

WATTS *Current*

April 2022

For Our Members

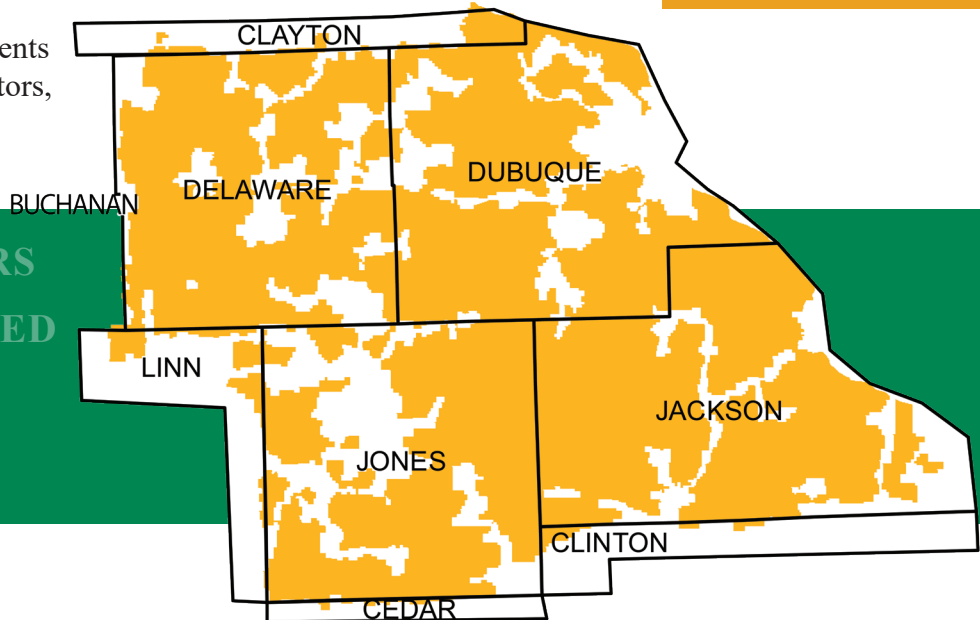
MVEC Director Elections

Did you know that as a member of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative you have the opportunity to serve on its governing Board of Directors? Since 1935, MVEC has been owned by its members and governed by a Board of Directors who are members themselves. The Board of Directors is responsible for representing the members and overseeing the company they own. Nine directors serve on the board, each for a three-year term. Each director is nominated by a nominating committee and elected by the Cooperative’s members at the annual meeting (scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2022). MVEC’s service territory is divided into four regions (see the map below). Two directors represent each region and one director serves At-Large.

To serve as a Director, an individual must be a member of the Cooperative and reside within the region they are elected to represent. Director candidates must not have been employed by the Cooperative in the previous two years or be closely related to an employee or incumbent director; nor be employed by or have a material financial interest in any competing enterprise or entity selling supplies or services to the Cooperative.

Directors must be willing to devote time and effort to attend and actively participate in monthly board meetings, training classes and/or meetings sponsored by Cooperative-affiliated organizations. Directors are encouraged to attain National Rural Electric Cooperative’s (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director and/or Board Leadership Certificate upon election to the Board.

Look for more details on this year’s director election in the May issue of Watts Current. If you are interested in learning more about the requirements for serving on the Board of Directors, please contact MVEC’s office at 800-927-6068.



- 9 BOARD MEMBERS
- 9 COUNTIES SERVED
- 3,200 MILES
- 14,000 MEMBERS

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MVEC Directors Earn Certification

MVEC’s director Billie Zumbach received her Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in January. The second part of the director education program, the Board Leadership Certificate consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. Director Zumbach represents MVEC Region 4 (Delaware and portions of Buchanan and Clayton Counties). Cooperative directors must be willing to devote time and effort to attend and actively participate in training classes and/or meetings sponsored by Cooperative-affiliated organizations. Directors are encouraged to attain NRECA’s Credentialed Cooperative Director and/or Board Leadership Certificate upon election to the Board.

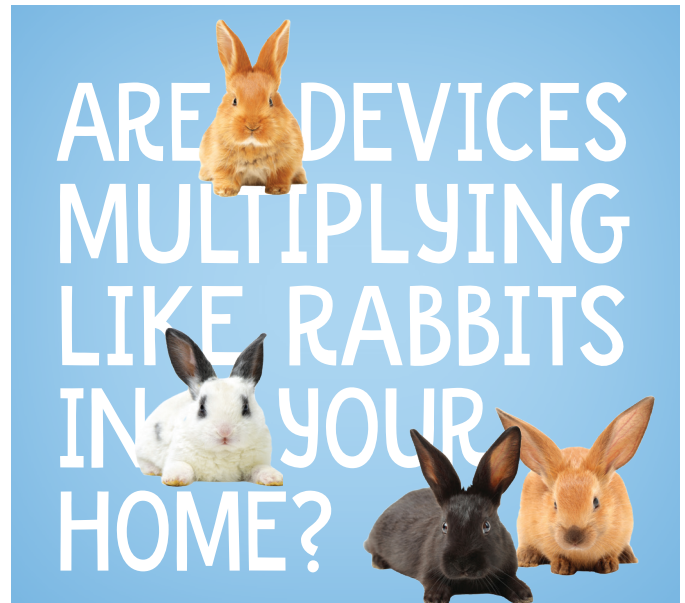
Over the last year, directors Tom Stewart and Ron Thielen each received the Director Gold Credential which recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates. Thank you to our directors for your time and leadership!

Payments to MVEC

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) is pleased to serve you with reliable, safe electricity and reliable, fast fiber internet. As a reminder, per our billing policies, separate payments must be made for electric service and fiber internet service. You have several options to conveniently make payments to MVEC. You can:

- Submit two separate checks to MVEC’s office (109 N. Huber St. Anamosa, IA 52205)
- Submit payment through the online billing portals (My Electric Account and My Internet Account buttons can be found at the very top of every mvec.coop page)
- Set up payment schedules/automatic withdrawals through both billing portals found on MVEC’s website.

We thank you for your cooperation in helping ensure we make accurate, timely billing entries for all accounts. If you have any questions about payments or our billing policies, please contact one of our Customer Service Representatives at 800-927-6068.



Spring Into Faster Internet with MVlink!

The weather is turning warmer and MVEC fiber crews are ready for a busy season connecting members to our high-speed internet, MVlink!

We are proud to offer internet and telephone (VoIP), using the industry’s gold standard of a direct fiber connection. As homes have more and more “smart” and connected devices, speed becomes more critical to our members working, schooling and entertaining from home.

If you have not already taken advantage of MVlink’s reliable, high-speed internet service, **HOP TO IT AND SIGN UP!** Or, if you have already signed up but need to bump up your speed due to “multiplying devices” in your household, just contact our Fiber team at fiber@mvec.com or 800-927-6068.

- ✓ **NO CONTRACTS or DATA CAPS**
- ✓ **NO INSTALLATION FEES**
- ✓ **LOCAL, RELIABLE SERVICE**



Packages start at **\$59.95/mo.** (for 85/85 mbps)

Visit mvec.coop/mvlink-internet for more details and to sign up.



Pull the Plug Program FAQs

MVEC pays you to pull the plug on old, inefficient appliances. Here are a few Frequently Asked Questions about our Pull the Plug program:

What can be recycled using the Pull the Plug program?

Refrigerators (\$35), freezers (\$25) and window air conditioning units (\$25). All appliances must be in working condition (run and cool) to qualify for the program.

What are the size requirements for the appliances?

The refrigerator or freezer must be 10 cubic feet or larger. Commercial sized refrigerators are not covered by this program.

Who do I call to schedule a pick up?

MVEC contracts with a third-party, CLEAResult, to pick up members' appliances. Please contact CLEAResult to schedule your pick up by calling 855-838-7817.

What information do I need when I call CLEAResult to schedule my pick up?

You should have your MVEC account number ready as you will be asked for it.


Does the appliance have to be outside for pick up (or can it stay where it is)?

If you can safely move the appliance outside, that is preferred. However, CLEAResult will remove the appliance from inside the home if you are unable. Two people are typically dispatched with each truck/route and everyone on the CLEAResult team is vaccinated.

How am I compensated for recycling my appliance?

CLEAResult will bring a check at the time the appliance is picked up.





RECare

You Care, We Care,
RECare, a way for
members to help members

MVEC's RECare program allows members to contribute to a fund that assists low-income members with weatherization to help improve their heating and cooling costs or supplement energy assistance. Funds collected are distributed by local community action agencies.

Yes, I care and want to contribute.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is closed.

I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare.

I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill. (Even one dollar shows you care.) Monthly pledges may be cancelled at any time by notifying MVEC in writing.

Name: _____

Address: _____


City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Email: _____

Please mail to MVEC or include with your electric bill payment.



**Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative**

109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa IA 52205

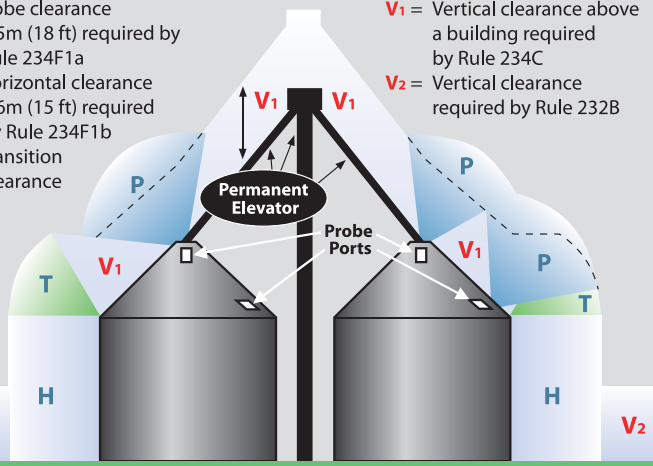
Bylaws Available

Copies of the Bylaws of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative are available on our website www.mvec.coop/governance or at the Cooperative's office. If you would like a copy of the Bylaws, please pick one up, or contact us to have one mailed to you.



Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators

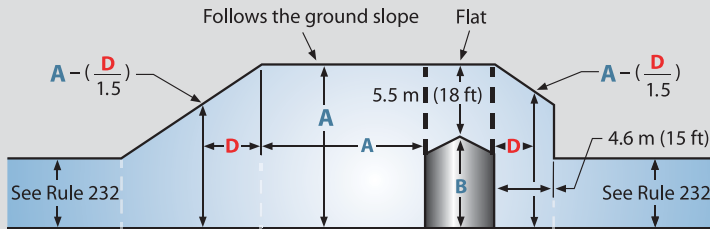
- P** = Probe clearance
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
- H** = Horizontal clearance
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
- T** = Transition clearance
- V₁** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V₂** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.

Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators

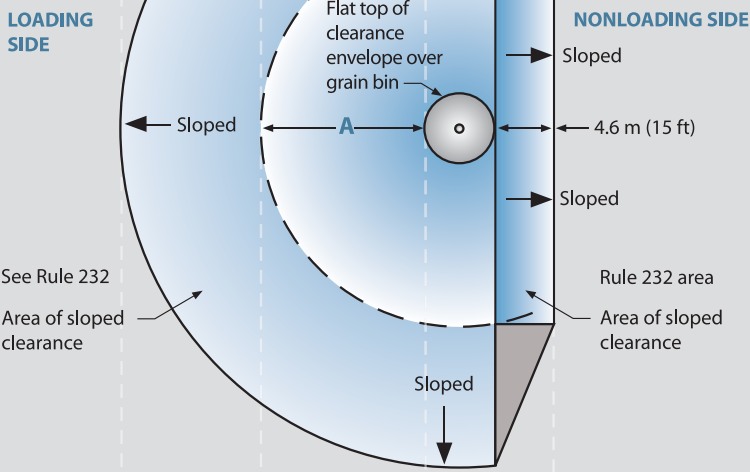
ELEVATION



- B** = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
- A** = B + 5.5m (18 ft)
- D** = Variable horizontal dimension

In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

PLAN VIEW



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Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.

Maintain Proper Clearance Around Grain Bins

The state of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

If you are planning to construct a new grain bin (or move an existing one) please contact Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative. We will provide assistance in planning a safe environment for everyone working at, and living around, your grain bins.

Electric wires should be at least 15 feet from the non-loading side of the grain bin; at least 18 feet from the highest filling or probing port on the bin; and a clearance of at least the bin height plus 18 feet from the loading side of the grain bin. Electric service cannot be provided to a grain bin installation that does not meet these clearances.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199-25.2(3)b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board.)*

If the electric wires around your existing or proposed grain bin do not meet the requirements shown in the diagrams or if you have any questions, please contact our office at 800-927-6068.



The Power Behind Your Power

You've likely noticed MVEC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our communities. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough - but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, we thought we'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career - because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness.

Despite the many challenges, MVEC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local communities. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, sometimes days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the communities served.

MVEC lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 3,200 miles of power lines across 9 counties. Today's lineworkers are also information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW...

CALL 811

BEFORE YOU DIG

Every digging job—from planting a bush to installing a fence—requires a call to 811 to have utility lines marked.

Cornerstone Group © 2022



TECH LINK

What is Your Device Count?

Have you ever thought about how many devices your household has connected to the internet at any given time? Five or six? Ten or twelve? The actual number may surprise you. According to a recent Deloitte report, the average U.S. household has 25 internet-connected devices. That is more than double the number of devices in 2019! While this major increase in devices in the last two years is attributed mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number is expected to continue to grow to 32 devices by the year 2025.

Why is it important to know how many devices you have connected in your home? Because, the number of connected devices ultimately affects your internet speed and experience. When we refer to internet speed, we really mean bandwidth or capacity your connection has. Bandwidth is the amount of data that can be transferred over an internet connection in one second. It is important to understand that bandwidth is a fixed number for each internet connection. All the internet-connected devices in your home will share your bandwidth which means the more devices you have connected at the same time, the more minimum bandwidth required. Otherwise, if not enough bandwidth is available, you will experience slower internet speed for all of your devices.

As you can see, it is important to identify exactly how many devices are connected to the internet in your home. And, just because a device is not being used, it can still be connected and using your bandwidth. Below is a list of just some of the more commonly connected devices in homes today. You can use this checklist to determine exactly how many connected devices you have in your home. Once you have taken inventory of all your connected devices, take your internet speed and divide it by that number of connected devices to see how much speed each one is getting. Remember this is a rough estimate, but it can give you an idea of whether you need to consider upgrading your internet speed to accommodate all of the devices in your home.

For example, if you have 85 Mbps internet speed and you have 20 devices in your home, each device is getting roughly 4.25 Mbps. While that may sound adequate, it may not be enough bandwidth for certain online activities such as gaming or streaming TV (a Netflix show in HD requires at least 5 Mbps).

Connected Devices Checklist

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robot Vacuum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Security Cameras
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage Opener	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tablet/iPad
<input type="checkbox"/> Key Pad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smartphone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video Doorbell	<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Thermostat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart Lights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baby Monitor
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Refrigerator	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaming Systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Washer or Dryer	<input type="checkbox"/> Laptop
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Locks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart Watch/Activity tracker
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Detection Sensor	<input type="checkbox"/> Smart TV
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart Watch/Activity tracker	<input type="checkbox"/> Alexa/Echo Devices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart TV	<input type="checkbox"/> Kindle/E-Reader
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexa/Echo Devices	<input type="checkbox"/> Streaming Devices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kindle/E-Reader	<input type="checkbox"/> Security Systems
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Streaming Devices	<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Air Purifier
<input type="checkbox"/> Security Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Bluetooth Speakers
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Air Purifier	<input type="checkbox"/> Wireless Printer
<input type="checkbox"/> Bluetooth Speakers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wireless Printer	





Heat Plus Rate Reminder

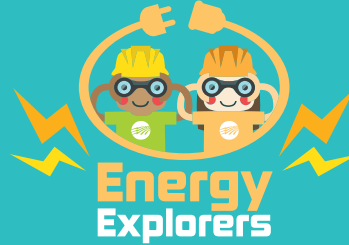
The Heat Plus rate ends with energy used through May 31, 2022. It is important that you do not turn off power to these meters because the Cooperative still needs to be able to read them each month. The Heat Plus rate will begin again October 1, 2022.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LINEWORKERS?

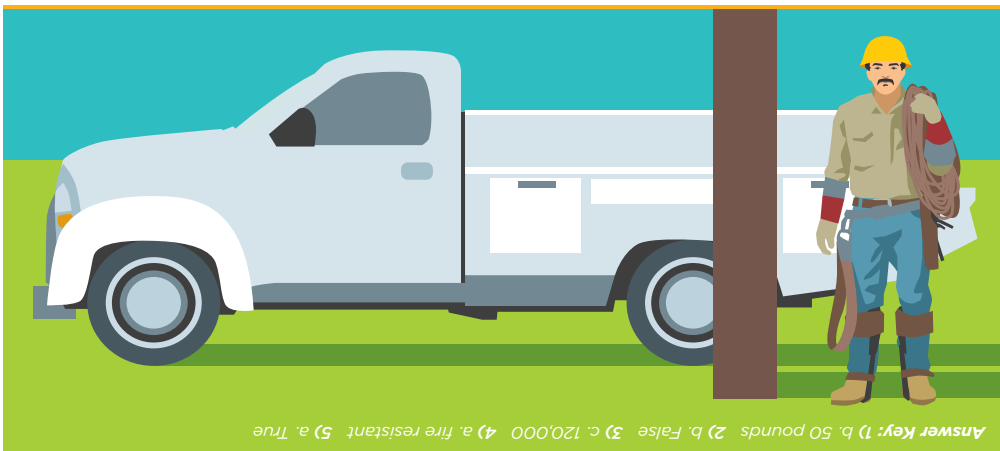
Every April, we celebrate lineworkers and the hard work they do to make sure we have electricity to power our lives.

How much do you know about lineworkers?

Take the quiz below to find out! (Use the answer key to check your work.)



- Lineworkers have to wear a lot of gear to do their jobs. A lineworker's gear A lineworker's gear can weigh up to _____.
 - 15 pounds
 - 50 pounds
 - 80 pounds
- Lineworkers maintain and repair electrical lines, but they do not install them.
 - True (no installation)
 - False (They maintain, repair and install lines.)
- There are approximately _____ lineworkers in the United States.
 - 50,000
 - 90,000
 - 120,000
- Lineworkers must wear _____ clothing to protect them from a possible electric arc while working.
 - fire resistant
 - extra thick
 - leather or rubber
- Lineworkers must wear special conductive boots when climbing a steel structure.
 - True
 - False



Answer Key: 1) b. 50 pounds 2) b. False 3) c. 120,000 4) a. fire resistant 5) a. True



Watts The Answer?

1. Each director is nominated by a nominating committee and elected by the Cooperative's _____ at the annual meeting (scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2022).

2. As a reminder, per our billing policies, _____ payments must be made for electric service and fiber internet service.

3. Because, the number of _____ devices ultimately affects your internet speed and experience.

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

February winners:

Carolyn Condon, Maquoketa

Thomas Parnow, Dubuque



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

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*MVEC will be closed April 15th
in observance of Good Friday*

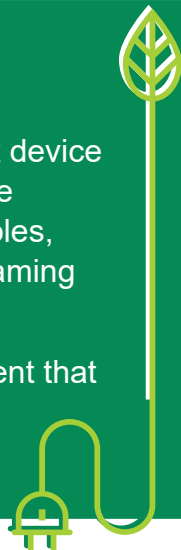
Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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 

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday • 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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Printed by Julin Printing Company
Monticello, IA

