

## Congratulations to our \$1,000 scholarship winners!

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 2022 recipients, their high schools and intended colleges.



**Basin Scholarship:**  
**Sheridan Liggette**  
Lakeville South  
U of M - Duluth



**Paige Atherton**  
Waterville/Elysian  
U of Wisconsin -  
Stout



**Connor Beauchamp**  
Lakeville South  
St. Norbert College  
DePere, WI



**Kendra Blaschko**  
Tri City United  
Gustavus Adolphus  
College - St. Peter



**Jackson Drews**  
Prior Lake  
U of Minnesota  
Twin Cities



**Ryan Engel**  
Prior Lake  
Minnesota State  
University - Mankato



**Ryan Fors**  
Burnsville  
Normandale  
College



**Nick Geis**  
New Prague  
St. Cloud  
Technical College



**Zoya Hassan**  
Eden Prairie  
U of Minnesota -  
Twin Cities



**Thomas Keller**  
Academy of Holy Angels  
U of Minnesota -  
Twin Cities



**Nora Rosemeier**  
New Prague  
undecided



**Luke Schwen**  
Southwest Christian  
Bethel University  
St. Paul



**Daniel Sweeney**  
Waconia  
Bemidji State  
University



**Madisyn Steen**  
Cleveland  
Minnesota State  
University - Mankato



**Kaitlyn Wisdorf**  
Chaska  
College of  
St. Benedict



**Kaitlin Wolff**  
MN Connections  
St. Scholastica  
College - Duluth



**Congrats  
to the  
Class of  
2022!**

Additional resources and board  
meeting highlights available 24/7 at  
[www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)



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# Power outage preparedness

# MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Outage information is one click away at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)

Search this site...

Contact Us

MY ACCOUNT

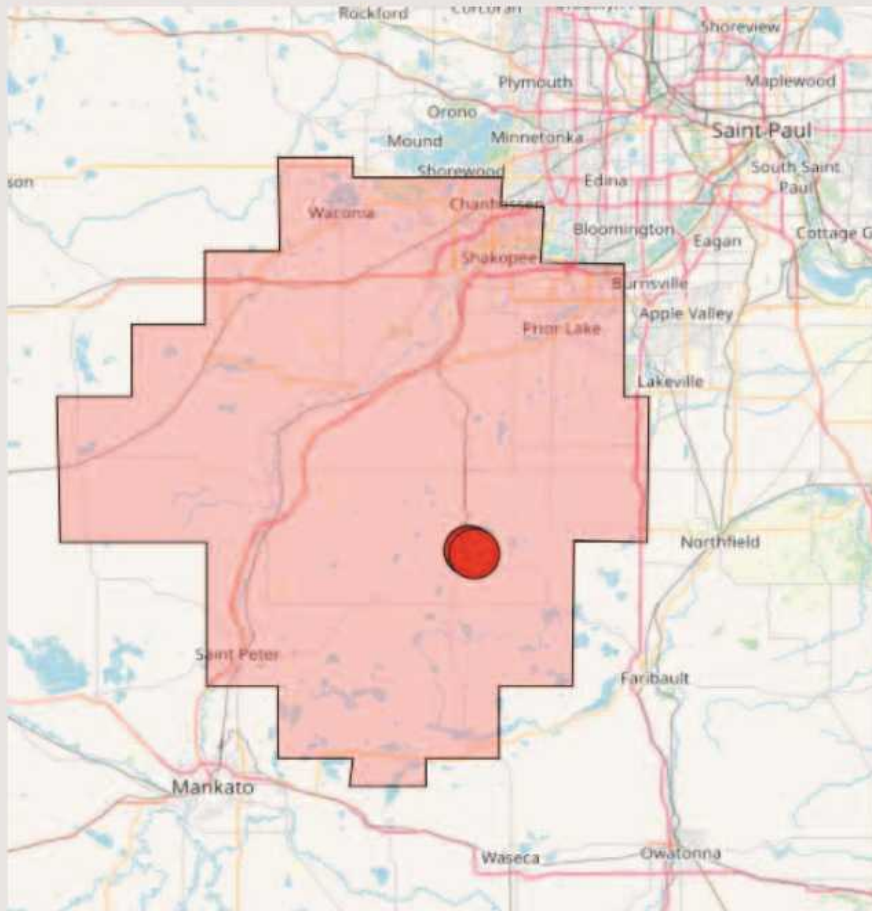
SAVINGS & REBATES

OUTAGES & SAFETY

Despite best efforts 24/7/365 to keep the electric system maintained, 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.



## Members Summary

Service Area

☒ Show Outages

Service Area	# Out	% Out
MVEC	2465	5.51%
UNKNOWN	1	N/A

When a power outage affects 250 members or more, alerts appear at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net). Our live outage map keeps you updated on the location and size of outages as they occur.

Total	2466	5.52%
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## Trees add beauty and comfort - except near electric power lines

### Vegetation management improves reliability

Our Right-of-Way maintenance program helps prevent power interruptions by trimming or removing trees and brush which could be potential fire hazards or cause power outages. Tree-to-line contact can also cause momentary interruptions or blinks in power. Tree trimming helps prevent extended outages during storms or strong winds. MVEC rotates around our 969-square-mile service area each year to keep up with tree growth. **In 2022, we are focusing on the New Prague, Savage, Prior Lake, and Burnsville areas.** You may see bucket utility trucks from MVEC and our tree trimming associate, Carr's Tree Service, in your neighborhood.

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

**Carr's**  
**TREE SERVICE**

### Get a free estimate

Tree trimming required by MVEC is free-of-charge, but if you have a tree job beyond the co-op's right-of-way, Carr's Tree Service provides free estimates for a great number of services. For more information, call Carr's at 888-470-3355.



# Grab your phone! Two ways to report a power outage:

## 1 Call - MVEC's 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 Text - OUT or STATUS to 855-963-3830

You can now 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, the co-op's free account management tool.



**Make sure your phone is registered in SmartHub!**

Go to [www.mvec.net/smarthub](http://www.mvec.net/smarthub) and sign up for your free account. PDF and video directions are available to help you through the process.

**You can update your phone numbers with an online form at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net), SmartHub or the automated phone line at 952.492.8333 or 1.866.492.8333**

# 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.

- **Where possible, 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](http://www.mvec.net/stay-informed/video-library)







## CEO's Corner

By Ryan Hentges

### Managing electricity costs in a volatile environment

The electric grid is an extensive network of power plants, power lines, substations and technologies owned and operated by different utilities, all striving to achieve the same goal: deliver service reliably and keep the lights on with affordable electricity to power daily lives.

A combination of energy prices and supply chain issues are contributing factors when considering electricity costs. As a member-owned cooperative, MVEC is focusing on keeping member rates stable (legacy residential rates have not changed in the past six years); responsible use of the cooperative's rate stabilization reserve fund (which helps to minimize a member cost increase); and the impacts rising energy costs can have on member bills.

We carefully watch energy market commodities and monitor how this impacts business operations. MVEC has a diverse power supply portfolio and purchases electricity from three wholesale power providers: Great River Energy, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and Alliant Energy. For every dollar you pay on your electric bill, 70¢ goes toward paying for wholesale power costs – called "cost to generate" on your bill.

So where does wholesale power come from?

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) operates a power grid serving 15 central U.S. states and Manitoba, Canada. MISO's wholesale market is where electric energy is bought and sold, and transmission is regulated. MISO helps the region's electric providers deliver reliable, affordable energy in three ways:

#### Managing the grid

Think of MISO as the air traffic controller of our region's grid. Using sophisticated technology, processes and procedures, MISO has a wide-area view and control of the grid that goes beyond any one utility.

This helps utilities maintain reliability regionally and prevents emergency operating situations in the future or in real-time. Forty-two million people depend on MISO to generate and transmit the right amount of electricity every minute of every day.

#### Managing energy markets

In decades past, coordinating power flows and transactions was a manual process requiring many agreements between utilities. Today, all generation production is sold into the MISO market and cooperatives buy back what they need to serve members. MISO's energy market helps keep electricity affordable by using the lowest cost generation available first to supply members and minimize flow constraints across the grid. MISO provides transparency with energy market price changes occurring every five minutes, all seen in real time.

#### Rising prices in energy markets

The price of electricity in the MISO energy market has increased dramatically over the past several months due to many factors, but primarily natural gas price increases. Although MVEC's margin reserves have been able to offset much of those rising costs, at some point, MVEC may need to pass those costs on to our members through the wholesale power cost adjustment on your bill, shown as part of the "cost to generate" line. This represents a pass-through from our power providers to cover variances in fuel and other costs that vary with commodity prices. We continue to find ways to keep costs down, but we also want you to be aware of potential future impacts.

**On another note, supply chain challenges are being felt**, and we are not the only ones experiencing this. For MVEC, supply delays mean longer wait times for materials, and costs are higher for essential supplies needed to operate our system. This could possibly linger to 2023 or beyond and affects new construction and service installations, as well as infrastructure planning into the future.

We are currently in a volatile and dynamic economic environment, which impacts the energy sector. As a non-profit, member-owned utility, we'll continue to work hard to manage the impact this volatility has on your electric bill, while continuing to provide the service you expect.

### THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

Fire up your coffee pot for just 16¢ a day!

POWERING YOUR DAY AND LIFE.

### Raise your hand if you start your day with coffee

*You may start your day with coffee, but electricity was quietly there, waiting to make it. 24/7 electricity makes life easier.*

*From your morning alarm to lights off at night, electricity powers your day, always available and ready to serve you and your household or business. As the prices of everyday items continue to rise, electricity remains a great value!*



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**MVEC**  
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