



*Renewables Are a
3 For 1 Deal!*

Can More Green Power Actually Save You Money?

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER

A penny saved is not always a penny earned. College taught me that. Once, feeling rather smart, my roommate and I clipped coupons before grocery shopping. Back at the house, I remember unpacking four cans of pork and beans. “You must really like these,” I said.

“Not especially,” he answered, then shrugged his shoulders. “But we had a coupon. Buy three, get one free.”

They sat in our cupboard for months, uneaten, until we donated them to the local food bank.

Some time in my 20s, between clipping coupons, feasting on ramen noodles and buying cars, my scrutiny of good deals sharpened.

What I can tell you with certainty now, decades later, is that renewables are a good deal, a legitimate three for one: good for the environment, good at reducing our carbon footprint and good at reducing power cost. Here’s how and why:

Locally grown (and fresh!)

In 2019, Mountain Parks Electric built two 1-megawatt solar projects that provide power to approximately 600 homes. Over their 25-plus-year lives, they will reduce the cost of power that we purchase and deliver. In 2021, MPE plans to build a 2-MW community solar project, allowing members to subscribe to the output and save money. And recently, MPE introduced its Electrify Everything program — providing financial assistance to qualifying consumer-members installing energy-saving equipment. Since last summer, nine new local solar projects have been built, thanks to this financing (find out more at mpei.com/electrify-everything-program).

Even more renewables, less carbon

MPE is working with our current power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, to deliver 50% renewable energy to you by 2024. To get there, Tri-State plans incorporate more than a 1,000 MWs of renewables over the next

several years. And this is only the beginning of its efforts. Tri-State’s recently-filed Responsible Energy Plan (with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission) establishes an 80% renewable goal by adding 2,000 MWs of renewables and shuttering its coal power plants.

Reducing energy costs

Part of MPE’s fiduciary duty to you is to evaluate power supply options that offer more renewables and flexibility at a lower cost. For the past year, MPE’s board and management have made headway on this front. In November, we signed an agreement with an industry leader to explore adding more renewables and battery technology. The agreement allows the parties to create a long-term (20- or 25-year) partnership to transform how we do business.

None of this is as easy as clipping coupons, but the benefits look to be as smart as they are promising. Bottom line: Incorporating more renewables into our power portfolio provides long-term savings.





REMINDER:



The one scholarship that graduating seniors simply **MUST** apply for!

If your student applies for only one college or vocational scholarship, this should be it. MPE awards more than 20 scholarships each year, ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Contact your high school counselor for the application. More information: mpei.com/scholarships-and-youth-programs.

**Friday, March 5
DEADLINE**



**WE'RE YOUR ALLY IN THE SOLAR
INSTALLATION PROCESS**

Reduce your carbon footprint and save with Mountain Parks Electric's Electrify Everything program. Visit mpei.com/electrify-everything-program or call (970) 887-3378.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEAT PUMPS,
COMMERCIAL EV CHARGERS, INSULATION AND SOLAR.
1-2% INTEREST OVER 10 YEARS.



FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.MPEI.COM

Mike Hagerty, ACCT 1013550

**Four Reasons You Should Download
MPE's SmartHub App Now!**

1. You can actually prove which teenager used all the hot water. (How? See #3.)
2. You can see if your relatives turned down the heat after staying in your cabin, home or condo during spring break. (How? See #3.)
3. Using MPE's SmartHub app, you can monitor your monthly, daily and even hourly electric usage (and correlate it with local weather trends and human behavior patterns).
4. You can access your MPE statements 24/7.

DOWNLOAD the app at mpei.com/smarthub-instructions



WAYS TO SAVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

REFRIGERATOR SAVINGS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

After your candlelight dinner:

- Make sure food has cooled entirely before putting it in your fridge.
- Cover or wrap food: Uncovered food releases moisture, causing your fridge to work harder and use more electricity.

And then:

- Keep the ambiance toasty by checking your fridge and freezer door seal: This stops chilled air from escaping and running up your electric bill.



Find Your Name Win \$5

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.

PET OF THE MONTH



GIA

Gia, a 9-month-old Lab-pit-cattle dog-boxer mix, loves to swim and run through tall grass, and is a bird lover. Gia came to Grand County Animal Shelter with her littermate, brother Ollie. They still get to play together since both were adopted here. She is the perfect pup for our household.

Owner: Deb Kohlwey

Email your pet photos and pet bio to rtaylor@mpei.com



Server Amber Donaldson

Local Chef SPOTLIGHT

RESTAURANT:

FRASER VALLEY DISTILLERY

410 Zerex St. (Fraser)
 fraservalleydistilling.com
 970-363-7792

HOURS:

11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Thursday – Sunday)

SPECIALTY:

Award-winning spirits and mixology, and yummy sandwiches and starters

COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS

For a clear soup stock, start it with cold water and never let it reach a full boil. Low and slow is the best motto in creating a rich and nutritious stock. Calvin Yeh, ACCT 110341102



February 2021
Energy Efficiency
 Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: energy.gov

**MPE ELECTRIFIES THE 2021
 THREE LAKES ICE FISHING
 TOURNAMENT**



MPE sponsored the January 29-31 event by donating this electric ice auger, displayed by MPE customer service representatives Diane Hanick, Amanda Haight and Amy Beach. MPE now offers rebates for a variety of outdoor power equipment, including snow blowers. Visit mpei.com/rebates for more information.



PHONE SCAMS

BY ROB TAYLOR MANAGER OF MEMBER RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Will MPE threaten to disconnect my electric service if I don't make an immediate payment over the phone?

The answer is no.

According to Arkansas-based First Orion Corporation, in 2019, 40% of all telephone calls placed in the United States were scams. That's two out of every five calls. In recent years, an increasing number of you have called MPE, questioning if a phone call you received demanding immediate payment over the phone was legitimately from MPE.

These questionable calls generally follow this format. The caller:

1. Identifies her- or himself as an MPE employee.
2. Asserts that your electric bill payment is overdue.
3. Demands immediate credit card payment over the phone and says that if you do not pay now, your electric service will be disconnected. Josh Hardy, ACCT 1021249

This is a scam.

Hang up immediately and report the call to us. We will tell you if your bill is current or past due. If it is overdue, you are not required to pay over the phone. You can also make your payment on our website, mail us your payment or use our drive-up window or overnight drop box. Most importantly: Do not give the caller your credit or debit card number.

Other common phone scams include:

- **Imposter calls:** Like someone claiming that your Social Security account has been frozen due to fraud.
- **Charity scams:** The caller requests your donation to help those in need or disaster victims.
- **Extended automobile warranties:** According to the Federal Trade Commission, these are often overpriced or completely worthless.
- **Credit recovery scams:** Scammers promise to forgive student loan debt, lower credit card interest rates or fix your credit.
- **Free trials:** You are promised a free trial but are signed up for other goods or services that you are billed for.

What to do if a scammer contacts you:

- If you lost money, report it at ftc.gov/ complaint.
- If you have not lost money but want to report it, use the Federal Trade Commission's streamlined reporting form at donotcall.gov.
- Report the number that appears on your phone display screen and any number the scammer tells you to call.
- And if the scammer identifies her- or himself as an MPE employee, please call us at 970-887-3378 to report it.

