For nearly 70 years, Tri-State has been committed to responsible environmental, social and governance practices. This commitment matters more than ever, to our employees and members, to the communities we serve together, and to the many stakeholders who are counting on us to deliver on our clean energy transition reliably, affordably and responsibly.

As a member-driven not-for-profit, Tri-State collaborates with our members to meet their power needs and provide the services they value. Today, expectations for how electricity is generated are changing with economics and our climate. The demands on our changing industry create space to share and do more when it comes to environmental stewardship, community support and accountability through member governance. Tri-State’s Environmental, Social and Governance report summary outlines our practices in these areas.

DUANE HIGHLEY, CEO

OUR COOPERATIVE STORY

Tri-State was formed to meet a basic need for our members: bringing electricity to the rural West. Though some of our members serve as few as one connection per mile of distribution line, they all have the same need for reliable, affordable, and responsible electric power.

Our members have asked for a clean energy transition that achieves lower rates and preserves electricity reliability. As we work to deliver these changes, our environmental, social and governance practices, and the cooperative principles that underpin those practices, will remain central to guiding our steps.

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These seven principles are a key reason that America’s electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first.

1. OPEN AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP
2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
3. MEMBERS’ ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
5. EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION
6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

We are a cooperative of 45 members, including 42 electric distribution cooperatives and public power districts.

Together we provide power to more than a million electricity consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the West.

Our members’ service territories create the largest electric cooperative footprint in the U.S.
80% lower CO₂ EMISSIONS BY 2030

Our Electric Resource Plan’s preferred scenario includes an 80% reduction in emissions associated with wholesale electric sales in Colorado by 2030.

50% renewable ENERGY USED BY 2024

By 2024, we are bringing online six utility-scale solar projects and two utility-scale wind projects, which will bring our system to over 2,000 megawatts of renewables.

Resource planning FOR THE FUTURE

Our resource planning helps us maintain reliable and affordable power as we responsibly implement our clean energy transition.

Wildfire MITIGATION PLANNING

Our Vegetation Management and Wildfire Mitigation plans leverage best practices to help harden our system and manage the risk of fires.

4,540 acres donated PRIME SAGE GROUSE HABITAT

Our properties alone support more breeding Greater Sage Grouse than three of the six recognized Greater Sage Grouse individual populations identified in all of Colorado.

5,600 miles TRANSMISSION PLANNING

We work to limit the impacts of our facilities on physical, cultural and socioeconomic resources, and strive to optimize compatibility with the environment.

17 awards LAND & MINING RECLAMATION

Our commitment to reclamation is evidenced by our many awards and abundant native wildlife, including elk, mule deer, pronghorn, eagles, sandhill cranes, and large carnivores.

$60k matched funds YAMPA RIVER FUND

We participate in the Yampa River Fund to enhance water security for communities, the economy, agriculture, and the environment in the Yampa Valley, Colorado.

INVESTING IN OUR MEMBERS

Tri-State allocated $45,000 per member – nearly $2 million in total – to install electric vehicle charging stations in their service areas.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Tri-State and our members collaborate to support dozens of organizations across rural communities in the four states we serve, helping address local needs and sustain the fabric of rural life.

INVESTING IN OUR EMPLOYEES

We work toward a diverse, equal and inclusive culture and are committed to a respectful, safe and welcoming atmosphere where all employees’ unique ideas and experiences are recognized.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Forbes recognized Tri-State for the positive ways we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in its 2020 ranking of America’s Best-in-State employers.

SAFETY AT WORK

Tri-State received about a dozen safety recognition awards in each of the last five years in areas including surface mining, generation and transmission operations and flight operations.

ENERGY TRANSITION SUPPORT

Committed $5 million to four New Mexico economic development organizations to support communities near the now-retired Escalante Station.

LED BY OUR MEMBERS

Tri-State is a not-for-profit cooperative owned by our members. Our board of directors is comprised of representatives from our 42 distribution utility members and meets monthly to make governing decisions based on the seven cooperative principles, sound financial principles, utility industry best practices, and the needs of our members. Through the board and member committees, the priorities of the communities we serve are brought to Tri-State and help determine the path forward to best meet those diverse needs.

We deliver on our board’s priorities and are responsible stewards of our members’ resources. With this cooperative spirit, we maintain a healthy financial profile to support our energy transition, returning net margins to our members as patronage capital. Through our enterprise risk management program, we monitor risks to our work and mission to serve our members. As we do so, our policy and regulatory teams strive to promote a stable regulatory environment so Tri-State can make plans today for meeting our mission into the future.

REVIEW OUR FULL PLAN AT:
WWW.TRISTATE.COOP/ENVIRONMENTAL-SOCIAL-AND-GOVERNANCE-REPORT