

Inside this issue:

- More than one way to save money this summer
page 2
- What do the lights on your load management receiver mean?
page 3
- Monitor household usage changes with SmartHub
page 4

Safety reminders

Summer is the time when everyone wants to play outside, so it is important that everyone knows what possible electrical safety hazards to avoid.

- Go around your yard and neighborhood and show your family where electrical lines are located.
- Never play near or touch a power line with any part of your body, toy, stick, or any other object. Assume that any power lines you see are live and dangerous.
- Never climb on or play around a utility pole or equipment.
- Do not touch electrical toys or appliances if you are wet or standing in water.

Additional resources available 24/7 at www.mvec.net

ElectricEye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

July 2020

Operation Round Up 2nd quarter: \$20,000 focus on food programs

In light of challenging times, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program awarded the majority of its second quarter 2020 funds to 20 area food shelves and school food programs – accounting for \$20,000 of the total \$31,330 distributed.



The 20 food-related groups receiving \$1,000 grants are:

- Belle Plaine Backpack Program
- Belle Plaine Food Shelf
- Burnsville BrainPower in a Backpack
- Bountiful Basket Food Shelf
- Cleveland Food Shelf
- Green Isle Community Connect
- Henderson FoodShare
- Jordan Blessings in a Back Pack
- Jordan Food Shelf
- Le Center Food Shelf
- Le Sueur Food Shelf
- Le Sueur School Nutrition
- Lonsdale Area Food Shelf
- Montgomery Food Shelf
- Peace Center of New Prague
- PROP of Eden Prairie
- Sibley County FoodShare
- SW Carver Co. Food Shelf
- Waconia United Food Shelf
- Waterville-Elysian FoodShare

Other 2nd Quarter recipients are:

- Czech Heritage Club - \$500/publish cookbook of Czechoslovakian recipes
- First Stop Shop of Scott County - \$2,000/small business mentorship
- HIS Haven Ranch - \$5,030/portable pen
- MN Adopt - \$2,000/shopping experience
- Prior Lake High School - \$200/Safe Party
- Scott-Carver CAP Agency - \$500/Crisis Nursery
- True Friends - \$1,100/facility furniture



Thank you to MVEC's Operation Round-Up program for the generous donation of \$1,000. That money will go a long way to feed our hungry families. Each dollar gives us seven pounds of food, so we will be able to purchase 7,000 pounds of food! Thank you! — Renee Southwick, Montgomery Food Shelf

Thank you for your contribution to the Sibley County FoodShare. Your generosity continues to provide emergency assistance to the hungry of Sibley County. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. — Jacki Kruggel

ORU Team - **Thank you** so much for your generous gift to the Henderson FoodShare. The funds will be put

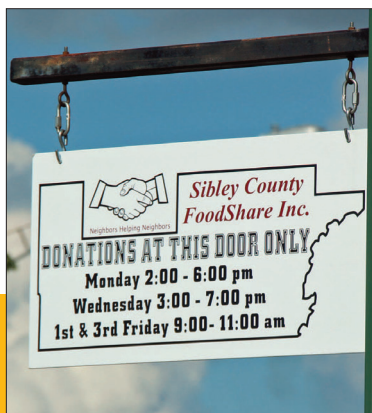
to good use in helping those in need. Blessings to you.

— Diane Frauendienst

Thank you for your generous donation to the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf. Your donation will allow us to continue to successfully achieve our mission of providing food to those in need in our community.

— Bountiful Basket Food Shelf

Thank you for your generosity. Your grant of \$1,000 will go a long way to helping us end hunger in Eden Prairie and Chanhassen. You have made a real difference in the lives of the people in our community, especially during this unprecedented time. — Janet Palmer, PROP



Thank you to MVEC members who round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar amount. This extra change is what the ORU Trust Fund Board uses to fulfill donation requests to area groups and charities. Sign up at www.mvec.net/our-community

MVEC
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Air conditioning is a major culprit for a summer electric bill that seems unusually high, as are dehumidifiers and fans. Here are other simple tips for keeping your electric bill under control:

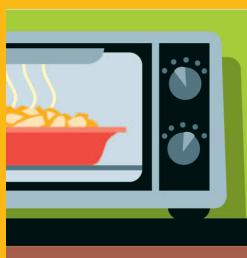


Working from Home

Think of how many computers and electronic devices are in your home - especially if you are now working from home. Don't forget to shut down when you go off the clock.

Countertop Convenience

Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, Crock-Pots and toaster ovens are cooler ways to cook.



Laundry for Less

Full loads mean fewer cycles, and running your washer and dryer in the late evening adds less heat and humidity to your home. Our wholesale energy costs less outside of peak hours, typically 4-9 p.m.

Intramural Competition

Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen.



Cool it Down

Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat. Resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember that lower fan settings use less energy.

For additional energy trouble-shooting tips and an appliance calculator, visit our new web page:

www.mvec.net/residential/bill-seems-higher



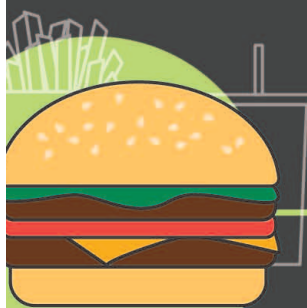
CEO's Corner/Ryan Hentges

Our cooperative was formed in 1937 by neighbors and communities joining together to achieve a common goal of bringing electricity to areas other utilities would not serve. Working together is in the DNA of your cooperative and is something that continues today.

By working together, we are able to manage the cost of electricity. Over 44 percent of our members participate in one of our Energy Wise programs. Through your participation in MVEC's Energy Wise programs, together, we are able to avoid costly power at key times. This avoided cost keeps the money in the pockets of our members and helps the cooperative stay financially healthy in order to maintain stable rates.

By working together, we are able to provide financial support

THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY



\$5.30

average cost of a Big Mac® value meal

\$3.87

average daily cost of power



Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2018 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$117. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: Economist.com and EIA, 2018 data.

Working together

to worthy organizations through our communities. Many of you participate in MVEC's Operation Round-Up program and allow MVEC to round-up your monthly bill to the next nearest dollar. On a quarterly basis, the Operation Round-Up Board, which is a group of nine volunteers from our community, review funding applications and determine how to allocate the funds. The cents each of you donate each month add up and provide important funding to organizations throughout our communities.

If you are interested in participating in either of these programs, please feel free to contact our office at 952-492-2313 or visit us online at www.mvec.net to learn more.

We appreciate your partnership. We enjoy working in and with our communities. Thank you for your support, and the opportunity to serve you, our member-owners.

No more landline?

Please keep your phone numbers updated to make outage reporting easier and to allow us to update you when we have a planned outage at your location.

When you report an outage, your phone number automatically identifies your location and populates the outage mapping system.



Easily update your info by calling our automated phone line at 952.492.8333 or filling out a short form at www.mvec.net/power-outages/update-phone

Energy Wise: managing load to save money

Members who participate in Energy Wise programs allow the co-op to periodically manage the flow of electricity to certain heating, cooling and electric water heating units to help reduce electric demand during peak usage times. In return, participants

save money on their electric bills.

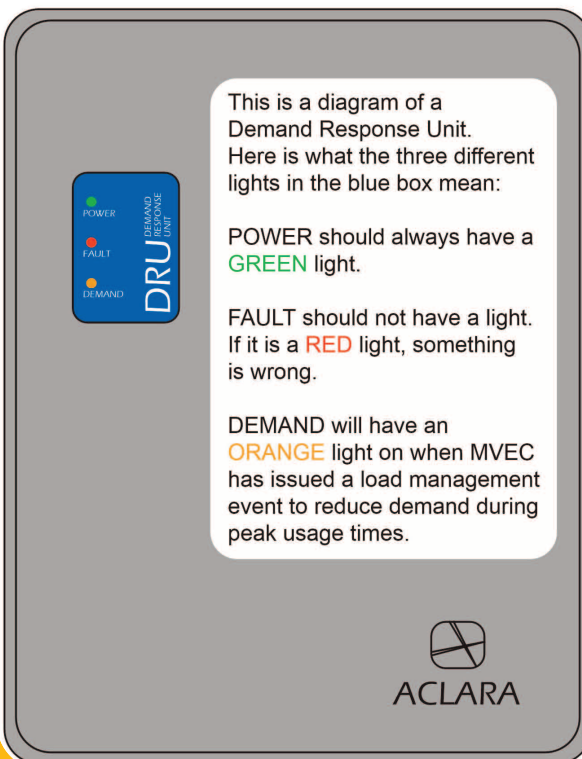
While elec-

tric water heaters play a major role in the co-op's load management strategy year-round, during the summer months, managing air source heat pumps and air conditioners comes to the forefront in saving power and money for the co-op and its members.



What do the lights on your receiver box mean?

All Energy Wise programs for heating, cooling and electric water heating (except electric vehicle programs and WiFi thermostats) require a Demand Response Unit (DRU) on your home to receive signals to start and end a load management time period. The graphic shown here shows what the three lights on the DRU mean.



Why manage load?

► MVEC determines Energy Wise management times daily according to system-wide usage and wholesale power market energy prices.

► The system's electric load is impacted by temperature, humidity, time of day and other conditions around the Midwest.

► MVEC reduces its wholesale power costs by reducing the total amount of energy our members use at any one point during the calendar month. The savings come by reducing the demand for new power plants that would need to be built by our power suppliers.

► Energy Wise programs lower our power bills, so we, in turn, pass rate savings to our members.

Know as soon as we do. If you participate in an Energy Wise program, you can have email notification of load management times sent to you.

Sign up at www.mvec.net/residential/load-control/



What do you know about SmartHub?

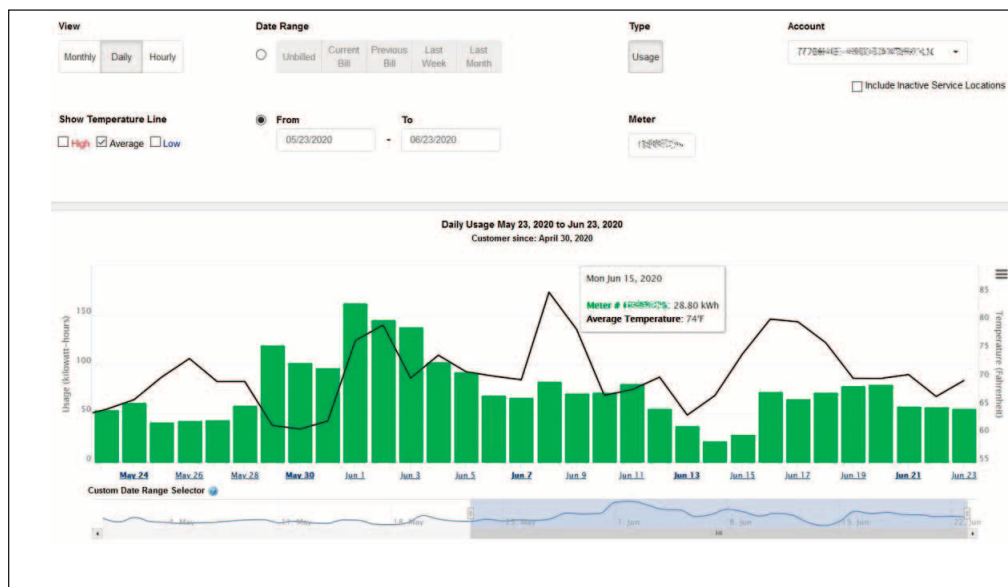


A handy tool to analyze electric bills and see your daily energy usage


Did you know you can use SmartHub to see how your daily energy usage is being impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic? With people working remotely and families finding more things to do at home, your household energy use has most likely changed.

With SmartHub, you're able to analyze your monthly and daily energy usage. A quick comparison between months can help explain fluctuations in energy bills. You can even drill down to hourly usage.

If your bill seems higher than usual, you can start tracking the trends and patterns in your home by looking at your own energy analysis report. Making energy-efficient adjustments to your household's daily patterns can help lower your bills.



You can access SmartHub with a mobile app for phone or tablet or on your desktop computer at mvec.smarthub.coop. Download the free app from iTunes or the Android Marketplace. Search for SmartHub.



SMART USAGE


SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

Saving money just got easier.


Track your usage and take the guesswork out of your bill with SmartHub.

Through detailed graphs, you'll be able to monitor usage 24/7 and track your consumption, finding ways to reduce and save.

...All in the palm of your hand and online.



www.smarthubapp.com



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