **Small General Service – 1 Phase (SG1)** rate for single-phase, non-residential consumers that consists of a \$21.00 basic service charge, \$8.54/kW demand charge, and \$0.06363/kWh energy charge.

Adopt a **Small General Service – 3 Phase (SG3)** rate for three-phase, non-residential consumers that consists of a \$30.00 basic service charge, \$11.65/kW demand charge, and \$0.06363/kWh energy charge.

Adopt a **Large Power Service (LPS)** rate for three-phase, non-residential consumers that consists of an \$86.60 basic service charge, \$13.25/kW demand charge, and \$0.06000/kWh energy charge.

Offer the **Commercial Service (E1), Commercial Service (E3), and Large Power Service (FP)** rates only to consumers on those rates as of February 1, 2019, or a later date determined by the Board.

Adopt a **Transmission Wheeling Service (TWS)** rate for the wholesale transmission of energy consisting of a \$0.27/kW contract demand charge, \$0.00016/kWh wheeled energy charge, and 1.50% loss factor.

Increase the **Work Request Design Fee (Residential)** to \$200 and decrease the **Same Day Connection, Same Day After-Hours, Reconnection, and Reconnection After-Hours Fees** for Consumers whose meters can be remotely connected or reconnected.

PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENTS

The Association proposes amendments to the Regulations

that would:

1. Adopt standards for the removal of idle electric facilities.
2. Align the Rates and Regulations with the Association’s Restated Bylaws.
3. Clarify language regarding eminent domain.
4. Change from May to April the month to credit consumer-generators for excess generation.
5. Specify that the Association’s payment processing fees shall not exceed actual transaction costs.
6. Decrease fees for remote meter connection and reconnection.
7. Impose a surcharge when a consumer’s power factor is less than 95% and establish that the Association may disconnect service if a consumer’s facilities deviate from the power quality standards set by the Association.
8. Clarify the requirements for and cost of design fees for service extensions.
9. Revise language to reflect the Association’s current business practices and accommodate new organizational business practices.

Copies of the proposed changes to the Rates and Regulations are available online at www.irea.coop and at each of the following offices of the Association:

Sedalia

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

Strasburg

1497 Main Street
Strasburg, Colorado 80136

Conifer

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

Woodland Park

800 North Highway 67
Woodland Park, Colorado 80863

Consumers who have questions concerning the proposed changes may call the Association at (720)733 5497. Association consumers may file written complaints by addressing them to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer and delivering them to 5496 N. U.S. HWY 85, Sedalia, CO 80135 at least thirty (30) days before the proposed effective date.

Dated this 1st day of November, 2018

/s/ Patrick B. Mooney
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Directors election set for April

Intermountain Rural Electric Association will hold an election for four (4) seats on the Board of Directors in 2019. The seats for districts 1, 2, 4 and 6 will be voted on by customers of the Association within those districts in 2019.

Ballots will be mailed by March 14 to customers within districts with contested elections. Customers may vote by mail. Ballots must be received by the party conducting the election no later than 5 p.m. Friday, April 12, 2019, or may be cast in-person at the IREA annual meeting, which will be

held at IREA headquarters, 5496 N. U.S. Highway 85, Sedalia, Colorado, at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 2019. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Customers interested in becoming a candidate for the Board of Directors must submit a written nomination petition signed by at least fifteen (15) members of the Association between Jan. 13 and Feb. 27, 2019. The petition must designate the name of the nominee, district and term for which he or she is nominated.

Reminder: IREA payment address is changing

As discussed in last month's publication, IREA is contracting with a payment processor to handle mail payments. This move will allow us to avoid investing in new equipment to handle a diminishing number of check payments and will save labor costs. Customers who mail their monthly bill payments will soon send them to a central payment processor outside the state.

The new payment address will be in

Carol Stream, Illinois, and will appear on the payment remittance portion of each printed monthly bill beginning later this year. Customers who use the provided envelope and those who pay electronically (thank you) will do nothing different when sending their payment. Those who opt to hand-address their own envelope, however, must do so with the new address. Customers who use third-party billers to pay their

IREA bill may need to update IREA's mailing address with their bank or other third party biller. We expect the payment address change to be implemented by the end of this year.

Additional information on how to remit payment can be found on www.IREA.coop. A full list of payment options, including free electronic options, can also be found at www.IREA.coop/payment-options.

AMI initial deployment to begin in December

IREA will begin installing new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) on approximately 1,000 residences in mid-December.

This initial deployment is the first step in the implementation of IREA's AMI system, which is expected to be fully deployed by the end of 2020. This first phase will be used to test and refine our installation process, system communications, functionality data collection and other features prior to larger scale installation phases scheduled for 2019 and 2020.

The first set of installations will occur in the Castle Rock area. Customers receiving new meters under this initial deployment will be notified in writing by IREA in advance, and, upon installation, will receive door hangers with more information.

AMI empowers customers

- AMI will give you expanded control, increased flexibility and additional choices in how you manage your energy usage and energy efficiency.
- AMI can give you access to energy usage and cost on monthly, daily and hourly bases through an online customer portal. Near real-time data means never being surprised by your monthly bill.
- AMI will open the door for cost-saving programs, time-

of-use rates and customer pre-payment plans.

AMI provides efficiency

- AMI will allow IREA to read meters remotely, saving time and reducing expenses and emissions each month.
- AMI will enable remote connect and disconnect so customers don't have to wait for a scheduled appointment to start, stop or transfer service.
- AMI will facilitate real-time troubleshooting so IREA can quickly determine the location and cause of outages, allowing us to reroute and restore power faster.

AMI strengthens reliability

- AMI will allow IREA to better monitor voltage levels to improve power quality and reduce the number of spikes, blinks and shortages.
- AMI will give IREA better data about the health of our distribution system, identifying problem areas so we can better target our capital spending for maximum benefit and reduce outages.
- AMI will allow IREA to better identify power theft.
- AMI will allow IREA to better manage additional customer-sited renewable energy generation.

For more information about the AMI project, visit www.IREA.coop/AMI.

Youth Tour applications available on IREA.coop

High school juniors and seniors are invited to apply for participation in the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour sponsored by IREA, the Colorado Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Three students will be selected to participate next summer in the weeklong tour of our nation's capital. All travel, lodging and meals will be covered, so selected students will need additional money only if they wish to purchase souvenirs.

The tour is planned for June 13-20, 2019, and begins with tours of Tri-State Generation and Transmission in Westminster and the State Capitol in Denver, then Washington, D.C., where participants will visit prominent D.C. landmarks and meet with elected officials to learn more about the modern role of electric cooperatives.

Applicants must complete an online application – available at www.IREA.coop – and submit either a written essay or original video describing their hobbies, extracurricular activities, volunteer work and what they hope to gain from participating in the tour. Applicants must also:

- Be a junior or senior in high school as of the 2018/2019 academic year;
- Be 16, 17 or 18 years of age as of Jan. 1, 2019;
- And have a parent or legal guardian who is an IREA customer.

Applications are due no later than Jan. 11, 2019. Visit www.IREA.coop/youth-tour for more information or to download an application.



Sign up for Auto Pay for shot at free Nest

IREA is offering customers enrolled in our Auto Pay program a chance to win a free smart thermostat.

Any IREA customer enrolled in our Auto Pay program is eligible to win one of 10 third-generation Nest Learning Thermostats. Customers already enrolled in the program are eligible automatically. Customers not yet enrolled must do so by Dec. 31.

More information about the Nest Learning Thermostat and its many features can be found at www.Nest.com.

In addition to the chance for a free Nest, our Auto Pay program offers ease and efficiency, and is a free service. The amount due is automatically deducted from a checking or savings account of your choice on the due date noted on your monthly bill. You won't have to write a check, use a stamp or initiate electronic payment. For

eBill customers who enroll in Auto Pay, the "Pay My Bill" button will be replaced with the date your payment is scheduled.

You can enroll in Auto Pay right now by visiting www.IREA.coop and logging into My Account. Enrollment typically is processed within five business days. You also can enroll via www.IREA.coop/payment-options or by calling our Consumer

Services department between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday at (800) 332-9540.

If you are unsure whether you already are enrolled in Automatic Payment, check the payment portion of your most recently monthly bill. If "automatic payment" is listed on your bill stub, you already are enrolled.

Winners of the Nest Learning Thermostats will be randomly selected and notified in January. Only one thermostat may be won per IREA membership.



Coat drive ends Nov. 30

Only a few weeks remain to donate winter coats as part of this year's Coats for Colorado drive.

Donors can bring gently used or new coats to any IREA office through Nov. 30. Last year IREA customers donated more than 500 coats to help keep fellow Coloradans warm.

Coats for Colorado is a non-profit, volunteer-based partnership among Dependable Cleaners, United Way and 9 News and is one of the biggest such drives in the U.S. The drive has provided some 2

million coats to Colorado residents since 1982 through its assistance to more than 140 non-profit health and human service agencies.

Coat donations can be made during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at any of IREA's four offices.

Though all sizes are needed and appreciated, children's coats and extra-large coats for both men and women are especially needed. Rain boots, rain coats, snow boots, ski pants, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves are not accepted.