

# THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

## Resources to Help Manage Summertime Electric Use

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

In March, we talked about the concept of “beating the peak” of MVEA’s energy demand by spreading electric use out throughout the day, and avoiding heavy energy use during the peak demand times of 5-10 p.m. With summer right around the corner, it’s a great time to put these concepts into practice and help reduce the summer peak power supply costs that affect every MVEA member. It’s also a great time to look at energy-saving resources to help manage electric use.

The temperature outside has a big impact on the amount of energy that is used to control the temperature inside. Keeping the home cool as the temperatures rise, paired with having more people at home while the kids are out of school, are common causes of increased electric bills. In fact, the home cooling system is the most common culprit behind MVEA’s costly summer peak energy demand.

Twenty years ago, homes with central air conditioning were the exception rather than the rule in MVEA’s service territory. Today, air conditioning is a common home feature that has a big impact on summer energy use and MVEA’s peak energy demand. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, nearly one-third of electric use goes toward running our heating and cooling systems.

Besides air conditioning, there are many smaller variables that can make a

big difference in the energy households consume when more people are in the home: video games, large televisions, multiple televisions, more people going inside and out, and more people using appliances.

Personally, as a member of MVEA, I’m always looking for ways I can prepare my home for the warm days ahead. This month, I want to share four resources that will make it easier to monitor your electric use and become more energy efficient — not just in the summer, but all year long.

1. Your digital meter, paired with online account management through SmartHub®, is a powerful tool to help you become more energy efficient. Wondering what the difference between having your air conditioner set at 78 degrees and 65 degrees is over a couple of days? With daily and hourly energy reads available, your digital meter and SmartHub account will help pinpoint high energy use spikes so you can avoid them in the future. Visit [www.mvea.coop/payment-options](http://www.mvea.coop/payment-options) to learn more about SmartHub.

2. Explore MVEA’s “Save Energy & Money” website section. Many members find the home energy calculator to be helpful in identifying high energy use sources in their home. Get started at [www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money](http://www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money).



RUTH MARKS

3. Energy efficiency rebates help offset the cost of upgrading your home lighting, heating, cooling, and more. This program, made possible through a partnership with our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, offers rebates to fit the needs of nearly every member who wants to save money and energy. Learn more at [www.mvea.coop/rebates](http://www.mvea.coop/rebates).

4. Have you looked at the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) resources that may be available for you to use for energy efficiency upgrades, both big and small? The IRA’s home energy offerings include up-front discounts and tax credits. Learn more at [www.mvea.coop/ira](http://www.mvea.coop/ira).


While there are a lot of great resources that are available to help co-op members save energy and money, if you have questions about your energy use this summer, the best resource is MVEA’s team of Member Services Representatives. Contact us at (800) 388-9881 or at [www.mvea.coop/contact](http://www.mvea.coop/contact). If you have energy use questions, we are here to help.

Home Energy Calculator • Energy Efficiency Rebates & Resources • [www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money](http://www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money)

## Beat the Heat

### 5 SUMMER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

### Easy Ways to Manage Your Summertime Electric Use

 Let's work together to save on wholesale power costs: avoid heavy energy use during MVEA's peak demand time period of 5-10 p.m. Little changes in how and when we use electricity can add up to big energy savings!

Information Source: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

- 1. Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings.** According to the Department of Energy, setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer can save you up to 10% in energy costs each year. If 78 degrees is too warm, adjust it a bit lower to your comfort. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your energy use will be.
- 2. Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use.** When powered on, game consoles, televisions, and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of your home energy use. Plus, small appliances and electronics use energy even when they are not in use.
- 3. Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load’s energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.
- 4. Air dry dishes.** This step can cut your dishwasher’s energy use by up to 50%.
- 5. Turn off fans when you leave a room.** Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect. Ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.

# MVEA AWARDS \$28,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

As a Mountain View Electric Association member, you are part of an electric co-op that is dedicated to creating programs that give back to the members and communities that we serve. This year, students from 27 different schools throughout MVEA's 5,000-square-mile service territory applied for scholarships to help them pursue the next level of their education. MVEA's scholarship program includes scholarships to accredited colleges, universities, junior or community colleges, vocational/technical schools, and a Power Lineman Scholarship for lineman training programs. Although there were no applicants this year, MVEA also offers a Power Engineer Scholarship to current

college students pursuing a power engineering career. In addition, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative each donated a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to dependents of MVEA members.

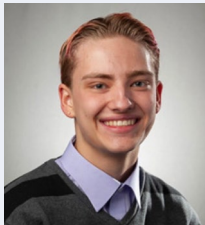
Visit [www.mvea.coop/scholarships](http://www.mvea.coop/scholarships) to learn more about the scholarship winners and MVEA's scholarship program. The next scholarship application period will start September 1, 2023.

*Congratulations to the 2023 scholarship winners!*

## \$1,000 MVEA SCHOLARSHIPS



**MAYA BROWN**  
LEWIS-PALMER  
HIGH SCHOOL



**PARKER BURCH**  
CALHAN  
HIGH SCHOOL



**JETH FOGG**  
THOMAS MACLAREN  
SCHOOL



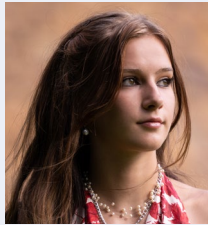
**AUSTIN FORSYTH**  
LEWIS-PALMER  
HIGH SCHOOL



**CARLY FOX**  
PINE CREEK  
HIGH SCHOOL



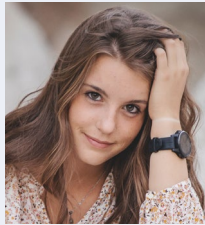
**SAVANNAH GRAHAM**  
LIBERTY  
HIGH SCHOOL



**LAUREL GROWDEN**  
THOMAS MACLAREN  
SCHOOL



**AIDAN KIRKMAN**  
LEWIS-PALMER  
HIGH SCHOOL



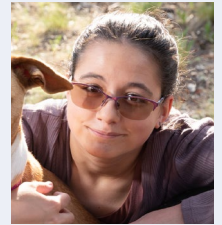
**EMMA KISBY**  
FALCON  
HIGH SCHOOL



**MITCHEL MURDOCK**  
PINE CREEK  
HIGH SCHOOL



**DAVID NGUYEN**  
PALMER RIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL



**ALANDRA ORTIZ**  
MESA RIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL



**TODD OSBORN**  
PALMER RIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL



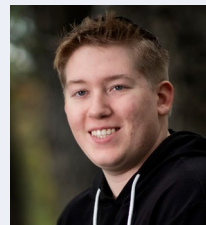
**TREY SALASH**  
PALMER RIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL



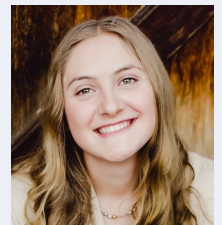
**ANDREW STRUB**  
PINE CREEK  
HIGH SCHOOL



**EMMA TARVER**  
LIMON PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS



**ADEN TOWNLEY**  
BIG SANDY  
SCHOOLS



**ALISON WAGESTER**  
LUTHERAN  
HIGH SCHOOL

## \$1,000 MVEA VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS



**ANTHONY BACKEBERG**  
FALCON  
HIGH SCHOOL



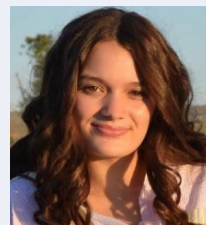
**BRIAN BRAUN**  
THE CLASSICAL  
ACADEMY



**ALEXANDER GRAVES**  
PEYTON JUNIOR-SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL



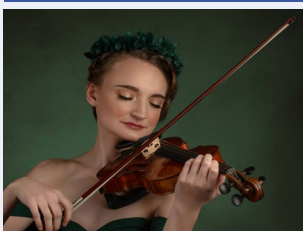


**PAIGE HUTSELL**  
LIMON PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS



**SHEALYN JOBE**  
CALHAN  
HIGH SCHOOL



**REBEKAH O'BRIEN**  
COLORADO  
CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

<p><b>THE \$1,000 BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP</b></p>	<p><b>THE \$1,000 TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION SCHOLARSHIP</b></p>	<p><b>THE \$2,000 MVEA POWER LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP</b></p>
		
<p><b>ARIELLA FREEMAN</b> COLORADO EARLY COLLEGES COLORADO SPRINGS</p>	<p><b>AVERY TRESEMER</b> DISCOVERY CANYON CAMPUS</p>	<p><b>WILLIAM CLARK</b> CALHAN HIGH SCHOOL</p>



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**MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide our members safe, reliable, responsible, and affordable electric service and access to broadband service consistent with sound business and engineering practices.

*This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**MVEA's Quarterly "Switch & Save" \$300 Account Credit Winner Spotlight: Jeff & Linda Rolfe**

*"The auto-pay program makes our budgeting much simpler," shared Jeff and Linda Rolfe. "We were very surprised and delighted to hear that we won a bill credit for participating in the MVEA Switch & Save program!"*



Paperless billing through SmartHub is an easy way for MVEA members to cut clutter and save trees, money, and time. More than 30,000 MVEA accounts are enrolled in the program through paperless billing, bank account auto-pay, or both.

Go paperless through SmartHub or bank account auto-pay, and save up to \$1 per month! 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](http://www.mvea.coop/payment-options).



**20 PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST 24**  
MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Last Call For Entries**

As an MVEA co-op member, you are invited to send in your photos, taken within our 5,000 square mile service territory, that capture the seasons, people, lifestyle, or landscape of co-op country. The winning photographs will be included in MVEA's 2024 calendar. The deadline for entry is July 6, 2023.

For complete Photo Calendar Contest information and the entry form, please visit [www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest](http://www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest). Send entries by email to [communications@mvea.coop](mailto:communications@mvea.coop). Questions? Call (719) 494-2657.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR IN NEED

BY ERICA MEYER COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

As the saying goes, “never judge a book by its cover.” Or, in the case of Operation Round Up®, never judge a program by its name! We’ve heard that some MVEA members don’t quite understand what Operation Round Up (thinking it’s associated with the rodeo, a barn dance, or even a super-secret spy operation). While those are good guesses, Operation Round Up is a program that supports local charities, educational organizations, and your neighbor who’s struggling to make ends meet. We call it Operation Round Up, because of MVEA members who volunteer to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar each month.

The average member contribution is 50 cents a month or \$6 per year, but members never donate over \$11.88 per year. This amount may not seem like much, but when multiplied by the over 26,000 MVEA accounts that are enrolled in the program, the fund can turn a little bit of spare change into a BIG difference.

In 2022, Operation Round Up was able

to distribute more than \$151,800 in grant funds; the program has given back over \$3 million since its inception in 1999.

Out of respect for privacy, we don’t name MVEA members who apply for Operation Round Up funds, but these grants have been vital in helping our friends and neighbors recover from hardships. Funds have kept individuals from getting evicted and have helped pay for car repairs, past due medical bills, propane for heating in the winter, and other essential needs.

In addition to helping individual co-op members, the fund plays an important role in assisting charitable organizations. For instance, Fresh Start Center utilizes Operation Round Up funds for pantry food purchases and for mission-based expenses in their efforts to end hunger and build up our community. “Through the support provided by MVEA’s Operation Round Up, Fresh Start Center has been able to continue to reach out and be a light of hope for many families facing hunger and poverty in the Eastern Plains of Colorado,” Grant Winger,



▲ MVEA Operation Round Up Coordinator Erica Meyer and Fresh Start Center Executive Director Grant Winger during the 2022 Fresh Start Center Thanksgiving Turkey Drive.

Executive Director at Fresh Start Center said. “Without the support from Operation Round Up, we would have a much harder time providing for the many neighbors facing hunger and poverty.”

This is just one example from a long list of organizations that put Operation Round Up funds to work for the greater good in MVEA’s service territory.

To learn more about Operation Round Up or to join other members in rounding up your bill to help your neighbors in need, visit [www.mvea.coop/round-up](http://www.mvea.coop/round-up).



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### Stay Connected All Summer Long!

Keep your cool this summer and connect like never before with fiber internet from Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association.

Connect’s services will allow you to:

- Stream movies and shows with no buffering.
- Video chat with friends and family.
- Participate in online gaming with no lags.
- Upload and download at the same high speed.
- **And more!**

A photograph of a young woman with long, curly hair sitting cross-legged on the grass, reading a book. A laptop is open on the grass next to her. The background shows a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.