

Electricity powers the essentials and small luxuries of life

CEO Update from Marvin Denzer



Have you ever stopped to consider the true value you receive from electricity? Last month, we talked about bringing electricity to a Guatemalan village and how something we don't give a second thought to was life-changing for the 35 families in Las Penas.

Electricity powers our lives 24/7 in ways we often take for granted. We

directly or indirectly use electricity almost all the time, whether it is charging a phone overnight, having hot water ready at any time, using appliances such as TVs, refrigerators or ovens—all in a comfortable indoor climate, winter or summer. Even the clothes we wear and other items we purchase are manufactured thanks to electricity.

The average MVEC household uses 1,200 kWh of energy each month. That's about \$5.60 a day. (You can find your daily average on the front of your monthly MVEC bill.) At that cost, you could power your entire home each day for the price of a medium latte.

Consider all the different things we now power compared to the past 50 years: laptops and printers, cell phones, smartwatches and tablets, big screen TVs, gaming consoles, microwaves, air fryers, power tools, and the list goes on. Since the 1970s, the average home went from 1,500 square feet to 2,200 square feet, so we are also cooling and heating more space.

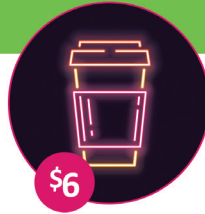
As a member-owned cooperative, MVEC works hard to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for you, our members.

There are some things we can't control when it comes to electricity costs, such as the weather. And, as a distribution cooperative, we are subject to the costs our wholesale power

The Ongoing Value of Electricity

Did you know the average MVEC member using 1,200 kWh pays about \$5.60 a day for electricity?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. That's real value.



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

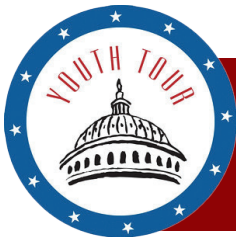
Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

providers incur for infrastructure improvements, maintenance of transmission lines, and government policies.

In a world increasingly reliant on electricity, it's crucial that it remains reliable and affordable. At MVEC, it is important for us to ensure electricity continues to be the best value for your hard-earned money.

Thank you for being a valued member of MVEC.

Marvin



Ava's Youth Tour Adventure

Chanhassen's Ava Joos (standing, far right) with some of her fellow state delegation, visit the World War II Memorial Minnesota pillar. Follow more of Ava's journey on page 3.

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



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MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Safety tips to remember for Harvest Season

The third week of September is National Farm Safety and Health Week. Of MVEC's 969-square-mile service area, much is farm land.

Power lines, though part of our everyday landscape, can pose significant risks to farmers operating heavy machinery. Harvest season is particularly hazardous as farmers often need to navigate public roadways with large equipment. When you encounter a farmer driving machinery, please be patient and share the road to ensure everyone's safety.

Important safety tips for farmers:

- **Maintain a 10-Foot Clearance:** Always keep a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a Spotter and Flags:** Utilize a spotter and deploy flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when working in the field.
- **In Case of Contact with Power Lines:** If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, call MVEC

immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. If there is smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out without touching it simultaneously and hop away to safety.

- **Consider Equipment and Cargo Extensions:** Treat equipment and cargo extensions, such as lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes, and bulk materials, as extensions of your vehicle. These items can conduct electricity, so keep them away from electrical equipment.

By following these safety guidelines, we can help protect our farmers and ensure a safe harvest season for all. Thank you to our farmers for their dedication and hard work. Stay safe and vigilant!



Electric Safety poster contest winner!

SAFETY FIRST

STAY AWAY FROM POWER LINES

NO 19 AND 304 KNOW BETTER

IT'S NOT A GAME

In our ongoing commitment to safety awareness, we asked some of our youngest members to create safety posters artwork for the co-op.

This month is eight-year-old Emma's safety message to stay clear of playing and working near power lines.



Beyond the plug: Load-serving transmission

While the local distribution grid carries electricity to homes, farms and businesses, the electric system has additional infrastructure to deliver more energy over longer distances.

Great River Energy, a wholesale power supplier to Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative owns and operates transmission lines that operate at higher voltages and carry power from sources such as power plants and wind farms throughout Minnesota.

Transmission lines that carry large amounts of power to communities are referred to as "load-serving" transmission lines. These medium-sized power lines deliver power at voltages between 34.5 kilovolts (kV) and 115 kV. Most homes are served voltages that are a thousand times less (e.g., 115 volts) and make up most of the electric transmission system. Great River Energy owns and operates more than 3,000 miles of transmission lines at these voltages.

Load-serving transmission is an important key to helping deliver reliable energy to your community all day, every day. *Part two of a three-part series "Beyond the plug"*

THREE LEVELS OF TRANSMISSION

BIG, STRONG,
SERVES THE MARKET

REGIONAL TRANSMISSION

Transports bulk electricity across the region at high voltages. Are usually supported on tall metal towers. Often 230-kV and up.



MEDIUM SIZED,
CONNECTS COMMUNITIES

LOCAL TRANSMISSION

Transmission lines that deliver electricity to the communities we serve. Generally supported by wooden poles. Often 41.6 to 115-kV.



SMALLER, CONNECTS HOMES,
FARMS AND BUSINESSES

DISTRIBUTION

Delivers lower-voltage electricity to homes, farms and businesses over a shorter distance. Generally supported by wooden poles. In certain situations, distribution lines are buried underground. Often 35-kV and under.



MVEC is a distribution cooperative.

Youth Tour wows again

The annual electric cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington D.C. offers high school students a unique and transformative experience. It's a week-long adventure where students learn about the history and impact of electric co-ops in rural communities across the country, make lasting friendships with peers from different states, and engage with legislators while exploring the Nation's Capital.

Sponsored by MVEC, Ava Joos, daughter of Chris and Andrea from Chanhassen, joined 33 other Minnesota students and over 1,400 high schoolers nationwide June 18-23, here are some of the highlights from her trip.

“ Meeting our Legislators

We had the opportunity to meet with both Minnesota senators Klobuchar and Smith and ask them our questions, specifically about rural electrification and their roles in affordable access to electricity for all. This picture is of the Minnesota Youth Tour representatives with Senator Klobuchar. ”



“ Segway Tour

One night, we went on a nighttime Segway tour around the National Mall. We were able to see all of the monuments and memorials lit up at night and learn more about each one while riding Segways! ”



“ Touring History

One of my favorite tours on the trip was the tour of Mount Vernon, and this picture is our group inside of the entryway. Being able to explore George Washington's home exactly as he would have lived in it was so cool! ”



“ Seeing the sights

Everyone got to ride the ferris wheel on the National Harbor that was right outside of our hotel on the last night of the trip. It was the perfect way to end an amazing trip! ”



News and Notes

Unclaimed Capital Credits

A list of member names with Unclaimed Capital Credits is posted at www.mvec.net. This list represents members who have purchased electricity in 1994 and 1995. These names will stay until Feb 1, 2025, to allow members time to request their unclaimed dollars.

Under state guidelines, MVEC can donate Unclaimed Capital Credits to MVEC's scholarship program and qualifying organizations as approved by the Board of Directors. MVEC considers the last uncashed check as the last attempt to contact a member. MVEC requests forwarding addresses when a member stops their electric service. Before donating the funds related to Minnesota and nine other states, MVEC will list the names of these members on our website.

Cold Weather Rule

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, MVEC will not disconnect — and must reconnect — your utility service between October 1 and April 30 if the primary heat source for your home is electricity. The following statements must apply to qualify:

1. Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by MVEC or by the local energy assistance provider.
2. You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
3. You receive referrals and follow up on energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bill.

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 for the applicable agency near you.

Ready, Set, Grow! ORU commits to youth gardening program



The Ready, Set, Grow! Children's Garden in Residence held a heartwarming graduation and recognition event to celebrate the success of the seven-week gardening program. This program, which took sixteen months of planning, provided both enjoyable and educational experiences for the youth participants and the Le Sueur County Master Gardener Volunteers.

The Ready, Set, Grow! Children's Garden in Residence held a heartwarming graduation and recognition event to celebrate the success of the seven-week gardening program. This program, which took sixteen months of planning, provided both educational experiences for the youth participants through the Le Sueur County Master Gardener Volunteers.

Throughout the summer, the children engaged in a variety of activities, with weekly sessions focusing on three main themes: In the Garden, Science, and Food and Nutrition. These sessions equipped children with practical gardening skills and healthy eating habits.

The program's success was made possible in part due to the generous support from an electric cooperative's **Operation Round Up program**. Their funding was crucial in purchasing the necessary supplies and materials, ensuring that every child could fully participate and benefit from this transformative experience.

Seeking a new district 2 ORU trustee

If you are interested in giving back to the cooperative community by volunteering your time to serve on the Operation RoundUp Trustee board, the Trustee Board has an opening in District 2, which includes portions of Carver, Scott, and Sibley counties.

This nine-person group of MVEC members help to research and decide how to distribute grant money. You must be able to attend one evening meeting per quarter (usually the third Monday of February, May, August, and November) and have time to research three or four grant requests before each meeting.

- **Belle Plaine Food Shelf:** \$500 for mobile class materials
- **Belle Plaine Backpack Program:** \$500 for food
- **BrainPower in a Backpack:** \$500 for food
- **Central Elementary School:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Chaska Historical Society:** \$1,000 for Chaska history book printing
- **Cologne Academy:** \$1,665 for field trip transportation
- **Czech Heritage Club:** \$1,000 for Accidental Hero program
- **Green Isle Lions:** \$500 for Community Connect meals
- **Heimetfest:** \$1,000 for band stage
- **Hope United Grief Group:** \$3,000 for weekend retreat
- **Le Sueur Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Lonsdale Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Majestic Hills Ranch:** \$3,500 for Heroes on Horseback program
- **MN Fire Initiative:** \$2,200 for Crisis Response program
- **New Prague Area Schools:** \$3,500 for BizTown transportation
- **Peace Center:** \$1,000 for backpack program
- **Prior Lake Unified:** \$691 for popcorn maker & supplies
- **ProAct, Inc:** \$387 for classroom supplies
- **Rotary Club of Le Sueur:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Saint John the Baptist School:** \$1,000 for field trip transportation
- **Scott Co. CDA-CFE:** \$1,000 for FAST-TRACK Challenge
- **Scott Co. SWCD:** \$1,500 for materials for Outdoor Ed. Days.
- **Sibley Co. FoodShare:** \$500 for food
- **Treasures in Town:** \$500 for Project Connect



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