



IS ELECTRICITY A GOOD BUY?

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER



MARK JOHNSTON

Every day we see another story about inflation. The effect of rising prices is evident each time you fill up the car or go to the grocery store. The Federal Reserve now says that raising interest rates will keep inflation in check. If you are like me, you're scratching your head, wondering how exactly this makes sense. The rationale is that by raising interest rates, the economy will slow down, allowing supply to catch up to consumer demand. Will that actually work? No one really knows for sure.

Consumer concerns

Predictably, perhaps, the high cost of essentials was the topic of numerous comments in our last online survey. Our consumers said:

“Lower the cost per kilowatt-hour”

“Do everything possible to keep costs down”

“Lower rates”

“Help reduce my bill”

This concern is understandable. As someone who has worked in this industry for many years, here's what I can tell you about the cost of electricity: Mountain Parks Electric and its employees work hard every day to maintain and even lower costs. Over the past two years, employees have submitted ideas resulting in annual savings in excess of \$600,000. Those savings help to offset the rising cost of providing electricity. Like you, our costs of fuel, materials and health care are increasing.

That's the bad news.

The good news

MPE has not raised rates since 2017 and will not in 2022. That is six years without an increase. Even so, your comments got

me to thinking about how consumer costs have changed over time.

The value of \$1

Is electricity still a good buy? It's a question that implies two more: “What does a \$1 of electricity buy you today?” and “How has the cost increased compared to other essentials?”

In MPE's Annual Report (published in the April issue of *CCL*), we shared that \$1 of electricity buys:

- Wi-Fi router powered for 46 days
- LED bulb powered for 43 days
- iPhone charging for 460 hours
- 100 feet of heat tape powered for 12 hours
- 35 miles of driving a Tesla Model 3

That's still a good bargain, I think.

What if you compare the percentage increase in the last six years (2017 to 2022) of electricity to other essentials?

- Gas increased \$1.67/gallon or 69%
- Eggs increased \$0.54/dozen or 37%
- Bacon increased \$1.33/lb. or 23%
- Milk increased \$0.65/gallon or 20%
- **MPE electricity per kilowatt hour increased 0%**
- **MPE Service Availability Charge increased 0%**

I know we all struggle with rising costs. That is why I am proud to be part of an organization that focuses on being more efficient and finding ways to control costs. The hard-working employees of MPE deliver safe and reliable power every day. And it is still a remarkably good value.

“The way prices are rising, the good old days are last week.”

— Les Dawson



OUR SURVEY SAYS ...

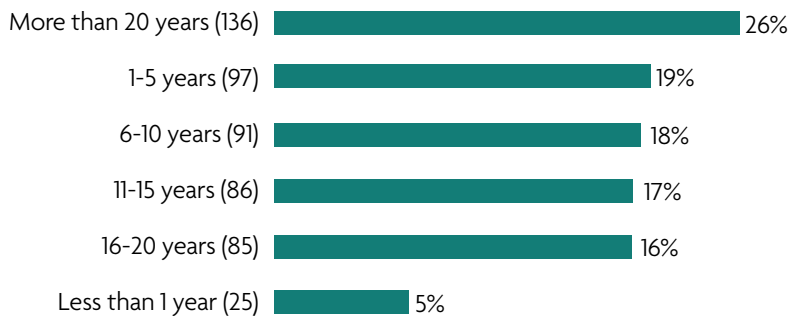
Lynette Konantz, ACCT 11011701

Recently, Mountain Parks Electric conducted a 45-question consumer survey. The survey focused on household electric use, residential energy-efficiency, customer satisfaction and other metrics. We were pleased that 547 consumers participated in the survey, giving a margin of error of +/- 0.9% with a 95% degree of probability. This means there is a 95% chance that the results

do not vary by more than 0.9% from the answers the entire MPE consumer base would have given if polled. These survey results give the MPE board and staff insights into current consumer trends and are helpful in making business decisions to better serve you. You might also find a few of the questions and responses (and brief commentary) interesting and helpful.

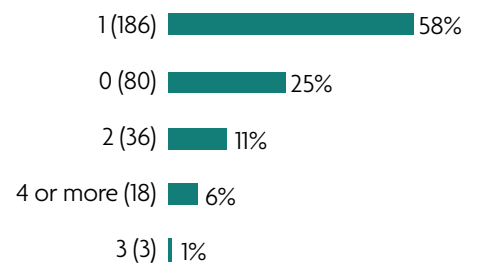
1 How old is your primary heating system?

(primary heating system age)



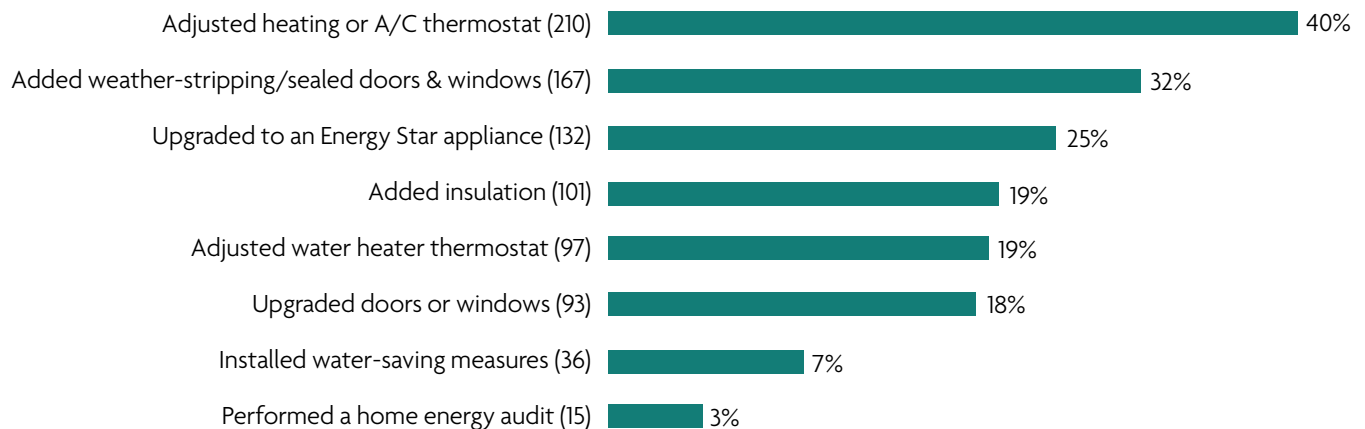
Many heating systems are warrantied for 10 years. If you need to replace your heating system, don't forget that MPE offers financial assistance to qualifying members for heat pumps (mpei.com/electrify-everything-program). Heat pumps also can be used for air conditioning in the summer.

2 How many 10+ year-old refrigerators do you own?



MPE offers rebates for Energy Star appliances, including refrigerators (mpei.com/rebates).

3 Please indicate all energy-efficiency measures you adopted in the past three years:



Adjusting thermostats is a no-cost measure that can save you energy. Now, MPE offers rebates for smart thermostats, which auto-adjust or allow you to manually change settings with a smart device (mpei.com/rebates). MPE also offers financial assistance to qualifying members for insulation upgrades (mpei.com/electrify-everything-program).



3 WAYS TO VOTE IN MPE'S DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR ELECTION

Only District 2 consumer-members are eligible to vote.

BY MAIL

MPE mailed ballots in April to all consumer-members with an active account as of April 4, 2022. Completed ballots must be received by SBS, our third-party ballot counting vendor, by May 11.

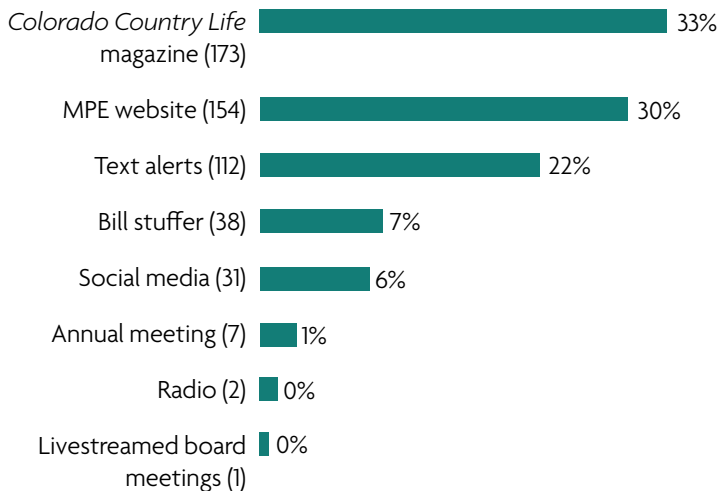
BY DROP BOX

You can also cast your vote at our outdoor drop box near the front entrance of our Granby office. Ballots must be dropped off no later than **12 p.m. on May 13, 2022.**

BY MEETING

Or you can cast your vote in person at the annual meeting on Saturday, May 14, at Middle Park High School, 795 N. 2nd St. in Granby. Breakfast is served at 8 a.m. and the business meeting begins at 9:15 a.m.

4 What is your preferred source of information from MPE?



MPE engages its consumers through many channels. We invite you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube and access our website. You can also sign up for outage text alerts by downloading our SmartHub app (where you can access your bills and daily electric usage).

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU TOO!
Take our online survey at mpei.com/online-survey for your chance to win a \$100 bill credit.



WAYS TO SAVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN
MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST

OUT OF SIGHT & OUT OF MIND = EXPENSIVE

Energy-Saving Tips

Now that winter is over, don't forget to turn off and unplug heating loads:

- Heat tape on your roof, gutters or pipes
- Livestock tank heaters
- Electric space heaters



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.

OPEN

In response to consumer requests, effective May 23, MPE's Granby and Walden offices will be open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Beginning, Friday, May 27, our offices will be closed on Fridays.

PETS OF THE MONTH



Dennis Soles, ACCT 100123001

BEASTIE, BAMBI, TORO & DEXTER

Beastie's mind revolves around two things: food and ball.

Bambi is a loyal and loving companion.

Toro loves anyone he meets.

Dexter likes to cuddle and perch in high places.

Owners: The Walker Family

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



3 CHANCES TO WIN!
 ENTER MPE'S 2022 BENEFICIAL
 ELECTRIFICATION DRAWINGS (ON
 FACEBOOK)



This summer, MPE, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, will conduct random drawings to give away one electric chainsaw, one solar generator and one induction cooktop plus cookware.



Why electric? The grid is becoming increasingly renewable. Replacing fossil fuel-powered tools and appliances with their electric counterparts can reduce your carbon footprint.

For more details and to enter, just visit MPE's Facebook page and comment under the drawing prize post: Tell us which prize you most hope to win. *Good luck!*



Time-Saving Apps to Consider

BY AMANDA ROSENBERGH MPE BILLING SUPERVISOR

1. Waze

A community-based app that helps you find the lowest gas prices in your community. It also gives driving directions, road alerts and live traffic updates.

2. Toggl

This app boosts your productivity by timing your daily tasks. You can then evaluate how your daily processes and habits can be improved.

3. Pocket

Save the articles you want to read or watch later all in the same place. You can use any device to come back and read/watch the content, even with no Wi-Fi!

4. SmartHub

This app is available on MPE's website. With it, you can monitor your hourly electric usage, access your historic usage, view past electric bills, and even access a link to read *Colorado Country Life* online.

5. Forest

This app motivates you to stay focused on a work task by planting a virtual tree. While you work on your task, the animated tree you plant will grow. The longer you spend away from your phone, the more the tree grows, then multiplies, then turns into a forest.

Joseph Dulac, ACCT 800135201



Local Chef SPOTLIGHT

AMELIA'S CAMPFIRE PRETZELS

FACEBOOK: Amelia's Campfire Pretzels @campfirepretzelexperience
 amelia@ameliascampfirepretzel.com

TIP FOR MPE READERS

"I have one special ingredient I add to cakes and brownies: Pudding. YES PUDDING – a simple ingredient that dramatically affects texture, density and flavor. Just sprinkle pudding powder into the batter, then mix. If it sits too long before baking, it gets thick. I recommend a quick remix. I will use the appropriate-flavored pudding to match the cake or brownie flavor. If you want to make things fun, play around with flavors. I like to add cheesecake-flavored pudding to strawberry cake batter, yum!"

Be sure to try Amelia's specialty pretzel at MPE's Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 14 in Granby at Middle Park High School. Amelia's pretzels are included in MPE's free registration gift bag.