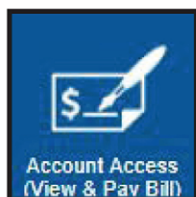




# [Echoes of the Empire]

*Energy Experts Working for You*

## Empire's Billing and Payment Options



Are you looking for a convenient way to manage all aspects of your electric account? Manage your electric account 24/7 by computer, tablet, or smartphone with a free online service at [www.eea.coop](http://www.eea.coop).

You can make a payment, check your electric usage, view your account summary and billing history, as well as set up automatic payments or opt for a paperless bill.

You can set up your email address and complete your registration online by adding your personalized password.



Sign up to have your payment **AUTOMATICALLY DEDUCTED** from your checking account, savings account or credit card. Once set up, the payments will be recurring and you will be charged automatically every month on the bill due date.

### Mailing Address:

Empire Electric Association  
P. O. Box K  
Cortez, CO 81321



The Budget Billing Plan provides members the option to pay the same dollar amount each month, helping to spread the typically higher bills during colder months throughout the year. The Budget Billing amount is based on the previous 12 months usage. The account is reconciled annually based on the actual usage during the Budget Billing year.



Empire's drive-thru at  
801 N. Broadway  
Cortez, CO 81321

Empire Electric Office  
801 N. Broadway  
Cortez, CO 81321



Pay-by-phone allows you to make a payment without giving your personal information to a live person. This new payment method is quick, easy and totally secure. Members can now make payments 24/7 by calling 970-565-4444 or 800-709-3726. Enter your Empire account number found on your billing statement and enter your payment method. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Debit, Credit or Check.



## FEBRUARY CO-OP PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

*Sunrise Over  
Mesa Verde  
by Nikki Hartman*



## CO-OP CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY 2 –**  
**Groundhog Day**

**FEBRUARY 9 –**  
The February 9 meeting of the EEA Board of Directors will begin at 8:30 a.m. at EEA headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at [www.eea.coop](http://www.eea.coop). All members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting.

**FEBRUARY 14 –**  
**Valentine's Day**

**FEBRUARY 15 –**  
Scholarship application deadline: Empire Electric provides scholarships from unclaimed patronage capital credits.

**FEBRUARY 19 –**  
**Presidents Day**

## WHAT IT TAKES TO RESTORE POWER AFTER A STORM

The severity of storms, damage and power outages can be somewhat unpredictable, but you have control over your preparation and safety knowledge. In addition to emergency supplies and preparedness measures, it helps to understand what it will take to restore your power.

Energy workers must first locate and assess the damage, which includes monitoring safety hazards. Those include downed wires and poles. The time it takes to get power back on will vary depending on the extent of damage. When equipment is damaged, workers make sure electricity is off for your safety until repairs are completed. They also attempt to first restore power to critical facilities such as hospitals, fire stations and other essential services.

Once damage is assessed and safety measures enacted, crews can begin making repairs. Substations and large transmission lines may also need to be repaired to restore power. Although you may not see workers in your area, be assured they are working on problems that need to be fixed to get your power restored.

When repairs to sections of the energy

grid are completed, lineworkers begin restoring power to individual homes and buildings. If you notice that a neighbor's power is back before yours, your home or business might be served by a different section of the system that is still being repaired.

With severe storms, you may have damage to your outside electrical equipment. It is important to know what equipment you own and are responsible for repairing so you are ready to have power reconnected when workers are in the area.

Electrical equipment that belongs to the homeowner includes a weather head, the metal piping or conduit with lines that connect to the energy company's lines, and the metal box that holds the utility's meter in place. If any of this equipment is damaged, the utility cannot restore power until a professional makes the repairs.

Severe storms can be unfortunate and devastating, but by knowing what it will take and what your role is, you and your power provider will have your electricity safely restored as quickly as possible.



## MY CO-OP ADVANTAGE

### Congratulations 2018 Youth Tour and Leadership Camp Winners!



Scottie Sword from Mancos HS was selected to represent Empire Electric at the NRECA Washington, D.C. Youth Tour in June.



One student from each participating school was selected to attend the Colorado Electric Educational Institute's Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs in July. The 2018 Leadership Camp winners are.....



Kale Hall  
Montezuma-Cortez HS



Madilyn Hankins  
Dove Creek HS



Britton Brewer  
Monticello HS



Emily Cole  
Mancos HS



### NEW INFORMATIONAL VIDEO AVAILABLE

If you ever considered becoming a lineman or wondered what a lineman's day is like, watch the new linemen video on our home page at [www.eea.coop](http://www.eea.coop). Several videos are available to learn more about your co-op membership and other programs and services offered by the co-op. A YouTube link at the top of the home page is an easy way to view them.



Refrigerators



Dishwashers

### Water Heaters



Washers & Dryers



LED Bulbs

### Rebates will continue through 2018! Freezers

Download an application at [www.eea.coop](http://www.eea.coop)  
Complete and submit within 120 days of purchase.

### Scholarships can help you reach your goals!

Hurry!

The deadline is  
February 15

EEA provides scholarships from unclaimed patronage capital credits for graduating high school seniors and adults continuing their education.

Applications are available online at [www.eea.coop](http://www.eea.coop), at the high school counselors' offices, or at the main office, 801 N. Broadway, Cortez.

**Empire Electric Association, Inc.**  
801 N. Broadway  
Cortez, CO 81321  
970-565-4444 or 800-709-3726

### Submit your 2 favorite photos for 2019 Empire Electric's Annual Photo Contest



### CONTEST RULES



- Empire Electric Association members only.
- Maximum 2 photos per membership.
- Photo must be taken in EEA service territory.
- Photo must be landscape orientation.
- Photos can be submitted at [www.eea.coop](http://www.eea.coop) (up to 10 MB).
- Must have the original size resolution.
- Photos of individuals require a release form, available at [www.eea.coop](http://www.eea.coop)
- Contest entries are due by July 2, 2018.





EEA General Manager Josh Dellinger presents Piñon Project Director Kellie Willis with a check for \$18,409.25.

This will provide energy assistance for area residents who are experiencing a one-time emergency.

## EMPIRE MAKES BIG DONATIONS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

In December, Empire Electric Association General Manager Josh Dellinger was pleased to present the Piñon Project Director Kellie Willis with a check for \$18,409.25. The money will be distributed by the Montelores Emergency Assistance Coalition and is allocated for energy assistance to residents of Montezuma and Dolores counties who are usually self-sufficient but are experiencing a one-time emergency. Empire matches member donations to the Energy Outreach Colorado program every year and the remainder of the budgeted amount of \$20,000 is donated to the Piñon Project.

In addition to this donation, Empire sponsored a family through the Piñon Project's Christmas for Kids program. Empire employees donated \$970 out of their own pockets toward this cause. Several employees shopped for gifts for the family on their own time and when the totals exceeded the money they were given to shop with, they pitched in additional monies from their own pockets. The gifts were predominately non-toy items — things like clothes, hygiene products, school supplies, etc., but there were a few toys included as well. An employee's parents donated a bunk bed set for the twins in the family. Several employees helped wrap and deliver the gifts to a very grateful family.

There was \$100 left after all the presents were purchased. This \$100 plus an additional \$500 donation from the cooperative was given to the Piñon Project to help provide gifts to the approximately 40 kids that were left unsponsored. This money bought things like coats, pants, shoes, etc. for these kids.

Empire received the following thank you letter:

*To EEA and CREA,*

*Heartfelt recognition is in order to Empire Electric Association.*

*EEA's impressive and generous 2017 Christmastime Donations from EEA AND STAFF are commendable and hopefully will be detailed in your upcoming PUBLICATION/s.*

*BEST WISHES FOR 2018!*

*Sincerely,  
Nancy Porter, EEA member*

## MAKE YOUR HOME WORKSHOP SAFE

For many DIYers, the workshop is a second home. Make sure it's a safe place to work productively. With so many power tools in one place, it's important take steps to prevent electrical shocks and other hazards:

- Choose electrical outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters. Use portable GFCIs if outlets don't have them.
- Make sure metal workbenches are grounded. Hire a professional to do that work.
- Check for damaged cords, plugs and signs of wear before using equipment.
- Replace old, worn power tools and cords.
- Use heavy-duty extension cords rated for the tools you plan to use.
- Make sure the area is clean and dry before undertaking any project.
- Store flammable liquids and materials away from the workbench and where spark-producing tools like grinders and cutters are used.
- Secure equipment and tools when not in use to prevent them from falling, being damaged or causing injuries.
- Keep children and pets out of the workshop when power tools are used.

Always stay focused when working with power tools. If you are tired or distracted, wait until another time so you can work safely and give the project full concentration. Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

