

Understanding costs behind reliable power *and programs that will help you save*

In recent columns, I've shared that your Board of Directors has been reviewing MVEC's electric rates. Our goal is to keep rates fair and equitable, aligned with the true cost of operating your electric system and delivering reliable power.

Your electric bill includes a monthly Basic Service Charge. This charge supports the infrastructure needed to deliver reliable electricity. It covers the daily work of building and maintaining lines and equipment, testing meters, inspecting and replacing poles, trimming trees, and paying for insurance, taxes, interest, and depreciation. These costs stay the same regardless of how much electricity you, the member, use. All utilities have a monthly service charge like this.

This billing component helps sustain the cooperative's investment in the electric system and ensures costs are shared fairly among all member-owners.

CEO Update from Marvin Denzer



As part of our rate review, MVEC completed a Cost-of-Service Study.

Three key principles guide this process to ensure rates:

1. **Provide** the revenue needed to operate and support a reliable electrical system
2. **Share** costs fairly among all member-owners
3. **Align** with the actual cost of providing service

CEO Update continued on page 2

Enjoying the convenience of electric in-floor heat, water heating and car charging

15-year Energy Wise member continues to see big savings

For years, Mike Franklin didn't think much about Energy Wise — and for good reason.

When the Jordan resident and MVEC member moved into his home 15 years ago, Energy Wise programs were already in place. Energy Wise quietly did its job in the background, helping manage energy use and lower his electric bills.

15 Years of Energy Wise continued on page 3

Energy Wise programs work seamlessly in Mike Franklin's Jordan home and lowered his electric bills by nearly \$1,000 last year.



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



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MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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We understand that any rate adjustment can be concerning. **To help manage your energy use and control costs, you can:**

- **Take advantage of MVEC's Energy Wise programs**, which offer rebates, bill credits, or reduced electric rates through load management pricing.
- **Use the SmartHub app** for insight into your energy use, which can help you identify opportunities to reduce monthly bills.

Learn more about both service offerings in this issue and the bill insert.

Additional details of MVEC's updated rates will be shared in the March Electric Eye newsletter.

Cooperatively yours,
Marvin



Meet our Team: the friendly faces behind the power

System operator monitors power behind the scenes

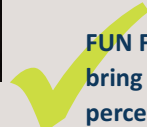


Pete is the Team Member who monitors MVEC's electric system from our substations right down to the meter on your home. He helps make sure MVEC delivers safe, reliable power to you.

As MVEC's Systems Operator Supervisor, Pete is one of the key people keeping MVEC's electric system running smoothly day in and day out.

Pete supervises the dispatch center and metering technicians. He watches system performance and handles line switching, tagging (putting electronic notes about equipment into the system to keep everyone safe), and service restoration. When outages occur, Pete makes sure timely information and the right people come together quickly so we can restore service safely and efficiently.

At MVEC, we're able to Deliver More for our members thanks to dedicated Team Members like Pete, who help keep our system steady, responsive, and ready for anything.



FUN FACT: Over the past 24 years, Pete has helped bring six new substations online for MVEC (20 percent of the current system) as well as rebuild several substations. He is part of the team that tests all 30 substations across the service area every year.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

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, national origin, religion, sex, 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.

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Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.



To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the form at <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-assistant-secretary-civil-rights/how-electronically-submit-program-discrimination-complaint>, or 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, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

MVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

“I think it says a lot about the program that we forget about it most of the time. We use our electric in-floor heat and water heater every day this time of year. The house is comfortable, the water is hot, and everything works exactly like it should.”

— Mike Franklin

15 Years of Energy Wise continued from page 1

It wasn't until Mike recently purchased an electric vehicle that he started paying closer attention to his overall energy use and realized just how much Energy Wise had been saving him all along.

Energy Wise programs that include a second electric meter like Mike has at his home allow him to pay reduced rates. Savings vary depending on the program type and are a win-win for the member and MVEC. These programs help MVEC manage power more efficiently while lowering energy costs for both the member and the co-op.

MVEC gives members the option to lower their costs by allowing the cooperative to manage certain electrical loads through these programs.

What stands out about MVEC's Energy Wise programs?

"The savings really are pretty great. The more I look at it, the more it's turning me into an advocate for Energy Wise." His new EV charger will add to his Energy Wise savings in the coming years.

Do you ever notice being controlled? "All those years, we never noticed it." That's by design. Mike's in-floor heat and water heater cycle when energy demand is lower, working behind the scenes to keep his home comfortable.

What stands out to you about working with MVEC?

"It's been great every step of the way. Anytime we've had a question, whether it's about the second meter or the EV meter install, someone has answered right away or come out to the house."



To learn more about Energy Wise savings, visit: www.mvec.net/savings/residential-programs



ENERGY
WISE MN

Do we have your correct info?

Don't miss account or planned outage alerts.

Having your correct phone number helps expedite outage restoration when you call in an outage.

Make sure we have your current phone number, email, and mailing address on file so we can serve you better.

Update your information at www.mvec.net (follow the QR code below) or call us at 952-492-2313.



Reminders

Youth Tour deadline March 6

One sophomore or junior student, whose parent or guardian is an MVEC member, will be selected to represent MVEC in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour, held June 15-20.

One alternate is chosen to receive a \$200 cash prize or attend the Youth Tour if the winner is unable to go.

Apply today at

www.mvec.net/

[our-community/youth](http://www.mvec.net/our-community/youth)



Annual Meeting is April 7

You're invited to hear the cooperative's 2025 update at MVEC's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 7, at Jordan High School.

The one-hour business meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Registration opens at 6 p.m.

Fifteen high school seniors are pre-selected to receive a \$1,500 scholarship funded by unclaimed Capital Credits. In addition, five at-large scholarship drawings will take place at the meeting.

Board of Director election results will also be announced.

Watch your mail for complete Annual Meeting details, or visit:

<https://www.mvec.net/my-coop/annualmeeting/>



Beware solar panel scams

Watch out for solar companies saying they work with MVEC. The co-op does not endorse any solar company and encourages members to do their homework before signing any contract. MVEC solar information is available at www.mvec.net, including our NovaPortal, which outlines the requirements and steps for MVEC members interested in installing solar at their home or business.

If you have questions, call 952-492-2313 or email info@mvec.net with the details of your project. We are here to partner with you on your solar questions, projects, and planning.

MVEC celebrates local community with gift basket giveaway

MVEC rang in the new year by celebrating members in each of our three districts. Our *Cheers to the New Year* gift basket giveaway featured \$250 worth of gifts and treats from member-businesses throughout our service area.

More than 1,000 members signed up. Thanks to all who entered.

We Deliver
More



Congrats to our winners, left to right:

District 1: Shirley Hennen of Prior Lake

District 2: Sonya Pickett of Victoria with son, Kyle

District 3: Amy Remington of Jordan

BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings

Minnesota winters can push electricity demand to its highest levels. When we conserve energy during peak periods, it helps support reliable service and can help to lower your energy bills in the process. Here are five simple ways you can help:



UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items and unnecessary devices.



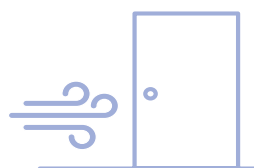
CHECK YOUR WATER HEATER

Lower your water heater to 120 degrees and avoid back-to-back showers.



ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal pesky air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



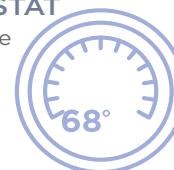
USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evening or midday to avoid peak times.



LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Adjust your thermostat to the lowest temperature that still feels comfortable. Even a small reduction can lead to noticeable energy savings.



Learn more
about residential
programs and
find more
energy and
money-saving
suggestions for
all seasons at
[www.mvec.net/
savings/](http://www.mvec.net/savings/)

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