

Keep the Heat & Save Energy

With Thermostat Control + Insulation Upgrades

By Ruth Marks CEO

February in Colorado often brings some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills. We also see an increase in calls from Mountain View Electric Association members asking for guidance on how they can manage their energy use while keeping their homes warm. It starts with a simple yet powerful tool: your thermostat.

The most effective way to lower your winter energy use is through thermostat management. Home heating systems use more energy than any other system in your home. Adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money in the colder months.

While we often hear that we should set our thermostat to 68°F in the winter for optimal savings, I recently read about a different approach. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating costs by turning your thermostat back 7°F - 10°F for eight hours a day. No matter the approach you take, be sure to replace dirty air filters and seal gaps around doors and windows to prevent air leaks. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve energy efficiency all year long.

Another way to make your home more energy effi-



cient is to ensure that your home is properly insulated. Insulation acts like a coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months. Insulation is an often-overlooked home upgrade that can have a big impact on how hard your heating system must work to keep you warm in the winter.

For members who are looking for additional ways to use less energy, I encourage you to take a closer look at MVEA's On-Bill Repayment (OBR) and Energy Efficiency Rebate programs. Both are made possible through a partnership with our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and help MVEA members make meaningful upgrades to save energy and money.

From windows and insulation to heat pumps, there are a variety of upgrades available through the OBR program. Looking for a smart thermostat to help manage your home heating? There is a rebate to help offset that purchase. While we have many resources to help co-op members save energy and money, the best resource we have to help members understand energy use fluctuations is MVEA's team of knowledgeable Member Services Representatives. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call (800) 388-9881. As your electric cooperative, we're here to help.



ELECTRIFY AND SAVE®

PROGRAMS TO SAVE ENERGY & MONEY

On-Bill Repayment Program (OBR)

Take advantage of the On-Bill Repayment program for a simple and transparent low-interest financing option for energy efficiency upgrades. No money down. No credit check.

- + Windows & Doors
- + Whole-home or Attic Fans
- + Electric HVAC Systems
- + Insulation
- + EV Chargers
- + And More!

www.mvea.coop/electrify-and-save



Energy Efficiency Rebate Program

From select appliances to heat pumps, and electric mowers to EV charging equipment, there is a rebate to fit the needs of nearly every member who wants to save money and energy.

- + Smart Thermostats
- + Select Appliances
- + Electric Bicycles
- + Electric Heat Pumps
- + EV Chargers
- + And More!

www.mvea.coop/rebates




Active Tree Trimming & Brush Removal In Progress Throughout MVEA's Service Territory

MVEA Trims Trees for **SAFETY & RELIABILITY**

We know that tree trimming and brush removal within electric utility easements may not sound like something to get excited about. But, when you see crews in your community creating tree and brush “no-grow zones” around electric infrastructure, it is proof positive that Mountain View Electric Association is taking proactive measures to maintain a safe and reliable electric distribution system. In addition to MVEA crews, Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC and Arbol Tree Service & Landscaping, LLC have been contracted to help with tree trimming and brush removal in the MVEA easement. Members served by underground lines may see contractors working in the area, while members served by overhead lines may receive a crew visit if trimming or removal is required. Any tree or brush in the MVEA easement that poses a safety or reliability threat may be trimmed or removed. Trimming and removal efforts occur within the electric utility easement – typically along roadways that can also include front, back, and side lot lines of a property – where distribution poles are installed.


Keeping electric lines and infrastructure clear of trees and brush is essential for safe and reliable electric service. Learn more about the importance of “no-grow zones” at www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming.



Tree & Brush No-Grow Zone
A minimum 20-foot diameter around the pole.

Cleared electric utility easements help prevent power outages and blinks, while playing an important role in wildfire mitigation efforts.

- The lights in your house may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during high winds. Stormy weather can cause nearby limbs to break off and land on power lines.
- Unobstructed power lines make it easier and safer to maintain equipment or restore power.



PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY & RELIABLE POWER SUPPLY



MVEA's Strategy to Wildfire Mitigation

Mountain View Electric Association is 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

You can also learn more about MVEA's participation in the Wildfire Assessment and Resilience for Networks project (WARN). Through this project, MVEA has been awarded \$771,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy that will be used to enhance the resiliency of infrastructure and improve fault detection to ensure high reliability during extreme weather events.

www.mvea.coop/wildfire-mitigation



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



Visit www.mvea.coop/scholarships to learn more.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY COLORING CONTEST

CALLING ALL ELEMENTARY-AGED STUDENTS!



Enter MVEA's electrical safety coloring contest for a chance to have your artwork featured on a sticker! Learn more and enter to win by March 20, 2025.



www.mvea.coop/coloringcontest

TOP ARTISTS WIN A KINDLE FIRE!
Additional prizes will be awarded to teachers.




SHOOT, SUBMIT, WIN & GET FEATURED IN MVEA'S CALENDAR

OH SNAP!

Photo calendar entries wanted! Your photo could be featured in MVEA's 2026 calendar. The entry deadline is July 10, 2025. Learn more and enter online at www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest.




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

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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.

Be Aware: Stay Ahead of Utility Scams

Consumers with water, gas, and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. The Better Business Scam Tracker reports that victims typically lose \$274 in all types of scams and \$500 in a utility scam. That's why MVEA runs periodic scam advisories and asks members to call if they have any doubts about who is contacting them. As a rule of thumb: beware of scams asking for personal information or immediate payment, and NEVER click on a suspicious link or attachment.

Let's look at a few common utility scams:

- You receive a random call. The caller says you didn't pay your last electric bill and your power will be cut off immediately unless you pay right now by credit card over the phone. Caller ID shows it came from the utility; they even told you the exact amount of your most recent bill.
- A friendly person in uniform knocks on your door saying they're from the power company and are following up on high-bill complaints from your neighbors. They just need to look at your utility bill so they can get the information code to make sure you aren't being double charged.

In one of the top recent scams, you're told to pay by gift or cash card, giving the swindlers the card and PIN number so they can have easier access to your money. While MVEA will reach out to members to discuss payment arrangements if they fall behind, we will not demand payment in the form of a gift card.

Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). While most people know to watch out for suspicious emails, we tend to trust text messages sent

SIGNS OF A UTILITY SCAM

HIGH-PRESSURE TACTICS

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

SKETCHY PAYMENT METHODS

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

DODGY COMMUNICATION

Whether an email, text message, or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors, or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.

to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts. MVEA will only send you important updates via text if you've opted into automated account alerts through SmartHub.

The best way to avoid being a victim of a utility scam is to call MVEA directly. If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent MVEA but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call us directly. You can reach us at 800-388-9881 to verify the situation. We can provide you with the status of your account, and you can alert us to someone trying to run a utility scam in our area. Learn more, visit MVEA's scam alert center at www.mvea.coop/scams.

STAY CONNECTED THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Fall in love with fiber internet from Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association.

CHECK YOUR AVAILABILITY!

Visit ConexonConnect.com, scan the QR code or call us at 844-542-6663 to sign up today!

