

MVEC awards \$16,000 in high school scholarships

MVEC has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 15 local high school seniors. An additional \$1,000 scholarship was funded by wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Five winners from each of MVEC's three voting districts were randomly selected from a total of 234 entries received. MVEC's scholarships are funded with unclaimed Capital Credits — money that

otherwise would be given to the state of Minnesota.

Here are the 2021 recipients, their high schools and intended colleges.



Basin Scholarship:
Greg Stoffel
Holy Family
still deciding



Matthew Anderley
Le Sueur-Henderson
South Central
Technical College



Shane Anderson
Burnsville
U of Minnesota -
Twin Cities



Allison Andryski
Prior Lake
U of Florida -
Miami



Emma Aronson
Belle Plaine
Alexandria Tech
College



Aaron Backlund
Jordan
Normandale
College



Lexi Buehler
Eden Prairie
Iowa State



Molly Hovick
Prior Lake
Winona State



Daisy Lang
Chanhassen
Northwestern -
Evansville, IL



Joshua Nelson
Lakeville South
U of Minnesota -
Duluth



Andrew Nerud
New Prague
St. John's
University



Jon Ouradnick
New Prague
Minnesota State -
Mankato



Allison Reints
Waterville-Elysian
U of Minnesota -
Duluth



Stuart Schatz
Tri-City United
S. Dakota School of
Mining/Technology



Vincent Sheeler
Shakopee
U of Minnesota -
Twin Cities



Nathan Wilder
Homeschool
U of Wisconsin -
Platteville



Congrats
to the
Class of
2021!

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

Power outage preparedness

Despite our best efforts 24/7/365 to keep the electric system up and running, unexpected outages can and do happen.

Trees and wind are major reasons for power outages caused by severe weather. MVEC works year-round on a regular tree trimming schedule to remove trees, branches and other types of vegetation that could come in contact with power lines. Major storms can damage substations and power lines, as well as the transmission equipment that powers us. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Average Outage Duration:

53 
MINUTES*
down 3 minutes from previous year!

Average Member Experiences:

.64 outages
(some may not experience any)
per year*
down .12

Trees/branches account for 17% of MVEC outages

Notify MVEC if you have branches that interfere with power lines.

MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A "Touchstone Energy" Cooperative

Outage information is one click away at www.mvec.net

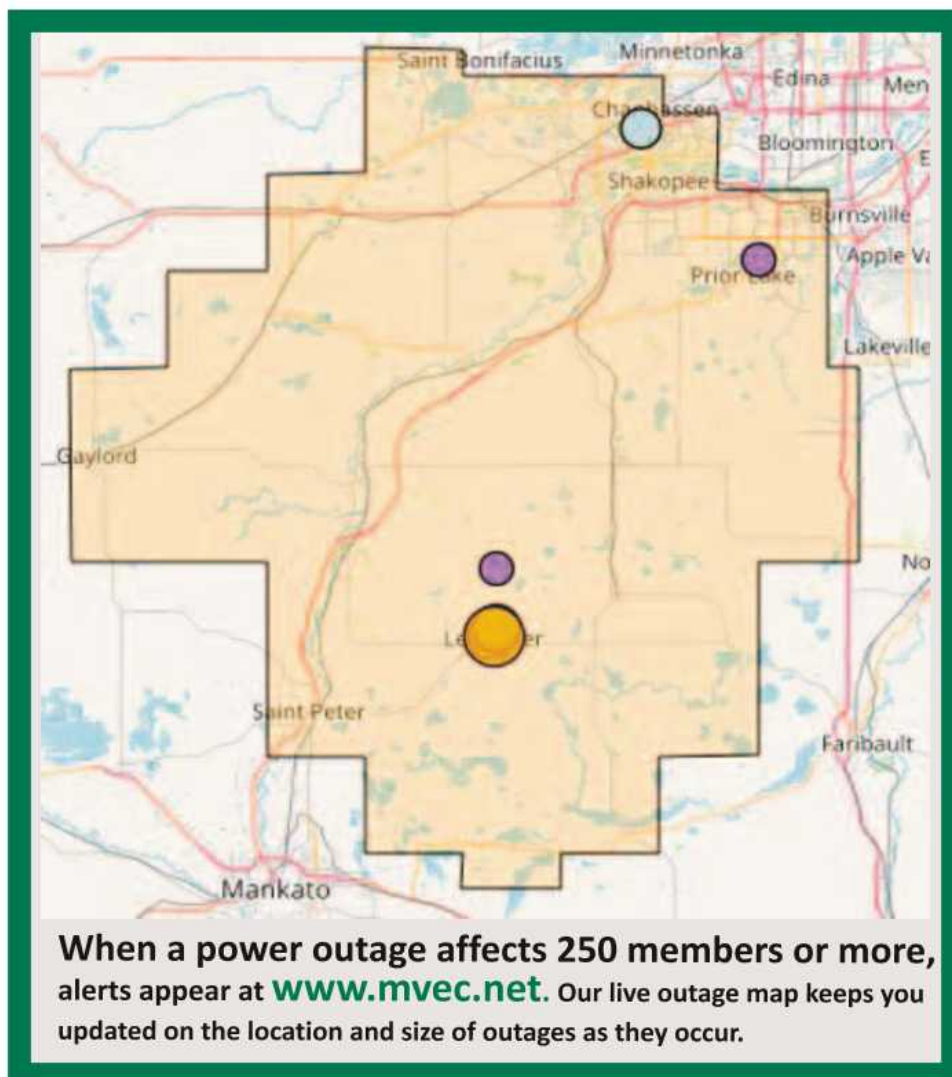
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Contact Us

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SAVINGS & REBATES

OUTAGES & SAFETY

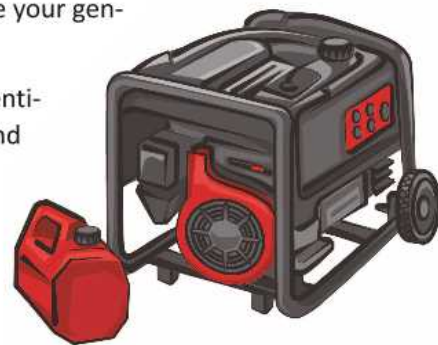


Use backup generators safely

Does your household or small business run electric equipment that requires backup for critical equipment in the event of an outage? Consider a backup generator for emergencies. However, never directly connect a standby generator to household wiring. Make sure your generator is properly grounded and kept dry.

- **Portable Generators** should be used in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly. Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator. Do not overload the generator. Start the generator first before connecting appliances.

- **Stationary Generators** are hardwired and should be installed by a professional.



Call Dispatch to report an outage: 952.492.8255 or 800.232.2328

Soon there will be two ways to report a power outage

1 **Currently** - call our 24/7 Dispatch at 952.492.8255 or 800.232.2328

MVEC has 24/7 dispatch, so there is always a live person available to assist you. During times of high call volume, you might reach our automated system, but there's always the option to speak with someone.

The phone number you use when you call in an outage works with our member database to quickly identify your location. If the phone number you use to call is different than the number MVEC has listed for your address, it is not populating our outage map correctly, and it may take longer to locate your outage.



2 **Coming soon!** Outage texting with your FREE SmartHub account

Beginning in July, you can report an outage and receive restoration updates by text. All you need to do is use the phone number that is matched to your SmartHub account. This is the co-op's free and secure account management tool, which accessed by both computer and mobile device app.



Be ready and make sure you have SmartHub! Go to www.mvec.net/smarthub and sign up for your free account. PDF and video directions are available to help you through the process. Watch for further details in our July newsletter.

You can update your phone numbers with an online form at www.mvec.net, SmartHub or the automated phone line at 952.492.8333 or 866.492.8333

Be safe during and after the storm

Severe thunderstorms, tornados and flooding leave visible damage in their wake — and hidden dangers as well. Be aware of electrical hazards.

In your home:

- **Have flashlights** and extra batteries easily available in a predetermined location.
- **Have on hand** bottled water, non-perishable food that doesn't require cooking and snacks. Don't forget your pets.
- **Keep your cell phone charged** before severe weather.
- **Disconnect appliances** and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- **Never step into a flooded basement** or area where water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Never touch electrical appliances or wires while wet or standing in water.

Outdoors:

- **If you see one of our crews** working, maintain a safe distance so they can focus on their work. If you pass them on the road, shift over a lane and slow down.

- **Do not touch** downed power lines and objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized.

- **If you are driving** and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle.

Never drive over a downed line, as it could pull down poles and other items along its path.

- **Before entering** storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call MVEC to shut off power at the meter.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

- **Stay away** from downed power lines and be alert that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.
- **Treat all downed or hanging power lines** as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Inform MVEC of the hazard.

See safety videos on outage restoration, emergency kits, garage doors and more at www.mvec.net/stay-informed/video-library





CEO's Corner

By Ryan Hentges

How do we fit into the energy puzzle?

For those of you following the news over the past few months, you've likely learned the energy business is complex, and there are many different organizations that impact the cost and reliability of the electricity you use. But how does our cooperative fit into the overall energy puzzle?

In order to answer that question, I'm going to describe the flow of electricity and organizations involved along the way.

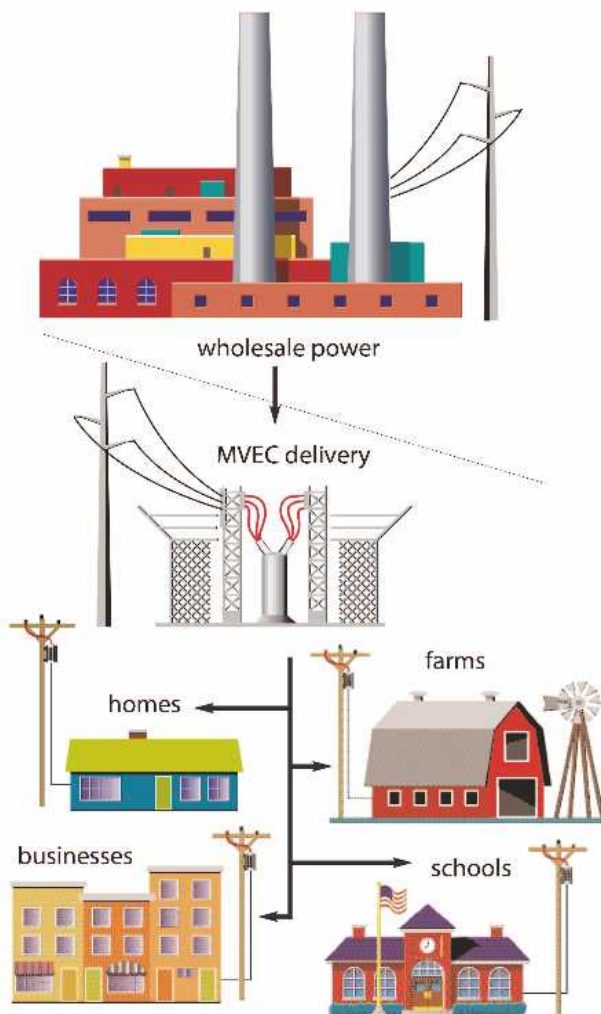
First, electricity has to be generated.

Generally, electricity is generated by coal, gas, nuclear, wind, solar, hydro and a few other sources. MVEC does not own any generating facilities. Rather, we have power supply contracts with three power supply organizations (Great River Energy, Basin Electric, and Alliant Energy) to generate the electricity we need to ensure adequate power when you need it.

Generating plants are located in a variety of areas – none of which are within Minnesota Valley's service area. We rely upon a high-voltage transmission system to get the electricity from generating sources to our local area.

Just like generation, **MVEC does not own transmission lines**. Rather, we contract with Great River Energy to provide transmission services to get electricity from generating sources to MVEC-owned substations located throughout our service territory. The two areas of generation and transmission that I just described make up around 70 percent of your monthly bill.

MVEC has worked hard over the years to



establish diversified contracts that **balance cost and risk and continue to increase our overall renewable portfolio**. This balance was demonstrated with the polar vortex in February. While many electric consumers in the southern United States saw reliability issues and are now being impacted by high bills, MVEC maintained reliable power supply, and our diversified power portfolio resulted in no negative financial impact to the co-op, even though overall market prices for electricity were extremely high.

But this was not accomplished just by

MVEC, our power suppliers, and our transmission providers alone, but by participants in our energy market, known as **Midcontinent Independent System Operator or MISO**. Although we have contracts which dictate the cost of the energy we purchase, we are part of a larger grid managed by MISO. They are responsible for ensuring the supply of electricity meets the demand of electricity on a daily basis.

Once power is generated, it is transmitted to 29 MVEC-owned substations located throughout our service area. From our substations, it becomes our responsibility to get electricity to your home or business, traveling across 4,000 miles of overhead and underground lines, through distribution transformers, regulators, and capacitors, and finally, through the meter on the side of your home or business.

From our substations to your meter is what we refer to as the distribution grid. The distribution grid is what MVEC owns and operates and is the focus of daily operations at our co-op.

Ultimately, it's not critical that you remember all the different players and organizations involved. It's our responsibility to advocate on your behalf and to ensure all parties involved operate in a manner that meets our local needs. But I do think it's helpful for you to understand what is owned and operated by MVEC, and where we have to work with others on your behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

The Electric Eye is the official publication of
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
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MVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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Pay By Phone: 952.492.8333 or 1.866.492.8333

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