

## COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



# Are You Ready to Get Involved?

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, the same can be said about your electric co-op, specifically with regard to the Board of Directors. CVEA’s board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. The Board is made up of entrepreneurs, telecommunications professionals, bankers, engineers, a retired project manager, a lineman, and others who have worked in the insurance and service industries.

The Co-op relies on their many talents to help make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. CVEA directors live right here in the CVEA’s service area, and are considered to be the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their

perspective on important community issues.

What does it mean to serve on the Board? Serving on the CVEA Board means you’re making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the Co-op that in turn benefit the larger communities we serve. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the Board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of CVEA and the community. On a granular level, board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets
- co-op goals and direction
- co-op’s community/charitable contributions
- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- renewable investments and energy mix
- co-op’s role and involvement in economic development

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition.

Tech-nology advancements, increased preference for renewable energy, and regulatory requirements are driving change. CVEA is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, input is needed from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within the communities.

### **Opportunity to Serve - Board of Director Candidates Wanted**

Join a dedicated group of community members who work on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all CVEA members.

Two director seats will be up for election in 2023. One seat in the Copper Basin and one in Valdez, each will hold a three-year term.

As a CVEA director, you can help make decisions that impact your neighbors and friends, the folks up and down the transmission line, and all cooperative members.

The Board meets once a month, normally on the third Thursday, for regular board meetings, and on occasion for special meetings. Directors may also travel to participate in statewide and national meetings.

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continuous months, are a member in good standing, are not an employee now or have not been an employee in the past three years, and are not a close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications, found at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

In order for a member to become a candidate, they must be nominated by petition. Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members, whose signatures must match the signatures on file, and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by 6 p.m., Thursday, February 9, 2023.

For more information or to have a nomination packet sent to you, contact your local office. ■

*Written in partnership with Anne Prince, who writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.*

## **More Opportunities to Serve Your Electric Co-op**

### **The CVEA Community Foundation Scholarship Selection and Contributions Committees Need You**

The CVEA Community Foundation is doing great things in our communities. The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes providing scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific and charitable organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue Code.

If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, the Foundation committees are for you.

The Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct interviews, and select who will be awarded scholarships. These committees will meet during the months of March and April in 2023.

The Foundation Contributions Committee reviews contribution requests from all local nonprofit organizations, scores them, and makes funding recommendations to the Foundation Board of Directors. If you are interested, plan on participation in September and October.

Each of these committees requires attendance at two or three meetings, and are estimated to take up to a total of 15 hours. Feedback from committee members is that these committees are fun and rewarding.

### **Help Wanted for Credentials and Election Committees**

A very important part of the annual meeting election process is the Credentials and Election Committees.

The people who serve are responsible for validating the signatures on the back of the envelopes and counting the ballots for director elections and bylaws amendments.

In each district, the Committee is comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates or relatives of these persons.

The Board will appoint committee members for each district in February. Service on the Credentials and Election Committees takes place during March and April, with most of the work performed the week prior to the annual meeting.

In 2023, the annual meeting is scheduled for May 2 in the Valdez District and May 4 in the Copper Basin District.

If you have questions or would like more information on director elections, or you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee, please email Sharon Scheidt at [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org).



## 2023 Community Foundation Scholarship Opportunities

The Foundation will award roughly \$14,000 in scholarships in 2023. This is a \$6,000 increase over recent years because the Board felt it was important to increase the value of each scholarship due to the increasingly difficult economic times students face today. CVEA will offer two \$1,000 and one \$2,000 General Scholarships, and one Youth Rally Leadership Camp Scholarship in each district.

The General Scholarships will be awarded to well rounded high school seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education through a vocational or technical school, apprenticeship training, or a college degree program.

This scholarship continues to be merit based, with scores equally weighted among four categories: education, community involvement, future education/career goals, and need.

The Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship provides an opportunity for sophomores and juniors attending high schools in CVEA's service area to attend a week-long electric industry leadership camp in Caldwell, Idaho in July, where students practice leadership, communication skills, and teamwork while learning

about electric utility practices and issues. While at the camp, students have an opportunity to earn educational scholarships that will be available to use for their education when they graduate.

Foundation scholarship programs are funded with unclaimed escheated capital credits, fundraisers, and voluntary donations from CVEA members, like you.

Scholarship recipients will be decided by a volunteer committee made up of CVEA Members, in April, and announced at CVEA's Annual Meeting, and at 2023 high school scholarship and graduation ceremonies.

Scholarship information and applications are available online at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) under Community Support in the Scholarship section.

The deadline for submitting completed scholarship application packets is 6 p.m., Thursday, February 16, 2023.

If you have questions about the Community Foundation scholarship programs or need assistance, please email Sharon Scheidt at [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org). ■

# OPERATING in Extreme Cold

By Michael Rovito

In the deepest, darkest part of winter—when temperatures turn negative and the sun barely makes itself known—Alaskans end up using more power to stay cozy and warm and to light the long nights.

Alaska's electric cooperatives prepare for extreme cold well before it hits, taking care to protect their workers and equipment. Just like a house, electric co-op buildings, powerhouses and other facilities must be able to withstand extreme cold so safe and reliable power can be generated.

At Copper Valley Electric Association, CEO Travis Million and his team know all too well what it is like to work in extreme cold. The cooperative provides power from Glennallen to Valdez, east of Glennallen to about Caribou Creek and north from Glennallen about 50 miles. The area regularly sees winter temperatures as low as 40 degrees below zero.

That type of deep cold influences everything.

“Everything moves slower when it's extremely cold, both people and equipment,” he says.

Regardless of the temperature, providing power is a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year business.

Sometimes, utility crews must go out in weather that would have most people staying close to the wood stove. This is particularly true during an outage. Alaska's electric utilities work hard to keep the power on year-round, but that takes on more meaning during the winter.

In cases where field work is necessary under extreme cold, Travis says his crew follows a modified approach to working outside.

“The crews have to plan for limited exposure and longer warm-up times, which will cause the work to take longer than in warmer conditions,” he says.

The tools lineworkers use in the field also act differently.

“The equipment needs to warm up longer, can't move as quickly, and steel can become fragile at extreme low temperatures,” Travis says.

Many years ago, CVEA added a new operations building at its Glennallen location that includes enough heated bays to park the co-op's larger equipment—such as bucket trucks, trailers, bulldozers and other vehicles—inside to keep them warm and ready to respond to outages or for daily operations.

Electric cooperatives maintain their buildings to be energy efficient and well-insulated. A drafty powerhouse that loses heat can impact the plant's ability to generate power as efficiently as possible.

Travis says CVEA has replaced older windows and heating systems, and added insulation to ensure better efficiency and higher reliability.

While electric cooperatives take strides to deal with extreme cold to maintain reliability, there are actions homeowners can take to alleviate the impact of subzero temperatures on their own homes.

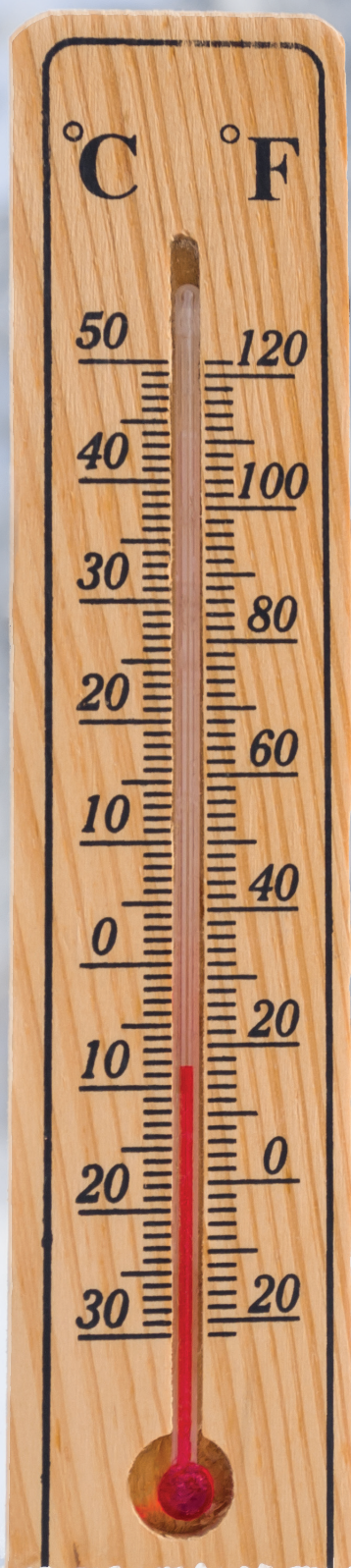
Travis says it is a good idea for homeowners to make sure they are winterized, and have doors and windows sealed to keep cold air out of their houses. The more warmth that stays in the house, the less heat must be generated to keep the house comfortable.

Often when the temperature plummets, Alaskans supplement their heating systems with electric space heaters, which are notorious for using more electricity than people think. Running a 1,500-watt space heater for eight hours a day could cost more than \$80 a month at CVEA's winter electricity rates, Travis says.

Homeowners can take steps to reduce electricity use in the winter. Travis recommends those using a vehicle block heater set it on a timer so the car does not draw power throughout the night.

Alaskans know how to do winter, and the state's electric cooperatives work diligently to make sure the essential services that make winter easier are powered safely and reliably.

When the temperature is frigid and the snow is piling up, remember that your local electric cooperative is dealing with the same conditions and doing its best to keep the lights on. ■



# 30 TIPS to Start the New Year Saving Energy and Money

By Danielle Brusby

These days, nearly everyone is looking for ways to save money and be more efficient with energy use.

As we start the new year, work to decrease your energy footprint. Simple changes can make a big difference over the life of a home—and there is no better time to take steps toward a healthier utility bill and a cleaner environment.



PHOTO BY NEST



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY THE TOIDI

**1. Unplug items from the wall and turn off power strips.** Many devices use electricity even when turned off, including TVs, printers, chargers, copiers, coffee makers, microwaves and lamps.

**2. Switch off lights when leaving the room.** It's an easy way for every member of your household to contribute to energy savings.

**3. Plug electronics into a smart power strip.** Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips. Smart power strips can detect when a device is in standby mode and cut power off to save energy. A standard power strip must be physically turned off when not in use.



PHOTO BY EMBERTEC

**4. Use a programmable thermostat.**

Set your thermostat at a comfortable temperature, but program it to raise and lower the temperature when you are away from home or sleeping to save on heating and cooling costs.

**5. Use dimmer switches.** Dimmer switches reduce the flow of electricity, saving you energy and money.

**6. Lower your water heater temperature.**

For safety and efficiency, set your water heater thermostat to 120 F.

**7. Weatherstrip exterior doors and windows.** Sealing air leaks around doors and windows saves energy and can reduce heating and cooling costs 10% to 30%.

**8. Check the settings on your refrigerator.**

The fridge should be between 38 and 42 degrees Fahrenheit, and the freezer should be between 0 and 5 degrees. Also check the seals for cracks and dried-on food. Keep the condenser coils underneath the fridge clean.

**9. Turn off the heat dry on your dishwasher.** Allow dishes to air dry to save energy and money on your electricity bill.

**10. Use ceiling fans, but only when you're in the room.** Fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a windchill effect. If the room

is unoccupied, turn off the ceiling fan to save energy.

**11. Keep your refrigerator and freezer stocked.** A full fridge and freezer cuts electricity use by acting as insulation.

**12. Use LED lighting.** Residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.

**13. Wash laundry in cold water.** Today's washing machines are designed to work efficiently with cold water. You can save up to \$60 a year by selecting the cold water setting when you wash.



ISTOCK PHOTO BY JUANMONINO

**14. Upgrade outdated appliances with Energy Star appliances.** Look for newer, more energy-efficient models. The energy savings and tax rebates available will be worth the initial cost.

**15. Use wool or rubber dryer balls.** This helps reduce drying time and cuts down on static. Bonus: Wool dryer balls also absorb extra moisture and are an alternative to dryer sheets.

**16. Keep your computer in sleep mode.** You may be done using it, but if not set



Search out ways to reduce your electricity use to save dollars and reduce your environmental footprint. ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY SEWCREAM

on sleep mode, the computer still uses electricity.

**17. Run your dishwasher only when it's full.** Use the energy saving cycle to save electricity and hot water.

**18. Plant trees and shrubs.** The proper vegetation provides shade to a home's east, south and west sides, and can provide a windbreak on the north side.

**19. Close the damper when the fireplace is not in use.**

**20. Limit your oven use.** To save energy, use a slow cooker, air fryer, microwave or toaster oven instead of the oven.

**21. Insulate your electric water heater.** This can reduce standby heat loss 25% to 45% and save 7% to 16% in water-heating costs.

**22. If your toilet was manufactured before 1995, replace it.** Newer ones come with many water-saving options and use a

fraction of the water as older counterparts.

**23. Fix leaky faucets.** One drop a second can cost you up to \$35 a year and wastes 1,661 gallons of water.

**24. Empty the dryer lint-trap.** It removes a fire hazard and contributes to efficiency.

**25. Change your HVAC filters frequently.** As your filter traps more dirt, dust and allergens, efficiency decreases. A good rule of thumb is to change filters every 90 days.



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY STEHEAP

**26. Install low-flow showerheads.** Your family will use less water, saving precious water and money.

**27. Clean lights, fixtures and bulbs.** Dust absorbs up to 50% of light.

**28. Properly insulate your attic or crawl space.** Insulation reduces heat losses and gains, saving you money and improving comfort.

**29. Use lids when cooking.** Food cooks faster, so you can turn off your stove sooner.

**30. When in doubt, have an energy audit conducted on your home.** This will help you decide what additional home maintenance tasks can help you save on future energy bills.

When it comes to saving energy, every little bit counts. Make small changes now, and you will be on your way to seeing a lower electric bill in 2023. ■



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
907-822-3211

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**

907-835-4301

367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**

866-835-2832

#### Important Dates

##### January

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, January 2, 2023, for New Year's

**CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition Deadline:** Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted via petition by 6 p.m., Thursday, January 5, 2023

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, January 19, 2023, in Valdez

##### February

**Director Nomination Deadline:** 6 p.m. Thursday, February 9, 2023

**Scholarship Application Deadline:** 6 p.m. Thursday, February 16, 2023

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The February meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, February 16, 2023, in Glennallen

##### CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, February 20, 2023, for President's Day

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Want Your Vote to Count? Make Sure Your Signature Card Is Up to Date!

When you vote on CVEA business, such as Board of Director elections and Bylaws amendments, you are required to sign the ballot envelope. If the signature does not match the signature on the membership card on file with CVEA, the vote cannot be counted.

For residential customers, if you have changed marital status, or names, please contact CVEA to ensure those changes are reflected on your signature card. If you receive a card in the mail, please complete and bring to your local CVEA office or mail it in.

Organizations, businesses, and associations usually have board members who are authorized to transact business. The person who signs the election envelope must be an authorized signer on the account. If your Board of Directors or executive officer has changed in the past year, then it is time to update your CVEA membership card.

If you have questions or are unsure what is on your residential or business signature card, please contact your local office at 907-822-3211 in Glennallen or 907-835-4301 in Valdez.