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## Reminders

### Lower seasonal rates

for MVEC legacy members (excluding former Alliant Energy customers) go into effect Oct. 1. Residential general service electric rates are higher during the summer months when greater demand levels for air conditioning push up costs for generating electricity. Winter general service electric rates are billed October-May at 11.7¢/kWh, compared to the rate of 12.5¢/kWh the rest of the year.

### Manage account with SmartHub mobile app

Make payments, report an outage, sign up for bill/usage notifications, and more at the touch of a button. Download a FREE mobile app at the Apple App Store or the Android Marketplace.

Additional resources available 24/7 at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)



# ElectricEye

September 2019

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative



## Electric vehicle new addition to co-op's fleet

With an eye to the future, MVEC has purchased a Tesla Model 3 to acquaint employees and members with the features, quiet drive, energy savings, and unique style and design that electric vehicles can offer.

Research shows by the year 2025, electric vehicles will grow from 2 to 22 percent of total auto sales. MVEC wants to be well-informed with personal experiences so we can be our members best source of electric vehicle information. All employees are offered training sessions to drive the Tesla and will be able to check out the vehicle



to drive to meetings and other events.

The Tesla has also been in several parades and a car show. The co-op is also planning events where members and the public can interact and have the opportunity to learn about electric vehicles.

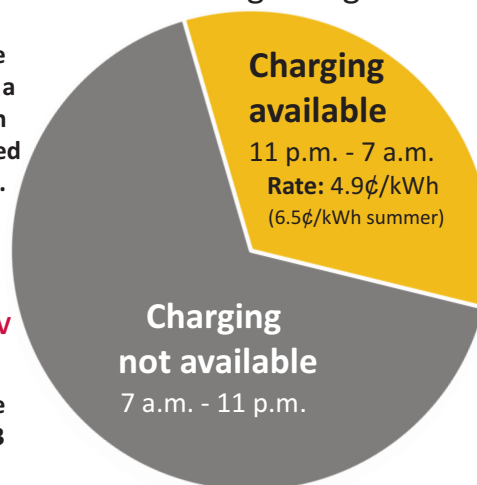
For more information on MVEC's electric vehicle programs, contact [michaelh@mvec.net](mailto:michaelh@mvec.net).

MVEC has two voluntary options for electric vehicle (EV) charging and a \$150 rebate for an EV charger installed to either program.

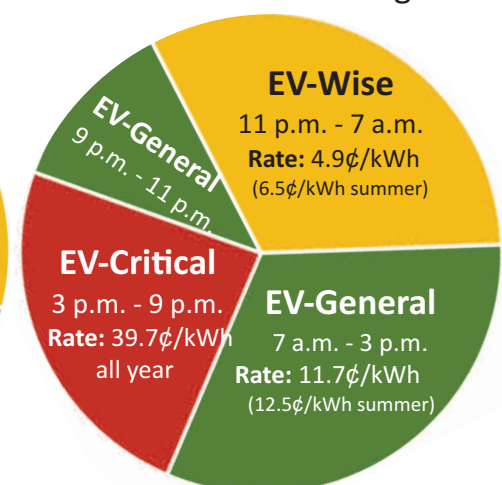
The rebate form and more details are available at [www.mvec.net/EV](http://www.mvec.net/EV)

Questions? Call Michael H or Mike O at 952.492.2313 or 800.282.6832

### EV-8: Storage Program



### EV-24: Time of Use Program





## CEO's Corner/Ryan Hentges

Balance is something we all desire. Balance during a time of change can be tricky because moving too fast or too slow can cause undue

stress and undesired outcomes.

Your cooperative was formed in 1937 and has successfully navigated many changes since then. That said, at no time has change been so significant as now. MVEC is working hard to keep a balance through many changes in the energy industry.

Mostly, people are talking about the move from fossil fuels to renewable sources. As you likely know, MVEC does not generate power, but rather, has contracts to buy

electricity from wholesale power suppliers. We purchase from two cooperatives, Great River Energy (GRE) and Basin Electric, and one investor-owned utility, Alliant Energy. All three have been moving toward renewable sources.

Our contract with GRE has allowed the MVEC Board to make recent decisions to take advantage of low-cost wind power. In 2017, GRE closed its Stanton Station coal plant in North Dakota, enabling MVEC to look at a variety of options for replacing that energy. Your Board recently approved two wind contracts that will replace a large portion of energy previously supplied from that coal plant, cost-effectively increasing our renewable portfolio.

But we also need to discuss balance. While wind was a cost-effective decision in this case, there is still a need for firm resources to meet your electric needs. Wind and solar alone cannot currently meet your energy needs. Fossil-based assets still play a vital role in providing cost-effective, reliable energy that keeps your power flowing 24/7/365.

Over the coming months, I'll be writing more about the energy transition and how MVEC is seeking a balanced approach. Evolving is important and healthy, however, it needs to be carefully managed and for a purpose, and that is to serve you, our member-owners.

## ORU provides funds for local organizations

MVEC members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU) have their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount, and the extra cents (averaging \$6 a year) collectively assist non-profit groups throughout MVEC's service area.

### 3rd Quarter ORU Recipients:

- **Addiction & Faith** - \$1,750 for local resident training conference
- **Aging Services for Communities of Montgomery** - \$2,200 for mileage
- **Angel Foundation** - \$2,000 for emergency funds for local residents
- **Arts & Heritage Center of Montgomery** - \$2,000 for Edward S Curtis exhibit
- **Belle Plaine Food Shelf** - \$500 for food
- **BrainPower in a Backpack of Burnsville/Savage** - \$500 for food
- **Central Elementary Schools of Norwood-Young America** - \$760 for wobble stools and kindness bench
- **Hamburg Fire Department** - \$2,400 for SCBA masks
- **Holy Redeemer School of Montgomery** - \$1,300 for field trip transportation
- **Hope United Grief Group of Cleveland** - \$1,800 for retreat
- **Kindred Family Focus** - \$1,000 for local resident lessons, camp and mileage
- **Le Sueur-Henderson Backpack Nutrition program** - \$500 for food
- **Lonsdale Area**



**Food Shelf** - \$500 for food • **Le Sueur Food Shelf** - \$500 for food • **Majestic Hills Ranch of Lakeville** - \$2,000 for Heroes on Horseback • **New**

**Options/ProAct of Shakopee** - \$297 for headphones and games • **Peace**

**Center of New Prague** - \$500 for school backpack program • **Reaching Our Community's Kids of Prior Lake** - \$500 for food, supplies

and clothing • **Scott Carver CAP Agency** - \$2,500 for Crisis Nursery • **Scott County Historical Society** - \$282 to upgrade environmental data

• **Scott County Soil & Water Conservation** - \$1,000 for outdoor education day • **Sibley County Community Connect of Green Isle** - \$500 for food

• **Sibley County FoodShare** - \$500 for food • **TreeHouse of Chaska** - \$1,500 for transportation • **True Friends of Eden Prairie** - \$1,500 for maintenance on the Lions Den

• **Victoria Fire Department** - \$820 for two vacuum splint kits • **Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library** - \$775 for board games at Elysian Library

• **WeCAB of Carver County** - \$1,500 for volunteer recruitment & training

**TOTAL THIRD QUARTER DISTRIBUTION: \$31,884**

Since 1995, MVEC members have donated:  
**\$1,843,579.00**

## Cold weather rule in effect Oct. 15 - April 15

Members who fall behind on utility bills can avoid disconnection or be eligible for reconnection between Oct. 15 and April 15 by following the steps outlined in Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule. Under the Cold Weather Rule, disconnection is prohibited only when it affects the primary heat source for the household and as long as these three conditions are met:

1. Members must fill out MVEC-provided form declaring details of inability to pay.
2. Household income must meet state guidelines used to determine fuel assistance eligibility.
3. The member and MVEC must have a mutually-agreed upon payment arrangement.

For more information, visit [www.mvec.net/residential/financial\\_assistance/](http://www.mvec.net/residential/financial_assistance/)







Just as MVEC linemen are evaluated on life-saving skills, MVEC's financial standing is evaluated in a report called the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) by Cooperative Finance Corporation. KRTA compares over 820 electric co-ops using 145 performance measures. Here are four top ratios.

# Co-op receives report card

1.

At the end of 2018, MVEC had over **\$183 million** in plant infrastructure, poles, wire, substations, etc. MVEC ranks in the **top 18%** of over 800 cooperatives in best managing this investment.
2.

Maintaining plant investment to ensure every electron purchased can also be sold is key! Curtailing line loss is critical. Your cooperative ranks in the **top 10%** of all cooperatives in minimizing line loss.
3.

Managing “daily operating expense” is equally important as Plant investment. MVEC’s report card reflects the co-op to be in the **top 20%** of U.S. cooperatives in ensuring these costs are tightly controlled.
4.

These elements all weigh in to your electric rate. MVEC’s rate is competitive nationally, locally and to that of similar size cooperatives. Annually, this means **\$75-125 more** in your pocket

*Photo at left taken during MVEC’s annual poletop rescue exercises, where all linemen train to be prepared in the event they would need to rescue a fellow lineworker injured while working on a power line. Though bucket trucks are now the norm, there are still times linemen climb poles when working in situations where they can’t drive a truck - such as river valleys, tight spaces and right of ways that have heavy tree coverage. Rescuing a co-worker is a skill that is necessary to know, but hopefully never needed.*

## Efficiency upgrades available for income-eligible members

To help members with limited financial resources, MVEC partners with local organizations such as the Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver and Dakota counties, Minnesota Valley Action Council, the Scott County Community Development Agency and local food shelves.

These funds help members make affordable energy efficiency upgrades at reduced or no cost as part of Minnesota’s Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).

Assistance includes free energy audits and central air conditioner tune-ups. Upgrades for refrigerators, clothes washers, window or wall A/C units, dishwashers, microwaves, dehumidifiers and certain sizes of upright or chest freezers are available. Various forms of weatherization measures may also qualify.

### Background

Since 2010, each electric and gas utility in the state is required to use at least 1.5 percent of its average retail sales by spending dedicated funds on low income consumers/members.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Division of Energy Resources) oversees CIP to ensure that ratepayer dollars are used effectively and energy savings are reported as accurately as possible.

Income Guide	
Number in Household	Annual Income
1	\$27,047
2	\$35,370
3	\$43,692
4	\$52,014
5	\$60,336
6	\$68,658
7	\$70,219
8	\$71,779
9	\$73,340
10	\$74,900
11	\$76,461
12	\$78,021
13	\$79,581
14	\$81,142

*Based on 200% of Federal Poverty guidelines*

### Qualifications

To qualify for the CIP program, members must be homeowners, not renters. You must first apply for the Energy Assistance Program with one of the agencies below and meet the income eligibility guidelines. If approved, a home energy auditor will visit your home and determine what appliances need to be upgraded to more energy-efficient units. *For more info, contact:*

**Community Action Partnership of Scott/Carver/Dakota Counties**  
Michelle Franke, **952.496.2125**

**Minnesota Valley Action Council**  
Kris Perendy, **507.345.2434**

**Dakota County CDA**  
Bruce Anderson, **651.675.4400**



## Are all of your phone numbers up to date?

Your correct phone numbers are important to us when it comes to outage restoration. If you call in an outage, your phone number identifies your location in our system.

You can quickly update your information online at  
[www.mvec.net/power-outages/update-phone/](http://www.mvec.net/power-outages/update-phone/)

or by calling our automated phone service at 952.492.8333 or 866.492.8333.



## Members have renewable options

Seventeen percent of the energy MVEC purchases annually includes renewable energy sources. Members who wish to do more can purchase Renewable Energy Certificates, aka RECs, through the co-op's GreenSource program.

The average household uses 1,000 kilowatt hours a month. That amount of electric usage can be completely offset in renewable energy by purchasing:

- **Wind RECs** – \$.10 per 100 kWh block
- **Solar RECs** – \$.30 per 100 kWh block

You may purchase as many blocks of RECs as you would like, up to your average annual electric usage. There is no contract, so you may leave the program whenever you wish.

Currently, 232 members purchase wind RECs and 49 support the solar REC program. Learn more or sign up at  
[www.mvec.net/renewables/](http://www.mvec.net/renewables/)



## September 15-21 is National Farm Safety & Health Week

### HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*

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