

Reliable, Affordable
Energy for Today
and **Tomorrow**



MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The energy transition

refers to the shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources like wind and solar, along with energy storage, distributed resources, and electrification.

The issue

In February 2023, Minnesota set a goal for all utilities to deliver 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040, with milestones of 80% clean energy by 2030 and incremental increases every five years.

Our view

MVEC supports a common-sense approach

to the energy transition while staying focused on providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, just as our member-owners expect.

We believe changes like reducing carbon emissions must be carefully studied to ensure they deliver real results. This doesn't mean we oppose clean energy; rather, we support a balanced and responsible path that protects reliability and keeps energy affordable. We also recognize that our members have different views on renewable energy. That's why offering choices is key.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we're different from investor-owned and municipal utilities. We operate independently according to cooperative principles, always putting our member-owners' best interests first.

Our Mission:
Your trusted energy partner
with the privilege to serve.

As a cooperative, every decision we make is guided by what's best for all our members.



Unlike for-profit utilities, we return any excess revenues—called Capital Credits—to our member-owners after covering operating costs.

We work hard to balance reliability and affordability in everything we do, always keeping our member-owners' interests first.

“ MVEC is a key partner in Minnesota's renewable energy transition, and our Board continues to support the thoughtful integration of renewable energy sources.

Because reliability is essential to both our member-owners and the health and safety of our communities, we advocate for a responsible transition. Around-the-clock power is critical, and we support a balanced mix of energy sources to ensure the reliability and affordability our members depend on.

- MVEC Board of Directors

Safe • Innovative • Accountable • Connected – cooperatively since 1937

A responsible energy transition will take time.

Energy Policy Impacts Everyone

As Minnesota transitions to renewable energy, MVEC remains committed to transparency, reliability, and affordability for our members.

Transparency Matters: While MVEC does not generate electricity, we help our member-owners understand the differences between always-available (dispatchable) and intermittent resources like wind and solar.

Intermittent Generation Has Limits: Renewable sources don't always produce power consistently, making it harder to predict output and meet demand 24/7.

Transmission is Critical: Transitioning from fossil fuels requires new transmission infrastructure, often in locations where current lines don't exist. Building this infrastructure takes time, especially with permitting delays.



Balanced Planning is Essential: We support responsible energy policy that considers reliability, affordability, and environmental goals, not rushed changes that could compromise power quality.

Fuel Diversity Supports Reliability: Fossil fuels continue to provide reliable, cost-effective power. A diverse energy mix ensures grid stability, especially as demand grows from electric vehicles and new technologies.

Think Long-Term: Decisions made today will shape our energy future. Policymakers must consider long-term reliability, grid impacts, and flexibility.

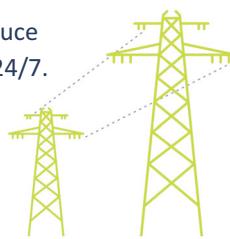
Supporting a Thoughtful Energy Transition



A Gradual Shift is Key: Legacy generation should be phased out alongside proven, reliable alternatives. Innovation is welcome, but practicality matters.

Renewables Have Promise: Wind and solar offer great potential, but their limitations of resilience and output predictability compared to traditional fuels must be addressed as the grid evolves.

Balance is the Best Path Forward: A mix of traditional and renewable energy ensures we keep the lights on—affordably and reliably.



Premature Closures Are Risky: Shutting down dependable base-load power plants too early in favor of intermittent renewables could harm reliability and increase costs.

Reliable Power Since 1937: MVEC has long relied on dispatchable sources like coal and natural gas, resources that deliver power regardless of weather.



Partnering Together

Along with member input from our nine-member Board, MVEC values the expertise of organizations like the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Collaborative Transition

"Minnesota cooperatives support a practical path to clean energy. Rigid carbon mandates could raise costs and reduce reliability, especially for rural communities already facing energy burdens. We need balanced policies that promote reliability, affordability, and diverse energy solutions."

— Minnesota Rural Electric Association



"Power supply diversity

keeps energy affordable and reliable. Transmission constraints already hinder new generation, and the problem will grow with increased electrification. Modernizing outdated permitting processes and reforming NEPA are essential to building critical grid infrastructure."

— National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Our Vision:
Connected by energy, driven to lead.

MVEC
MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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