



**Ryan Schilreff**  
General Manager



# CO-OP NEWS

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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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May through September  
Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

October through April  
Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.



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## Generator Safety

I hope this article finds you well and off to a good start in 2020. A couple of topics I want to visit about this month are generators and Tri-State's big announcement — the implementation of their Responsible Energy Plan.

Since we had our large storm right after Thanksgiving, we have had several members inquire about generators, and what they need installed at their service location to run a generator.

If you are interested in installing a generator, please contact us FIRST. We will come out and look at your service and tell you what

equipment you would need.

In some instances, you will need to have your service upgraded; other instances all you need is a generator switch and breaker. A generator switch only allows one source of power at a time and provides safety.

Once you know what we need to do at the cooperative, then you may have to hire an electrician to do the rest of the wiring if you are not able to do it yourself.

In all instances a wiring permit will be required from the fire marshal's office. We can help you with that process as well. We can also

help you with the size of generator you might need by looking at the historical load at the proposed service.

The main concern we have at the co-op is safety. If the proper equipment isn't installed to run a generator, then it can backfeed onto our line when our crews are working and cause a fatal accident.

## Tri-State Announces Responsible Energy Plan

On January 9th, Tri-State announced its plan to drastically increase its renewable energy footprint by 1 gigawatt, close all the coal plants it operates, cancel a future coal project, and commit not to develop any additional coal facilities.

We have been told that this transition will not affect our reliability or our wholesale rates and may even be able to decrease our wholesale rates.

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## Tri-State's Renewable Energy

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According to Tri-State's CEO, Duane Highley: "We are favorably positioned to successfully transition to clean resources at the lowest possible cost. The low costs of renewable energy and operating cost reductions help to counterbalance the cost to retire coal generation early, keeping our wholesale rates stable with even cleaner electricity."

Of course, reliability is always the highest priority. Tri-State would not announce a plan if it could not continue to provide reliable power.

\* Darren Barkman \* To the right is additional information on Tri-State's transition to renewables.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

\* Destry Werner \*



## Responsible Energy Plan Highlights

At Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, we're leading a clean energy transition that will expand renewable generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring reliable, affordable, responsible electricity for our member cooperatives and public power districts, and for the communities they serve.

Cooperative power. Transformed.



### REDUCING EMISSIONS

We're eliminating 100% of emissions from our New Mexico coal facilities by the end of 2020 and from our Colorado coal facilities by 2030

- We're eliminating 100% of emissions from our New Mexico coal facilities by closing Escalante Station by the end of 2020
- We're eliminating 100% of emissions from our Colorado coal facilities by closing Craig Station and the Colowyo Mine by 2030

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# Generator Safety Tips

**N**ever connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

### Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

### Portable Generator:

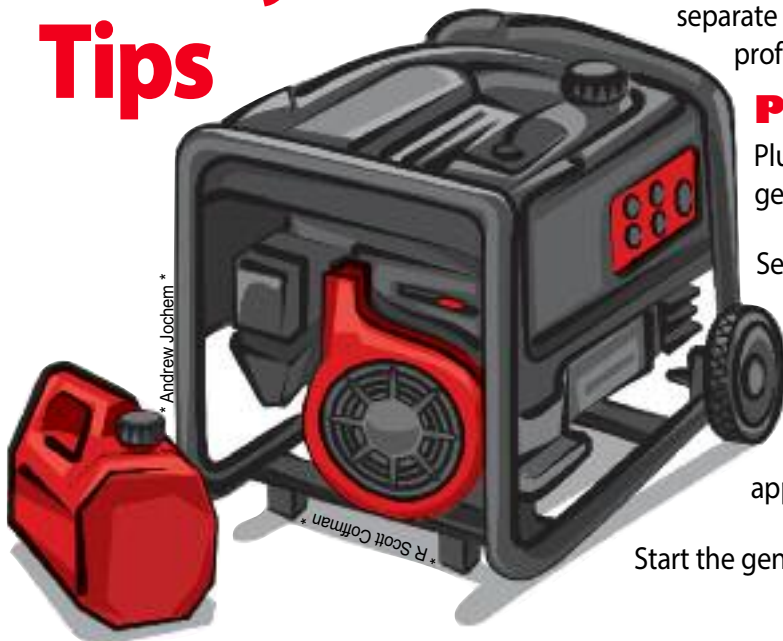
Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)





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– By 2030 and relative to 2005 levels, we’re reducing CO<sub>2</sub> in Colorado:

- By 90% from generation we own or operate in Colo.
- By 70% from Colorado wholesale electric sales

– We’re not adding any more coal to our system and we’re canceling the Holcomb Station project



## INCREASING CLEAN ENERGY

By 2024, we’re bringing over 1 gigawatt of wind and solar resources online, meaning

**50% of the energy our cooperative consumes will come from renewables**

– By 2024, we’re bringing enough utility-scale renewable projects online in seven members’ service areas to power nearly 850,000 homes



## INCREASING MEMBER FLEXIBILITY

**Our members are working together to increase contract flexibility and options to develop more local renewable generation**

– Our members are developing a more flexible contract structure to be able to self-generate more clean energy than ever before

– We’re making it more affordable for members to self-generate power by partnering with a solar and energy services provider



## EXTENDING THE BENEFITS OF A CLEAN GRID

**We’re helping consumers save money and reduce emissions**

– We’re allocating \$2 million for members to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in their service territories

– We’re expanding programs to help consumers save money and energy while cutting emissions, like through

support of the Beneficial Electrification League of Colorado and other state chapters



## COMMITTING TO COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYEES

**We’re committed to supporting employee and community transition**

– We’re providing transition support for Escalante employees, including generous severance packages and assistance with financial planning, education, and health benefits

– We’re working with impacted communities, including by:

– For the Escalante area, contributing \$5 million for community reinvestment and executing a \$200 million solar project sited on Escalante Station property, and

– For Craig Station, the Colowyo Mine and the surrounding areas, working with employees and community members to identify economic development, retraining and other transition strategies

– We’re working with local, state, federal and industry leaders to develop, fund and implement retraining, educational and economic development solutions that support a truly just transition from coal



## LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

**We’re working together to bring this bright future and clean grid in reach**

– We’re striving for 100% clean energy in Colorado by 2040, and will outline steps that reflect our effort to reach this goal in our 2024 resource plan for the Colorado PUC

– We’re striving to maintain or reduce rates for members in all states we serve as we implement the REP

– We’re promoting participation in a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) to efficiently integrate more renewables

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Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association is a not-for-profit wholesale electric cooperative association of 46 members, including 43 electric distribution cooperatives and public power districts across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Together, we power more than a million predominantly rural consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the West.

We are owned and governed by our members, and in July 2019, our member-comprised board set a goal for our cooperative to comply with all applicable environmental and renewable energy requirements while striving to reduce members' rates, preserve electricity reliability and affordability, and maintain financial strength. Our Responsible Energy Plan (REP) allows us to work toward this goal through the steps outlined here and at the same time be responsible to our employees, our members, our communities, and our environment.

Our REP is based on a vision for the future in which the benefits of an economy-wide energy transition — from cleaner air to economic opportunity to a greener grid — are shared with everyone. We are energized by the potential of this transition, even as we recognize and work to manage the challenges associated with it, which include a need for:

- **Dedicated and meaningful support for transitioning communities**
- **Treatment for cooperative debt and stranded assets**
- **Participation in a RTO**
- **Streamlined siting and permitting for necessary infrastructure**

This energy transition changes our cooperative. It will directly impact almost half of our employees. It will require significant investment and disinvestment decisions. If we work together it will also ensure significant emission reductions, a strong financial position, predictable flat to reduced member rates in the states we serve, and create as much time as possible for us, our employees and communities to plan for the future.

Balancing these impacts will not be an easy task, but it is a necessary one, and Tri-State is committed to working with our employees, their communities and others across the region to smooth the effects of this transition.

As a cooperative, we believe that if we work together, a bright future and clean grid is in reach.

The REP was also informed by input from an advisory group engagement process facilitated by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter and Colorado State University's Center for the New Energy Economy. During this process, we worked with partners from across the four states we serve from academic, agricultural, cooperative, electric industry, environmental, rural, and state and local government backgrounds.

The goal of the advisory process was to collaboratively identify ideas, issues and concerns and to contribute to a plan through which we could deliver on our mission to provide reliable, affordable, responsible power to our members while achieving compliance with state regulations.

One outcome of the process was conceptual legislative language for Tri-State to bring to the Colorado General Assembly to create a law for rural electric cooperative wholesale providers, like us, to do what investor-owned retail utilities already can: implement a clean energy plan. This legislation will make it possible for us to:

1. Achieve early and significant reductions in greenhouse gases,
2. Create the certainty necessary for Tri-State to better-manage the timing and impacts on employees and communities, and
3. Comply with state laws in Colorado and New Mexico without affecting the jurisdiction of Nebraska and Wyoming.



To learn more about our Responsible Energy Plan, visit [www.tristate.coop](http://www.tristate.coop)