

# THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

## MVEA Fiber Broadband Expansion Update

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

Orange spools of fiber-optic cables and cement-walled fiber huts may not look like much, but they represent the progress that is being made to bring high-speed internet access to 100% of Mountain View Electric Association's co-op members over the course of the next four years. This is a big project, an exciting project, and one that we receive a lot of questions about. By far the most common question we receive is "when is the service going to be available at my home."

I am happy to report that a lot of progress was made in 2023 to get back on track after construction delays in the first 18 months of the project. In fact, more than 10,000 co-op members in the Falcon and Limon areas are forecast to have access to high-speed internet service through Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association by the end of May (if they don't already). We have celebrated the 1,000th member connected milestone and look forward to seeing that number grow as more areas are opened for service in the months to come.

In addition to Limon and Falcon, members in portions of Black Forest, Colorado Springs, Peyton, and Simla have received notifications about broadband-related pole audit and fiber network construction activity in advance of crews. These are exciting notifications to receive as they signify that those areas are being prepped and scheduled for fiber construction. If you receive one of these notifications, I encourage you to visit [www.ConexonConnect.com](http://www.ConexonConnect.com) to look at available service options, sign up, and check for service availability in your area. While the time frame is subject to change, it will give you a general forecast of what the current schedule looks like.

On that note, it is important to talk about the project delays that have had an impact on service availability. This project is currently

one of the largest fiber broadband expansions in Colorado—when complete, the fiber network will include

nearly 5,800 miles of fiber. While we are behind on the initial project schedule, as can happen with projects of this scale and complexity, we have learned valuable lessons. We know where the challenges exist and are working diligently to address them. We have contracted with additional crews, hired a fiber project manager, and worked with Conexon to adjust the project schedule to provide a more accurate service availability time frame to members.

We have also learned that if we want to tap into expanded federal funding opportunities to offset the cost of building a state-of-the-art fiber network, we need to be prepared to be more flexible with the project schedule. I am excited to share that we were recently awarded grant funds to build the network. However, in order to accommodate the grant requirements and timeline, we will also need to strategically adjust the project schedule.

We know there is a lot of excitement around our fiber broadband expansion and a lot of MVEA members who look forward to having access to high-speed fiber internet options. We hear you and want to assure you that this project's success is a top priority. As I mentioned above, for members who want to look at available service options, sign up, and check for service availability time frames, visit [www.ConexonConnect.com](http://www.ConexonConnect.com). You can also call the Conexon Connect customer care team at 1-844-542-6663. To learn more about the project, the partnership, and for answers to frequently asked questions, please visit [www.mvea.coop/internet](http://www.mvea.coop/internet).



RUTH MARKS

## Fiber-Fast Internet is Here!

Now connecting members in the Falcon and Limon areas.



Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association, will bring you:



Fiber-fast speeds



Equal upload and download speeds



Unlimited data, no caps or throttling, ever



Affordable monthly pricing



Check your availability at [www.ConexonConnect.com](http://www.ConexonConnect.com), call 1-844-542-6663, or scan our QR code.

# Co-op Program Spotlight: Story Behind the Switch

## MVEA Helps Girl Scout Troup Earn Get Moving Badge

BY ERICA MEYER COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Recently, Girl Scout Troop 45234 in Falcon was on a mission to earn their Get Moving (Energize, Investigate, Innovate) Badge. The troop is a vibrant mix of 26 girls across different levels, with seven of them being part of the Junior level looking to earn the Get Moving Badge.



Troop leader Elizabeth Pritchard believes that participating in Girl Scouts is essential for young girls to develop important character traits outlined in the Girl Scout Law. The law emphasized qualities such as honesty, fairness, friendliness, helpfulness, consideration, courage, strength, responsibility, respect for authority, wise resource use, making the world a better place, and being a sister to every Girl Scout.

To enhance their learning experience, Pritchard decided to reach out to her local electric cooperative, MVEA, to help the troop earn their Get Moving Badge. MVEA offers a unique and engaging presentation called “Story Behind the Switch” that had

all the elements needed for the girls to earn their badge.

The presentation aims to increase electrical safety awareness for young co-op members and features interactive demonstrations.

MVEA brought in a Van de Graaff generator, a plasma ball, and other hands-on activities to make the learning experience both fun and educational.

As the day of the presentation arrived, excitement buzzed through Troop 45234. The girls eagerly gathered to explore the wonders of electricity. MVEA’s presentation captivated their attention, providing a tangible understanding of where energy comes from, how it is used, and ways to use it more efficiently.

The highlight of the presentation for the girls was the static electricity experiment using a Van de Graaff generator that created static on their clothes and hair. Laughter and cheers filled the room as the girls experienced the thrill of learning in a hands-on and interactive manner. Pritchard



MVEA Community Relations Specialist Erica Meyer was honored to help a local Girl Scout Troup earn their Get Moving Badge through the hands-on Story Behind the Switch presentation.

reported, “Parents were thrilled that MVEA took the time to educate their children about electricity and safety.” The troop not only gained valuable knowledge but also earned their coveted Get Moving Badge.

Pritchard also expressed her gratitude, saying, “Thank you for taking the time with this group of girls. It made learning about electricity more fun and impactful!”

If you have a classroom, or elementary-aged group that would benefit from electricity and safety training through MVEA’s Story Behind the Switch demonstration, please visit [www.mvea.coop/story-behind-the-switch](http://www.mvea.coop/story-behind-the-switch) to learn more.



## Colorado Lineworker Appreciation Day

**April 18, 2024 • #thankalinerworker**

*They Go Above & Beyond to Keep the Lights On!*

Visit [www.mvea.coop/thank-an-mvea-lineworker](http://www.mvea.coop/thank-an-mvea-lineworker) or scan the QR code to join MVEA in thanking our dedicated team of lineworkers this April!





# 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/safety](http://www.mvea.coop/safety).
- 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](http://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 (REC). 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 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month, participating in the Green Power program would be an additional investment of only \$1 per month for 10 blocks of Green Power.

Learn more at [www.mvea.coop/green-power](http://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](http://www.mvea.coop/unclaimedcapitalcredits) to see if you have unclaimed capital credits waiting for you.**



**Local. Trusted. Serving You.**

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### Telephone Numbers

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(719) 495-2283

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(877) 999-3415

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Falcon, CO 80831

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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)**

### Stay Connected: Like. Follow. Share.

Make sure to connect with MVEA on social media for timely service and program updates.

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 [www.x.com/@MVEAInc](http://www.x.com/@MVEAInc)

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### 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.*

# Electric Vehicle 101: Is an EV in your future?

The appeal of electric vehicles is gaining speed. In fact, 2023 marked a record year for EV sales in the U.S. — it was the first time that more than 1 million EVs were sold in a single year. While an EV is not currently for every driver, the electric car industry does not seem to be slowing down anytime soon. Innovative EV technology, paired with the benefits of reduced vehicle emissions and savings on fuel and maintenance, has pushed EVs from being a rarely seen novelty on the road to an important offering for vehicle manufacturers. As the demand for EVs has increased, the technology has improved, charging stations are more readily available, and the price of EVs has decreased — making EVs more approachable to vehicle buyers. Is an EV in your future?

**EV drivers give a variety of reasons for owning and driving EVs, including:**

- + Lower cost of operation
- + Less noise and quiet to drive
- + Convenience of charging at home

- + Electricity is a domestic energy source
- + Environmental benefits including no tailpipe emissions
- + Electric motors deliver high torque at low speeds which makes them fun to drive.

**EVs Are Environmentally Friendly.**

EVs have no tailpipe emissions. The power plant producing your electricity may produce emissions, but electricity from hydro, solar, nuclear, or wind-powered plants is generally emission-free.

**Skip the Gas Station.**

Electric vehicles do not require gasoline and can be charged at home with a standard 120-volt outlet, or a 240V Level 2 charger can be installed for faster, more efficient charging. EV operation can be three-to-five times cheaper than gasoline- and diesel-powered cars, depending on your local gasoline and electric rates.

**EV Performance Benefits.**

Electric motors provide quiet, smooth



operation, stronger acceleration, and require less maintenance than gasoline-powered internal combustion engines.

**EV Driving Range & Recharge Time.**

EV range is typically around 80 to over 330 miles on a full charge. The average American's daily round-trip commute is less than 30 miles. Fully recharging the battery pack can take four to eight hours. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a "fast charge" to 80% capacity can take as little as 30 minutes.

To learn more about EVs, and if an EV is right for you, visit [www.mvea.coop/electric-vehicles](http://www.mvea.coop/electric-vehicles). You can check out MVEA's electric vehicle charging equipment rebate options at [www.mvea.coop/rebates](http://www.mvea.coop/rebates).

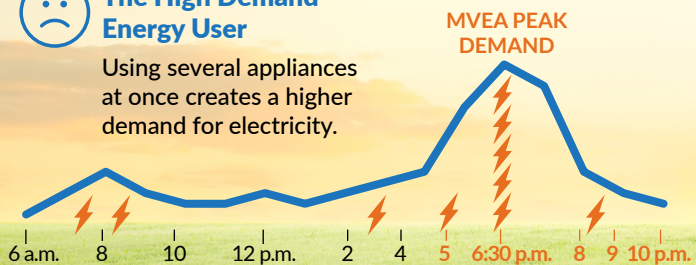
## BEAT THE PEAK ⚡ Understanding Energy Demand

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! 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. During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, MVEA members can help the co-op save by taking 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 after midnight. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to heat or cool before 5 p.m. or after 9 p.m. If you can shift enough electric use to off-peak times, you may benefit from MVEA's Time-of-Day rate.



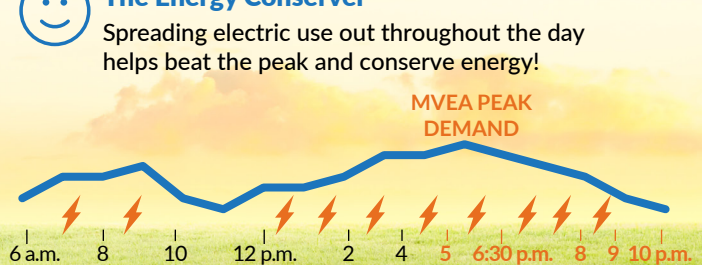
**The High Demand Energy User**

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!



Can you shift your electric use away from MVEA's peak demand time of 5-9 p.m.? MVEA's Time-of-Day Rate offers a cost-saving solution to members who can shift their electric use to off-peak, lower rate periods. Learn more about this cost-saving rate at [www.mvea.coop/rates](http://www.mvea.coop/rates) or call (800) 388-9881.