

THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

MVEA Programs to Save Energy & Money

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

On behalf of the Mountain View Electric Association family, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season it might seem like an odd time to take a closer look at your energy use, but it really is the perfect time to plan for ways to save energy and money all year long. This month, I want to highlight a few of MVEA's energy-saving programs. These programs exemplify our commitment to the cooperative principle of "concern for community"—programs created to better the quality of life of MVEA members—and our mission of providing safe, reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity to the communities that we serve.

Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification 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 Association (Tri-State), offers rebates to fit the needs of nearly every member who wants to save energy and money. Combining holiday sales with MVEA's rebate program is a great way to offset the cost of the purchase of select energy-efficient products, electric outdoor power equipment, and electric vehicle

chargers. Please make sure to contact us or visit www.mvea.coop/rebates as there are rebate requirements you may want to consider before making a purchase.

On-Bill Repayment Program

MVEA, through partnerships with Tri-State, and the Collective Clean Energy Fund, is now offering an on-bill repayment (OBR) program to members to install certain energy efficient upgrades to their property at no upfront cost. The OBR program allows members to make these upgrades and pay them off over time on their MVEA bill. What is the best part? In addition to the benefits of OBR, members can stack the benefits of our rebate program with state and federal incentives to maximize their buying power. Learn more and apply at www.mvea.coop/electrify-and-save.

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.

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



RUTH MARKS

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.

While not a co-op program, members may also qualify for discounts and tax credits for energy-efficiency upgrades through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). 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. Learn more at www.mvea.coop/ira.

As a not-for-profit business we are always looking for ways to help MVEA members manage their electric use. While there are a lot of great programs available to help co-op members save energy and money, if you have questions about your energy use, the best resource is MVEA's team of Member Services Representatives. If you have energy use questions, we are here to help.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
& Happy New Year!
FROM MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MVEA's offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2024, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Photo Credit: Keith Desposito, MVEA Member, 2025 MVEA Photo Calendar Contest Featured Winner.

THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL! IT PAYS TO BE A CO-OP MEMBER.

MVEA Retires More Than \$1.5 Million in Capital Credits

You are both a member and an owner of Mountain View Electric Association. It is a business model unique to cooperatives. Your investment in the cooperative helps ensure the financial health and stability of the co-op, and is returned to you through the allocation and retirement of capital credits. Capital credits represent your investment in MVEA — your piece of the co-op pie.

In October, the Mountain View Electric Association Board of Directors voted to retire (which means “pay”) more than \$1.5 million in capital credits back to members for portions of margins from the years 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2022. If you were a member during those years — or any combination of those years — and have a capital credits retirement payment of \$10 or more, you should receive a check mid-December. For those with a capital credits retirement under \$10, the amount is held until the total cash value of the retirement is greater than

\$10 or until the final payment will close the account. This year, MVEA will issue more than 27,150 capital credits retirement checks to active and inactive members.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues — called “net margins” — are allocated to members in the form of capital credits. MVEA members receive a capital credits allocation every year after the cooperative’s audit of the previous year is complete. An allocation is your share of the net margins MVEA sets aside into a separate account with your name on it. Capital credits allocation notices are provided on your billing statement every November.

While all electric co-ops allocate capital credits, not all co-ops retire capital credits. The allocation and retirement of capital credits is one of the most unique and rewarding benefits of being an electric co-op member.

When the Board deems the co-op financially capable of doing so, capital

credits are paid to members. Dedication to fiscally responsible business practices and planning has enabled MVEA to retire more than \$83.5 million in capital credits back to members since MVEA’s first retirement.

The MVEA Board of Directors is firmly committed to retiring capital credits. When financial conditions permit, MVEA’s Board of Directors applies a hybrid first-in, first-out (FIFO) 80% with a last-in, first-out (LIFO) 20% capital credits retirement system to increase the number of checks issued to members.

Don’t miss out on your share of the cooperative! If you move out of MVEA’s service territory, please provide us with your new mailing address every time you move.

If you have any questions about your capital credits allocation or retirement, please call 800-388-9881. To learn more about capital credits, please visit MVEA’s website at www.mvea.coop/capital-credits.



Capital Credits Quick Facts

In a Co-op, Every Member Gets a Piece of the Pie!

Electric co-ops operate at cost. Any excess revenues are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

Check your November bill every year for your annual capital credits allocation. Learn more about the capital credits process at www.mvea.coop/capital-credits.

Including the 2024 retirement, MVEA has retired over **\$83.5 million** in capital credits back to members!



ELECTRIFYING DREAMS. EMPOWERING MINDS.

Need Cash For College? Win a Scholarship!

If you are continuing your education next year, apply for a scholarship with MVEA today. Whether you plan to attend a traditional college, a technical school, or are interested in pursuing a career in engineering or as a lineworker, MVEA is here for you!

For the 2025 school year, MVEA will be awarding scholarships with opportunities for both traditional and nontraditional students.

Application Deadline: February 28, 2025 • For more details, visit www.mvea.coop/scholarships.





STAY AWAY

from sagging or downed

POWER LINES

Downed trees can create power outages for you and your neighbors. Let's work together to keep the lights on and be safe this winter.

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact MVEA or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making them dangerous. Be safe and stay away from all lines. To learn more about storm and outage safety, visit www.mvea.coop/outage-center.
- Downed trees and power lines do not mix well. Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. A downed power line can energize objects around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts. Keep your property storm ready. Look for possible problem trees close to utility lines and contact MVEA. Visit www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming to learn more about MVEA's tree trimming services.



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Telephone Numbers

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(719) 495-2283

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Office Hours

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

Visit our website: www.mvea.coop

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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.



This Winter, Take Control of Your Electric Use With SmartHub®

Keeping your home warm in the winter can increase your electric use in a big way! Take a look at what you plug in or turn up when temperatures drop. SmartHub is a powerful tool to help MVEA members monitor and manage their electric use.

Get started with SmartHub → www.mvea.coop

For additional ways to save energy and money, visit www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money.



Don't Trash Your Christmas Tree. **Mulch It!**



MVEA members are invited to bring their personal natural tree (or wreath) to the Falcon office to be turned into free landscaping mulch. Trees will be accepted and mulched through January.

- Make sure to remove all decorations and metal from your tree or wreath to prevent damage to the wood chipper.
- Then, bring it to MVEA's office at 11140 E. Woodmen Rd. Take the delivery entrance into the side parking lot and look for the sign to recycle your tree. Questions? Call (800) 388-9881.

Making the Switch to an Electric Vehicle? MVEA Can Help.

The appeal of electric vehicles is gaining speed. While an EV is not currently for every driver, the electric car industry does not seem to be slowing down anytime soon. EV technology paired with the benefits of reduced vehicle emissions and savings on fuel and maintenance has pushed EVs from being a novelty on the road to an important offering of vehicle manufacturers. According to Kelley Blue Book, EVs accounted for 7.6% of all vehicle sales in 2023.

EV drivers give a variety of reasons for owning and driving EVs, including:

- + Lower cost of operation
- + Less noise and quiet to drive
- + Convenience of charging at home
- + Electricity is a domestic energy source
- + Environmental benefits including no tailpipe emissions
- + Electric motors deliver high torque at low speeds which makes them fun to drive.

EV Charging & Driving Range

Electric vehicles can be charged at home with a standard 120-volt outlet; a 240V Level 2 charger can be installed for faster, more efficient charging. EV range is typically around 80 to more than 330 miles on a full charge. The average American's daily round-trip commute is less than 30 miles. Fully recharging the battery pack can take four to eight hours. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a "fast charge" to 80% capacity can take as little as 30 minutes.

MVEA's EV Resources

Currently, MVEA offers rebates and on-bill repayment financing options for EV charging equipment. We also offer a special rate for EV charging at night during off-peak hours to help you save on your electric bill. If you're considering making the switch to an EV, visit www.mvea.coop/electric-vehicles and contact MVEA for more information about charging options and requirements.

Plug In & Power Up With MVEA EV Chargers Available at Falcon Office

MVEA has installed three Level 2 chargers, conveniently located in the front parking lot of its Falcon office. The chargers are the first public EV chargers in Falcon and offer a hassle-free charging solution for members, employees, and pass-through travelers. They are listed on the Alternative Fuel Station Locator and the PlugShare app, a comprehensive EV charging station map and trip planner. The charging rate is offered competitively at \$0.29 per kilowatt-hour. The EV charging stations were made possible with the generous support of two grants: the Tri-State G&T Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, providing \$45,000, and the Colorado Energy Office ChargeAhead grant, contributing \$18,750. MVEA's chargers represent a major step forward in expanding community EV access.



Members of the Eastern Plains Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Energy Office, MVEA's Board of Directors, Executive Leadership Team and staff gather for a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the first public EV chargers in Falcon.



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with Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association.**

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High-Speed Internet.**