

Operation Round Up gifts keep on giving \$34,028 distributed last month

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.

Second quarter 2021 ORU grant recipients are:

- Belle Plaine Food Shelf - food/\$500
- Boessling Village Apartments - patio area/\$1,400
- BrainPower in a Backpack - food/\$500
- Cleveland Fire Department - inflatable rescue boat/\$3,000
- Cologne Fire and Rescue - 15 helmets/\$3,000
- Czech Heritage Club - exhibit/\$1,200
- First Stop Shop - 5th Annual FAST TRACK/\$1,500
- Jordan Backpack - food/\$500
- Le Sueur Food Shelf - food/\$500

- Lonsdale Food Shelf - food/\$500
- MN Adopt - public relations video/\$2,000
- ProAct - Smart TV, garden beds, and cards/\$600
- Prior Lake Pickleball - wind fence/\$3,000
- St. Patrick Athletic Association - ballfield lights and electric upgrade/\$4,000
- Scott Carver CAP Agency - crisis nursery/\$1,500
- Scott County Historical Society - upgrade sales system/\$848
- Sibley County Agriculture - rabbit cart and fans/\$2,100
- Sibley County Community Connect - food for baskets (CoVID)/\$500
- Sibley County FoodShare - food/\$500
- True Friends - hospital-grade protective furniture/\$1,880
- 2B Continued - drive-in movie for mental health/\$3,500

\$200 each for high school all night parties at Chanhassen, Waterville-Elysian Morristown, Prior Lake and Waconia.

Total second quarter distribution:
\$34,028



Book buddies

The United Way of Southwest Minnesota was a recent recipient of a \$500 grant from MVEC's Operation RoundUp Trust Fund (and participating co-op members) to support the Imagination Library book program for local children. Currently, 2,357 local children receive a book in the mail each month. To learn more or to register for the program, please visit www.UnitedWaySWMN.org.

Thank you Operation Round Up participants for your support of this valuable program.

Since 1995, generous MVEC members and employees have raised \$1,946,562 through Operation Round Up.

To add your monthly cents to the program, visit www.mvec.net/operation-round-up



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



Inside this issue:

A day with an Energy Wise family/**page 2**

WiFi thermostat program expands models/**page 2**

Energy-saving partnership with you/**page 3**

Thank you for your conservation efforts/**page 4**

MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Susan and Steve, their boys James and Michael, and Grandpa Joe live in an MVEC Energy Wise home. They save, on average, \$240 a year by participating in MVEC's Energy Wise programs.



Susan checks her email around noon to see if MVEC has scheduled any load management. Since the weather is predicted to be very hot, air conditioners will be cycled on and off 5-8 p.m., so she pre-cools their home.



At night, the family turns off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat and add to the electric bill. Susan resists the urge to turn down the thermostat and remembers that lowering the fan settings uses less energy.



During the summer months, it's best to run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the late evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize the indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



Tips for using less energy during hot days.

James and Michael love playing video games, even more so during summer break. Using smaller screens like tablets and handheld video games conserves energy and money. They save more by turning off their game consoles when they're not using them.



Available to ALL MEMBERS

Going through a summer day on Energy Wise

Since the weather is hot, to keep the kitchen cool, Steve gets out the grill to make supper. Susan makes salads and smoothies to round out a meal that did not generate indoor heat.



LEDs vs. Halogen Incandescents

Steve learns that LED lights are more energy-efficient than traditional bulbs, so he bought some LEDs at the hardware store during his lunch break. That evening, he can check off changing light bulbs from his To-Do list.

- LEDs typically use about 25%-80% less energy than traditional incandescents, saving you money.
- LEDs have more options for light colors (soft yellow to bright white depending on the room.)
- LEDs can last 3-25 times longer.



Find Energy Wise programs and energy-saving tips for all seasons at www.mvec.net

After work, Susan comes home, plugs in her electric vehicle and sets it to charge at 10 p.m. Overnight charging rates are less than half price with the EV-24 program.



Steve reads in the co-op newsletter that MVEC has a \$25 rebate for air conditioner and heat pump tune-ups, so he schedules an appointment with his HVAC contractor to get it done.





Grandpa Joe uses a wheel-chair. When he wants to change the temp at home, he is thankful he only needs to reach for his phone since he can't reach the thermostat. He uses the Wi-Fi thermostat program to adjust the temperature before everyone gets home. Wi-Fi Thermostats qualify for a \$50 rebate, and MVEC's program now supports eight major brands.

Wi-Fi thermostat promo

Sign up for this popular program and receive a **FREE A/C monitor and cooling tune-up** — \$225-\$350 value

Thermostats can reduce energy consumption and costs for cooling and heating by as much as 15 percent a year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. It helps reduce the amount of time your air conditioner or furnace is operating — meaning less maintenance costs in the long run.

- Control your Wi-Fi thermostats from a computer or smart phone. Set it and forget it. Manage temperature settings when you're at home or away, and learn more about your household's everyday energy habits.

For more info, visit www.mvec.net/WiFi-thermostat-program/

More choices for your household:
Program now expanded to 8 eligible Wi-Fi thermostat brands

- Nest
- Honeywell
- Ecobee
- Emerson
- Alarm.com
- Radio Thermostat
- Lux
- Vivint

For specific model listings, visit enrollmythermostat.com/faqs/mvec-faq/



To celebrate our Wi-Fi Thermostat program expansion, we've partnered with SmartAC to offer a product that can monitor the health of your cooling units

Our BIG SUMMER PROMOTION includes SIX new thermostat brands and a SmartAC monitor

Enroll in a new Wi-Fi thermostat and receive a free SmartAC package, which includes the following:

- Free professional install
- Free tune-up (performed by a professional HVAC contractor)
- SmartAC performance report and proactive alert if anything doesn't look right with your AC. For more info, visit www.SmartAC.com
- As always, our traditional Wi-Fi thermostat rebate of \$50.

Enroll or find eligible specific model thermostats: enrollmythermostat.com/faqs/mvec-faq/



Need to have a Wi-Fi Thermostat installed? MVEC can help you find a knowledgeable contractor. Call Mike O or Michael H at 952-492-2313 or 800.232.6832, or email mikeo@mvec.net or michaelh@mvec.net

Hurry! Supplies limited to first 250 members who sign up

Use your phone to scan QR code for quick access





CEO's Corner

By Ryan Hentges

Your partnership helps reduce costs

A foundational aspect of our cooperative business model is **neighbors helping neighbors**. Not only was this true when our cooperative was being built, but it remains true today.

A great example of this cooperation is MVEC's Energy Wise programs. Together, our members enrolled in Energy Wise help reduce the cost of power that MVEC must purchase. In total, around 19,500 members participate in these Energy Wise programs, which have served our cooperative well for years by reducing the need to purchase electricity during high-cost time periods.

This June was an excellent example of the programs' value. As you remember, the temperature reached 90 degrees for seven straight days. The heat significantly increased the amount of electricity used by MVEC members and most consumers in our region.

MVEC does not own power generation facilities; instead, we purchase electricity from power providers on your behalf. As the demand for electricity increases, so does the price. Fortunately, MVEC's Energy Wise programs are tools we can use to help manage those price increases.

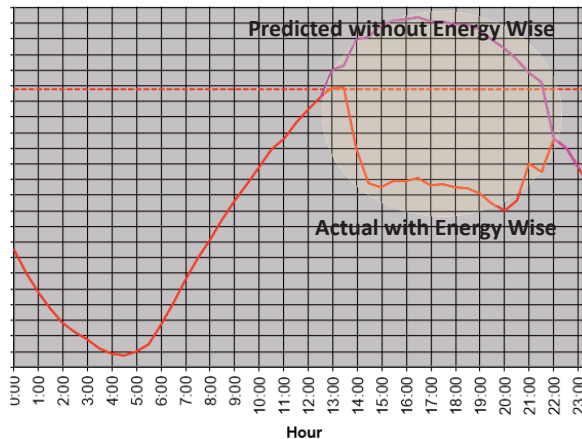
Do you participate? A complete list of MVEC's Energy Wise programs can be found online at www.mvec.net/energy-wise-programs. The programs include cycling

air-conditioners, water heaters, and commercial generators. By cycling these appliances, overall energy usage is reduced, and the cost savings are passed on to the participating members.

The red line on the graph below shows the total electricity MVEC members used by hour on Thursday, June 10. The pink line shows what would have been used if the Energy Wise programs were not available. You can see there is a significant difference between

those two lines; which represents electricity that did not have to be purchased. It is also interesting to note that total system usage at 4 a.m. (the lowest dip) on June 10 was more than peak usage on any day in April.

Are you one of the Energy Wise members who played a crucial role in helping the cooperative manage costs in June? We appreciate your partnership.



A note about summer bills

Consecutive 90-degree days in June, extensive use of air conditioning and other factors may lead you to ask when you open your summer electric bills, "What happened?!"

We know there is a fine line between conserving energy, protecting your wallet, and enjoying a comfortable summer. We want to thank every co-op member for their efforts in conserving energy on high heat days.

As a cooperative, we are in this together!

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

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