

## MVEC to refund \$1.39 million in Capital Credits

MVEC is member-owned, and each year, that's represented most through Capital Credits. Think of it as cash back on your electric bill.

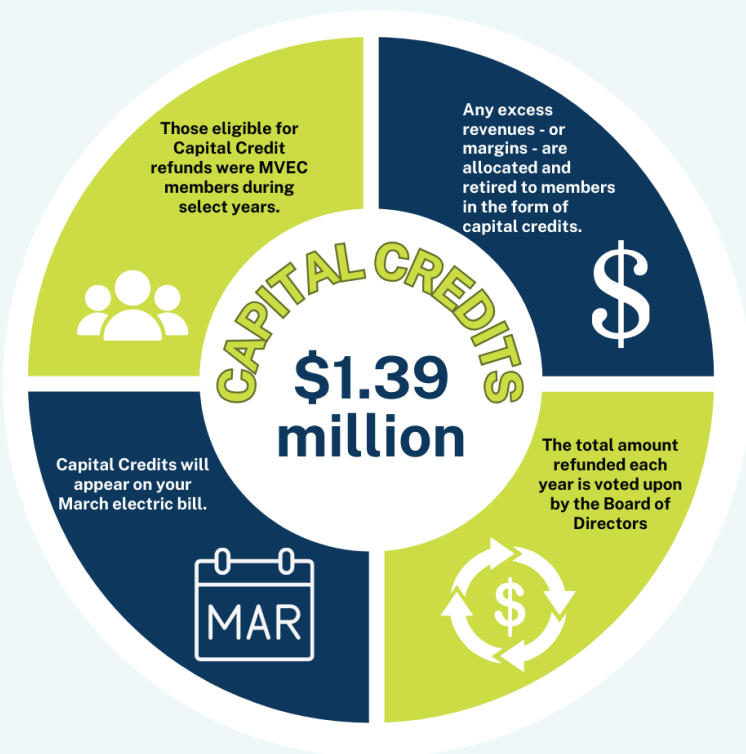
This year, the co-op will distribute \$1.39 million, totaling \$32 million returned since Capital Credits began in 1959.

Both current and former members are eligible for reimbursement. The refunds are based on electric accounts that were active during years displayed in the graph. Current members who have a refund less than \$500 received a credit on their electric bill.

ALLOCATION TYPE	YEARS
Cooperative	1997, 1998
Power Provider 1	1993
Power Provider 2	2008
Power Provider 3	2020, 2021

Former members who have moved away from MVEC's service area will receive the credit in the form of a check. A valid address must be on file for a check to be issued. MVEC encourages all members that move — either within the co-op's service area or outside of it — to keep their current address updated with MVEC.

If you're interested in discovering more about Capital Credits, learn more at [mvec.net/your-cooperative/capital-credits/](https://mvec.net/your-cooperative/capital-credits/).



## The Value of Cooperative Membership

### CEO Update from Marvin Denzer

There's never a dull moment around the cooperative. But the post-holiday season is an especially busy time of year as we finish financial audits for 2023 and look ahead to plans for 2024. Here are five timely reasons why it's great to be a member of MVEC.

**1. You have a say in co-op matters.** Ballots have been mailed to all members for the Director election taking place at MVEC's Annual Meeting. You get to select the Director who will represent your district in making decisions that impact you as a member-owner. I encourage you to study the candidate biographies and goals that were included in your ballot packet. Be sure to mail your ballot back to us by April 9.



**2. Capital Credit Retirements Announced.** If you were a member of the cooperative during the selected years (see graph above), you will notice a credit on your March electric bill called Capital Credits. Nearly \$1.39 million is being returned in 2024. You can read more about that in a full article on this page.

**3. Our Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, April 9,** at Jordan High School, 600 Sunset Drive. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for onsite voting, and the hour-long business meeting begins at 7 p.m. The Annual

CEO UPDATE cont. on page 2

## SAVE THE DATE!

April 9

7 TO 8 P.M. | JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Take part in MVEC's 87th Annual Meeting

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Join us for Summer of Savings/[page 3](#)

Community gives back through ORU/[page 4](#)

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



# MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Non-discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, nationality, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint](http://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

MVEC is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

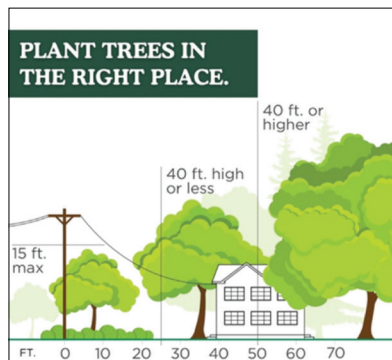
# 3 WAYS TO HELP LIMIT TREE TRIMMING

A mild winter is leading to an earlier spring this year in Minnesota, which means bright and beautiful green trees are right around the corner. Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? Because of this, MVEC has the right to trim or remove trees and brush growing with the right-of-way corridor. We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to make the right decision for your property.

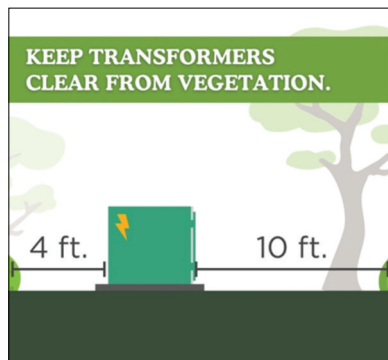
**Here's how you can help:**

### 1. Plant trees in the right place.

Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



**2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.** Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



**3. Report dangerous branches.** If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, contact us at 952-492-8255 or [info@mvec.net](mailto:info@mvec.net).



## CEO UPDATE cont. from page 1

Meeting is our opportunity to engage with members face to face. We will share MVEC's successes and financial standing; we will award 18 \$1,500 scholarships to member-high school seniors, including three "second chance" scholarships that will be drawn from seniors who attend the meeting with a parent; and we will introduce a local high schooler who will represent MVEC at the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour in June. Themember-owners attending the Annual Meeting will have the opportunity to win one of five \$100 bill credits that will be drawn at the conclusion of the meeting. Please bring the barcode from your ballot packet for quick and easy registration.

**4. In March, MVEC's Board of Directors have the opportunity to attend the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Annual Meeting and participate in the Legislative Day at the State Capitol.** Rural electric cooperatives meet with respective policymakers with the unified message of providing safe, affordable, and reliable power to our members. It is important that we represent the voice of the cooperative to those who make the laws and regulations on the state and national level.

While renewable energy use is increasing, we will still depend on traditional forms of energy to keep power flowing reliably to homes and businesses. Solar and wind energy are referred to as "intermittent" power since the sun does not always shine and the wind does not always blow. This fact coupled with the growing demand for renewables creates its own challenges.

That's why there is real value in maintaining a balanced mixture of power generation types to ensure reliability, affordability and meeting the growing demand for electricity.

**5. Programs and services are designed for you with various options in mind.** Though the above-mentioned items are currently at the top of mind, that doesn't mean the customary work of the co-op is less important. MVEC's team is continually looking at innovative programs and service offerings. We understand that having choices is important from money saving-programs to payment options, rebate offerings and having various communication options to stay connected with you, our member-owners. To learn more, you can visit us anytime at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net).

As a co-op, one of our top priorities is to enhance the quality of life for our members of all types – residential, agricultural, and commercial. We appreciate serving our members and supporting local communities, and just like you, want to see our local communities continue to thrive.

Next month, we will have a special edition of the April Electric Eye that serves as our 2023 Annual Report, as well as a column from Board President Deborah Erickson.

MVEC appreciates the opportunity to serve you,

Marvin Denzer, CEO



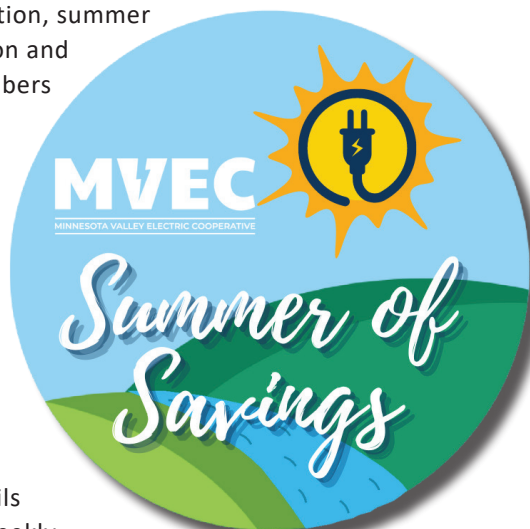
# Join us for our Summer of Savings

If our roller-coaster winter is any indication, summer weather may call for energy conservation and efficiency. MVEC wants to prepare members for the summer cooling season with a campaign called Summer of Savings, a fun and voluntary way to learn about energy usage and to get ready to beat the heat.

In a series of eight emails in April and May, programs such as SmartHub and MyEnergyXpert will be covered, along with new technologies to consider for summer yard work and summer fun.

Simply sign up to receive the eight emails of energy tips and a simple voluntary weekly challenge to complete for the chance to win weekly prizes such as nightlights and other devices. The more often you engage and submit answers, the more chances you'll have to win grand prizes that include a Wi-Fi thermostat, a countertop convection hot plate, and a home energy-use monitor.

As the temperature rises, so will your potential for savings. Learn more and sign up today for our Summer of Savings event at [mvec.net/summer-of-savings](http://mvec.net/summer-of-savings).



## Simplify your bill with Autopay



Autopay is safe, secure and convenient for all members. There are NO fees or finance charges from MVEC to participate, giving you peace of mind knowing you will never have to pay a late fee or worry about a misplaced bill.

If you like having a record of your past bills, you can still receive bills online or in the mail. You can have your bill payment automatically electronically transferred from your designated bank account or card.

### How do I apply for Autopay

- **Online:** The easiest way to get started is to enroll online through SmartHub. Visit [mvec.net/automatic-bill-pay/](http://mvec.net/automatic-bill-pay/) to sign up, or log into the SmartHub app and find it under the Bill & Pay tab.
- **By Phone:** Call us at 1-866-999-4504 and follow the instructions to enroll in recurring payments by selecting option three (3).

Please continue to pay your bill in your usual way until your bill indicates that the balance will be automatically paid. Any further questions can be directed to Member Services at 952-492-2313.

### Budget Billing

Don't want to stop with autopay? Try our Budget Billing program in combination with autopay. Budget Billing creates a more predictable bill each month and is free to participate.

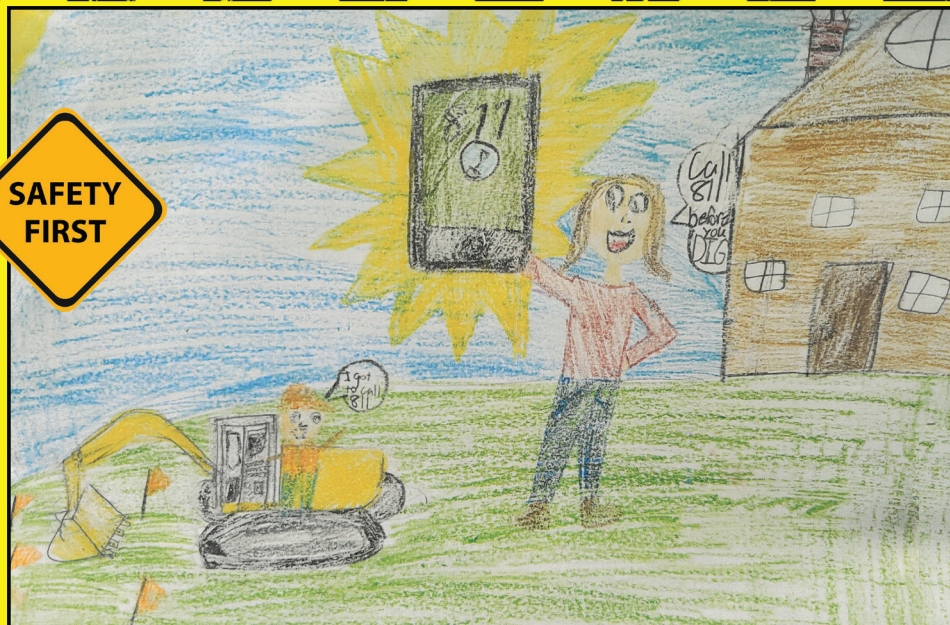
Budget Billing takes the cost of your energy used for the previous 12 months and averages it out for your bill. The cost used is readjusted twice per year. This means your bill stays the same each month, regardless of energy usage. For more information, visit [mvec.net/budget-billing/](http://mvec.net/budget-billing/) to check out if you are eligible.

### ✦ Giving us a call? ✦

Help us serve you better. When calling MVEC, please have the following information ready:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Account Number                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Address                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full legal name               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Birthdate                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Social Security number        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Businesses: Federal ID number |

## Our first Electric Safety poster winner!



Safety is not just a word; it's a way of life here at MVEC. In our ongoing commitment to fostering safety awareness, we asked some of our youngest members to come up with new artwork for the co-op by creating safety posters for us to share.

MVEC wants to thank all of the young artists that submitted their posters and helped spread electrical safety far and wide. We were thrilled with the entries we received and will be sharing our winners art in upcoming newsletters.

The first of our winners is 11-year-old Teagan with a timely 811 safety message for those getting ready to dig a spring or summer landscape project.





# ORU lights up RCHS Pioneer Barn



2023 was a successful year for the Rice County Historical Society and our Operation Round Up program. The historical society received a pair of MVEC grants last year that immediately went to good use.

First up was its Pioneer Barn. Just a couple of years old and located in Faribault, the Pioneer Barn was outfitted with lights through an ORU grant, allowing RCHS to host events there at night. This was timely as RCHS also received a grant to record its lecture series, featuring speakers discussing historical events and figures in the area. The series of videos can be found on [Rice County Historical Society's YouTube page](#).

Since the program's inception in 1995, MVEC's Operation Round Up has donated over \$2.4 million to organizations like the Rice County Historical Society, seeking opportunities to benefit the co-op's service area.

MVEC members serving on the Operation Round Up Trust Board include: Diana Brenke (Belle Plaine), Dwayne Glenn (Lakeville), Paul Jacobus (Credit River), Mary Krentz (Henderson), John Miller (Henderson), Connie Meeker (Green Isle), Dick Peterson (Belle Plaine), Jeanne Zwart (Elysian). Recently joining the Trust Board is Jamie Paget (Savage).

Do you know of a worthy non-profit organization that benefits the members of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative? If so, please encourage that organization's representatives to apply online by visiting [mvec.net/operation-round-up](https://mvec.net/operation-round-up).

The ORU Trust Board disperses funds quarterly. Deadlines to apply are 4 p.m. the first day of February, May, August, and November. Interested organizations can also print the application, complete and mail or drop it off at our office location in Jordan.

Contact Operation Round Up Coordinator Kiley at [kileyh@MVEC.net](mailto:kileyh@MVEC.net) or call 952-492-2313.

- **Belle Plaine Backpack Program:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Belle Plaine Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Belle Plaine Public Schools:** \$1,000 for Robotics Team
- **Bountiful Basket Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **BrainPower in a Backpack:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Campfire MN:** \$2,500 for summer camp scholarships
- **Central Elementary School:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Central High School:** \$200 for post prom prizes
- **Choose Not to Use:** \$2,000 for Scott Co. high school bathroom vape detectors
- **Cologne Academy:** \$2,900 for field trip transportation
- **Dollars for Deb:** \$1,400 for annual event
- **Green Isle Irish Baseball:** \$3,000 for auxiliary press box
- **Green Isle Lions:** \$500 for Community Connect Meal
- **Harriet Bishop Elementary:** \$2,500 for Supplies
- **Le Sueur Co. Fair:** \$3,000 to improve grandstand lighting
- **Le Sueur Co. Master Gardeners:** \$750 for The Children's Garden
- **Le Sueur Food Shelf:** \$500 for food and household items
- **Minnesota Baseball Club:** \$1,500 for Cooperstown tournament transportation
- **MN Fire Initiative:** \$2,500 Physician Education
- **Montgomery Community Club:** \$1,500 for area projects
- **Peace Center:** \$1,000 for backpack program
- **ProAct, Inc.:** \$386 for sensory wall and event outing
- **Rice Co. Historical Society:** \$1,000 for field trip
- **Rotary Club of Le Sueur:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Saint John the Baptist School:** \$1,340 for field trips
- **Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP:** \$2,500 for Crisis Nursery
- **Shakopee High School:** \$200 for senior grad party
- **Shakopee Schools Community Education:** \$2,000 for Mi Casa Summer Program
- **Sibley Co. FoodShare:** \$500 for food
- **Sibley East Visual Arts Team:** \$700 for glass workshop
- **Southern Valley Alliance:** \$2,000 for asphalt shingles
- **Treasures in Town:** \$500 for Project Connect vouchers
- **TCU Band/Choir:** \$1,200 for Pops Concert rentals
- **TCU Prom:** \$200 for Post Prom
- **True Friends of Eden Prairie:** \$2,500 to repair camp sidewalk
- **Waconia High School:** \$200 for Post Prom

**2024 First Quarter  
Total Donations:  
\$44,976**

The Electric Eye is the official publication of  
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