



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



TRI-STATE

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NEWS

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Tri-State contributes \$50,000 to help fund LPEA's air-source heat pump pilot project

DURANGO, Colo. – Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) recently allocated \$50,000 to support La Plata Electric Association's air-source heat pump water heater pilot project. Together with funds from the Beneficial Electrification League and from LPEA, the project has secured more than \$100,000 to help income qualified LPEA members adopt the latest in electric water heating technology.

“This is an exciting project for LPEA because it will allow us to test the viability of grid-integrated technologies, like air-source heat pump water heaters, to manage our local power demand,” said LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock. “I want to thank Tri-State for their support. Thanks to their contribution we can include more homes and have a more robust program. We look forward to sharing our experience and findings with the broader utility community.”

“The benefits of electricity grow as we rapidly transition to a cleaner, lower emissions grid,” said Duane Highley, CEO of Tri-State. “Working with LPEA and Beneficial Electric League, Tri-State can do our part to help expand the deployment of technologies that support the communities we serve.”

The pilot project will install air-source heat pump water heaters for residents in the Animas View Mobile Home Park. It will also include the installation of other energy efficiency measures, including LED lighting, low-flow faucets and showerheads, and window and door weather-stripping. With the funding secured to date, up to 30 homes will be able to participate.

In addition to being extremely efficient, the installed air-source heat pump water heaters will run on a schedule set to avoid expensive peak power consumption. In rare events, LPEA will be able to remotely manage these water heaters during times of peak demand. This will not impact

member homes (as water heaters store enough hot water for these short periods), and it will help LPEA avoid the higher cost of power during peak use periods, which keeps costs lower for all LPEA members.

This program will be implemented in partnership with 4CORE (Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency) and is expected to begin outreach in February 2022 and installations in March 2022. Participation is voluntary and at no cost to the participants.

About La Plata Electric Association

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 34,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.

About Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

Tri-State is a power supply cooperative of 45 members, operating on a not-for-profit basis, including 42 utility electric distribution cooperative and public power district members in four states. Together with our member/owners, we deliver reliable, affordable and responsible power to more than a million electricity consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the West. For more information about Tri-State and our Responsible Energy Plan, visit www.tristate.coop.

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