

Board authorizes \$1.64 million 2022 Capital Credit distribution

Member benefit: Cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations, so any revenue received beyond the expenses involved in providing safe and reliable service (called margins) is allocated back to each current member as a Capital Credit.

Who If you were a member of MVEC during any of the years 1984-1989, 1996 or 1997, you may have a credit on your March bill called "Capital Credit Retirement."

What Each year, based on the financial condition of the cooperative, MVEC's Board of Directors determine whether Capital Credits can be paid to current or former members. This year, the Board is pleased to announce a distribution totaling approximately \$1,640,000.00 from 1996 and 1997 Cooperative allocations, along with 1984 through 1989 allocations from one of our power providers.

Nice to know Even if you move and are no longer an MVEC member, the co-op will forward future Capital Credit payments if we have your current address.

Capital Credits remaining unclaimed are reported as unclaimed property. Some of these funds qualify to be donated to area community organizations including MVEC scholarships.

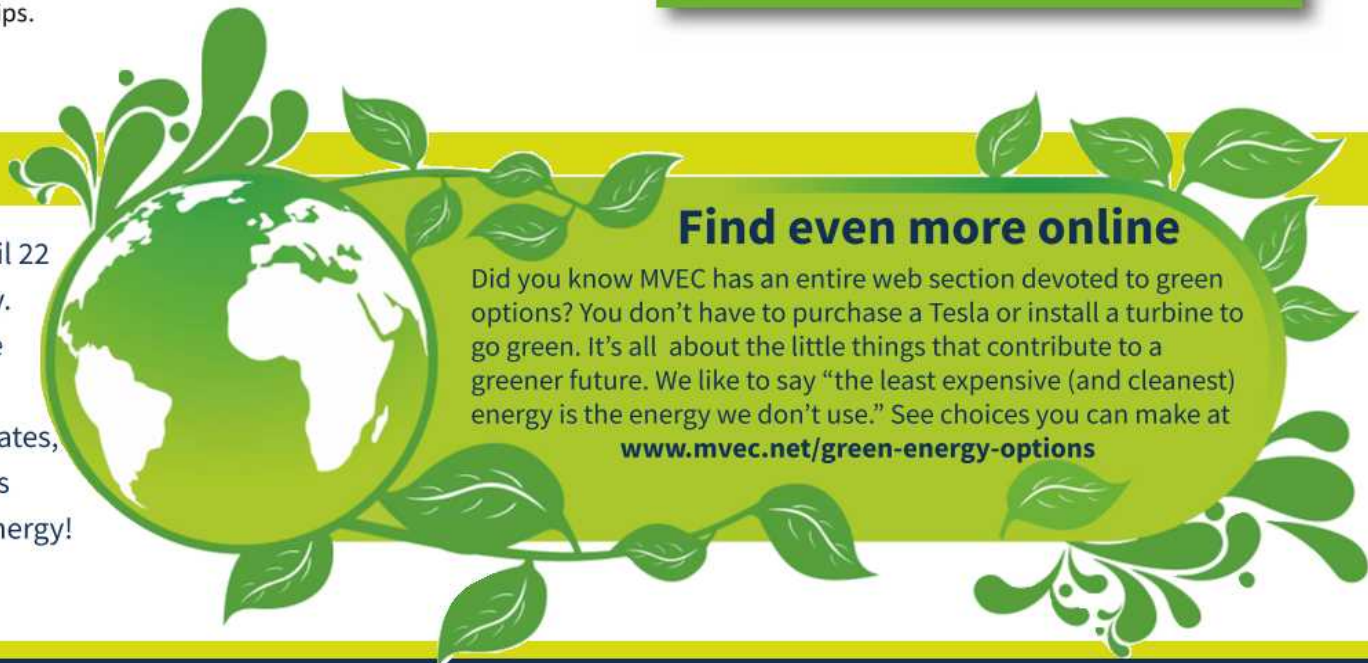


Want to learn more about Capital Credits?

Visit www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/capital-credits/

April

is Earth Month and April 22 is specifically Earth Day. Besides giving back the green in the form of Capital Credits and rebates, this issue explores ways to go green and save energy!



Find even more online

Did you know MVEC has an entire web section devoted to green options? You don't have to purchase a Tesla or install a turbine to go green. It's all about the little things that contribute to a greener future. We like to say "the least expensive (and cleanest) energy is the energy we don't use." See choices you can make at www.mvec.net/green-energy-options

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



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CEO's Corner

By Ryan Hentges

Supporting Earth Day: You have options to save!



Earth Day is considered one of the world's largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

There are many ways to protect the environment, and some are easier than you'd think. Check out these options to help reduce your energy use.

Give your smart or programmable thermostat a check up. If you have one, make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips, however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if the thermostat is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines. If you have a WiFi thermostat, MVEC has an energy savings program and \$50 rebate for you. Visit www.mvec.net/wifi-thermostat-program for all the details.

Pick GreenChoice! Your cooperative offers earth-friendly options that can help you reduce your carbon footprint. Choose from a variety of programs or services found on our GreenChoice web page: www.mvec.net/green-energy-options

Audit your light bulbs. Swapping out any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

Maintain your HVAC system. Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC

system to run more efficiently. I was guilty of this one, and there's a video on MVEC's YouTube channel to prove it! Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

You can probably think of many more things that would fit your household's lifestyle or look at tips and tricks on our Energy Savings web page: www.mvec.net/savings-rebates. After all, the least expensive and cleanest energy is the energy we don't use.

As we celebrate Earth Day this month, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community – and our beautiful planet.

MVEC's vision statement supports that philosophy: *to be a trusted energy partner loyal to the community – now and for future generations.*

In a world where everything seems to be going UP, MVEC works hard to keep your electric rates affordable.

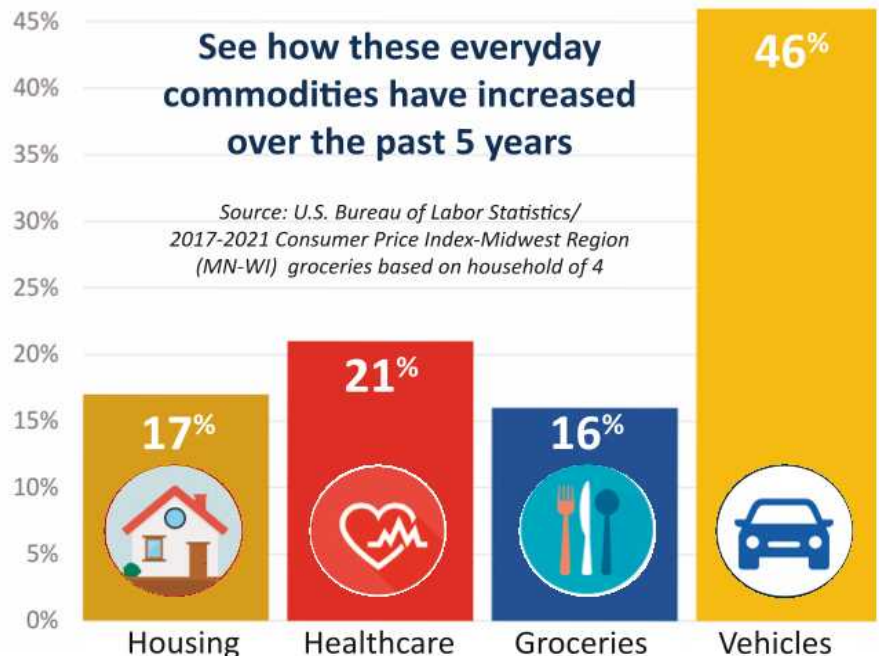
The headlines and newscasts say it every day. The cost of goods and services is going up. In February, the U.S. hit a 40-year high of 7.9 percent inflation.

In this time of supply chain issues, labor shortages and inflation, you can know MVEC is monitoring markets, implementing cost-saving initiatives, and working with power suppliers and other vendors to manage costs and keep your rates stable.



MVEC's legacy residential general service rate has not changed since 2016. That's six years.

We work hard to keep local costs down while looking out for you!



Tesla road trip:

"Just like driving a spaceship to Iowa"

Last fall, Eric Kelly of the co-op's IT department took MVEC's Tesla Model 3 EV on a road trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Here's his account:

My buddy Jake and I were going home to Iowa for the weekend, and I was excited to borrow MVEC's Tesla for a test drive to see the differences of an electric vehicle on a long drive compared to a gas-fueled car -- as most of us are used to driving. Overall, I found the Tesla EV to be more enjoyable (surprising, right?) but it isn't without a few downsides.

One thing you often hear about EVs, and Teslas in particular, is they can drive themselves -- but that's not really true. They do, however, have this really neat feature called AutoPilot which is like cruise control on steroids. I was eager to try it out in the stop-and-go traffic as we headed down I-35 from Minneapolis. Auto Pilot controls your speed, handles curves in the road, and slows down and speeds up all by itself, based on the speed limit and the behavior of the vehicle in front of you.

At first, I was reluctant to let AutoPilot control the driving, but it quickly earned my trust and allowed me to relax in the congested traffic. Not having to worry about potentially rear-ending the car in front of you is quite a relief. That said, AutoPilot is not immune to mistakes. There were two separate occasions when it made mistakes that could have resulted in an



Topping off the Tesla at the electric vehicle Supercharger in Rochester.



IT applications specialist Eric Kelly and MVEC's Tesla Model 3 electric vehicle.

accident or a ticket had I not been paying attention. I made sure to keep my hands near the wheel and my foot near the brake the entire time.

How does the charging process work on a trip for an EV? That is one of the biggest questions I personally had and have heard others bring up. It turns out the process is simple and pain-free. When you plug your destination into Tesla's navigation system, it automatically routes to Superchargers along the way. Per the Tesla's instructions, we arrived at an empty Supercharger in Rochester, conveniently located at a Hy-Vee grocery store. All I had to do was open the charging port and plug in the charger, and the Tesla EV handled the rest, including automatically billing the credit card associated with the vehicle. The screen informed us charging would take approximately 20 minutes, so we went into Hy-vee to eat their infamous Chinese food. The car was ready to go before we finished our lunch. We didn't even have time to explore the fun games on the Tesla screen!

After driving for a while, I grew accustomed to single pedal driving, a feature only found in EVs and hybrids.

As you let off the accelerator, the car begins to brake and will eventually come to a complete stop. Electric motors have regenerative braking, but internal combustion engine vehicles do not. Initially,

A good app for EV drivers is PlugShare, a free, community-based tool that guides users to public charging locations.

This app allows you to select your specific EV as well as your specific route and much more.

www.plugshare.com

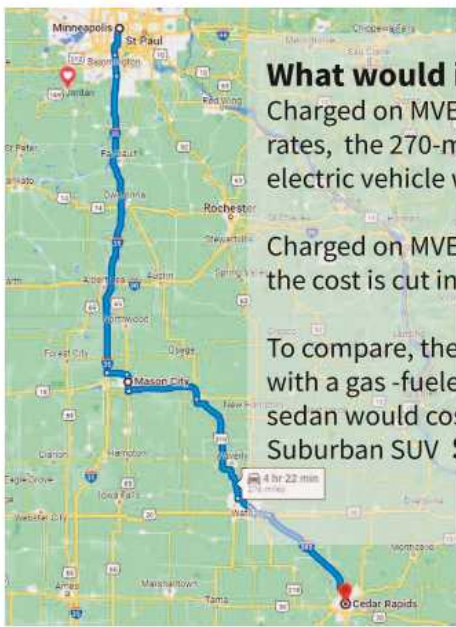


PlugShare

it was quite jarring to feel the car suddenly slow down as I let up on the accelerator, especially on an Interstate when I meant to coast. Outside of that adjustment period, there were only a few times when I had to use the brake, such as stopping at the bottom of a hill or for a last-second yellow light. I eventually realized how convenient it is to just use one pedal instead of having to toggle between two, and I think I would prefer it in everyday driving.

Jake took the wheel for awhile, running it through the gamut: trying out AutoPilot, Navigate-on-AutoPilot, regenerative braking, and other features. Right away, the single pedal driving took him by surprise, saying it was one thing to hear me explain it and another to actually experience for himself. He summed up the drive saying he felt like he was driving a spaceship.

See Tesla on page 4



What would it cost?

Charged on MVEC's general service rates, the 270-mile trip with an electric vehicle would cost **\$16.80**

Charged on MVEC's EV-Wise rate, the cost is cut in half - **\$8.12**

To compare, the same round-trip with a gas-fueled Chrysler 300 sedan would cost **\$71.76** and a Suburban SUV **\$97.60**

Tesla continued from page 3

At my weekend family event, several relatives test drove or rode in the EV. The uncharacteristic giggles from my Grandpa and Uncle suggested the acceleration was their favorite thing about the car. At one point, my Grandpa thought he turned on AutoPilot (I could tell it wasn't on) and we started to veer into the oncoming lane at 50 mph until I gently yelled at him to take the wheel. The test drives were smooth other than that hiccup. The young cousins enjoyed the silly entertainment modes, such as Rainbow Road and fart mode, which controlled animations on the screen and played audio throughout the vehicle.

All in all, I'm left very impressed with the Tesla EV. It was like I got to use an iPhone for a weekend and then had to go back to my old flip phone (or an '03 Ford Escape in my case). The trip convinced me that my first new car purchase in five to ten years will more than likely be an EV.

MVEC's EV rates: simple and flexible

MVEC has a Time-of-Use (TOU) Electric Vehicle charging program where EV owners can charge their vehicles whenever needed, with electric rates that fluctuate by the time of the day.

The times and charging costs are a reflection of power supply, power demand, and wholesale power costs – passing along the savings during non-peak times. By

keeping track of EV usage with a dedicated electric meter on your home, EV usage is separated from your home's general usage and is tracked over fluctuating time-based rate periods. Thrifty EV owners charge overnight to take advantage of the best rate, yet have electricity available at all times of the day, if needed. Learn more at www.mvec.net/electric-vehicle-program

CHARGER REBATES

Home: \$150 rebate for each EV charger installed

Contact: MichaelH@mvec.net

Business: 50% of installation costs (max: \$5,000 rebate) **Contact:** CraigL@mvec.net or JoeG@mvec.net

EV-24 Electric Vehicle Charging Program



Before we go, 5 more easy ways to celebrate Earth Day (you probably already do some of these!)



1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the store when shopping.
4. Switch off computers when you're not using them.
5. Combine as many errands as you can into one trip.

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