

June 2026

Electric Eye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative



MVEC hosted the Gather and Grow Homeschool Group for a behind-the-scenes visit to see trucks, equipment, watch a safety demo, and meet lineworkers.



ORU Funds Life-Saving Gear

A grant from **MVEC's Operation Round Up** program is helping the Shakopee Fire Department outfit its growing ranks, funding new turnout gear as the city expands fire service with an added station and more full-time firefighters.

One System, Four Seasons: The Power of Heat Pumps

When most people hear "heat pump," they think winter. But as temperatures climb, an air source heat pump may become one of the hardest-working systems in your home, keeping it cool, comfortable, and energy-efficient all summer long.

More than a heating system

Despite the name, air source heat pumps pull double duty. In the summer, they move heat out of your home to keep indoor spaces cool and comfortable. When temperatures drop, they reverse course and bring warmth back inside.

Because it moves heat rather than generates it, heat pumps can deliver impressive efficiency compared to traditional heating and cooling systems.

Today's cold-climate models are built to handle Minnesota weather while providing quieter operation, steady comfort, and potential savings on monthly energy bills.

Rebates available:

MVEC offers \$500 rebates on qualifying air source heat pump systems, in addition to lower electric rates when you join our Energy Wise program. Additional state and federal incentives may also be available. To learn more contact MVEC's energy experts or visit www.mvec.net.



Scan to see more **ORU** recipients

ORU donated \$47,113 in Quarter 2, bringing the year-to-date total to nearly \$90,000.



Scan here for Rebates



MVEC ahead of the storm with proactive tree trimming

Mid-May storms left some members in the Waconia area without power, and if you were among them, you witnessed MVEC's leading cause of outages up close: trees. During storms and high winds, branches and entire trees can come into contact with power lines, causing outages and damage to electrical equipment.

MVEC follows a proactive five-year Right-of-Way (ROW) tree maintenance plan. Each year, MVEC crews and tree-trimming contractors rotate work around several of the cooperative's 30 substations, clearing trees, shrubs, and other vegetation that could interfere with overhead power lines.

By maintaining clear rights-of-way, MVEC can improve system reliability and respond more safely and efficiently when outages occur. It's another way we work year-round to deliver reliable power to members.

In 2026, tree-trimming will occur in the Augusta, Burn Scott, Jessenland, Sand Creek, Spring Lake and Waconia substation areas and nearby communities. This work helps prevent outages, reduce storm damage, and improve safety for the public and line crews.



Last month, I joined more than 1,500 electric cooperative leaders in Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers about energy policies that affect our co-ops – and you, our member-owners. We reinforced that reliable, affordable electricity should not be political; it's something we all depend on every day.

We shared real stories from our communities about how decisions in St. Paul and Washington show up on your bill – affecting your household and local businesses – and impact reliability and affordability. At home, we continue those conversations year-round, helping energy policymakers understand our member-owned model, where we make local decisions, and how we're working hard to balance today's energy needs with tomorrow's.

It would be great for you to be part of these conversations. Please mark your calendar for our Energy Forum on September 10 at the Mystic Lake Center. Open to all members, it's a great opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and be heard.

Energy policy decisions affect us all. Thank you for trusting us to advocate on your behalf.

Cooperatively yours, Marvin