



Programs help with summer savings

Summer cooling is not far away. Here are two Energy Wise programs to consider to help lower your summer energy bills. Contact us or sign up at www.mvec.net

Energy Wise Cooling

- Receive a 10% discount on all main meter usage from June-September.
- MVEC will install an energy management switch (free of charge) on your home near your central air conditioner.
- During peak system-wide electricity usage, the switch cycles your central air conditioner on and off. The furnace fan continues to circulate cool air.
- Receive a \$25 rebate for air conditioner and heat pump tune-ups. Unit must be three years or older and not had a tune up in the last two years. The rebate application can be found at www.mvec.net.



WiFi Thermostat

- Receive \$50 for enrolling and 10% discount on all main meter usage June-September.
- Control WiFi thermostats from your computer or smart phone.
- Set it and forget it! Manage optimal temperature settings when you're home or away. You'll automatically lower your energy costs, as well as help MVEC ensure lower rates for everyone.
- Visit www.mvec.net to see qualifying WiFi thermostats. Wireless internet network required.



\$1.45 million in Capital Credits applied to March bills

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called net margins, are returned to members in the form of Capital Credits. This is Cooperative Principle #3: Members' Economic Participation.

If you were a member of MVEC in 1996, you may have seen a credit on your March bill called Capital Credits, which are the margins the cooperative pays back to members after all expenses for operations have been met and bills paid.

This year, the Board of Directors has authorized an allocation of \$1,450,000 with an additional \$300,000 set aside for seniors over 70 and estates that can apply to receive a discounted

payment of their Capital Credit balance.

A member's Capital Credits are based on the amount of power used during that year.

Since 1959, MVEC has returned **over \$27 million** in Capital Credits to its member-owners. Even if you move and are no longer an MVEC member, the co-op will forward future Capital Credit payments to you, if we have your current address.

For more information, search for Capital Credits at www.mvec.net or call Tammi at 952.492.8226 or 800.282.6832.



How it all works:

1. MVEC tracks the amount of electricity you use and pay for throughout the year.
2. At year end, MVEC determines if there is excess revenue, called margins.
3. MVEC allocates the margins as Capital Credits to you, based on how much electricity you've used.
4. When MVEC's financial condition permits, your board of directors decides to pay or retire the Capital Credits.
5. You receive your Capital Credits as a bill credit or if you are a former member with a check in the mail.

Additional resources and board meeting highlights available 24/7 at www.mvec.net



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MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operation Round Up donates \$36,035 in first quarter of 2021

Here's how Operation Round Up works: If your bill is \$75.78, it is rounded up to \$76.00 – and that extra 22¢ goes to the Operation Round Up Trust Fund. Multiply all that change by the thousands of MVEC members who participate, and it makes a BIG difference in our local communities.

This program provides funds for local fire departments, women's shelters, groups serving youth, medical equipment, food shelves and many other worthwhile causes. **Currently, the total donation amount is \$1,912,534. First quarter 2021 donations went to:**

- **Arlington Garden Club** - finish water fountain: \$1,500
- **BrainPower in a Back Pack of Burnsville** - food: \$500
- **Campfire MN** - day camp: \$2,500
- **Carver-Scott Humane Society** - large professional grooming tub: \$3,128
- **Central Elementary School of Norwood-Young America** - Raptor Center field trip: \$395
- **Central High School of Norwood-Young America Post Prom** - food and prizes: \$200
- **Choose Not to Use of Scott County** - educational efforts: \$2,000
- **Community Giving Hope of Sibley County** - trailer to haul ramp: \$600

- **Cologne Fire Department** - 15 helmets: \$3,000
- **Elysian Library/Heritage Center** - purchase non-fiction books: \$975
- **Green Isle Community Connect** - food: \$500
- **Green Isle Lions** - purchase gloves, mittens and jackets: \$1,500
- **Holy Redeemer School of Montgomery** - mini classes in March: \$700
- **Jordan Blessings in a Backpack** - food: \$500
- **Jordan Food Shelf** - food: \$500
- **Le Sueur Food Shelf** - food: \$500
- **Lets Go Fishing of Scott County** - update computer/sanitation system: \$1,800
- **Lonsdale Area Food Shelf** - food: \$500
- **MN Adopt** - back to school shopping event for kids in MVEC area: \$2,000
- **MN Fire** - awareness training for fire departments in MVEC area: \$2,000
- **New Prague Area Historical Society** - multi-media adjustable table: \$600
- **New Prague Senior Send Off** - food and prizes: \$200
- **Peace Center Food Shelf of New Prague** - food: \$500
- **ProAct of Shakopee** - smart TV, garden beds and cards - \$487
- **Raven Stream Elementary of New Prague** - 3rd-5th grade tree planting: \$500

ARE YOU IN?

Add your cents by visiting www.mvec.net and search Operation Round Up



- **Relate of Chaska** - 24-hour crisis coverage: \$1,500
- **Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency** - crisis nursery: \$2,000
- **Shakopee All Night Graduation** - food and prizes: \$200
- **Sibley County Food Share** - food: \$500
- **Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women of Belle Plaine** - enhance group support programs: \$4,000
- **True Friends of Eden Prairie** - hospital grade protective gear: \$2,750
- **Victoria Fire Department** - battery-powered ventilation fan: \$2,000

1st quarter total: \$36,035

Thank you to the 53% of our members who participate!

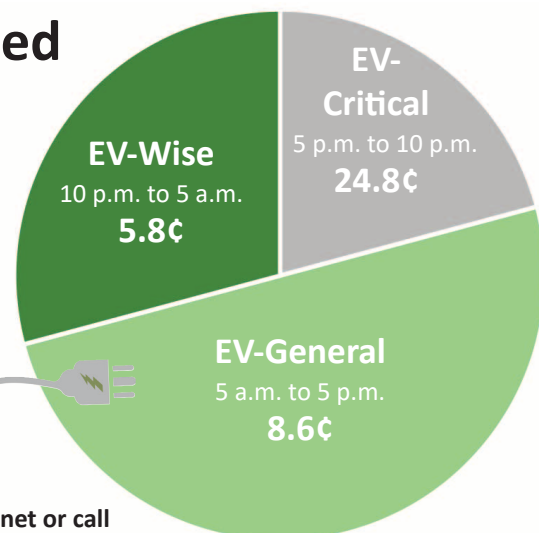
Good news: EV rates simplified and adjusted

Upon recommendation from an independent firm, Power Systems Engineering, it was determined MVEC's electric vehicle charging rates can be adjusted as of May 1, 2021.

Overall, the new rates offer the opportunity for lower costs for charging during daytime and peak time periods. For overnight charging, the rate has a minimal adjustment with the average participant seeing a .26 cent increase per 600 kWh.

If you already participate in the EV program, there is nothing you need to do to enjoy the reduced rates, which are effective beginning with your May bill (reflects April usage). The time periods are slightly adjusted, too.

If you are considering an electric vehicle, contact Mike O or Michael H for help in signing up for the program, which includes a \$150 rebate for each EV charger you install.



For details, visit www.mvec.net or call Mike O or Michael H at 952.492.2313

A tree in the right spot can help with cooling and heating

As we observe Earth Day and Arbor Day in the month of April, we also celebrate the beauty and function of trees in our communities.

With the co-op's right-of-way tree trimming policy, some may think the cooperative is anti-tree. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our outage team - and your neighbors that share your power

lines — just prefer you plant and maintain them away from power lines.

As trees grow, they help remove carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees provide many benefits to us, every day. They attract birds and wildlife, purify our air, prevent soil erosion, clean our water, and add

beauty to our homes and communities.

A good landscape can cool your home in summer and provide protection from winter winds. Plant your trees in the right place to avoid interference with power lines and the benefits will help you save on your energy bill, and the aesthetics will increase your property value.

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

For more tips on smart tree planting, visit www.ArborDay.org and www.mvec.net for co-op info.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

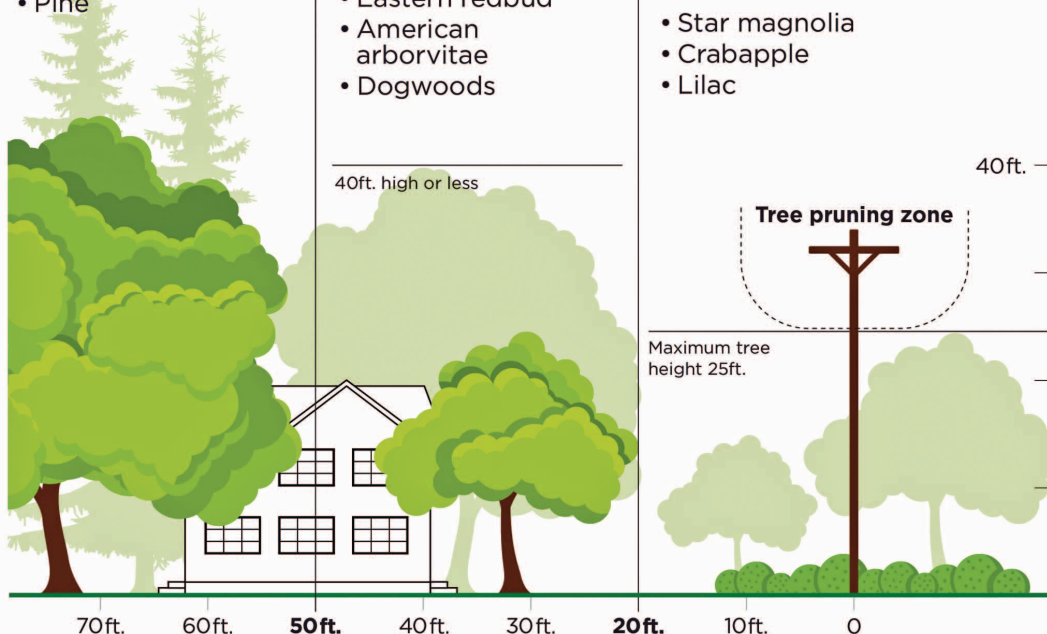
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Make sure trees don't interfere with power lines

Before you or your contractor dig to plant a tree, Call Gopher State One Call at 811 in advance to have underground utilities marked - it's free and it provides safety when excavating.

• Keep in mind the height and spread your tree species will reach when full grown. The co-op required right-of-way clearance is:

- **20 feet** for single-phase distribution lines on either side of pole.
- **30 feet** for multi-phase distribution lines on either side of pole.

• If you notice a tree or brush on your property that is interfering with an MVEC utility pole or power line, report it by calling our **Dispatch Center at 952.492.8255**. Now is the time to take care of low lying branches before summer storm season begins.

• Our associate, Carr's Tree Service, is also available for private work with free estimates.

If you have questions about tree clearance on your property or contacting Carr's, please contact MVEC's Dispatch Center at 952.492.8255.





CEO's Corner

By Ryan Hentges

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at MVEC, it's

important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service reps are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



Lineworker Appreciation Day

On April 12, remember to
#ThankALineworker.

P.S. April 26-30 is Work Zone Safety Week. Give our guys, road workers and first responders plenty of space if you pass them on the highway or street.

The Electric Eye is the official publication of
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Chief Executive Officer: Ryan Hentges

Editor: Susan Larson • Contributor: Jessica Heinz
www.mvec.net • info@mvec.net
MVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Office Hours: M - F: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
24-Hour Dispatch/Outages:
952.492.8255 or 800.232.2328

Contact Member Service:
952.492.2313 or 800.282.6832
Pay By Phone: 952.492.8333 or 1.866.492.8333

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125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
Jordan, MN 55352