Copper Basin employees, Jeff Dolena and Ben Carlton, teaching electric safety at the Power Town demonstration.

2023 Annual Meeting Recap

The 2023 Annual Meeting, held May 2 in Valdez, and May 4 in Glennallen was well attended with roughly 220 and 235, respectively.

In addition to regular reports, CEO Travis Million highlighted 2022 accomplishments and recent safety achievements. He provided information on the rate study, proposed rate increase, critical reliability projects, the potential Micro Modular Nuclear project, and CVEA succession planning. Finally, Million also officially announced that he will be stepping down as CVEA's CEO, to accept a position at Golden Valley Electric in Fairbanks, on August 31.

Other meeting highlights included the announcement of the Board of Directors election, introduction of the 2023 Community Foundation scholarship award recipients, viewing of *An Office Story*, the third video in the *People Behind the Switch* video series, and recognition of employee service awards.

In Board of Director elections, Jan Maslen was elected in the Copper Basin, and Jeff Saxe was re-elected in Valdez, each to a three-year term.

The CVEA Community Foundation awarded Ce'Anika Palacios and Anthony Mann each a $2,000 educational scholarship. Brynna Gerlach, Dillon Fowler, Payton Gage, and Allen Watson each received $1,000 scholarships, and Rhiannon Easton was awarded the opportunity to attend the 2023 Idaho Youth Rally Leadership camp.

CVEA employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative. Ben Carlton celebrated 5 years, Josh Geldersma and Kyle Anderson 10 years, and Ryan Compehos 15 years of service.

Every registered member received a $10 credit applied to their May bill. Over 90 door prizes were given out in each district, including a $1,000 cash grand prize. Coreen Palacios, in the Copper Basin, and Ryan Compehos, of Valdez, were the lucky winners!

CVEA thanks everyone who attended and those that helped make this year's annual meeting successful.

If you have questions on this or any CVEA topic, please email Sharon Scheidt at sscheidt@cvea.org. ■


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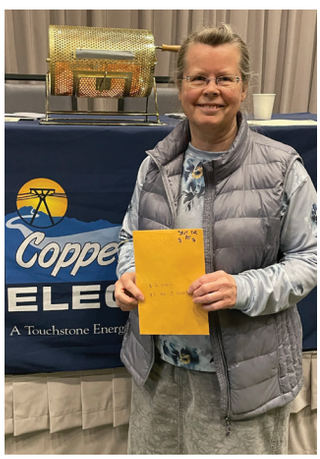
Collapsible Cup

And the Winners Are...

With over 90 door prizes in each district, CVEA had lots of annual meeting winners this year including $1,000 grand prize winners, Coreen Palacios and Ryan Compehos, SmartHub drawing winners, Lori Geib and Maria Theresa Viernes, and Split-the-Pot winners, Coreen Palacios and Bonnie Thiel.



Community Foundation Scholarship Awards 2023

Through the CVEA Community Foundation, CVEA is making an investment in our youth and in our future. Please join us in congratulating the 2023 Foundation scholarship award winners.

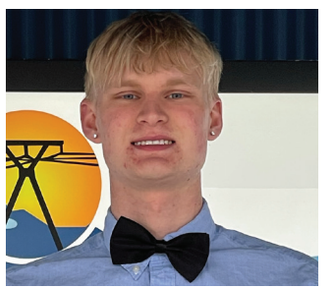
The Foundation is grateful to committee members Gina Hoke (Chair), Sharron Ables, and Wendy Caldwell in the Copper Basin District and Stephanie Morgan (Chair), Ben Rush, and Sarah Jorgenson-Owen in Valdez. We would also like to thank the students, volunteers, and staff who helped with this year's Community Foundation Split-the-Pot raffle, as well as those who purchased tickets. Together we raised $517 for future Foundation programs.

Valdez

Anthony Mann
$2,000

Dillon Fowler
$1,000

Payton Gage
$1,000



Allen Watson
$1,000

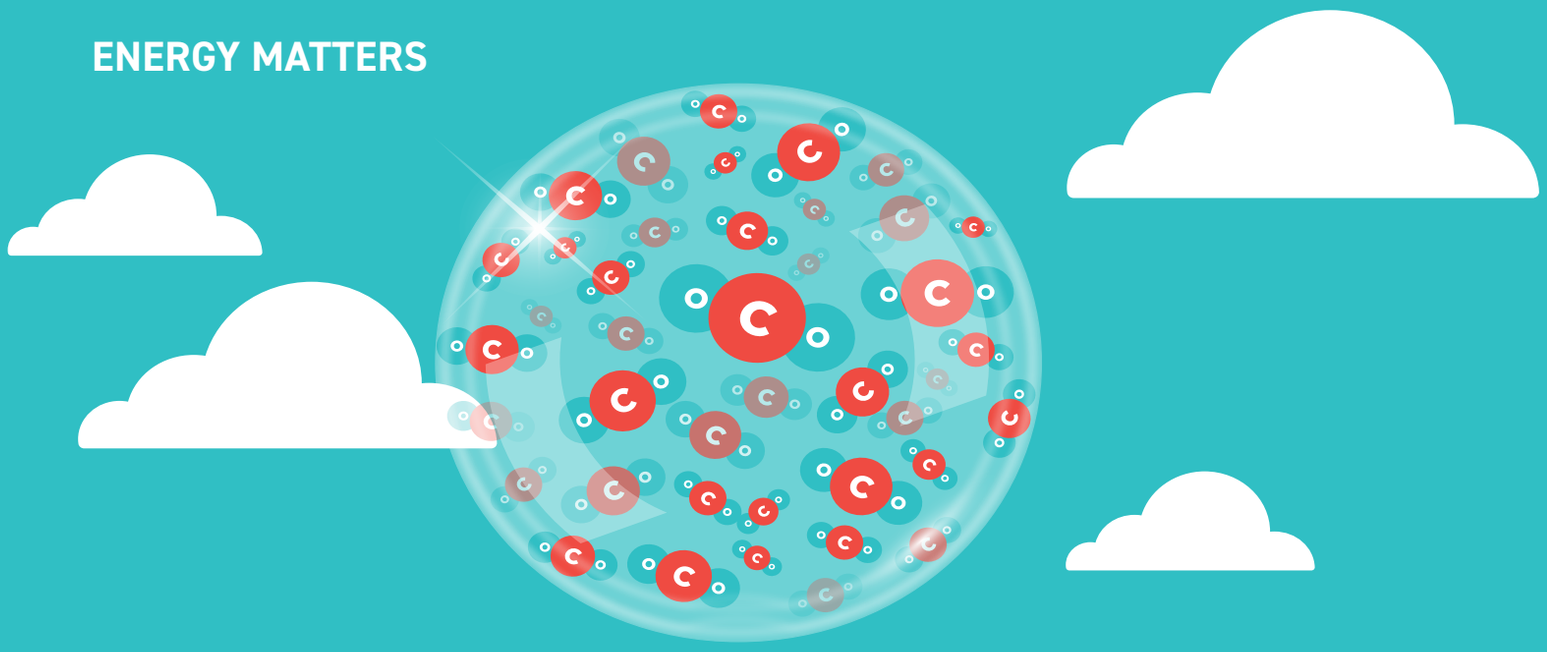
Copper Basin

Ce'Anika Palacios
$2,000

Brynna Gerlach
$1,000

Youth Rally

Rhiannon Easton
Youth Rally



Capturing Carbon

By Katherine Loving and Paul Wesslund

Providing reliable, affordable electricity is a priority for publicly owned utilities. Co-ops, PUDs and municipals continue to incorporate additional energy generated from renewable sources. Until these technologies fully mature, fossil fuels remain a part of our overall generation mix to ensure power reliability.

As the United States moves forward with carbon reduction goals, utilities are looking for ways to provide clean energy and offset the carbon generated during power production. Capturing carbon emissions—or greenhouse gases—at their source is one of those approaches.

Understanding some of the terminology associated with this complex process can shed light on this unique way of managing greenhouse gases.

You've likely heard the term **net zero**. This means you don't increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Essentially, any greenhouse gas you emit is reduced in some other way.

Net zero typically takes the form of a nation or commercial business setting a goal to offset carbon emissions it produces from burning coal, oil or natural gas. Those offsets can be as simple as planting a lot of trees that convert carbon dioxide to oxygen as part of their photosynthesis process. It can be as complex as building high-tech equipment to remove greenhouse gases before they reach the air or even after they are emitted.

Net zero was first widely discussed about 10 years ago as countries met to negotiate the Paris Climate Agreement and determine language to discuss reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Since then, nearly 500 nations, cities and states—and more than 700 companies—have set goals of reaching net zero within the next 30 years.

Another term for net zero is carbon neutral. In 2020, Microsoft Corp. announced a goal of going carbon negative, meaning it would remove more greenhouse gas from the air than it emits.

Carbon capture, utilization and storage is one tool for reaching net zero. In the past, it was simply called "carbon capture," but is now often referred to as CCUS.

CCUS involves a series of steps that removes carbon dioxide from its original source to prevent it from reaching the atmosphere. During the capture step, CO_2 is removed either before or after combustion.

Post-combustion capture is the most common method used at existing power plants. After electricity is generated, the CO_2 is removed from the gas mixture found in a plant's flue.

In precombustion capture, the fuel sources are heated with pure oxygen—or steam and oxygen—to release CO_2.

Once captured, the CO_2 is transported to its next destination. Typically, CO_2 moves as compressed gas in pipelines, but it can also be transported by tanker trucks or ships. Captured CO_2 can be injected into geological formations or recycled for other uses.

Basin Electric Cooperative's Dry Fork Station in Wyoming is near a site being developed for a large-scale carbon storage project.

New and Emerging CO_2 Technologies

Despite several hurdles, carbon capture is seen as an important technology in reducing emissions.

In 2015, XPRIZE—a technological development competition—kicked off with an aim to award $20 million to develop new and emerging technologies that use CO_2. The competition was based on how much CO_2 was converted and the economic feasibility of the project.

The winning project was a carbon-negative concrete created by a team of UCLA researchers called CarbonBuilt.

The research team conducted tests at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Integrated Test Center in Wyoming to turn flue gases and fly ash into carbon-negative concrete. The process reduces the carbon emissions of concrete production and traps additional carbon long-term within the final product.

Research on how to recycle CO_2 is ongoing, but established uses include using the gas in enhanced oil recovery, growing fish food from lab-grown bacteria that feed on CO_2 and creating carbon-negative concrete or other carbon-based materials.

One appeal of carbon capture is the abundance of underground natural storage locations, such as deep aquifers, porous rock and unproductive coal mines. The U.S. Geological Service estimates the United States has the potential to store 3,000 metric gigatons of CO_2, the equivalent of five centuries worth of emissions.

Carbon dioxide removal doesn't center on keeping greenhouse gas from entering the atmosphere, but rather taking it out of the air. It's also often referred to as direct air capture. Some businesses are already using CO_2 from direct air capture for things such as fertilizer production.

The federal government made carbon capture a funding priority in 2022. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides $927 million for large, commercial-scale pilot projects as well as $3.5 billion for six demonstration projects at coal and natural gas plants.

The Slowing CO_2 and Lowering Emissions Act was introduced in 2021 and provides funding to overcome expansion barriers. The act aims to reduce costs by financing scaling projects for pipeline infrastructure, creating regional storage infrastructure and providing grants for creating products derived from large-scale capture.

Capturing carbon is an important tool in reducing CO_2 emissions generated from fossil fuel use. As this emerging technology is deployed on a larger scale, the future of carbon capture will continue to be promising. ■

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367 Fairbanks Dr.
After hours outage line
866-835-2832

Important Dates

June

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will experience partial closures for an employee event on Thursday, June 8.
The Copper Basin office will be closed from 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., and the Valdez office will be closed from 12-4 p.m.

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, June 15, 2023, in Glennallen

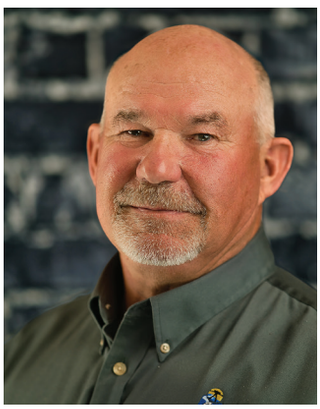
CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Season: The 2023 Contribution Season begins Thursday, June 29, 2023; visit cvea.org for details

July

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, 2023, for Independence Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The July meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, July 20, 2023, in Valdez

CVEA Director Elections
2023 Official Voting Results



Jeff Saxe

Jan Maslen

In the 2023 election, two director positions, one in each district, were up for election. The Copper Basin district elected Jan Maslen, and the Valdez district re-elected Jeff Saxe, each to a three-year term. The Credentials and Election Committees in both districts reported voting results as follows:

Valdez		Copper Basin	
Ballots Received	242	Ballots Received	257
Ballots Counted	220	Ballots Counted	250
Jeff Saxe	220	Jan Maslen	242

CVEA welcomes new and returning directors and appreciates the participation of everyone involved in the election.

Winners of the 2023 ballot drawing for a $50 energy credit were: the Copper Valley Community Library in the Copper Basin and Jonathan and Ginger Millican in Valdez. Thanks to all who submitted valid ballots.