



Kilowatt Korner

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Following a long, but much needed, snowy winter it appears spring is on the horizon. And, let's be honest, most of us are ready for a reprieve. This winter has been especially difficult on wildlife, domestic livestock and for the farmers/ranchers, snowplow operators, first responders, lineman and so many others who weren't given the option to just hunker down and stay warm for the day. WREA thanks you! We are grateful for the tenacity of so many this winter and hope the longer days and added sunshine provides for a well-deserved reset and recharge.

On average, Colorado sees about 300 days of sunshine each year. That sunny statistic makes Colorado ripe for solar scammers, and this year, the western slope has seen its share. Solar scammers often target social media in late winter, as people spend more time at home and on their phones, and when heating bills are at their highest. WREA has been forced to publicly correct solar companies who claim that they are working directly with White River Electric- which has never been the case. WREA has net metering policy which allows members to explore renewables, and we support our members choice to install renewables whole-heartedly, but we do not endorse any specific solar company. WREA has collaborated with a handful of members who have installed solar and work with legitimate installers to make sure the terms of WREA's interconnection agreement have been met, but the solar installer remains the choice of the consumer- 100%.

When exploring solar we encourage you to do your research. Ask questions, questions, and more questions; ask for local references and contact those references, get quotes from competing installers, verify energy tax incentives with your tax advisor, discuss associated rate adjustments with your home insurance agent, contact WREA to discuss your renewable goals and take as much time as you need to make an informed choice before committing to a long-term investment.

For many WREA members, there is a desire to benefit from solar, but the up-front costs and long-term investment is too risky. WREA offers a great alternative. Our popular solar leasing program allows members to benefit from the electricity generated at two solar gardens in our service territory: Meeker Solar Garden near the high school and Bar D Solar in Piceance Creek. The White River Solar program is relatively simple; participants lease a "block" of solar power generated by the solar arrays for \$36 per block/year and receive a monthly bill credit of \$5 per block/month, for a total of \$60 per block/year credits received in a 12-month period.

Since its inception in 2018, White River Solar has allowed over 350 WREA members to benefit from a renewable energy portfolio, without the out-of-pocket cost of installing solar on their home or business. WREA is proud of the success of both these solar arrays and grateful for the savings that have been passed along to its membership.

WREA invites new participants to explore the White River Solar leasing program and existing lessees will be mailed a lease renewal in the coming weeks. New participants may contact WREA directly (970-878-5041) or via email wrea@wrea.org to request a lease application. Blank lease applications and program FAQ's can also be found on our website at www.wrea.org/solar.