



Media Contact:

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Planning Purposes

February 23, 2026

LPEA CEO to Host Energy Discussions in Bayfield and Pagosa Springs

WHO: La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Chris Hansen, Chief Executive Officer

WHAT: Coffee with Chris — Bayfield

An open community conversation with LPEA CEO Chris Hansen focused on the rapidly evolving energy landscape and growing electricity demand driven by artificial intelligence (AI), data centers, and emerging technologies.

Topics will include:

- How AI and large data centers are reshaping power demand nationwide
- What those trends mean for rural electric cooperatives
- The potential future role of nuclear energy
- LPEA's long-term strategy for strengthening local power generation — including battery energy storage, regional grid integration, and investments to enhance reliability.

WHEN & WHERE:

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 — 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Pine River Library, 395 Bayfield Center Drive, Bayfield, CO 81122

WHAT: Coffee with Chris — Pagosa Springs

Join us for an informal conversation about your power bill, peak power, and what drives the cost of electricity in our region. We'll talk through how energy use at certain times of day and year impacts rates, what "peak power" means for LPEA members, and simple ways to manage your bill.

- LPEA will also share information about:
- How peak demand affects overall power costs and reliability
- What members can do to shift usage and save money
- Tools and programs that help members manage energy use and costs

WHEN & WHERE:

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.



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Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Rebate and Energy Help Session — Pagosa Springs

A member-focused session providing guidance on energy rebate programs, bill-assistance resources, and efficiency opportunities. LPEA staff will be available to answer questions and help members access programs.

WHEN & WHERE:

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

LPEA Pagosa Springs Office, 603 S. 8th Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

- Interview opportunities with CEO Chris Hansen
- Local perspective on AI-driven power demand and grid planning
- Member assistance and rebate programs

DETAILS:

- All events are open to the public and free of charge.
- Media may arrive any time during open hours to capture footage, quotes, and member interactions.
- These events are informal and provide a chance for community members to engage directly with LPEA leadership and staff.