

THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

Working Together to Beat the Peak

BY RUTH MARKS CEO | RUTH.M@MVEA.COOP

In January, we talked about resource adequacy and its impact on the reliability of the power that we supply to Mountain View Electric Association members. In February, we talked about current rate pressures on our wholesale power supplier that will culminate in rate adjustments going into 2024. This month, let's start talking about ways that we can work together to help manage wholesale power costs and increase grid reliability by managing energy demand and "beating the peak."

Energy demand is the term used to describe your use of electricity. It drives our whole energy system, impacting the total amount of energy used, the location and types of fuels used to generate your energy, and the technologies you use to consume our energy. MVEA purchases power from Tri-State G&T based on the average energy demand of our members — a number that is on the rise.

If you look around your home, you'll likely notice you have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. You may even have an electric vehicle. As you would expect, based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day. As demand for electricity rises, MVEA is responsible for providing enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as

people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including MVEA, pay more for electricity during those morning and evening hours of peak demand. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. Think of it as the highest amount of energy you (and your neighbors) need from us all at once. At MVEA, our current peak demand happens around 6:30 p.m.

In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially hot or cold outside. The temperature outside plays a big part in the amount of energy that is used to control the temperature inside. Home heating and cooling systems must run longer, using more energy, to warm and cool our homes. Like many products, when there is a higher demand, there is a higher cost for that product. As more and more members use electricity all at once, we are required to provide adequate energy to meet those needs — increasing our total cost of purchased power during a period of peak demand.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy — steps such as turning down your thermostat to 68 degrees in winter and turning it up to 78 degrees in summer; turning off unnecessary lights; and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times. If you own an electric vehicle, please charge it



RUTH MARKS

after midnight. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to heat or cool before 5 p.m. or after 10 p.m.

When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and "beat the peak" to reduce the peak power supply costs that affect every MVEA member. This is particularly important as energy costs have risen across the U.S.

While there are small shifts in energy use habits that we can all make, some members may benefit from switching to a time-of-day rate. MVEA's time-of-day rate offers a cost-saving solution to members who can shift their energy use to off-peak, lower rate periods. To learn more about our time-of-day rate, visit www.mvea.coop/rules-and-regulations to access the "16.05 Residential Time of Day Service Rate" document or call (800) 388-9881.

Taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy-intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice that can make a big difference. Working together, we can spread out our energy use and beat the peak to save energy and money.

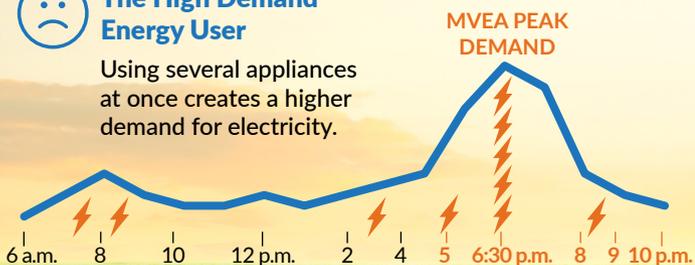
BEAT THE PEAK ⚡ Understanding Energy Demand

To help conserve energy and manage the cost of wholesale power, *when* you use electricity is just as important as *how much* you use. Let's work together to spread it out and beat the peak!



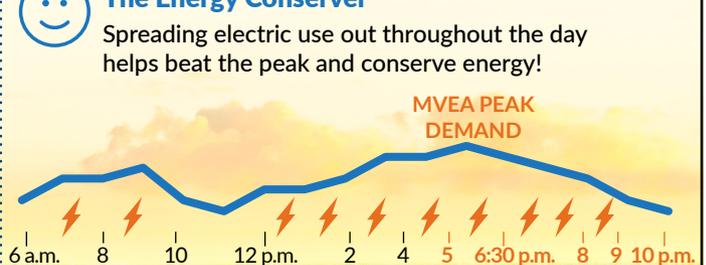
The High Demand Energy User

Using several appliances at once creates a higher demand for electricity.



The Energy Conservor

Spreading electric use out throughout the day helps beat the peak and conserve energy!



MVEA's average energy demand peak is at 6:30 p.m. (The peak can fluctuate throughout the year from 5-8:30 p.m.) To help MVEA beat the peak all year long, avoid heavy energy use during the peak demand time period of 5-10 p.m.

Joanie Johnston Wins a Snow Blower & Saves on Energy Efficiency Upgrades Through Rebate Program

Joanie Johnston, a resident of Ramah who has been an MVEA member for 22 years, was excited to ditch the snow shovel and put her new electric snow blower to work. “It’s especially convenient since we got some decent snow lately that blocked my gate,” Joanie shared. “When we get snow, we get some good drifts that are tough to shovel through.”

In fact, she was able to put the snow blower to work right away. What did Joanie think? “LOVE IT! Far better than I expected. It’s nice not having to mess with filling it with fuel too.”

Joanie joins a growing number of MVEA members who are enjoying the convenience of electric outdoor power equipment. Since these products were added to MVEA’s

rebate program in 2020, MVEA has processed over 600 outdoor power equipment rebates and credited more than \$44,000 back to co-op members.

MVEA’s rebate program offers energy efficiency rebates to promote the smart use of fuels and conservation of resources. The program is made possible through a partnership with Tri-State G&T, MVEA’s wholesale power supplier. From heat pumps and water heaters to LED bulbs and smart thermostats, there is a rebate to fit the needs of nearly every member who wants to save money and energy.

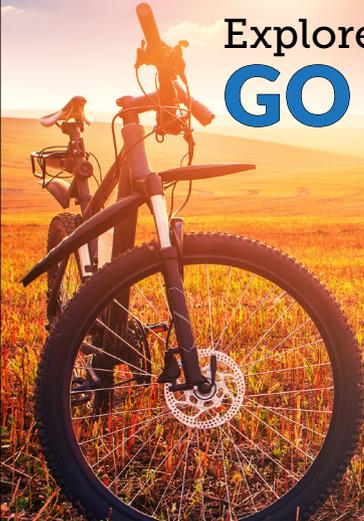
Joanie is an MVEA member who likes to do both. She’s taken advantage of the rebate program to help make her home more energy efficient. “Over the years, I’ve been fortunate to have taken advantage of many of the

rebates MVEA offers,” said Joanie. “Thank you for all the things MVEA does to show appreciation to your members... for hosting events and providing opportunities for members to meet, vote for leadership, and have a voice.”



Joanie Johnston wins an electric snow blower in an MVEA giveaway.

To learn more about MVEA’s rebate program, visit www.mvea.coop/rebates. To learn more about MVEA’s GO ELECTRIC! Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway, and to enter online visit www.mvea.coop/greengiveaway.



Explore More

GO ELECTRIC!

Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway

Picture yourself as the winner of an Electric Bicycle or a Mower+Trimmer Package! A winner for each option will be selected and announced in June.

Entry Deadline: June 1, 2023

2023 Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway Entry Form

Visit www.mvea.coop/greengiveaway to enter online and for a complete list of giveaway rules. The giveaway is open to all MVEA residential members in good standing who agree to contest rules and requirements. Current or former MVEA employees, affiliates, related entities, and the immediate family members and household members of all such employees are not eligible to win.

Enter online, return entry form with your monthly payment, or mail entry form to MVEA, Attn: Green Giveaway, 11140 E. Woodmen Road, Falcon, CO 80831.

MVEA Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Account #: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Preference (circle) Electric Bicycle Mower+Trimmer Either

Low Noise • Zero Gas • Zero Emissions • Low Maintenance

The electric bicycle is co-sponsored by Tri-State G&T, MVEA’s wholesale power supplier. Learn more about Tri-State G&T at www.tristate.coop.



MVEA’s Quarterly “Switch & Save” \$300 Account Credit Winners: Duane & Sandra Piltz

Sandra Piltz answered the phone and got a welcome surprise. “We were totally caught off guard when we got the call that we had won the \$300 credit for opting to have paperless billing. After talking for a few minutes, and it finally sank in what was happening, we were very excited!” Sandra and her husband live in Agate and have been MVEA members since 2020. Why did they choose to go paperless? “It makes it much easier for us because we do not go to the post office every day to check our box, we just receive an email every month instead of having to sort

through a bunch of junk mail to find the bill. And, it saves on the paper clutter on our desk,” Sandra said. “Signing up for paperless billing was quick and easy.”

Members who participate in MVEA’s “Switch & Save” program, by going paperless through SmartHub or enrolling in bank account auto-pay, can save up to \$1 per month. Plus, all participating “Switch & Save” accounts are automatically entered into a quarterly drawing for a \$300 account credit. Learn more at www.mvea.coop/payment-options.

Switch & Save Winners Sandra and Duane Piltz.



STAY AWAY

from sagging or downed

POWER LINES

Downed trees can create power outages for you and your neighbors. Let's work together to keep the lights on and be safe following Colorado's unpredictable spring storms.

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact MVEA or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making them dangerous. So, stay away from all lines. To learn more about storm and outage safety, visit www.mvea.coop/safe-electricity.
- Downed trees and power lines do not mix well. Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. A downed power line can energize objects around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts. Keep your property storm ready. Look for possible problem trees close to utility lines and contact MVEA. Visit www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming to learn more about MVEA's tree trimming services.

Green Power Blocks

Support Renewable Energy Development

Opt-in for as little as 10¢ a month.



Looking for a convenient and inexpensive way to go a little greener with your energy use this year? MVEA members may purchase Green Power blocks to help support the development of renewable energy through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Members who choose to participate in the Green Power program are purchasing RECs that are either sourced on the open market or from Tri-State G&T's growing REC portfolio. For the average residential member who uses 1,000 kWh each month, the program is around \$1 to purchase 10 blocks of Green Power to offset their energy use.

Learn more at www.mvea.coop/green-power.



Missing out on a capital credits check from MVEA is like throwing money away. Nobody likes to throw money away!

Visit www.mvea.coop/unclaimedcapitalcredits to see if you have unclaimed capital credits waiting for you.



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Errol Hertneky, District 3, Director

Milton L. Mathis, District 4, Director

Telephone Numbers

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(719) 495-2283

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(877) 999-3415

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Falcon, CO 80831

Limon Office

1655 5th Street • P.O. Box 1600
Limon, CO 80828

Monument Office

(Temporarily Closed)
15706 Jackson Creek Parkway, Suite 100
Monument, CO 80132

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday • 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Visit our website: www.mvea.coop

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 Search for: Mountain View Electric Assn. Inc.

 www.twitter.com/MVEAInc

 Search for: Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.

This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Now Open
2023
BOARD NOMINATIONS

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

To view a territory map with districts, visit www.mvea.coop/territory-map.

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. A member interested in nomination should contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528 and leave a message. You will be contacted to verify your membership, district, and to begin the nomination process. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by MVEA to be submitted to the committee by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, 2023.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures will be made available by contacting the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire, must be received by MVEA by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2023.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. If you have questions, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

During the Annual Meeting on June 8, 2023, held at Falcon High School in Falcon, two directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors from the following districts:

- **District 2:** Simla, Matheson and a portion of the surrounding areas (incumbent Rick L. Gordon)
- **District 7:** Monument, Woodmoor and a portion of the surrounding areas (incumbent Jim Riggins)

Nominating Committee

District 2
Steve Wilson

District 7
Vince Guthrie

MVEA Board Nomination Information Line

Tel: (719) 494-2528
Email: candidate@mvea.coop

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