

WATTS Current

July 2024

Top 10 Reasons to Attend YOUR Annual Meeting on August 15!

At Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, you are a member, not just a customer. With your membership comes ownership and involvement in the cooperative. Attending MVEC's Annual Meeting is one way you can exercise your membership in the cooperative you own. We hope that you will join us on Thursday, August 15th at the Peosta Community Centre in Peosta. Look for the August Watts Current as it will include MVEC's Annual Report, director candidate biographies, and election information for voting via mail or in-person at the Annual Meeting. Here are just 10 of the reasons you should consider attending MVEC's Annual Meeting. We hope to see you in Peosta on August 15th!

10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING

FREE blood pressure check



9 Hear about the International Trip to Guatemala #PoweringaBrighterFuture



Take home a great **gift** from the co-op



6 Learn about MVEC and electric industry **updates** from our speakers

Be a part of the democratic process and **vote** for your board of directors.



2 Meet your co-op's employees and directors.

3 **Socialize** with other members - greet old friends and meet new ones.



1 It's **YOUR** co-op! You are a member/owner find out more about how you personally benefit from being a co-op member.

10 **FREE LUNCH** with ice cream!

5 Check out the co-op's products and services - see how we can save you money. Plus, learn about our fast, reliable fiber internet service, **MVlink!**

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SAVE

Annual Meeting of Members

THE

August 15th 2024

DATE

NEW LOCATION
PEOSTA COMMUNITY CENTRE
7896 BURDS RD. PEOSTA



Safety Matters: Safe Summer Tips

By Jenna Curtis, Safety Director

Summer in Iowa is a perfect time to embrace all of the beauty and fun our state has to offer. From rolling hills and beautiful lakes to parks, fairs and festivals, your family is sure to find something fun to do all season long. To truly make it a great summer, make sure you consider these tips to stay safe this summer season:

Heat Safety

Iowa summers can get pretty hot and humid with high heat indexes. To protect yourself and your family, use sunscreen, stay hydrated and find shade when possible. Watch closely for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and know the difference:

- o Heat exhaustion occurs when your body loses excess water and salt due to sweating. Symptoms include muscle cramps, headaches, dizziness, weakness, fatigue, nausea, and vomiting.
- o Heat stroke is a serious medical emergency where your body is unable to control its internal temperature. Symptoms include confusion, altered mental status, and a very high core body temperature above 104°F (40°C). It can cause shock, organ failure, or brain damage.

Summer heat is also dangerous for kids. Hot days can leave kids dehydrated, causing exhaustion, dizziness, and even vomiting. In more extreme cases, high temperatures can induce heat stroke or hyperthermia. For this reason, parents should be extremely cautious about keeping kids hydrated with water. Kids should never be left alone in the car. A child left unattended in a vehicle can die in minutes on a hot day. Always check the backseat and do not allow children to play in unoccupied vehicles.

Storm Prep/Clean Up

Make sure you have a plan for summer storms—have a charged weather radio, identify a safe place in your home (basement or sturdy interior space), put new batteries in your flashlights and have water and nonperishable food items on hand. Gather any important medicine and keep a well-stocked first aid kit handy. Communicate your plan to your family so they know what to do in case of a storm emergency and where emergency items are stored.

Once a storm has rolled through, be mindful of any downed power lines as you inspect damage or clean up. Always assume downed lines are energized. Never touch anything in contact with power lines, including water or water puddles that may be near the downed power lines.

Water Safety

Swimming and boating can provide hours of fun for the whole family. However, water can also pose serious safety concerns. Never leave a child unattended near a pool, lake, pond or any body of water. Accidents can happen in the blink of an eye. Teach kids basic safety rules such as no running on the pool deck or no diving head first. Swim in areas with a lifeguard or wear a life jacket. If you're swimming in the ocean, take special precautions and beware of ocean currents. Familiarize yourself with rip currents and what to do if you get caught in one. Remember that water and electricity NEVER mix.

Wishing you and your family a safe summer! For more safety tips, visit mvec.coop and click on the Safety tab.

June MVEC Board Meeting Update

- Discussed the results of the annual safety audit completed by the Cooperative's insurance provider, Federated Rural Electric Insurance.
- Discussed NERC's 2024 Summer Reliability Report for the MISO region.
- Discussed and approved a revolving loan fund application for a new business in Jones County.
- Approved a rate adjustment and increase for Rate 7, Time of Use Large Power Service.
- Discussed ongoing preparations for the Annual Meeting in August
- Reviewed progress that has been made on the key initiatives identified in the Cooperative's strategic plan.

Outstanding Patronage Dividend Checks

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, 109 North Huber Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, has abandoned property that results from uncashed patronage dividend checks issued in 2021. To see if your name is on the list of uncashed patronage checks, visit: www.mvec.coop/patronage-dividends.

If this property is not claimed within three years from the original check date, it will be forfeited to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative according to Iowa law.



Our Energy Working For You: Understanding Energy Efficiency Designations

By Al Reiter, Energy Advisor

When considering installing or replacing a heating and cooling system, the energy efficiency ratings of the equipment will influence your decision. In addition to the upfront cost and annual operating costs, the efficiency will affect potential MVEC rebates and tax credits that may apply. You will see or hear various efficiency terms used and, while these ratings seem like an alphabet soup of confusing information, this month's article will explain some of the key ratings used.

For heating and cooling equipment, the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) is an independent trade association that evaluates and certifies various heating and cooling equipment submitted by manufacturers. This AHRI rating certificate gives an efficiency rating associated with that equipment combination. On the MVEC rebate forms for heat pumps and air conditioners, the AHRI number validates that it meets certain energy efficiency minimum standards to qualify.

Similar to the AHRI, the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) lists air source heat pumps specifically that are cold climate rated to heat at below 0 F temperatures. The NEEP website will use the AHRI number to identify those cold climate rated units which qualify for higher rebates from MVEC. While Energy Star has a separate rating criteria for cold climate units, for the purposes of

the MVEC rebate, we only require the NEEP listing of a unit.

Some of the efficiency ratings that each of these agencies evaluate are the SEER, EER, and HSPF. For all of these, a higher number is better. From the Energy Star federal website:

EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) measures how efficiently a cooling system will operate at a specific temperature.

SEER (Seasonal Efficiency Ratio) is used to measure the efficiency of a central air conditioner or heat pump over an entire season.

HSPF (Heat Seasonal Performance Factor) This rating is usually associated with heat pumps measuring the total heating output compared to the total electricity consumed.

But wait, there's more. Those efficiency ratings changed in 2023 to SEER-2, EER-2 and HSPF-2 with the goal to have ratings that better align with real world operating conditions. Manufacturers are catching up to the new standards and often you may notice that their equipment is rated for both the old and new standard. While the MVEC rebate amount wasn't affected by the new ratings for any rebates submitted so far this year, at some point we will adopt the new ratings for our incentive program.

Geothermal units will frequently use a coefficient of performance (COP) efficiency ratio. This basically indicates for every unit of energy input, how many units of heating or cooling energy output occurs.

While this is by no means a complete listing of the performance criteria of the equipment, using your local heating and cooling contractor's expertise will help you determine what system will perform the best for your home and comfort expectations.

Residential Air Source Heat Pump

PLEASE complete ALL sections and sign form to ensure proper and prompt payment of rebate.

Member Address Information (person receiving rebate) Check if wind or solar generation is installed.

Equipment Location Information Check if same address as above:

Installation and Equipment Information

HEATING EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

AHRI REFERENCE NUMBER: [Field]

OUTDOOR Condenser: Manufacturer/Brand, Model Number, Serial Number

INDOOR Coil: Manufacturer/Brand, Model Number, Serial Number

COOLING CAPACITY (tons): [Field] (Round to nearest 0.5 ton)

AUXILIARY RESISTANCE (KW): [Field]

SEER (seasonal cooling efficiency): [Field] (Must be ENERGY STAR qualified)

HSPF (heating efficiency rating): [Field] (Must be ENERGY STAR bonus)

EER (steady-state cooling efficiency): [Field]

SECONDARY HEATING SYSTEM: NONE, Oil, Resistance, Natural Gas, Wood, Propane, Other

INSTALLED SYSTEM COST: [Field]

Incentive Summary

HEAT PLUS RATE

AHRI CERTIFIED

www.ahridirectory.org

Certificate of Product Ratings

AHRI Certified Reference Number: 202566187 Date: 05-06-2024 Model Status: Discontinued Model Discontinued Date: 05-06-2024

AHRI Type: HRCU-A-CB (Split System: Heat Pump with Remote Outdoor Unit-Air-Source)

Series: Merit ML14XP1 Series

Outdoor Unit Brand Name: LENNOX

Outdoor Unit Model Number (Condenser or Single Package): ML14XP1-036-230A**

Indoor Unit Model Number (Evaporator and/or Air Handler): CBA27LHE-036-230**TDR

The manufacturer of this LENNOX product is responsible for the rating of this system combination.

Rated as follows in accordance with the latest edition of AHRI 210/240 - 2017 with Addendum 1, Performance Rating of Unitary Air-Conditioning & Air-Source Heat Pump Equipment and subject to rating accuracy by AHRI-sponsored, independent, third party testing:

Cooling Capacity (A2) - Single or High Stage (95F): 32600

SEER: 15.00

EER (A2) - Single or High Stage (95F): 12.50

Heating Capacity (H12) - Single or High Stage (47F): 32600

HSPF (Region IV): 9.00



Watt's Up: MVEC Construction Update

By Dan Schulte, Operations Director

In the April Watt's Up blog, we covered maintenance at your cooperative. This month, our Operations Director, Dan Schulte, provides an update on construction projects happening in MVEC's service area.

While construction work takes place all year long, summer is a particularly busy time for our operations crews doing construction projects across our service territory.

In addition to constructing new services and rebuilding services throughout our service area, the crews also have two major construction projects they are undertaking this summer:

1. Highway 13 project: MVEC is rebuilding an 8-mile section of Highway 13 where we are relocating line further off the road to allow for wider ditches. This project came at the request of the State of Iowa to support their road rebuilding efforts in Delaware County.
2. Jones County project: Our crews are moving a mile and a half of line to accommodate road work along 215th Avenue south of Anamosa.

For typical new service and rebuild projects, MVEC's staking and engineering departments review member requests and tackle those projects as they come in and resources allow. When it comes to larger projects that support road rebuilds, MVEC works with the State and Counties several years in advance to plan for those projects.

Last year's summer construction season was dry and accommodating to our crews. This year, Mother Nature has certainly provided some challenges with weather. The severe conditions have not only created storm cleanup work for the linemen, they have prevented crews from accessing off-road areas that are too wet for large trucks to navigate. Our crews remain focused on completing both large road construction line relocates before the contractors move in to begin the roadwork portion of the projects.

Some construction projects entail MVEC crews installing additional sectionalizing devices which have been helpful during storm restoration—we are able to isolate damaged areas faster which results in more members getting power back on quickly. This process used to be very manual and would require linemen out in the field to investigate. Now, we can put our heads together in the operations center and quickly identify outage areas to restore them.



In addition to accommodating road projects, MVEC also completes several system upgrade projects each year which "harden" the system. These project areas are identified in the Cooperative's Engineering Work Plan and typically consist of the replacement of aging facilities, upgrading areas that are seeing higher growth, or adding smart grid functionality to our distribution feeders. Today's design standards and the increased loads across the service territory require bigger wire with poles located closer together. When we make those upgrades, not only can our system handle larger loads, it is stronger and can weather storms.

New Faces at MVEC

You may see some new faces out in the field for MVEC. Alex Laban joined the MVEC family in May as a Journeyman Lineman serving the Cascade area. In addition, we have two recent high school graduates, Brady Kennedy and John Welter, helping our crews with summer maintenance projects. We welcome them all to our co-op family and appreciate their efforts in helping us provide safe and reliable electricity!





MEMBER MEET-UP

TUESDAY JULY 16TH 4-7 PM

MVEC/MVLink DAY AT THE GREAT JONES COUNTY FAIR

VISIT OUR BOOTH Goettsch Shelter

(between the Berndes Center & the Fair Office)

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

Ask us Questions

Win a Prize

Pickup
4-H Food Tickets

Learn about





TECH LINK

TechLink: Streaming the Summer Olympics

The 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris will begin at the end of July. Do you know where to access coverage of your favorite events? According to a recent article on NBCsports.com, NBC and Peacock are set to break the Olympic record for broadcast hours on the NBC network. Coverage will include daytime NBC broadcasts with live swimming, gymnastics and track and field finals, plus every sport and event streamed live on Peacock.

Since Paris is six hours ahead of Eastern time, most of the premier medal events will take place during the U.S. afternoon hours. The Olympics officially open July 26, 2024, with an outdoor Opening Ceremony along the Seine River airing live simultaneously on NBC, Peacock and Telemundo.

Medal competition starts the following day. NBC will air at least nine hours of daytime coverage per day, including those live finals.

Following live coverage all day, a three-hour primetime show “will take the American audience up close and inside the Olympic day, weaving together the great competitions, moments, stories and raw emotion” with “unprecedented behind-the-scenes access and new technology,” according to NBC Sports PR.

Peacock will air all 329 medal events live in a Summer Games first for a streaming service. Peacock will also have full-event replays, all NBC programming, curated video clips, virtual channels and exclusive original programming.

Telemundo will have extensive Spanish-language coverage throughout each day, highlighted by men’s and women’s soccer, with additional cable coverage on Universo.

Need to take a break from Olympic events? Use our StreamNow web page (www.mvec.coop/streaming-guide) to select the right streaming platform(s) for your summer movie nights or binge watching events. MVlink members get a free streaming guide sent straight to their email in-boxes each month. This handy guide provides a sneak peek of new content coming to the various streaming platforms. Don’t have our MVlink fiber internet yet? Visit mvec.coop/mvlink-internet to learn more about our blazing fast speed, reliable service and friendly local support!



SIGN UP TODAY!

HAS YOUR INTERNET NEEDS COVERED!

Frustrated by slow internet, outages or data caps? Switch to MVlink for the fastest, most reliable fiber internet connection in eastern Iowa.





HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE



Be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.



ZONE IN ON SAFETY



Respect **roadside** work crews.



Don't drive distracted.
Reduce your speed.
Change lanes.

1 work zone crash occurs every **5.4 minutes**



70 work zone crashes result in **injuries each day**



12 work zone crashes result in at least **1 fatality each week**



Never plug a generator into a wall outlet in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line could **electrocute a utility worker** or neighbor.



DON'T post signs on **utility poles**.

Foreign objects can **tear** utility workers' **protective clothing**, which is the first line of protection from an **electric shock**.



Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!



Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Watts The Answer?

1. In addition to the upfront cost and annual operating costs, the _____ will affect potential MVEC rebates and tax credits that may apply.

2. When we make those _____, not only can our system handle larger loads, it is stronger and can weather storms.

3. This handy _____ provides a sneak peek of new content coming to the various streaming platforms.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to efletcher@mvec.coop

Two winners will each receive a **\$10.00 credit** on their energy bills.

Please complete the following:

Name

Address

May winners:

Charlotte Nachtman, Earlville

Anthony Muenster, Bellevue



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative
109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit 174

★★★

Happy Independence Day!

MVEC's office will be closed Thursday, July 4th

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com



Understanding Your Electric Bill

ON-PEAK hours are 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
OFF-PEAK hours are
Midnight - 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. - Midnight
These times are in effect every day.

Watts Current

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