

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

## Building a More Resilient & Responsive System

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



RUTH MARKS

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid. At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations, and other infrastructure that span the entire country.

Mountain View Electric Association started building our piece of the grid in 1941. Mile-by-mile it has grown over the years. We are currently responsible for maintaining over 6,400 miles of the grid and the electric distribution system to support it. While a lot has changed since our early years, MVEA has remained dedicated to continuous system improvements and maintenance to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members.

In fact, MVEA is not only one of the fastest growing electric co-ops in Colorado, we are also one of the most reliable utility providers in the nation. MVEA ranks in the top 25% of surveyed utility providers across the country who report their System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI). SAIDI shows how long an average customer goes without power during a year. In 2022, the U.S. average was 232.16 minutes. MVEA's average was just 61.83 minutes.

While this score is a big point of pride, we know that by deploying state-of-the-art technologies we can raise the bar even higher. This month, I am excited to share some of the innovative infrastructure upgrades and process improvement projects that are in the works at MVEA to build a more resilient and responsive electric distribution system.


**Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS):** In 2024, MVEA will start transitioning to a software platform that supports automated outage detection and restoration, load management, system mapping, meter management, and much more. In short, this system will allow MVEA to work more efficiently to build and manage a more responsive distribution system. For instance, rather than sending crews out to locate the cause of an outage after it is reported by a member, the ADMS suite of programs will allow us to identify and locate an outage in real-time. Or, if we need to disconnect or reroute power to a specific area due to an accident or

wildfire risk, we can do that safely through software—rather than sending in MVEA crews to manually complete the process.

**Wildfire Mitigation Plan:** Wildfire mitigation is a common topic of conversation in our state. Having experienced the devastation of the Black Forest Fire first-hand, MVEA is taking proactive steps to upgrade our system in order to reduce the wildfire risk in our service area. A few of the efforts specific to MVEA's wildfire mitigation plan include expanded vegetation management to ensure our infrastructure is clear of trees and shrubs, and infrastructure replacements, routine inspections, and maintenance of the electric system to help ensure safe and reliable electric service.

**Fiber Broadband Expansion:** We live in an era of advancements in technology that make our mission of providing members with safe, reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity more attainable than ever before—but we need a reliable network to make that happen. While MVEA's fiber broadband network will provide high-speed internet access to all MVEA members, it also plays an important role in implementing the ADMS software and the deployment of wildfire mitigation technologies. Building and owning our own fiber network will allow us to extend the benefits of these technologies across our entire service territory.

At MVEA, we are continuously building new infrastructure to serve new members and performing system-wide infrastructure capacity upgrades and expansions to meet the growing demand for electricity. To offset the cost of some of these system improvements, we have made it a priority to tap into expanded federal funding opportunities. I am proud to share that MVEA has been awarded two grants in the last year to support our broadband expansion and wildfire mitigation efforts. Look for updates on these projects, and more, in future issues of the magazine and on [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop).



Project Updates • Rebate Information • Member Events • Promotions

# MVEA Resources

## to Help Members Stay in the Know

- Colorado Country Life magazine
- MVEA's Website [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop)
- Monthly Bill Messages Print & Paperless
- Social Media Facebook & X



## Seven Ways to Save Energy This Winter

Taking on energy efficiency projects to reduce winter energy use can add up to good dollars and cents — and the energy saving payoffs continue throughout the year. Check out these tips to help you save on your energy use this winter.

- 1. Button up:** Caulk, weather stripping and wall and attic insulation help seal gaps, keeping conditioned air (either heated or cooled) in. A radiant barrier under carpet padding or flooring felt puts comfort at your feet.
- 2. Switch off:** Power strips are ideal for those home spaces tied to occasional use. Electronics in workshops, craft nooks, game rooms, home offices, and guest rooms are great for one-touch switch off.

- 3. Check the over and under:** One of your best bets for cutting your energy use is adding a full ductwork inspection under floors and over ceilings to your seasonal heating system checkup. Collapsed connections, tears, animal damage, and register gaps can all leak heated or conditioned air into unused spaces.

- 4. Use countertop conservation:** The small appliances available today not only add convenience options for meal preparation, they also consume far less energy than the range top or oven. Consider slow cookers, microwave ovens, convection or toaster ovens, air fryers, induction cooktops, and other devices as alternatives.

- 5. Adjust your thermostat:** Home heating systems use more energy than any other system in your home. Consider setting your thermostat to 68°F in the winter. You can save as much as 10% a year on heating

costs by simply turning your thermostat back 7°F - 10°F for eight hours each day. When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.

- 6. Warm water:** Heating water accounts for 12% of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower, a sufficient temperature for a household's hot-water needs. Consider replacing water heaters more than 12 years old with more energy-efficient units.

- 7. Beat the Peak:** MVEA's highest demand for electricity is in the evenings when it gets dark. Like many products, when there is a higher demand, there is a higher cost for that product. MVEA's average energy demand peak is at 6:30 p.m. To help MVEA beat the peak all year long, avoid heavy energy use during the peak demand time period of 5-9 p.m. and look for ways to shift your energy use to other times of the day. If you can shift enough electric use to off-peak times, you may benefit from MVEA's Time-of-Day rate. Learn more about this cost-saving rate at [www.mvea.coop/rates](http://www.mvea.coop/rates).



### Energy Efficiency Resources Are Just a Click Away!

Explore "Save Energy & Money" on [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop) for energy efficiency rebate offers, available Inflation Reduction Act discounts and tax credits, and the "Energy Resources" section which is filled with energy-saving tools (like a home energy calculator).

## MVEA's Quarterly "Switch & Save" \$300 Account Credit Winner: Ted Schieffelin

Ted Schieffelin, of Limon, answered the phone and got a welcome surprise. "As the week was drawing to an end, I received a phone call and received good news from none other than MVEA! They called to inform me that I would receive a \$300 credit simply for being part of their paperless and auto-pay program. Wow! What a boost that call was to me! I've been a member of MVEA for 27 years and have always appreciated their professionalism and honesty, but this was just plain nice."

MVEA members, like Ted, 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.

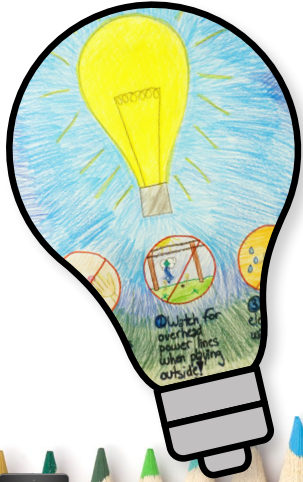
"MVEA's paperless and auto-pay program is very easy and fits my family's lifestyle very well," Ted shared. "I like their monthly magazine, too, and will be reading it a little more carefully now to see if there are other programs or events that I can get involved in. Thanks, MVEA!"

Paperless billing through SmartHub is an easy way for MVEA members to cut clutter and save trees, money, and time. More than 33,500 MVEA accounts are enrolled in the program through paperless billing, bank account auto-pay, or both. Learn more at: [www.mvea.coop/payment-options](http://www.mvea.coop/payment-options).



Long-time MVEA member, Ted Schieffelin, won big with "Switch & Save."

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY COLORING CONTEST



**Calling all elementary-aged students!**

Enter MVEA's annual safety-themed coloring contest for a chance to have your artwork featured on a sticker!

Learn more and enter to win by March 14, 2024 at [www.mvea.coop/coloringcontest](http://www.mvea.coop/coloringcontest).

**Top Artists Win a Kindle Fire!**  
Additional prizes will be awarded to teachers.



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Falcon Office

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## Limon Office

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

## Office Hours


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

**Visit our website: [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop)**

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# ELECTRIFYING DREAMS. EMPOWERING MINDS.

## Need Cash For College? Win a Scholarship!



If you are continuing your education next year, apply for a scholarship with MVEA today. Whether you will be attending traditional college, planning on attending a technical school, or interested in pursuing an engineering or lineworker career, MVEA is here for you!

For the 2024 school year, MVEA will be awarding scholarships with opportunities for both traditional and nontraditional students.

**Scholarship Application Deadline:**  
**February 28, 2024**

Visit [www.mvea.coop/scholarships](http://www.mvea.coop/scholarships) to learn more.



SHOOT, SUBMIT, WIN &  
GET FEATURED IN MVEA'S CALENDAR

# OH SNAP!

Photo calendar entries wanted! Your photo could be featured in MVEA's 2025 calendar. The entry deadline is July 8, 2024. Learn more and enter online at [www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest](http://www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest).

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide our members safe, reliable, affordable, and responsible electric service and access to broadband services.

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

**Now Open**  
**2024**  
**BOARD NOMINATIONS**

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

To view a territory map with districts, visit [www.mvea.coop/territory-map](http://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](http://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 14, 2024.
- 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 4, 2024.

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 6, 2024, held at the El Paso County Fairgrounds in Calhan, three directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors from the following districts:

- **District 1:** Limon, Karval, Genoa and surrounding areas (incumbent Joseph D. Martin)
- **District 4:** Calhan, Peyton, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (incumbent Milton L. Mathis)
- **District 6:** Falcon, Cimarron Hills, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (incumbent Barry R. Springer)

**Nominating Committee**

District 1: Steve Burgess

District 4: Al Kobilan

District 6: Carolyn Brown

**MVEA Board Nomination Information Line**

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

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\*Upload speeds may vary. See [ConexonConnect.com](http://ConexonConnect.com) for more details.

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