Public Power: Rich history and a bright future

Early citizens of Colorado Springs understood the value of public power ownership, voting in 1924 to create their own municipal utility. Today, we are one of nearly 2,000 community-owned utilities, together serving about 48 million people.

October is Public Power Month, a great time to highlight the unique advantages of community ownership. Our value goes well beyond pipes, wires and generating units. It’s in the collective benefits we bring our community, including low rates, reliable service, environmental stewardship, economic development and quality customer service.

Utility decisions are made locally by City Council, serving as your Utilities Board. Business is conducted in the open, providing greater transparency and accountability.

As a not-for-profit utility, we are here to serve you, not remote shareholders. We’re proud of our rich history and will work hard to meet your future needs.

In service,
Aram Benyamin, CEO
Don’t let phantom load haunt you

Something is lurking in your home, draining the energy out of your electronics and appliances. It’s called phantom load and it’s the energy used by items like your DVD player and computer monitor, even when they are turned off or in standby mode.

Phantom load is wasted energy that adds to your bill. Here are some easy steps you can take to ward off wasted energy:

- Unplug appliances and electronics when turned off. Use a power strip to simplify.
- Turn off your computer monitor and printer. Screensavers do not reduce energy use.
- Consider Energy Star® certified appliances. They use 10 to 50 percent less energy than traditional appliances and may qualify for one of our money-saving rebates.

Follow us on social media to get more energy-saving tips.

FALL FACT

For less than $10 you can caulk and weather-strip around leaky windows and doors. Visit csu.org for more low-cost, no-cost fall energy-saving tips.

Fall prep checklist

These tips give lawns, plants, trees and shrubs a better chance of rebounding next spring.

**Fertilize your lawn:** Fertilize in October before you turn your sprinklers off. Do not fertilize trees, shrubs or perennial flowers.

**Top off your mulch:** Make sure wood mulch layers are three to four inches thick. This ensures plants are fully insulated and hydrated for winter.

**Gain control of weeds:** Fall rain usually means weeds. Tackle them now to prevent them from producing.

**Tend to sprinkler systems:** Blow out your sprinkler system or drain your backflow prevention device at the first sign of freezing weather. If you’re considering a system update, check out our irrigation rebate information at csu.org.

**Establish new landscape:** If you’re consistent about winter watering, fall can be a great time to tuck a few more plants into your landscape.

Visit csu.org to learn more about fall preparation.

On Saturday, Aug. 3:

103 Utilities volunteers participated in BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING with the Salvation Army, JC Penney and Citadel Mall

more than 95 students received

$100 to purchase new clothing