

Back to school dorm Safety Check

Make sure your student's dorm room or apartment is up-to-snuff when it comes to electrical safety.

- Don't overload extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Use power strips with surge protectors. This will automatically shut power off if there is too much current being drawn.
- If an electrical outlet becomes so hot you cannot leave your hand on it, there is potential for a fire. Unplug everything from the outlet and notify landlord or dorm officials immediately.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only and should not be used as a long-term solution when you need another outlet.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet. Make sure the appliance cords aren't frayed or cracked.
- Buy a UL-Listed fire extinguisher and know how to use it.

Find additional resources and board meeting highlights at www.mvec.net

ElectricEye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

August 2017

Dog Days of Summer out in the field

The hottest days of summer coincide with the position of the Dog Star in the night sky, thus the phrase Dog Days of Summer.

Our line crews experience Dog (and other critter) Days throughout the year, providing a little comic relief to the work day.

Below, on a Le Sueur County job site, foreman Lee Hoese was surprised to find this furry dog in the cab of his truck enjoying the air conditioning on a hot day. Lee recorded a funny video of this situation, which can be found on our Facebook page.



Maintenance foreman Jim Cullen, who celebrated 40 years at the co-op at the beginning of this year, caught this friendly fellow (above) on the back of his truck. Jim thinks the smell of sandwiches may have attracted the dog.



Lead line foreman Jim Schwalbe seems to attract a variety of wildlife, from snapping turtles to curious kittens.



Propane users: call us before you contract

After several years of remaining steady, propane prices seem to be on the rise. Before you sign a costly contract for an entire year of winter heating, be sure to check with one of MVEC's energy specialists. We'll take a look at your household needs and give you a straight answer whether participating in an Energy Wise program will be the more competitive way to heat this coming year. Contact Michael or Mike O at 952.492.2313 or 800.282.6832.



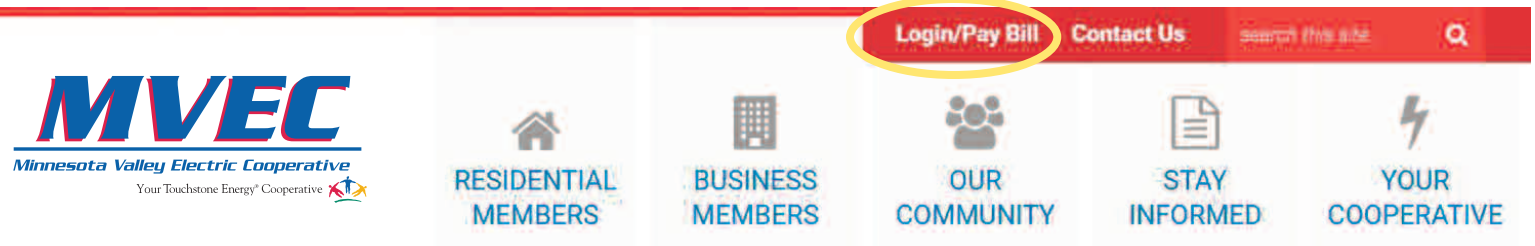
Online payments made easy with SmartHub portal

If you like to pay your bills online, the link to pay with MVEC's secure payment program, SmartHub, appears at the top of every webpage at www.mvec.net/

After you click this link, you'll get a screen

to login if you have an existing account or to register for an account. Choose Pay Now if you want to make a payment without registering.

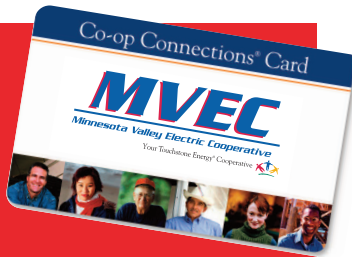
You can also use this link to view your usage or billing history. Find it at www.mvec.net/



Co-op Card savings

As an MVEC member, you can save 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions and receive discounts at a variety of local and national businesses by using the Co-op Connections Card.

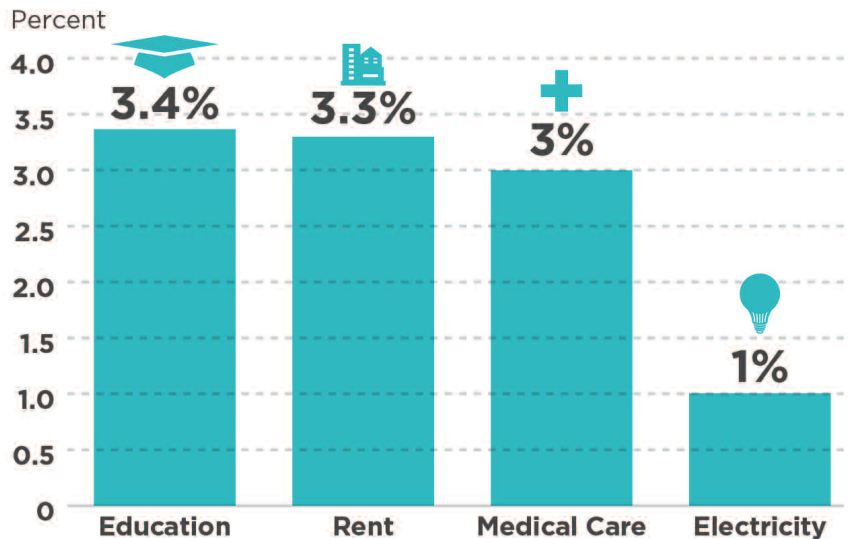
Learn more, print out your own copies of the card or download a convenient smartphone app at www.mvec.net/our-community/



Electricity remains a good value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many other typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these other necessities each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Consumer Statistics

Beat the Peak so far

15.6 megawatt hours saved during three July evening events

The 2017 Beat the Peak Energy Challenge is well underway, with one month to go. July saw three events with a total month's savings of 15.6 megawatt hours of electricity.

4.8 megawatt hours were saved on July 6.

Events were called two days in a row on July 19 and 20. Though the 19th saw temperatures drop due to storms rolling through, 7.0 megawatt hours were saved. The hotter day on the 20th recorded 3.8 megawatt hours.

July's total megawatt hour savings are the equivalent of burning 14 tons of coal.

When combined with June's savings of 3.9 megawatt hours, a total 19.5 has been saved through Beat the Peak in 2017.

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