

Inside this issue:

• Operation Round Up donates \$29,790 **page 2**

• Cold Weather Rule begins September 15 **page 3**

• Look up during harvest and stay safe around lines **page 4**

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, check your usage 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



ElectricEye

September 2018

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

Measured by key ratios Report helps co-op make wise decisions

Each year, the Cooperative Finance Corporation, a lender for electric cooperatives across the country, compiles a financial report called the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA). In it, MVEC is compared with 800-plus electric cooperatives using 145 different performance measures.

In an effort to better manage the cooperative's quality of operational and financial services, these

multiple measures provide a solid base from which MVEC can better understand the intricacies of being an electric provider, according to Gerry Mareck, vice president of finance. "Comparing data and trends is helpful in cashing in on areas where the cooperative can improve, and build upon areas that are a strength to the cooperative. That's the cooperative way!"

MVEC's average electric rate is **½ to 1 cent lower** (past five years) versus co-ops across the country and those of similar size, meaning **\$60 to \$120** less annual electric costs to you.

Diversification

of power purchases keeps MVEC's rate at or below co-ops of similar size for **4 of the past 5 years** and, across the country, **3 of the past 5 years**. MVEC is also competitive among local utilities.

Local operating expense (non-power purchases) continues to be 25% below co-ops of similar size and even greater when compared across the state and nationally. **↓25%**

MVEC ranks in the **top 12%** (of over 800 co-ops) in best managing its line loss. This is a measurement of electricity purchased but not sold. Effective design of the grid system and use of technology has allowed MVEC to maximize efficiency.

Deadline to sign up for solar array is Oct. 31

MVEC will soon be assessing whether enough members are interested in supporting an MVEC-owned and maintained Cooperative solar array.

The enrollment period began in June and, as of the end of August, MVEC has received signed contracts for 38 of the needed 1,600 blocks to proceed with the project. The cost of a block is approximately \$16 a month for members who participate in an Energy Wise program, and \$36 a month for those who don't.

Learn more or sign up by Oct. 31, 2018, at www.mvec.net/renewables

The solar array is not to be confused with the purchase of Solar RECs (renewable energy certificates). RECs are a permanent part of the co-op's GreenSource renewable energy program. Solar RECs are 30 cents/kilowatt hour. Wind RECs are also available at 10 cents/kilowatt hour. Only members who participate in MVEC's GreenSource program pay for renewable energy expenses; costs are not passed on to the membership as a whole.



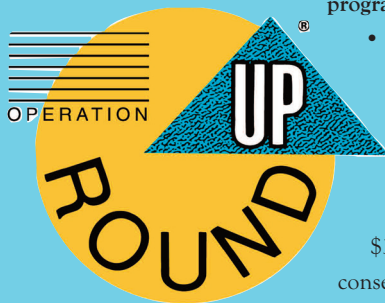
Want to support an MVEC solar array? Commitment is needed by Oct. 31 at mvec.net/renewables

ORU provides funds for local organizations

With Operation Round Up (ORU), MVEC members can round up their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. The extra cents (averaging \$6 a year) from all participating members are combined and put into a special trust fund used to assist non-profit groups throughout MVEC's service area.

3rd Quarter ORU Recipients:

- **Aging Services for Communities of Montgomery** - \$1,000 for volunteer certification training
- **Angel Foundation** - \$2,000 for assistance to cancer patients
- **Belle Plaine Food Shelf** - \$500 for food
- **Belle Plaine Royalty** - \$300 for food to serve at Ronald McDonald House
- **Burnsville Hall of Fame** - \$250 for event expenses
- **Czech & Slovak Century 1918-2018** - \$300 for souvenir booklets and advertising
- **Domaci, Inc. of New Prague** - \$500 for hometown holiday event
- **Dakota County Technical College Foundation** - \$2,000 for lineworker scholarships
- **First Stop Shop** - \$1,000 for Scott County Fast Track business challenge
- **Green Isle Christmas Lights Committee** - \$1,000 for LED Christmas lights
- **Green Isle Lions** - \$1,000 for school supply backpack program
- **Jordan Heimatfest** - \$500 for fireworks



- **Henderson Area Foodshelf** - \$500 for food
- **Holy Redeemer School of Montgomery** - \$800 for fall field trip transportation
- **Hope United Grief Group of Le Center** - \$1,500 for healing retreat
- **Infants Remembered in Silence** - \$1,000 for bereavement books
- **Le Center Volunteer Ambulance** - \$500 for Stryker power cot
- **Le Sueur-Henderson Backpack Nutrition program** - \$500 for food
- **Lonsdale Area Food Shelf** - \$500 for food
- **Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Service** - \$1,000 for dental program
- **New Options, ProAct** - \$485 for technology and chairs
- **Oak Crest Elementary of Belle Plaine** - \$500 for Kindness Retreat
- **Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency** - \$3,000 for Crisis Nursery
- **Scott County Historical Society** - \$655 to upgrade interactive touchscreen
- **Scott County Sheriff** - \$3,500 for 2 ResQ Pump
- **Scott County SWCD** - \$1,000 for conservation education
- **Sibley County Emergency Management** - \$1,000 for AEDs
- **Sibley County FoodShare** - \$500 for food
- **TreeHouse of Chaska** - \$2,500 for transportation

TOTAL THIRD QUARTER DISTRIBUTION: \$29,790

Since 1995, MVEC members have donated:

\$1,794,277.63

Energy-efficient 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 (CAP), Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC), the Scott County Community Development Agency (CDA) and local food shelves.

Funds help members make affordable energy efficiency upgrades at reduced or no cost as part of the 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

The 2007 Next Generation Energy Act established energy-saving goals for Minnesota electric and gas utilities. 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.

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

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 (not MVEC) 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 Community Development Agency
Bruce Anderson, 651.675.4400

Income Guide	
Number in Household	Annual Income
1	\$25,983
2	\$33,978
3	\$41,973
4	\$49,698
5	\$57,963
6	\$65,958
7	\$67,457
8	\$68,956
9	\$70,455
10	\$71,954
11	\$73,453
12	\$74,952
13	\$76,451
14	\$77,950

Based on 200% of Federal Poverty guidelines

Energy Wise programs give electric vehicle owners choices for charging

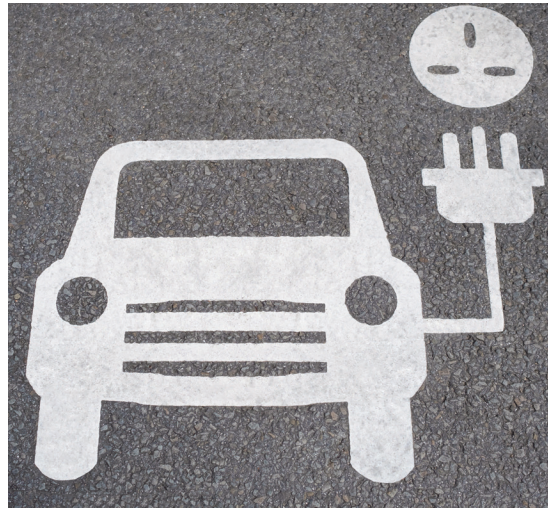
MVEC now has two voluntary options for electric vehicle (EV) charging: a storage program that offers a static, but low price, and a Time-of-Use (TOU) program that provides flexibility.

EV-8: Storage Program

This rate offers members a low off-peak electric rate for charging an EV for eight hours a night and only during off-peak hours of 11 p.m. - 7 a.m.

Power is not available outside of off-peak hours, and the charger must be hardwired into your circuit panel, if wired to its own dedicated meter. No other outlet is allowed.

Summer Rate: 6.5¢/kWh
Rest of the Year Rate: 4.9¢/kWh



Rebate - Receive a \$150 rebate toward the installation of your EV charger when you sign up for either program. Available for each charger you enroll in either program. Additional outlets for your EV that are not off-peak outlets are prohibited when participating in either program.

Find rebate form and further details at www.mvec.net/residential/efficiency-rebates/

EV-24: Time of Use Program

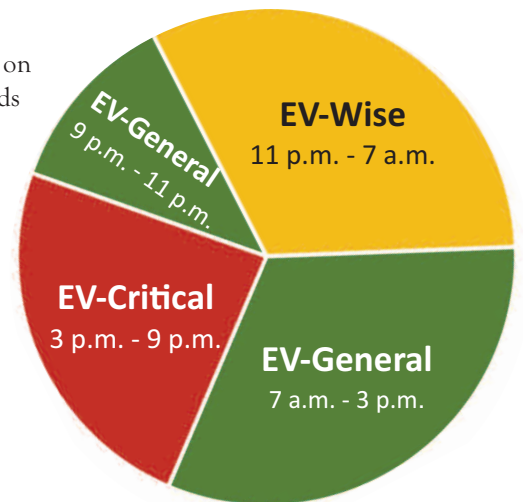
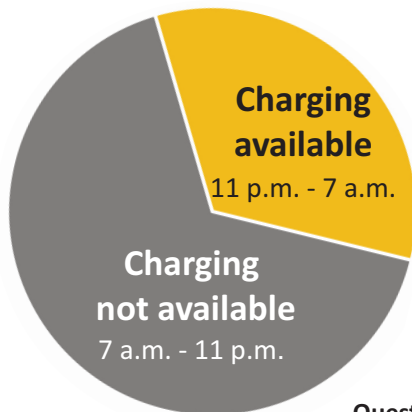
With this program you can charge your vehicle whenever needed. You will install a special meter on your home to keep track of fluctuating rate periods based on the time of day you charge your EV.

Summer Rates (June-Sept):

- EV-Wise (Yellow) 6.5¢/kWh
- EV-General (Green) 12.5¢/kWh
- EV-Critical (Red) 39.7¢/kWh

Rest of the Year Rates:

- EV-Wise (Yellow) 4.9¢/kWh
- EV-General (Green) 11.7¢/kWh
- EV-Critical (Red) 39.7¢/kWh



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

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 a form declaring an inability to pay.
2. Household income must meet the state guidelines used to determine fuel assistance eligibility.
3. The member and MVEC must have a mutually-agreed upon payment arrangement in place.

For more information, visit www.mvec.net/residential/financial_assistance/

Cultivating the seeds of safety

September 16-22 is National Farm Safety Week

Did you know farming is the 6th most dangerous job in the U.S.? Even more risky than being a lineworker?

According to Bankrate, the top 10 dangerous occupations are (1) loggers; (2) fishermen; (3) aircraft pilots; (4) roofers; (5) refuse collectors; (6) farmers and ranchers; (7) iron and steel workers; (8) truck drivers; (9) power line workers; and (10) taxi drivers and chauffeurs.

Tractor overturns are the leading cause of death for farmers and farm workers, but each year an average 62 farm workers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

At least 10 feet is the recommended distance to stay away from power lines. Additional tips include:

- ❑ Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and poles.
- ❑ Have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as

IF YOU COME INTO CONTACT WITH A POWER LINE:

STAY IN THE VEHICLE CALL 911

IF YOU MUST EXIT THE VEHICLE:

JUMP AWAY — DON'T TOUCH THE VEHICLE AND GROUND AT THE SAME TIME

LAND WITH BOTH FEET AT THE SAME TIME

HOP OR SHUFFLE AT LEAST 30 FEET AWAY




Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives
The power of human connections[®]

combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers, and front-end loaders.

- ❑ Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
 - ❑ Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines. When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.
 - ❑ Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.
 - ❑ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
 - ❑ Be careful not to raise other equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
 - ❑ Never raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- It's very important that all farm workers and seasonal helpers know about electrical hazards and are trained in proper procedures to avoid injury. We want you to be safe!

We say electricity is a great bang for your buck, but what exactly do you get?



Cost	Everyday Item	Compared to Electricity:
\$5	latte	power a coffee maker for 7 months
\$20	new DVD	power a DVD player for 2 years
\$150	night at a hotel	fully charge an iPad for 100+ years

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



The Electric Eye is the official publication of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
Jordan, MN 55352
www.mvec.net • info@mvec.net
Office Hours: M - F: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

24-Hour Dispatch/Outages:
952.492.8255 or 800.232.2328
Member Service: M - F: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
952.492.2313 or 800.282.6832
Pay By Phone: 952.492.8333 or 1.866.492.8333

For questions about the Electric Eye, email us at ElectricEye@mvec.net. The Electric Eye is printed with environmentally safe soy based ink.
General Manager: Ryan Hentges
Editor: Susan Larson

MVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

