

WATTS *Current*

November 2021

For Our Members

Is Your Home's Envelope Well Sealed?

Consider an energy audit to save money on your energy bill

Most of the time, when we think of the word envelope, we think of the outer covering that our mail comes in. However, your home's envelope consists of its outer walls, windows, doors and other openings. A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can reduce your energy use - and, in turn, your utility bills. According to EnergyStar.gov, a whopping 9 out of 10 homes in the U.S. are under-insulated. Homeowners can save an average of 15% on heating and cooling costs (or an average of 11% on total energy costs) by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors, over crawl spaces and basements. To determine if your home's envelope is adequate, MVEC and Safe Electricity recommend having a home audit conducted to pinpoint leaks that allow energy to escape your home. Energy auditors will include an insulation check as part of an energy assessment and will identify areas of your home that need air sealing or insulation repairs. To help you create a more energy-efficient home, MVEC offers home energy audits. Contact Al Schilling at 800-927-6068 for more information.

DIY home energy audit: If you would like to complete your own audit, find out the following:

- The type of insulation in your home.
- The R-value (rate of thermal resistance) of your insulation. Typically, the higher the R-value, the more effective it is at insulating.
- The thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation you have.

To complete a DIY energy assessment check the following:

In the attic

- If the insulation is level or below the attic floor joists, you need to add more insulation.
- If you cannot see any of the floor joists because the insulation is above them, you probably have enough, and adding more insulation may not be cost-effective.
- Insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots.

Behind the walls

- Turn off the power to the outlet before beginning this check. Remove the outlet cover and shine a flashlight into the crack around the outlet. You should be able to see if there is insulation in the wall and possibly how thick it is.
- Check outlets on all floors, as well as old and new parts of your home.

For more information on energy efficiency and electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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November is a Time for Gratitude

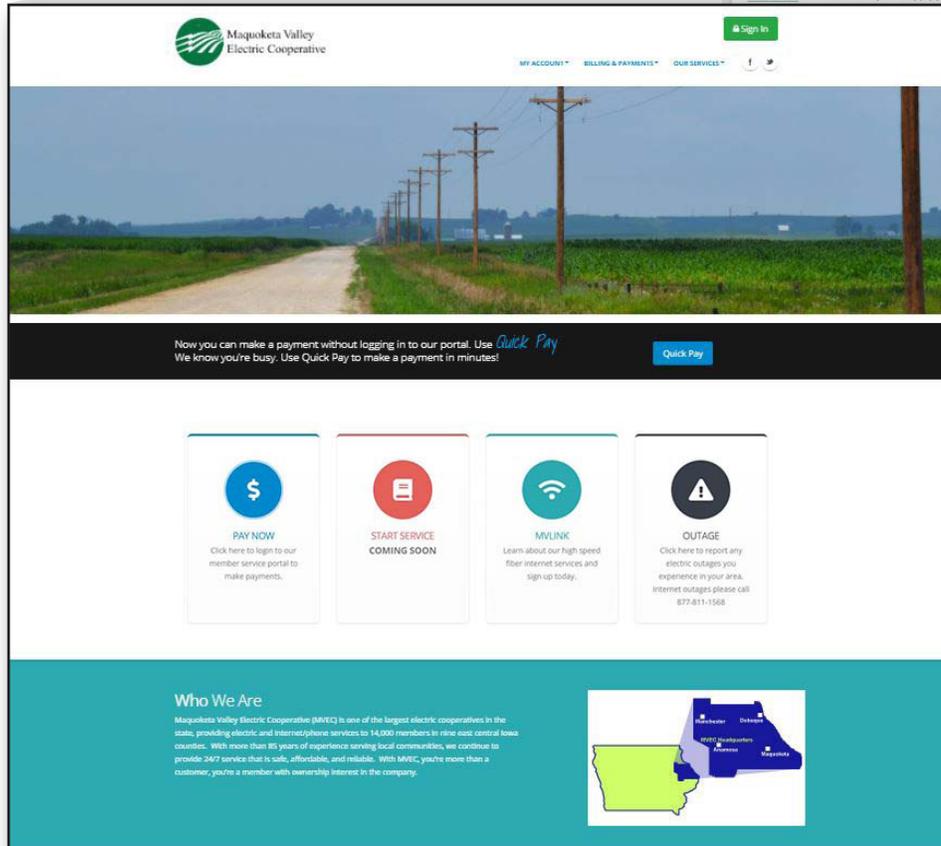
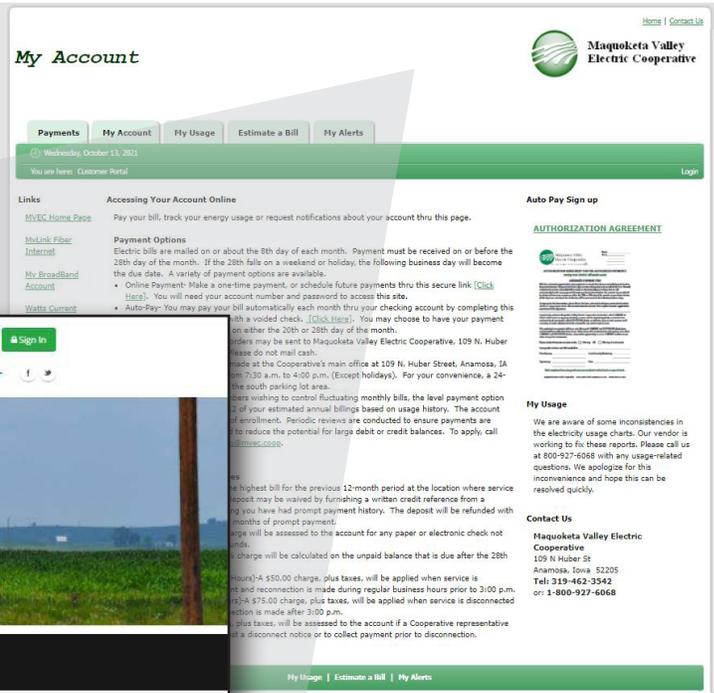
During this season of thanks, we want to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to our members for your business and engagement. MVEC is here to serve you and your interests and we hope that you find value in being a co-op member. We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving with those you hold dear.





New Electric Member Portal Is Live!

Based on member feedback, we updated our electric member portal with a new look and more functionality! This convenient portal will allow you to manage your electric payments and monitor your electricity usage. If you haven't checked it out, visit mvec.coop and click on the green My Electric Account button at the top of any page.



If you used the previous version of the portal, to login, you now must use your full 8-digit account number (found on your electric bill) - see image below.

109 N. Huber Street
Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-3542
800-927-6068
www.mvec.coop

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative
Our Energy

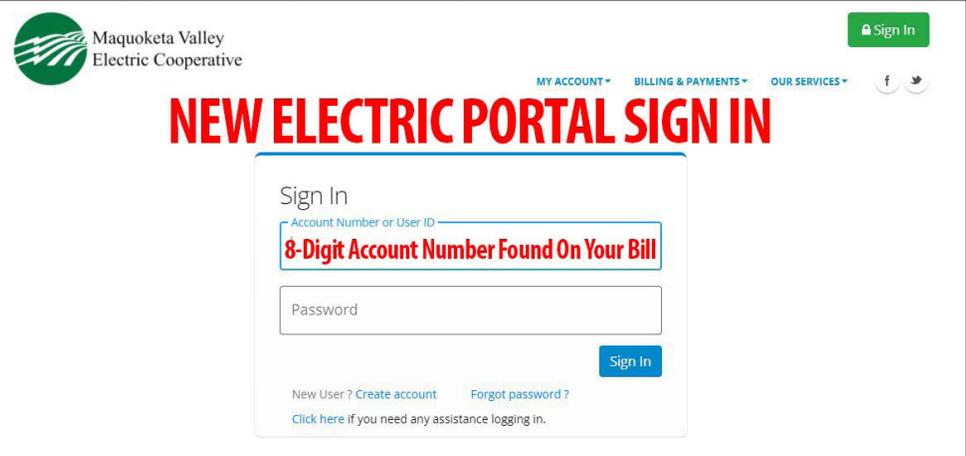
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:00p.m.
After Hours Call Center
Outage Reporting

Account Number		Account Name		
XXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXX		
Meter Reading		Mult	KWH Usage	Read Type
Previous	Present			
12965	13003	10	380	2
16272	16396		750	
			490	
			1620	

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT
BASIC SERVICE CHARGE
STATE TAX
OPTION TAX
CURRENT ELECTRIC CHARGES
PREVIOUS AMOUNT DUE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT

Your Electricity Use Over The Last 13 Months Averaged 197

KWH	3,730	2,487	1,543





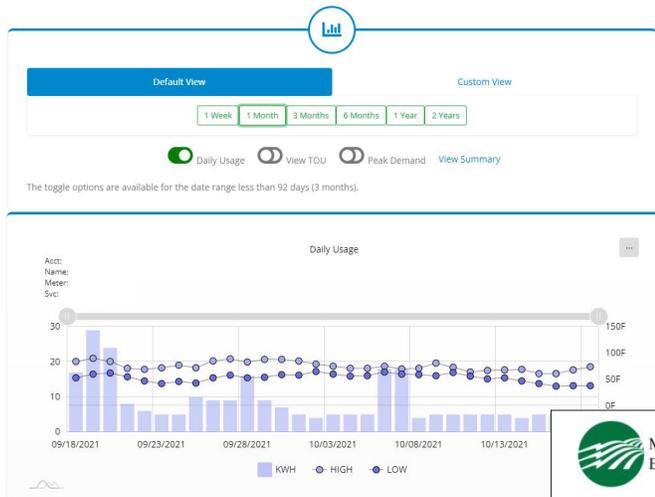
CREATE AN ACCOUNT

If you have not used our online electric portal before, it's easy to create an account - you just need your full 8-digit account number, the last 4 digits of your SSN, and the last 4 digits of the phone number associated with your account. The new online portal gives you more information about your electric account at your fingertips.

TOU Explanation

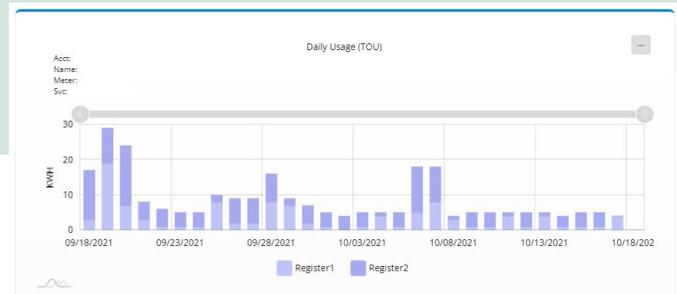
TOU = Time Of Use
 On Peak = Register 1 energy used 4pm-9pm; Off Peak = Register 2 energy used remaining 19 hours

Usage History



MONITOR YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE

Use the portal to view your electricity consumption by month (and over time) to gain insights into ways to save energy and money off your electric bill.



PAY YOUR BILL WITH EASE

Make your electric payment from anywhere (save a stamp!) by using the new portal. Or, set up auto payments so that you never forget a payment. You can even schedule a payment—if you're paying bills and want to schedule your electric payment to go out on a certain date. Also, view your current and past bills all in one convenient location.



When You Change Your Clocks, Take Time To Inspect Devices And Supplies That Keep Your Family Safe

When Daylight Savings Time ends on November 7, you probably won't hesitate to move all your clocks back an hour. But what about the devices and supplies that keep your family safe?

Smoke alarms: You should test them every week or at least once a month, but you also should replace the battery twice a year when you change your clocks. Also check the date on your alarms to make sure they haven't reached their maximum lifetime of 7 to 10 years.

Carbon monoxide detectors: You should have one on every floor and test them once a month. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacing the battery or when the device tells you it's time for a new one - replace the unit every 7-10 years; the manufacturing date is on the back.

Fire extinguishers: If your extinguishers have a gauge, make sure the needle falls within the green area; if they have a test button instead of a gauge, the button should pop out immediately after you push it. If your extinguishers fail either test, replace them immediately. Also note that the useful life of a fire extinguisher can be anywhere from 5 to 15 years, so check the bottom for the date of manufacture so you know when it's time to head to the store for a new one.

First Aid Kit: Does your family have one and does everyone know where it is located? Make sure your kit is well-stocked with bandages, skin closures, gauze pads and dressings, roller bandage or wrap, tape, antiseptic, and treatment supplies, nitrile gloves, tweezers, a needle, a topical antibiotic, and any important personal prescriptions, including an EpiPen if you are allergic to bee or hornet venom.



Steps To Take With MVEC If You Are Moving

If you are moving from the service address that MVEC has on file for you, please take the following steps to ensure the appropriate actions are taken to disconnect your MVEC services. If your move is out of our service area entirely, we thank you for your membership. Please make sure that we have your forwarding address for your final bill and to collect future patronage dividend payments.



1. Notifications: Notify MVEC that you need to disconnect both your electric service and your fiber internet service (if you also subscribe to our MVlink internet) and provide the date you will no longer be responsible for electricity or MVlink fiber internet usage. If you have both electric and fiber services, the disconnect date must be the same. Even if someone else is moving in and will want/need service, it must be disconnected in your name and then will need to be reconnected in the new resident's name. To schedule a disconnect of electric service call 800-927-6068 or visit our electric portal;

to disconnect fiber internet service, call 800-927-6068 or email fiber@mvec.coop.

2. Wireless Router/Modem: If you are an MVlink subscriber and you have our equipment, either schedule a time for MVEC to pick up your wireless router (by calling 800-927-6068 or emailing fiber@mvec.coop) or disconnect it (**Please ask for disconnecting instructions**) and bring it to MVEC's office (109 N Huber St. Anamosa).

3. Mesh WiFi Unit: If you purchased a Mesh WiFi Unit from MVEC, you own this piece of equipment so there is no need to return it.

4. Outside Equipment: Please note that any MVEC or MVlink wiring, equipment or boxes on the outside of your home should stay in place and is the property of MVEC.



October MVEC Board Update

- Reviewed the recently updated Long Range Load Forecast. This study forecasts load levels for the next 20 years and is used in short and long term engineering studies.
- Reviewed the status of Phase 1 of the MVlink project.
- Discussed the preliminary 2022 budget plans for MVlink.
- Approved annual write-offs of non-pay accounts.
- Reviewed an electric rate study that compared Maquoketa Valley's rates against the rates of other cooperative, investor owned, and municipal utilities in Iowa.
- Discussed proposed changes suggested by the Board Policy Committee on the subject of remote attendance at board meetings.



COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

From our table to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!

Virtual Home Energy Audits

Understanding how and where your home is using energy is the first step to savings. You can understand your energy use and perform a virtual home energy review. There are many "smart home" devices on the market that provide valuable insight into your energy use and home activity. You can track energy use over time, receive real-time notifications when electronics are turned on or off, and identify savings potential. Touchstone Energy Cooperative's Home Energy Adventure (adventure.touchstoneenergy.com) offers a virtual room-by-room tour highlighting ways to save energy throughout your home. An optional resource is the Department of Energy's (DOE) Home Energy Saver (hes.lbl.gov/consumer).

MVEC is here to offer unbiased energy saving advice to members considering changes to their energy needs. MVEC's Energy Advisor, Al Schilling, can also perform a free walk-thru energy audit to help you understand your energy costs. Give us a call today at 800-927-6068 and ask about ways you can start saving energy and money.

Editor's Note: The costs to offer energy efficiency services and incentives are collected through the monthly energy charge on your bill. In 2021, the cost to our members was \$0.0008 per kilowatt-hour used.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES'

Home Energy Adventure

Welcome to the game where you learn how energy efficient you are, as well as how you can improve your home's energy efficiency and save money! Let's start with a few questions so we can tailor your results.

LET'S GO →

What is your zip? [?]

ZIP

What is your current weather like? [?]

☀️ WARM

☁️ COOL

Do you rent or own your home? [?]

🏠 RENT

🏡 OWN

Do you have a central heating and cooling system? [?]

✓ YES

✗ NO

Home Energy Adventure

Choose a journey you would like to follow.

Explore the 5 most common rooms in a home or 5 different ways you use energy.

🏠 ROOMS

⚙️ ENERGY USES



TECH LINK

Streaming TV

MVlink does not offer a bundled service that includes TV. The reasoning is because TV, as many know it today, is quickly evolving with streaming TV becoming popular. Members who can use an app on their smart phone, can also figure out streaming TV. Most smart TVs have a device built in or you can purchase a device that will connect your TV to your home's internet service via Wi-Fi. For a monthly fee, you can purchase one or more apps to allow you many viewing options. Members often tell us they can purchase multiple apps for far less than they currently pay for cable TV service, and that even includes the monthly MVlink cost. Better yet, you are only buying what you want to watch, versus paying for multiple channels you never watch. With MVlink's 85/85 mbps service you can enjoy streaming on multiple TVs with no buffering.

Before you "cut the cord" from traditional cable or satellite TV, step back and think about whether you should. Consider the following:

Do you already have home internet service? If you're paying for internet and use it, cord-cutting will probably make financial sense.

Are you willing to be flexible? You'll need to be comfortable using new technology or new apps. The more you're willing to adapt, the better your experience will be and the more money you'll save.

Cord-cutting basics

Internet Service: You will need home internet to cut the cord, along with a Wi-Fi router, so your streaming devices can get online anywhere in your home.

Streaming Devices: Once you purchase streaming services, you'll access them by downloading their apps on a streaming device, such as a Roku or Amazon Fire TV Stick. Each TV must have its own way to stream, whether it's through a streaming device or a smart TV. These devices plug into your television and connect to the internet over your home Wi-Fi network or with a Ethernet Cable, and they'll work even if you don't own a smart TV. If you do have a smart TV, you can use it in place of a streaming device. You do not need a smart TV to cut the cord.

Streaming Services: To replace your TV service, you will subscribe to one or more online services. There are several options available and here are a few examples: Sling TV, Hulu, YouTube, and Philo. Each of these services has different channels, rule out the ones that don't have your channels.

Here are a few resources that can help:

The Streamable's channel finder tool lets you type in the channels, shows, and sports teams you want, then returns a list of matching services based on your zip code.

www.thestreamable.com

Suppose.TV offers a similar channel finder service, but it offers some extra tools for refining your search. For instance, you can narrow down services based on which streaming devices they support, or by how many screens you can watch a given service on at the same time. www.suppose.tv



Suppose compares billions of combinations of TV services and finds the best for you.

To begin, update your location if necessary and select your favorite channels.

The screenshot shows the Suppose.TV search interface. At the top, it lists supported services: dish, DIRECTV stream, sling, hulu, YouTube, fubo, philo, and more. Below this is a search bar and several filters: 'Select your preferred channels', 'Prioritize by dragging up or down', 'Refine' (with 'get more' and 'save more' options), '1 simultaneous stream', and 'DVR required'. A dropdown menu for 'Any Provider' is set to 'Any Device'. The main content area displays 'Showing top 30 of 505,361,517,975,860,260,000,000,000,000 combinations evaluated'. A grid of service cards is shown, each with a logo, a list of channels (e.g., Philo 60+ channels, sling Blue + Paramount+ Premium, hulu Live TV, dish America's Top 120, dish America's Top 120 + Paramount+ Premium, and Top Plus + Paramount+ Premium), a price per month, and a 'See details' link. Below the grid, there are sections for 'History' (listing CBS, CBS-KGAN, and Food Network), 'Drag your channels your must-haves', and 'Information' (listing various categories like Specialty Channel, National Geographic, Animal Planet, Science Channel, TLC, Lifestyle, Food Network, Lifetime, and Travel Channel).



Pull The Plug

Do you have old appliances taking up space? We can help you recycle them! Get rid of that old refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner and get paid to do it through MVEC's Pull The Plug program.

Sign up today by calling our recycling contractor, CLEAResult, at 855-838-7817 (toll-free).

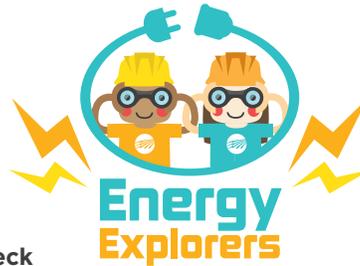
Please have your account number handy as you will be asked to provide it. Appliances in **working condition (run and cool)** will qualify for the rewards to the right.

(Limited to three appliances per year.)

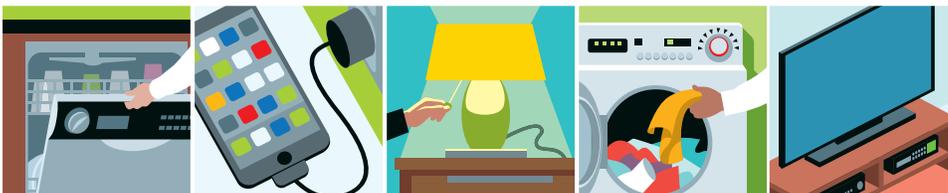


ENERGY SAVINGS FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Saving energy at home can help your family save money and help our environment. Test your energy efficiency knowledge by completing this fill-in-the-blank activity.



Tip: Use the word bank for help. Don't forget to check your answers in the key below!



1. Turning off the tap water while brushing your teeth can save up to four _____ of water per minute.
2. Energy vampires, like TVs and phone chargers, consume _____ even when they're not in use. Turn these devices off to save energy.
3. Turning off _____ every time you leave the room saves energy.
4. Wash clothes in _____ water to reduce the load on your water heater.
5. LED light bulbs typically use 75% less energy than _____ light bulbs.
6. To save energy, only run full loads when running the _____.

Word Bank:

incandescent lights gallons
electricity dishwasher cold

Answer Key: 1) gallons 2) electricity 3) lights 4) cold 5) incandescent 6) dishwasher

Watts The Answer?

1. This convenient portal will allow you to _____ your electric payments and monitor your electricity usage.
2. If you are moving from the service address that MVEC has on file for you, please take the following steps to ensure the appropriate actions are taken to _____ your MVEC services
3. The reasoning is because TV, as many know it today, is quickly evolving with streaming TV becoming _____.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to efletcher@mvec.coop

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bills.

Please complete the following:
Name _____

Address _____

September winners:
Joseph Scherbring, Manchester
Steve Bries, Worthington



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative
109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

PRSRT STD
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Cedar Rapids, IA
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FROM OUR TABLE TO YOURS,

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

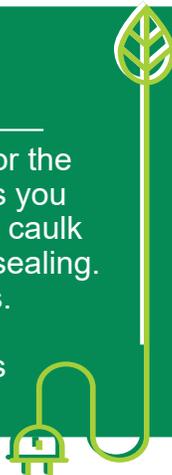
We're thankful for you, the members we serve.

**Our office will be closed
November 25 & 26**
to enjoy the holidays with our families

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: www.energy.gov



Understanding Your Electric Bill

ON-PEAK hours are 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

OFF-PEAK hours are
Midnight - 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. - Midnight

These times are in effect every day.

Watts Current

is published monthly for members of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mailing Address:

109 North Huber Street • Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-3542 or 800-927-6068

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday • 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

After Hours Call Center: 800-582-8998

www.mvec.coop  

Email direct to the following departments:

Electric Billing: billing@mvec.coop

Electric Service: maintenance@mvec.coop

Internet/Phone Service: fiber@mvec.coop

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