



## CEO's Corner

By Ryan Hentges

# Many factors affect your electric bill

This summer, we've talked about the ups and downs of the energy market. Fortunately, the regional electric system weathered the summer's heat just fine for a variety of reasons. MVEC members helped through your voluntary participation in load control Energy Wise and generator programs and member-driven conservation efforts. Prices, however, continue to rise for virtually all goods and services, including electricity. We see the impacts while shopping, at the gas pump and when paying bills.

### Electric bill impact

Your MVEC electric bill varies each month and is impacted by the number of days in the billing cycle, weather, appliance use, household size, and more.

Several years ago, MVEC separated costs on your bill to provide additional clarity to the underlying items which impact your monthly bill. **The Cost to Generate** (wholesale power) is the co-op's largest cost and makes up

nearly 70 percent of MVEC's budget. It includes the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA). In August, I mentioned a slight WPCA increase that averaged \$3. This is a pass-through from power providers and covers variances in fuel and other commodity prices. Sometimes it is a bill addition, or it can be a reduction too.

Everyone's electric bill is a bit different due to the programs they choose. Learn about your bill line items at [www.mvec.net/my-account](http://www.mvec.net/my-account). While there, create a free, secure SmartHub account with graphs and information personalized for you.

For a deeper dive into energy costs and rates, visit [www.mvec.net/energy-costs](http://www.mvec.net/energy-costs).

**The Cost to Deliver** (MVEC) covers delivery, inventory, facilities and our workforce. This also includes the \$10 basic monthly service charge. Think of it like a membership fee. It covers the cost of maintaining power lines, transformers, and substations to make sure

electricity is always available to you whether you use it or not. Our basic service charge is competitive with other local utilities.

MVEC members use the most electricity in the summer largely due to air conditioning load. This results in higher costs in the summer months (June – September when rates = 12.5¢/kWh) because energy demand levels are higher than in the winter months (October – May rates which = 11.7¢/kWh). Energy Wise programs (see below) can reduce your monthly bill. If you're not sure whether you participate in Energy Wise, check the front of your electric bill. It will either show your savings or say you're not participating.

#### Your Energy Wise Savings

- This month: \$14.98
- Past 12 Months: \$413.58

### Cost-of-Service study this fall

MVEC rates have been stable since 2016 and are cost-competitive with local municipal utilities and Xcel Energy, an investor-owned utility. MVEC monitors the cost competitiveness of our rates compared to others. As we look ahead, a variety of factors

See Cost-of-Service Study on page 4

## OUR MEMBERS HAVE RATE OPTIONS

### General Service

Seasonal rates of 11.7¢ kWh Oct. - May 12.5¢ June- Sept.

### Energy Wise

Receive up to 50% off residential rates, a discount or a bill credit by participating in a money-saving efficiency program.

### EV24 Time of Use

Pay rates based on the time of day you charge your EV.

### Onsite Generator

30% rate savings for businesses who also want back up power

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



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Electrify your life with outdoor tools/**page 2**

Cold Weather Rule begins October 1/**page 2**

Operation Round Up gives \$25,080/**page 3**

Safety doesn't take a holiday/**page 4**



# Need to replace an outdoor tool? Consider electric

Electric vehicles are gaining in popularity on MVEC's system, but you don't need to go as big as a Tesla to take advantage of clean and efficient electricity.

Thanks to technological advances, appliances and tools such as cordless electric mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers and leaf blowers perform better than ever, and, compared with gas-powered options, they're kinder to the environment because they emit fewer emissions. They are energy-efficient without sacrificing performance.

**Consider this: Running a commercial gas-powered leaf blower for just an hour produces about as much pollution as driving a 2017 Toyota Camry 1,100 miles.**

- California Air Resources



Last September, Kurt Wann of New Prague won an Ego electric lawnmower in a promotion held by MVEC.

This is what he had to say after a season of using it: "The biggest difference I noticed with my electric lawn mower is the zero maintenance. The battery lasted a lot longer than I anticipated. It has been convenient to charge my lawn mower at home, instead of driving to the gas station and bringing back a tank of gasoline. Since this electric lawn mower is lighter than my old gas mower, it has been safer and easier on the hill I cut."

With battery-powered lawnmowers and snowblowers, you can take care of your yard or driveway without the loud noise and toxic fumes. No more going to the gas station to fill up the plastic gas container — and eliminate the chance for gas spills and smells. As a bonus, several

manufacturers have made the batteries for their power tools interchangeable.

## Other small electric engine advantages:

- No maintenance of a small engine
- No fuel to go bad
- Less exhaust/smell
- Less noise/idling
- Usually lighter in weight

The move to a greener lifestyle, also known as beneficial electrification, is an easy means to reduce greenhouse gases and help the environment.



*Quiet, efficient, and fuel-free*

## Cold Weather Rule

From Oct. 1 to April 30, MVEC will not disconnect (and must reconnect) your utility service if the primary heat source for your home is electricity. For qualifications and more information:

visit [www.mvec.net/financial\\_assistance](http://www.mvec.net/financial_assistance)

If at any time you are having trouble keeping up with your bills, you may wish to join our convenient payment program, Pay as you Go, or contact MVEC at (952) 492-2313 or (800) 282-6832 for other options to tailor a customized installation plan to help get your account up to date.

State and county assistance is also available. Consult the list at [www.mvec.net/financial\\_assistance](http://www.mvec.net/financial_assistance) for the applicable agency near you.





# Local organizations benefit from Operation Round Up generosity

## \$25,080 gifted in Third Quarter distribution

**Camp Patterson** of Madison Lake- \$2,000 for light upgrade

**Green Isle Community Connect** - \$500 for food program

**Green Isle Lions Club** - \$1,500 for school supply program

**Heimatfest Celebration** of Jordan - \$1,000 for table and chair rental

**Hope United Grief Group**- \$3,000 for grief support retreats

**Jordan Area Food Shelf** - \$500 for food

**Le Sueur Food Shelf** - \$500 for food

**Majestic Hills Ranch** of Lakeville - \$3,500 for Heros on Horseback program for injured veterans

**New Prague Area Historical**

**Society** - \$1,500 for construction of new shed

**New Prague Boy Scouts** - \$1,000 to purchase camping equipment

**PROP** of Eden Prairie - \$500 for food for kids

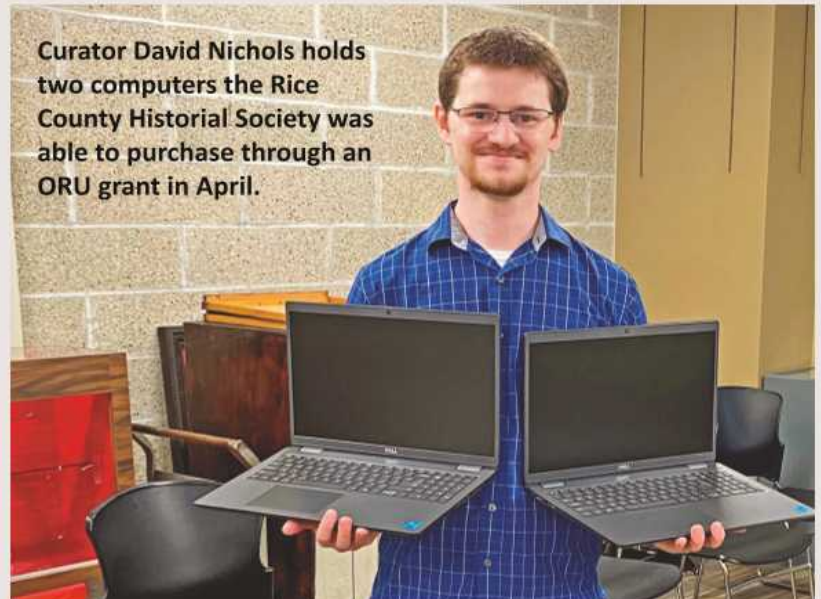
**Prairie Quilters of New Prague** - \$500 for quilt show costs

**ProAct/New Options** of Shakopee - \$580 for bowling and movie outings

**Rotary Club of Le Sueur** - \$500 for backpack weekend food and literacy programs

**Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District** - \$1,000 for outdoor educational event

**Sibley County Food Share** - \$2,000 for chairs



Curator David Nichols holds two computers the Rice County Historical Society was able to purchase through an ORU grant in April.

**Tueby Continued** of Arlington - \$3,000 for suicide awareness course for teens

**True Friends** - \$2,000 for Camp Eden Wood costs

**THIRD-QUARTER**  
**\$25,080**

To add your cents visit:  
[mvec.net/operation-roundup](http://mvec.net/operation-roundup)

Shakopee Area Catholic Schools received an ORU grant this past spring that contributed to field trip transportation.

"We want to extend our gratitude once again for the amazing Operation Round Up program and its members to raise funds and support our community. We put our grant to great use for our outdoor enrichment experience for science classes and headed up to Camp Widjiwagan in Ely, Minnesota. They make memories that last a lifetime up there!" said Ann Heyda, SACS middle school teacher.



## Penny Power

See what you can get for a penny's worth of power!



- 12 hours of reading using a 10-watt LED bulb
- 36 minutes on a 200-watt desktop computer
- 3 hours of television on a 40-watt, 32-inch LED TV
- 8 full charges of an iPhone 12
- 27 minutes of cooking supper in a Crockpot
- 33 hours of music, audio books, podcasts on a smart device

\* based on 12 cents per kWh



# It's always the season for power line safety



Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety & Health Week, an annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council with President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the first document. Fittingly, FDR was the president who eight years earlier initiated the Rural Electrification Act, which gave farmers access to federal loans to establish and build rural electric co-ops.

History aside, power line safety is important all year-round, but especially highlighted during planting and harvest seasons. Coming into contact with a power line can be deadly, but you don't have to touch one of them directly to be in danger. Thankfully, some simple precautions are all you need to keep you and your loved ones safe on the farm, around your home and in the community.

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity and have the potential to be harmful to anyone, or anything, that gets too close.

**Farm workers should be aware** of the location of overhead lines where they are working or transporting equipment.

**When flying objects like kites and drones,** make sure to look up and stay clear of power lines. If you're carrying tall tools like ladders and boards, working on a roof, trimming

trees, or using tall vehicles or equipment, be careful so these items don't hit a power line. You should always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

**Mylar balloons pose a big threat** to power lines. When a metallic balloon touches a power line, it can cause a surge of electricity that short circuits equipment and can lead to power outages, fires and injuries. Proper handling and disposal of these balloons can

basketball hoops.

If a power line or pole comes down for any reason, always assume the line is energized and keep people and pets far away. When a line falls, the current can travel through the ground and nearby objects. Call 911 as soon as possible to report a downed line or pole.

**Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the ag industry. To bring awareness, Sept. 18-24 is Farm Safety & Health Week.**



prevent this from happening and they should never be released into the air.

**If you see a tree touching a power line,** don't climb it. And if something gets caught in a power line, don't try to knock it down yourself. Call MVEC's Dispatch Center at 952-492-8255 to have it safely removed. You should also never attach things to power poles, such as signs, decorations or

**If a person or vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line,** do not touch either as they could be energized. Call 911 immediately. If you're in a car that has encountered a power line, stay inside the vehicle. Call 911 and wait until help arrives to safely get you out. If you must exit your car, jump out with both feet and shuffle until you are a safe distance from your car.

Electricity is an important part of our everyday lives, but can be very dangerous when not treated with caution. The safety of our employees and members is of utmost importance. You should always keep a safe distance from power lines and other equipment the cooperative uses to bring electricity to your home, business and farm, including transformers, meters and electric boxes.

Have a happy and safe Fall season.  
Chad Briese, MVEC Director of Safety

## Cost-of-Service Study continued from page 1

may cause us to increase our rates. MVEC will conduct a Cost-of-Service study this fall. An outside rate consultant will review our electric rates to make sure the co-op has enough revenue for the cooperative to cover

its expenses and meet our lenders' margin requirements. The study also determines whether the cost to provide service to our various member types, both in total and by individual rate classes, are fair and equitable.

As we learn results of the cost-of-service study, information will be posted at [www.mvec.net/energy-costs](http://www.mvec.net/energy-costs).

Thanks for being a member of MVEC.

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