

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2020



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



ELECTRICITY BRINGS EVERYDAY VALUE

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO



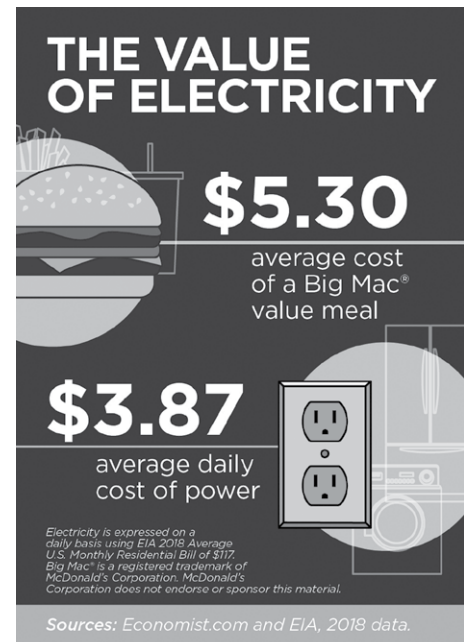
JACK JOHNSTON

Even though I work in the utility industry, like most people I often don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch or appliances to work each day. Because electricity seems so abundant, we don't think much about it. Many have been spending more time at home over the past few months, likely using more electricity. The only time we really think about electricity is if the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or other favorite goods from just a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like most, I have a cellphone to stay connected and I stream video content on my television. Many consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4% from 2014 to 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. The cost of medical care increased 3% during this time and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? According



to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point: 0.4% and, in our case, 0% over the last five years.

The bottom line: Electricity brings everyday value. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm proud of our track record. At the same time, we are constantly striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and maintain costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and embracing more renewable energy from our power supplier.

We continue to recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our consumer-members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please reach out. It is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.

Energy Star Appliances:

Do They Really Save You Money?

If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an Energy Star-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills. The short answer is yes, when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less efficient counterpart.

In fact, there are really two costs to consider before buying an appliance: the cost itself and the projected monthly energy costs.

The energy-conscious appliances donning the square-shaped Energy Star logo use 10 to 15% less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov. For example, Energy Star clothes washers use about 40% less energy than conventional clothes washers while also reducing water bills.

And the longer answer is yes, if you consider the appliance's life span.

Energy Star appliances and other products used throughout your home can save you a collective \$750 over their life span, according to Energy.gov. (Besides appliances, there are other Energy Star-certified products, such as lighting and electronics.)

While energy-saving appliances might have a slightly higher price tag, they don't always. Compare prices and don't assume they cost substantially more than less efficient models.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or older. By replacing your old refrigerator with a new Energy Star-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year life span.

(Tip: EnergyStar.gov offers a "Flip Your Fridge" calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.)

Bottom line? The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 per year on home utility bills. Switching to Energy Star products can help lower these costs over time. [WIN*Doug Tecklenburg acct#2003330000]

Offices closed

Monday, September 7
in observance of Labor Day



You Could Be A Winner This Month

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill.

Last month's winner was Henry Neiberger.



You've been patiently waiting long enough, watching the loading wheel spin when you're trying to stream a movie or TV show. Now's the time to finally reel in the internet plan of your dreams, with speeds so big you'll be bragging to friends and family.

CALL 800-657-7149 NOW



27850 Harris Rd, La Junta, CO 81050
800-657-7149 • www.secom.net

*Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Contact us for details.

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DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment **makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box**, **DO NOT** get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- **Call 9-1-1 and wait** for us to arrive to cut the power.
- **Wait to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.**

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.

For more information visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).

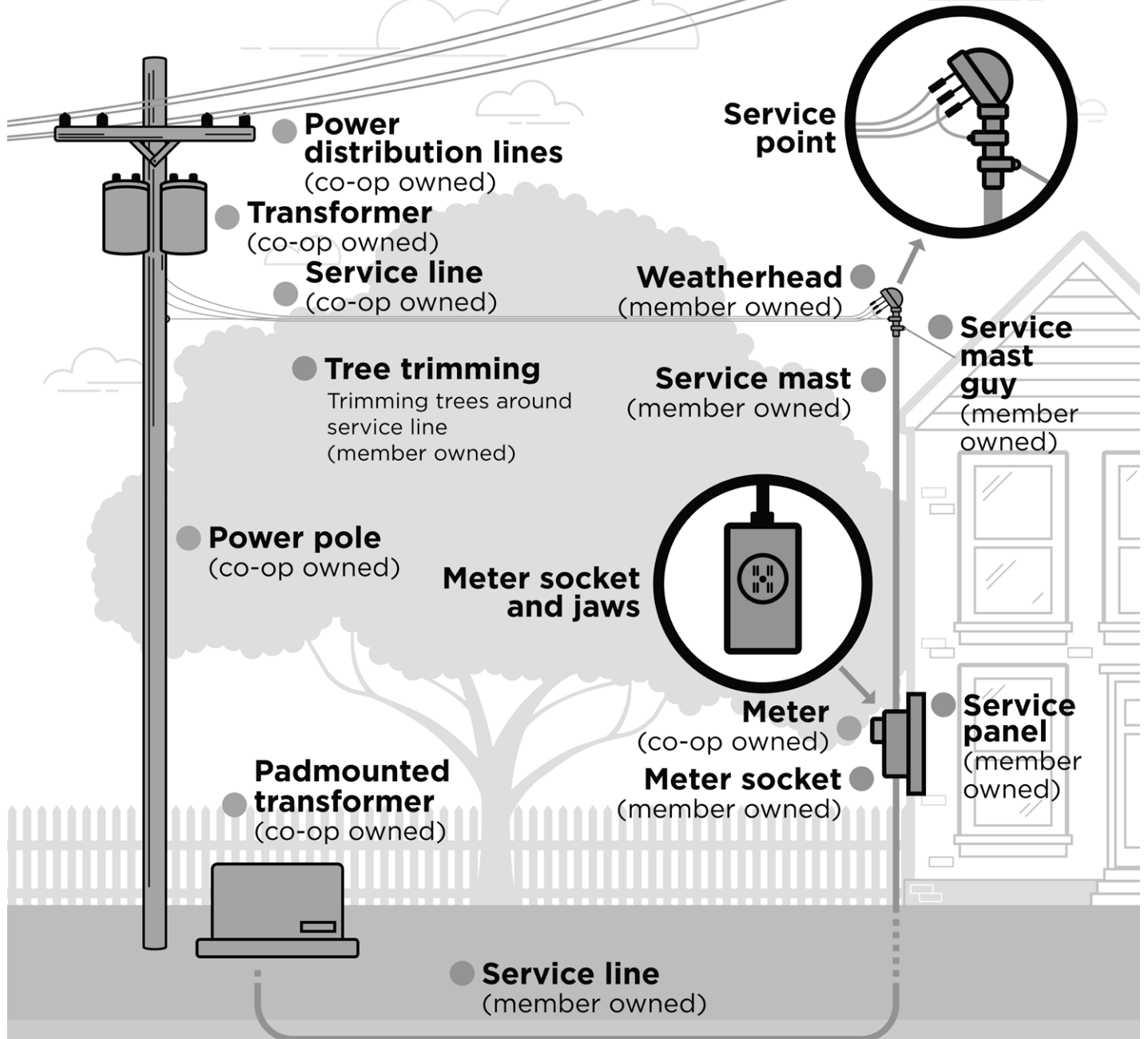


**Safe
Electricity.org**

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op and the member. If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.