

THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

Energy-Saving Resources to Beat the Heat this Summer

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

June is a beautiful time in Colorado as the ever-changing weather of May gives way to the sunny days we expect of the early summer months. It's also a good time to share some energy-saving resources to help prepare for the heat of July and August. As temperatures climb in the summer, so does our reliance on energy to keep cool indoors.

As a not-for-profit electric co-op, we want to help Mountain View Electric Association members get ahead of the summer heat to keep their homes cool while preventing a surprising bill this summer. In addition to helping co-op members save energy, if we can work together to shift enough heavy energy use away from the peak demand times of 5-9 p.m., we can reduce the summer peak power supply costs that affect every MVEA member.

Two decades ago, central air conditioning was rare in MVEA's service area. Today, it's a standard feature, significantly impacting energy use and MVEA's summer peak energy demand. The temperature outside has a big impact on the amount of energy that is used to control the temperature inside. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling systems account for nearly one-third of household electricity use.

Besides air conditioning, there are a lot of small things that can add up to big changes in the amount of energy used in a household: electronics, working remote, and dining in. No matter the reason, the summer months

bring an increase in member calls asking for guidance on how they can manage their energy use. Let's take a look at some resources to help save energy and money — not only during the dog days of summer, but throughout the year.

- 1. MVEA's Time-of-Day Rate:** Can you shift your electric use away from MVEA's peak demand time of 5-9 p.m.? MVEA's Time-of-Day Rate offers a cost-saving solution to members who can shift their electric use to off-peak hours of the day. Learn more about this cost-saving rate at www.mvea.coop/rates.
- 2. SmartHub Account Management:** Your digital meter, paired with online account management through SmartHub®, is a powerful tool to help you take control of your electric use. With daily and hourly energy reads available, your digital meter and SmartHub account will help pinpoint high energy use spikes so you can avoid them in the future. Visit www.mvea.coop/payment-options to learn more about SmartHub.
- 3. Rebates:** Energy efficiency rebates help offset the cost of upgrading your home lighting, heating, cooling, and more. This program, made possible through a partnership with our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, offers rebates to fit the needs of nearly every member who wants to save money



RUTH MARKS

and energy. Learn more at www.mvea.coop/rebates.

- 4. State & Federal Funding for Energy Efficiency Resources:** Have you looked at the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) resources that may be available for you to use for energy efficiency upgrades, both big and small? The IRA's home energy offerings include up-front discounts and tax credits. Learn more at www.mvea.coop/ira.

- 5. MVEA's Website:** Explore MVEA's "Save Energy & Money" website section. Many members find the home energy calculator to be helpful in identifying high energy use sources in their home. Get started at www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money.

While there are a lot of great resources that are available to help co-op members save energy and money, if you have questions about your energy use, the best resource we have is MVEA's team of knowledgeable Member Services Representatives. As your electric cooperative, if you have energy use questions we are here to help.



BEAT THE HEAT : Quick Tips to Manage Your Summertime Electric Use

- 1. Program your thermostat.** Setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer can save you up to 10% in energy costs each year. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your energy use will be.
- 2. Install window coverings.** Blinds or light-blocking curtains help prevent indoor heat gain during the day.
- 3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping.** Air leaks around windows and exterior doors force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.
- 4. Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half. Using cold water saves even more.
- 5. Air dry dishes.** This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50%.
- 6. Turn off fans when you leave a room.** Fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect. They use energy without any benefit in an empty room.

Information Source: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

MVEA AWARDS \$28,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

As a Mountain View Electric Association member, you are part of an electric co-op that is dedicated to creating programs that give back to the members and communities that we serve. This year, students from more than 25 schools throughout MVEA's 5,000-square-mile service territory applied for scholarships to help them pursue the next level of their education. MVEA's scholarship program includes scholarships to accredited colleges, universities, junior or community colleges, vocational/technical schools, and a Power Lineman Scholarship for lineman training programs. Although there were no applicants this year, MVEA also offers a Power Engineer Scholarship to current college students pursuing a power engineering career.

Two \$1,000 "Last Chance" Scholarships will be awarded to dependents of MVEA members at the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members on June 6 in Calhan. These scholarships are generously sponsored by Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Visit www.mvea.coop/scholarships to learn more about the scholarship winners and MVEA's scholarship program. The next scholarship application period opens September 1, 2024.

Congratulations to the 2024 scholarship winners!

\$1,000 MVEA SCHOLARSHIPS



EMMA BEERY
PALMER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



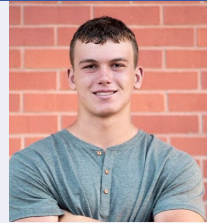
ZAIDA HARMS
BIG SANDY SCHOOLS



SHANE KENNEDY
PINE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



EVELYN LOPEZ RIOS
HANOVER JUNIOR/
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



TREYTON MARX
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



OLIVIA MICHON
PALMER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



ALEXANDRA MILNER
LEWIS-PALMER HIGH SCHOOL



MATTHEW NEPTUNE
PALMER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



TIME NIEMEYER
COLORADO EARLY COLLEGES
COLORADO SPRINGS



JENNIFER RUFFENNACH
THE VANGUARD SCHOOL



KATELYN TACHA
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



BRAEDEN TURNER
LEWIS-PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

\$1,000 MVEA VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS



KEON BANDY
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



RIATTA GROKETT
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



TACI GROKETT
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



XAVIER HARMS
PEYTON JUNIOR-
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



OSMAR LOYA GARCIA
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



KACEE SAFFER
FLAGLER PUBLIC SCHOOL



CHET WANeka
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MACKENZIE WEITZ
ELLCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

\$2,000 MVEA POWER LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP



PATRICK BLATNICK
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DONOVAN HARRIS
LIMON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DALTON HISLE
BIG SANDY SCHOOLS



PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY & RELIABLE POWER SUPPLY



MVEA's Strategy to Wildfire Mitigation

At MVEA, we're committed to keeping people, their belongings, and properties safe from wildfires. Learn how our comprehensive plan can help us reduce the risk of wildfires in the communities we serve. Visit our webpage dedicated to wildfire safety, where you'll find helpful information and resources about the following topics:

- Vegetation Management.
- Operational Practices.
- Advancing MVEA's Initiatives.
- Working with MVEA Members.
- Wildfire Preparedness.



Switch & Save

Go paperless through SmartHub or bank account auto-pay, and save up to \$1 per month!

SmartHub makes it easy to manage your account and monitor your electric use – anytime and anywhere.

Bonus: All participating "Switch & Save" accounts are automatically entered into a quarterly drawing for a \$300 account credit!

Learn more at www.mvea.coop/payment-options.



Last Call for Entries

OH SNAP!

SHOOT, SUBMIT, WIN & GET FEATURED IN THE 2025 MVEA PHOTO CONTEST CALENDAR

The entry deadline is July 8. Learn more and enter online at www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest.



Local. Trusted. Serving You.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph D. Martin, District 1
President

Barry R. Springer, District 6
Vice President

Kevin L. Paddock, District 5
Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Riggins, District 7
Assistant Secretary

Rick L. Gordon, District 2, Director

Errol Hertneky, District 3, Director

Milton L. Mathis, District 4, Director

Telephone Numbers

Toll-Free: (800) 388-9881
(719) 495-2283

Credit Card Pay-By-Phone

(877) 999-3415

Falcon Office

11140 E. Woodmen Road
Falcon, CO 80831

Limon Office

1655 5th Street • P.O. Box 1600
Limon, CO 80828

Office Hours


Monday - Thursday • 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Visit our website: www.mvea.coop

Stay Connected: Like. Follow. Share.


Make sure to connect with MVEA on social media for timely service and program updates.

 www.facebook.com/@MVEAInc

 www.linkedin.com/company/mveainc

 www.x.com/@MVEAInc

 www.youtube.com/@MVEAInc

 www.instagram.com/MVEAInc

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide our members safe, reliable, affordable, and responsible electric service and access to broadband services.

This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MVEA Hosts First Ever Diggers & Dirt Event

BY ERICA MEYER COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

MVEA hosted its inaugural Diggers & Dirt event on Thursday, April 25. Members flocked to the MVEA Falcon Office for an afternoon filled with excitement and education. Imagine a lineup of impressive machinery, expert demos, and interactive activities, all geared towards teaching and engaging our members, young and old, on important topics like tree trimming and planting safety, fire mitigation, and conservation efforts.

But wait, there's more! This event wasn't just about learning; it was an opportunity for our members to dive deep into the world of outdoor maintenance and environmental stewardship. They got to roll up their sleeves and see firsthand demos, picking up some nifty tricks for staying safe and environmentally conscientious while working outdoors. Plus, who doesn't love a freebie? Participants also


snagged complimentary seeds to help spruce up their outdoor spaces.

At the event, everything from tree trimming safety to fire-home-defense tactics were covered. And our high voltage demo? Electrifying! Our lineworkers put on an impressive and captivating show and educated attendees on how to stay safe around electricity!

But the excitement didn't stop there. We partnered with some fantastic local agencies and businesses including 811, Black Forest Fire Department, Double El Conservation, El Paso County Parks, Falcon Fire Department, and Harding Nursery. Talk about community spirit!

A big thank you to all our members, big and small, who made Diggers & Dirt a day to remember. Want to dig deeper into what MVEA is up to? Check out www.mvea.coop for all the information!





END BANDWIDTH BATTLES!

Get connected to high-speed, reliable internet for the whole family this summer.

WHY CONNECT?

- Internet in partnership with your local cooperative
- No data caps or throttling
- Affordable pricing for every household
- Phone services also available
- *And more! Fiber internet opens up a world of opportunity.*

Let's Connect!
Check your availability at ConexonConnect.com, call 844-542-6663, or scan our QR code!

