



PLEASE STOP ME AND SAY “HI!”

BY VIRGINIA HARMAN GENERAL MANAGER

Serving our communities is at the core of what Mountain Parks Electric does every day. It is also what inspires and motivates me. As the new general manager, I wanted to take this opportunity to share a little bit about myself and why I am so excited and honored to be joining this great cooperative and to become a part of the community.

I am stepping into this role with nearly two decades of experience in the public electric utility space, most recently as chief operating officer of Yampa Valley Electric Association in Steamboat Springs. I have held various executive leadership roles at three rural electric cooperatives prior to joining the team here at MPE, including Glacier Electric in Cut Bank, Montana, and Delta-Montrose Electric Association in Montrose. Thanks to these roles, I have gained experience in power supply, electric distribution system management, member communications, financial and strategic planning and much more. However, the

single most meaningful thing I have learned in my career has been the value of listening: listening to my team, listening to my peers, listening to the board and, most importantly, listening to our members. While all rural communities have a lot in common, I know that it is their differences that give each one character and make them unique. I am excited to listen and learn about you, your stories and this beautiful area. I want to get to know the communities that we serve and better understand what you need and expect from your cooperative.

I am committed to continuing to put our members first and to playing an active role in ensuring that we provide the best member experience possible. By focusing on strong, strategic relationships and partnerships, empowering our employees, and learning more about you all, I hope to deliver on that promise.

Like most companies, MPE has been through a lot of unexpected change over the past several years. This has tested

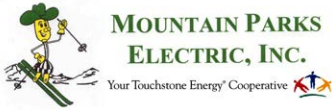


VIRGINIA HARMAN

and tried the organization and its people. Considering the rapid, seismic evolution of the electric industry, we must remain forward-thinking. To me, that means being nimble and adaptable to meet challenges head-on, to recognize and embrace opportunities and to meet your needs and expectations. I hope to use my experience, knowledge and my excellent new team to help lead MPE through these unprecedented and challenging times.

Again, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to lead this great organization and build on its successes. I look forward to serving you all. My family and I are excited to be living here and to become a part of this vibrant community. If you see me in your neighborhood, at the grocery store, on a hiking trail or on the slopes, please stop me and say hi.

WITHDRAWAL? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



Mountain Parks Electric recently gave Tri-State G&T (our power supplier) notice to withdrawal from our wholesale power contract. So how will this personally affect you?

The short answer is you should not notice much difference. To change power suppliers, MPE was required to provide a two-year notice, which will be satisfied on February 1, 2025. Until then, everything should be business as usual.

This means:

- MPE will purchase power from Tri-State
- Tri-State will deliver power to MPE
- Reliability will not be affected
- MPE may see normal price increases from Tri-State

So what happens after two years?

MPE is negotiating an agreement with an alternative supplier now. The new supplier will have assets and finances similar to Tri-State to ensure their ability to deliver power.

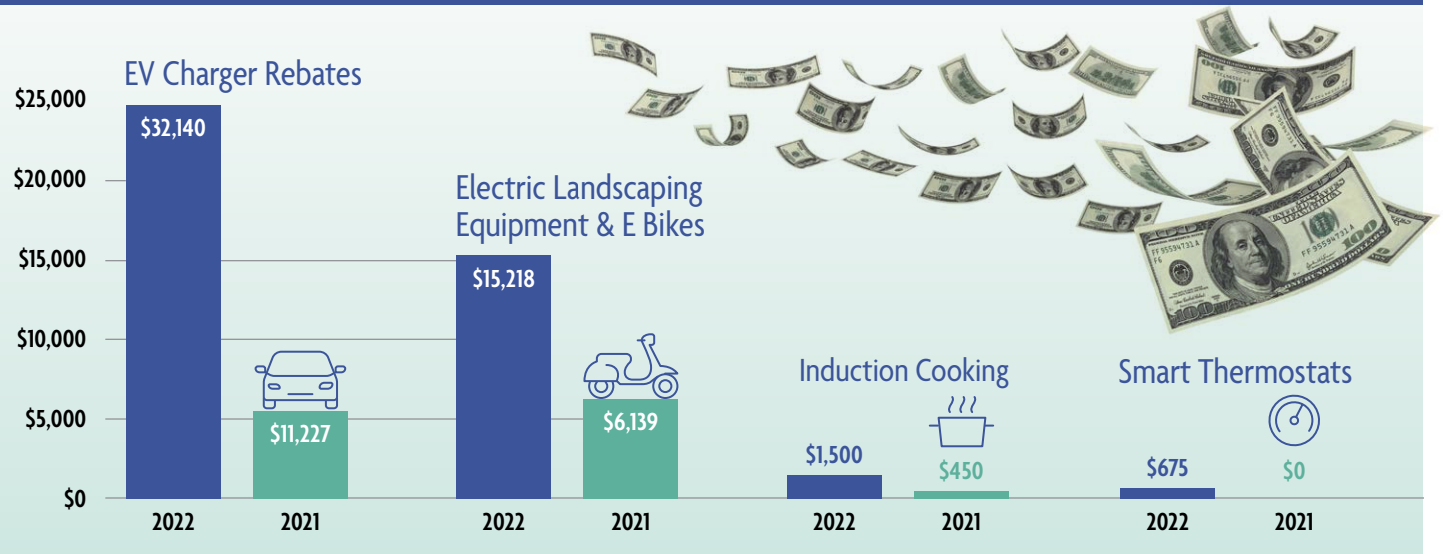
The terms of the new contract we sign will include:

- The same level of reliability, no expected brownouts or power shortages
- Long-term price stability, including mitigation of price shocks experienced by some Colorado cooperative members and Xcel Energy customers from severe winter weather in 2021
- More low-cost renewable power, backed up by thermal assets so power is available when you need it

Potential for long-term rate savings

Currently, we are unable to provide specifics regarding the new wholesale contract. Those details are still being negotiated. But know this: MPE focuses on delivering safe, reliable and affordable power. We work hard to make that happen. In the days ahead, we will share more about our new power supplier as details become available.

MPE REBATE TRENDS



For a complete list of MPE's 2023 rebates, visit mpei.com



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE SOON!

Don't miss out on money for college or vocational programs. Each year, we award 20 scholarships totaling more than \$60,000 to students continuing their education.

High school seniors who are children of MPE consumers may apply for a scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Visit mpei.com/scholarships-and-youth-programs.

Don't delay — apply today. **Scholarship application deadline: March 3, 2023.** If you have any questions about the program or application process, call 970-887-3378 ext. 6.

Scan the QR code for more information and to apply.



POWER POINTERS

BY CHRIS MICHALOWSKI POWER USE ADVISOR



Each quarter, MPE posts a new online survey at mpei.com/online-survey. The survey allows you to ask questions and provide feedback about our service. Participants are automatically entered into a drawing for a \$100 bill credit.

As MPE's power use advisor, I highlight and respond to a few of your survey comments here.

"Rates are getting very high; my bill is 50% higher this month than 2 months ago."

Our electric rates have not changed since 2016. So it probably has something to do with changes in electric use patterns or the weather, not your cost per kilowatt-hour. As the weather cools, people heat their homes more, using more electricity to do so. Even if you heat with natural gas or propane, there is typically an electric component involved: a furnace fan or in-floor circulating pumps. Other large consumers of energy include heat tape, vehicle block heaters and space heaters. Typically, anything that generates heat

consumes more energy than an appliance or electronic. Timers can help you reduce the cost of operating such heat-generating devices. Dennis Leonard, ACCT 1030600

"Alert us as quickly as possible when an outage occurs in any part of the county."

MPE currently provides email and text message outage alerts. To sign up, simply check the box for alerts on the notifications page of your SmartHub account. To sign up for SmartHub visit mpei.smarthub.coop or call us at 970-887-3378.

"We don't have the infrastructure to be pushing all-electric stuff right now"

Over the past 77 years of its existence, MPE consumers' electric use has grown dramatically. We have a long history of anticipating increased consumption and designing the grid so that the power is there when you need it. We feel confident that we can continue doing this in the future.

 **Got more questions?** Email cmichalowski@mpei.com.



SPRING CLEANING

Has your account information changed?

- Do you want to add someone to your account?
- Has your phone number, email address or mailing address changed?
- Accurate account information helps us provide you with the best possible service and timely notifications.
- Call us at 970-887-3378 now or update your account at your own convenience using our SmartHub account management app.

WHY SHOULD YOU T-O-U?

Want more control over your electric bill? Then you should consider signing up for MPE's whole-house time-of-use

(TOU) rate. The rate is designed to pass along power costs savings to you during certain times of the day when electricity is typically less expensive for MPE to purchase. The TOU rate is \$0.21/kWh from 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and \$0.07/kWh all the remaining hours of the week. Out of 168 hours during the week the discounted rate applies to 138 of them.

Here are some simple ideas to shift your energy usage and save:

- Schedule your thermostat to preheat your home.
- Program washers, dryers and dishwashers to run during discounted hours.
- Set your electric vehicle to charge overnight.
- Install a timer on your heat tape.

To sign up or to learn more, call us at 970-887-3378.



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.

ENERGY INVESTMENTS TO CONSIDER THIS TAX SEASON



The Inflation Reduction Act is the largest federal investment in energy and climate in this nation's history. It offers homeowners and renters up-front discounts and tax credits to replace fossil fuel end uses with their electric counterparts.

In many cases, electrification also delivers cost savings, reliability, convenience and environmental sustainability. To get an early review of what the Inflation Reduction Act entails, visit rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator.

Here are some of the highlights that might interest you:

ELECTRIFICATION REBATES

(The discount will be taken right off your bill)

- Electric panel \$4,000
- Electric stove \$840
- Electric wiring \$2,500
- Heat pump water heater \$1,750
- Heat pump heater \$8,000

- Heat pump clothes dryer \$840
- Weatherization \$1,600
- Efficiency rebates \$4,000

TAX CREDITS

- Battery storage installation 30%
- Geothermal heating installation 30%
- Electric panel \$600
- Electric vehicle charger \$1,000
- New electric vehicle \$7,500
- Used electric vehicle \$4,000
- Heat pump heater \$2,000
- Heat pump water heater \$2,000
- Rooftop solar installation 30%
- Weatherization \$1,200

ARE YOU GETTING ALL THE INFORMATION & SERVICES YOU WANT FROM MPE?

CHECK YOUR DAILY USAGE

By downloading our FREE **SmartHub**



app at mpei.com/smarthub-instructions.

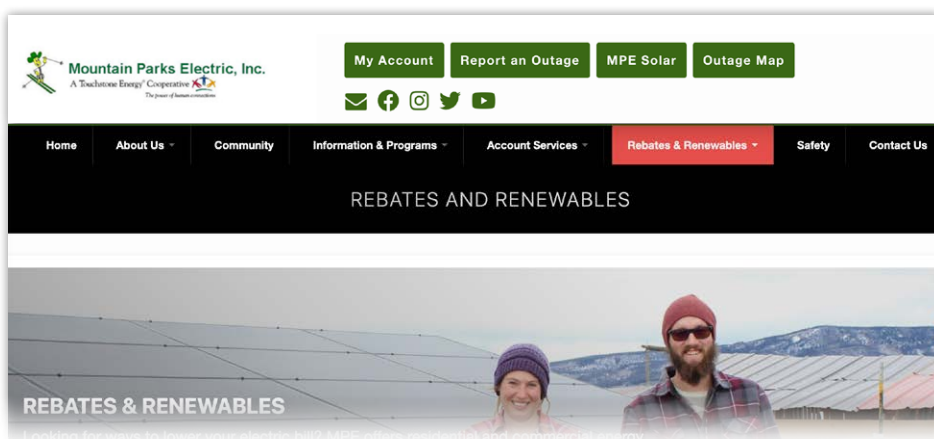
OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS

Using the **SmartHub** app:

1. Select notifications tab
2. Select manage contacts
3. Add phone number and/or email
4. Select manage notifications
5. Select service
6. Select type of outage updates you want
7. Select either text or email

OUTAGE MAP

Is there a power outage? Find out now. Access the outage map from our website's homepage. Or visit ebill.mpei.com/maps/OutageWebMap.



ENERGY UPGRADES

Project funds are available for heat pumps, insulation upgrades, commercial EV chargers and solar panels. Visit mpei.com/electrify-everything-program to find out more.

REBATES

Heat pumps, water heaters, appliances, lighting, mowers, snowblowers, induction cooktops/ranges and outdoor equipment may qualify for a rebate. Get more information at mpei.com/rebates.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE TEST DRIVES

When the snow melts, Mountain Parks Electric will announce EV (and e-bike) test drive dates. Stay tuned to MPE's website,

social media outlets and CCL magazine for more details.

ELECTRONIC BILLING & EZ PAY

Go paperless and avoid envelopes, stamps and writing checks. Call us at 970-887-3378 ext. 3 to sign up.

ELECTRIC RATE OPTIONS

Want options? MPE offers an optional time-of-use rate and prepaid metering (pay as you go). Call 970-887-3378 ext. 3 for more information.

PHONE SCAM ALERTS

Sign up today to receive mail alerts on days when telephone scams are widely reported within the MPE service area. Call 970-887-3378, ext 3.