

COLORADO'S EVOLVING ENERGY LANDSCAPE

Resource Adequacy & Reliable Electricity

BY RUTH MARKS CEO | RUTH.M@MVEA.COOP

There is no time better than the start of a new year to take stock of where we are and what the forecast for the year will include. At Mountain View Electric Association, we have a lot to celebrate as we look toward another year of stable growth while also keeping a close eye on legislative topics at the state and federal level that will have an impact on the electric industry.

MVEA's mission includes providing members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. I am proud to share that MVEA ranks high in all three areas when we look at evaluative markers. Notably, in the area of reliability, we continue to rank among the top 25% of surveyed utility providers across the country that report their System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI). SAIDI shows how long an average customer goes without power during a year. The U.S. average is 207.4 minutes without power. The Colorado average is 147.49 without power. MVEA's average is 49.75 minutes. That is a great point of pride! Yet, we know that we can strive to do even better through technology, innovation, and system upgrades. And while MVEA is continually making improvements to ensure we can provide reliable electricity, we must also address the issue of resource adequacy.

The term "resource adequacy" refers to

making sure there is enough electricity to meet the needs of consumers at all times and under any conditions. We have been working with our fellow electric cooperatives and other utilities to help draft resource adequacy legislation to ensure all utility providers in Colorado are held accountable for their ability to deliver reliable electricity.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, otherwise known as NERC, recently reported in their 2022-2023 Winter Reliability Assessment that much of the United States is at risk of "insufficient electricity supplies" during peak winter conditions. There is some good news for our region. The report shows we are strongly positioned to weather any extreme peak demand scenarios. Based on this report, MVEA does not foresee resource adequacy impacts to our reliability this winter.

But we know the decisions being made today by the elected officials who create policy will determine whether or not there are sufficient resources to keep the lights on years down the road. Reliable electricity is not just something we expect, it's something we all depend on to not only survive but grow and thrive as a community.

From California to Texas, we have witnessed the consequences of what happens when the resources are not available to supply America's



RUTH MARKS

electric grid with the power that it requires.

MVEA is committed to doing everything we can to ensure we are able to provide you with a 24/7/365 supply of electricity. We are committed to being part of the solution to address the reliability challenges spreading across our nation. This includes supporting meaningful legislative action to ensure resource adequacy. In the months to come, I anticipate reaching out to MVEA members about grassroots advocacy efforts to share your perspective and let your voice be heard on vital resource adequacy legislation.

The U.S. power grid has been called the single largest and most complex piece of technology ever built by mankind. It is a great example of what people can accomplish when they work together. I look forward to working together with you, the members of MVEA, to help safeguard the reliability of our electric grid during an era of change. If you have not already done so, please sign up for our Grassroots Network by visiting www.mvea.coop/grassroots.

Get In The Know: Staying Informed About Energy Trends & Policy



Information resources to help you find your unique perspective as an electric co-op member.

Mountain View Electric Association strives to be a respected resource for information about issues that could impact our mission to provide co-op members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We also know our members value resources that provide additional information or perspectives about energy-related topics. While there are many websites dedicated to the changing energy landscape, the following websites are resources that the co-op uses to research topics and stay in the know.

www.colorado.gov/energyoffice: The Colorado Energy Office website provides timely information about evolving state policy.

www.energy.gov: The U.S. Department of Energy website includes informative articles and helpful resources at a national level.

www.electric.coop: A website of The National Rural Electric Association. Provides timely information about policies, issues, and emerging trends that impact electric cooperatives throughout the U.S.

www.tristate.coop: Get to know Tri-State Generation & Transmission, MVEA's wholesale power supplier, and its Responsible Energy Plan.

Changing Regulations. Evolving Policy. Share Your Perspective. Visit www.mvea.coop/contact.



ELECTRIFY AND SAVE

Inflation Reduction Act Promotes Energy Efficiency Upgrades

In August 2022, the largest legislation Congress has ever passed to reduce carbon emissions and increase energy innovation was signed into law. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) contains millions of dollars in energy-related incentives for American energy consumers.

IRA home energy offerings include up-front discounts, tax credits, and low-cost financing that together provide a substantial pot of money for every household to electrify. Electrifying your home means replacing fossil fuel use (propane, heating oil, gasoline) with electricity to reduce emissions and energy costs.

If you are considering an energy efficiency project for your home or business, investing in solar, or buying an electric vehicle, there are incentives available to help you offset the upgrades.

Energy efficiency programs

Through the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit beginning January 1, 2023, members may be eligible for a tax credit of up to 30% of the cost of eligible home improvements. These credits have a \$1,200 limit annually, so if you spread out your qualifying home projects, you may be able to claim the maximum credit each year. Some eligible improvements include doors, windows, central air conditioners, electrical panel upgrades, heat pump water heaters, and heat pump HVAC systems.

The High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program provides rebates to low- and middle-income families who purchase energy efficient electric equipment and appliances. To qualify, your family's total annual income must be less than 150% of your area median income. Eligible items include stoves, water heaters, heat pumps, insulation, and electric wiring. To learn

more, visit the White House's "Clean Energy For All" page at whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy.

Renewable energy

The Residential Clean Energy Credit provides members a tax credit for 30% of the cost of qualifying solar, wind, geothermal, or biomass installations that produce electricity, heat water, or regulate the temperature in their home. The 30% credit is now extended through 2032, falling to 26% in 2033 and 22% in 2034, after which time it will expire. As of January 1, 2023, it also applies to battery storage technology with a capacity of at least 3 kilowatt-hours (kWh).

Electric vehicles

Buyers of new EVs may be eligible for up to \$7,500 in federal tax credits. This credit may vary by make and model depending on factors like the vehicle's sourcing and assembly. The new tax credit also removes production caps, allowing models from GM, Toyota, Tesla etc. to become eligible again. Additionally, those purchasing used EVs (minimum of two years old and costing \$25,000 or less) may now be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$4,000 or 30% of the price of the vehicle, whichever is less. For additional guidance regarding eligible vehicle models, income limitations and other eligibility factors, visit irs.gov and use the search bar for "electric vehicle tax credits."

Always consult a tax professional to determine your eligibility for tax credits. Consult MVEA's Distributed Energy Resources team for help with questions you may have about energy efficiency upgrades. Give us a call at 800-388-9881 or email der@mvea.coop. To learn more about the Inflation Reduction Act and for helpful resources, visit www.mvea.coop/ira.

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Common Factors For Winter Electric Use & Bill Fluctuations

- * Colder temps can easily increase your electric use through the use of space heaters, baseboard heaters, stock tank heaters, and plugging in diesel trucks. Take a look at what you plug-in or turn-up when temperatures drop.
- * Spending more time at home? Changes in electric use habits or the number of people in a home can influence energy use.



20 **PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST** 24

MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Photos Wanted!

Do you have an eye for fiery sunsets, sweeping vistas, heritage barns, and a knack for catching nature in action? As an MVEA co-op member, you are invited to **send in your photos, taken within our 5,000 square mile service territory, that capture the seasons, people, lifestyle, or landscape of co-op country.** The winning photographs will be included in MVEA's 2024 calendar. **The deadline for entry is July 6, 2023.**

Photo Calendar Entry Guidelines

Only MVEA members, directors, employees and their family members are eligible to participate in the photo calendar contest. High resolution digital entries preferred. Minimum resolution is 300 dpi. Limit two photos per person. Photos must have horizontal/landscape orientation for best chance of being selected for the calendar. Photos must be taken within our service territory. Photos will not be accepted without a completed entry form.

For complete Photo Calendar Contest guidelines and an entry form, please visit www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest. Send entries by email to communications@mvea.coop. Questions? Call (719) 494-2657.



K-5 Students...

LEARN ABOUT SAFETY IN A COLORFUL WAY!

2023 Electrical Safety Poster Contest

To increase electrical safety awareness for our mini members and to assist teachers as they talk to their students about electrical safety, we're holding an **Electrical Safety Poster Contest!** To participate, K-5 students simply create a poster showing how they are safe around electricity. Posters are judged for creativity, neatness, and the overall safety message. All entries need to include the artist's first and last name, grade, school, parent or guardian's contact information, and address. Mail finished drawings to MVEA; ATTN: Erica Meyer; 11140 E Woodmen Rd, Falcon, CO 80831. **All entries must be turned in by March 6, 2023.** For additional information, visit: www.mvea.coop/poster-contest.

Seven Students Will Win a Kindle Fire!
Additional prizes will be awarded to teachers.
Visit www.mvea.coop/poster-contest to learn more and submit artwork.





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This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Now Open
2023
BOARD NOMINATIONS

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

To view a territory map with districts, visit www.mvea.coop/territory-map.

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. A member interested in nomination should contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528 and leave a message. You will be contacted to verify your membership, district, and to begin the nomination process. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by MVEA to be submitted to the committee by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, 2023.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures will be made available by contacting the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire, must be received by MVEA by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2023.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. If you have questions, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

During the Annual Meeting on June 8, 2023, held at Falcon High School in Falcon, two directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors from the following districts:

- **District 2:** Simla, Matheson and a portion of the surrounding areas (incumbent Rick L. Gordon)
- **District 7:** Monument, Woodmoor and a portion of the surrounding areas (incumbent Jim Riggins)

Nominating Committee

District 2
Steve Wilson

District 7
Vince Guthrie

MVEA Board Nomination Information Line

Tel: (719) 494-2528
Email: candidate@mvea.coop

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