

June
2026

WATTS *Current*

CEO Insights: Investing in Reliability

By Jeremy Richert, CEO

At MVEC, our team works hard to strike a balance between safety, affordability and reliability of service to our members. First and foremost, we must operate in a manner that is safe for our employees, our members and the greater public. See more on our commitment to safety in the Watts Up column on page 5. After we address safety, our focus shifts to providing the most reliable service to our members in the most economical way. We monitor and measure MVEC's reliability to continue to improve our service and we invest your member-owner dollars in initiatives to continually improve the reliability of our electric grid.

Detailed Line and Substation Inspection

One of the most important efforts related to reliability of our 3,300 mile and 64,000 pole electric system is our continuous, system-wide detailed line inspection program. Our crews perform a physical patrol of 100% of our distribution system over seven years. Every pole and underground cabinet is inspected, documented and evaluated for safety hazards or needed repairs. For substations, in addition to a monthly field inspection we complete annual infrared inspection and oil testing of all substation equipment. Being proactive helps us resolve small issues before they escalate into costly problems.



Vegetation Management

As we have shared in the past, MVEC has made a concerted effort to increase our vegetation management and tree trimming program with safety and reliability top of mind. Trees and brush account for 40% to 50% of MVEC's power outages and approximately 75% of the Cooperative's system maintenance budget. Each year, MVEC invests in tree trimming and vegetation management across our service territory. After reviewing outage causes over the last several years, MVEC increased our vegetation management budget significantly in 2025. In order to keep up with tree trimming needs, we hired two outside contractors to assist with line clearing and that work has continued this year. The increased investment in vegetation management will decrease the number of tree-related outages and help maintain the reliability that you have come to expect from MVEC's electric grid.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS
MVEC Day
at the Delaware County Fair

Wednesday
July 15th

more information
to come



SAVE

**Annual Meeting
of Members**

**August
20th 2026**

THE

DATE

NEW LOCATION
PEOSTA COMMUNITY CENTRE
7896 BURDS RD. PEOSTA



Pole Inspection

MVEC contracts with Badgerland Utility Solutions, LLC from Wisconsin, to inspect poles and underground utilities throughout MVEC's service territory. These routine pole inspections improve the safety and reliability of the distribution system by testing every pole to find hazard poles and allow for them to be replaced before they fail. Overall, MVEC continues to perform very well compared to our peers across Iowa. Not counting major event weather days, outage time has been 65 minutes on average over the last five years which is 45% lower than the average Iowa rural resident experienced.

In an effort to continue providing reliable service as well as expanding our smart grid functionality, MVEC was awarded \$1.1 million dollars of funding from Iowa's Grid Resilience grant program. With these grant dollars MVEC will be able to take advantage of having the fiber network across our service area and connect to additional breakers, fault indicators, and underground switchgear at key locations across the system. This equipment will allow us to gather data and respond quickly when working with crews in the field on outage restoration.

Through proactive line inspections, aggressive vegetation management, and the integration of new smart grid technologies, MVEC is not just maintaining your power we are actively building a stronger, more resilient future. Our record of keeping outage times 45% lower than the state average is a testament to our team's hard work, but we aren't stopping there. As a member-owner, you can rest assured that every dollar spent is a direct investment back into the safety, affordability, and exceptional reliability of the cooperative you rely on every day.

MVEC Supports Future Leaders

This spring, MVEC attended several FFA banquets throughout our service area and presented checks to FFA Chapters sending students to Washington Leadership Conference over the summer. Through MVEC's support, six area FFA chapters are sending 11 students to WLC. WLC is a leadership opportunity that takes place in Washington D.C. MVEC is pleased to support our next



generation of leaders. We wish all of the students safe travels and a wonderful experience in D.C.

Annual Meeting and Director Election in August

As a member-owner of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, you are encouraged to participate in the business of the co-op you own. One way to participate is by electing directors either via mail or online ballot in August or at the in-person Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 20th (at the Peosta Community Centre). Watch for candidate and election information in the August issue of Watts Current.

Director Candidate Applications

A nominating committee has been appointed to fill three positions on the Board of Directors, each for a three-year term. If you wish to be considered for one of the positions listed below, please submit a brief biography with your qualifications to: Nominating Committee, %Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, 109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa IA 52205 no later than June 10, 2026.

Region 1- Jones County and portions of Cedar and Linn Counties

Region 2- Jackson County and portions of Clinton County

At Large-Dubuque County

Are You Interested In The Governance Of Your Cooperative?

For more information about the election process, visit www.mvec.coop, or contact CEO Jeremy Richert at 800-927-6068 or jrichert@mvec.coop

Who is Eligible to VOTE in the Upcoming Director Election?

To be eligible to cast a vote during Director election, a member of MVEC must be listed on the formal membership application filed with the co-op. To add a spouse to your membership, contact Erica at 800-927-6068.

The Secretary of the Co-op, 15 days prior to Annual Meeting, makes a complete list of members entitled to vote.





Our Energy Working For You: EV Charger Types and Rebates

By Jeff White, Energy Advisor

With gas prices climbing, you may be considering making the switch to an EV this summer. Don't forget that MVEC offers rebates for EV chargers and incentives for making your home "EV Ready". In this month's Our Energy Working for You, we will explain the charger types and applications for each. We are seeing an increase in MVEC members applying for electric vehicle (EV) charger rebates. In this month's Our Energy Working for You, we will explain the charger types and applications for each. The rates shared are averages for the charger types covered in this article. Consult your EV specifications to get actual charging times and capacities for each vehicle type.

Level 1 Charger: A Level 1 charger provides the lowest level of charging and is connected to a 120 Volt circuit. Charging capacities for these are 1 kilowatt (kW) and charging rates can take 40-50 hours to charge a vehicle. If you think of a comparison to a gas engine, kW is the horsepower capacity, and charging rates are how much you step on the accelerator. While Level 1 charging is not commonly used, this could be where a higher level charger is not available, or you simply need to top off the battery in a vehicle that is normally used for short daily trips.

Level 2 Chargers: Level 2 chargers are most commonly used in a residential setting. A Level 2 EV charger typically adds 15 to 75 miles of range per hour (roughly 3–19.2 kW). A common 7.2 kW to 11.5 kW home station usually charges a standard EV fully in 4–10 hours. This type of charger qualifies for MVEC's rebate. The complete rebate requirements can be found on our website at www.mvec.coop/rebates.

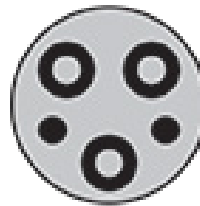


Level 3 Chargers: Level 3 chargers are used for quick charging in a commercial or business setting serving the public. They are also sometimes called direct current



chargers. Charging rates for these units are 50-350 kW and take 20-60 minutes to charge a vehicle. They will also typically have a transaction interface for paying to charge the vehicle (much like pay at the pump).

When shopping for an EV, be aware of what type of charging rates the vehicle is capable of, and the type of cord connector that your vehicle will match up to at the various charging stations. Except for Tesla, most EVs use a J1772 cord connector. To keep costs as low as possible when charging your EV at home, always try to do so during off-peak hours when energy rates are lowest. MVEC's off-peak hours are from 9:00 pm to 4:00 pm daily.



J1772

If you are constructing a new home or remodeling, and considering an EV at some point in the future, MVEC also has an Electric Vehicle Ready rebate to prewire your garage with a Level 2 electrical circuit. This will simplify adding a Level 2 charger down the road when you get an EV. Also, if you decide to purchase an EV, please let MVEC know, either by submitting the Level 2 charger rebate or contacting MVEC. This information helps with future capacity planning for our distribution system.

May MVEC Board Meeting Update

- Discussed the results of a safety audit that was completed by the Cooperative's insurance provider.
- Received an update on the Cooperative's power provider's recently completed cost of service study as well as strategy for serving potential large loads.
- Received an update from MVEC's IT Director on ongoing IT and cyber security projects.
- Pre-approved the purchase of two substation transformers that will be included in the 2027 Cooperative Budget.



Shine the Light: Nominate a Local Volunteer by June 30!

Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognized for making a difference? Nominate them for the Shine the Light contest by June 30 and they could win \$3,000 for their local charity or non-profit.



Nominate A Local Volunteer
by **June 30th** and they could **win \$3,000**
for their local charity or non-profit!
3 Winners will be selected

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com
to make a nomination and to review the contest rules.



MVEC Member Night at Voy 61 Drive In

Join MVEC on Wednesday, June 24th for a movie under the stars at Voy 61 Drive In Theater (in Delmar, just outside Maquoketa (1228 US-61, Exit 153). Admission is free and Toy Story 5 will be playing that evening. Bring the whole family and check this off your summer bucket list – courtesy of MVEC!



Here is what you need to know:

- Enter The Voy 61 Drive In Theatre, via the main entrance road marked with "ENTER HERE" sign. Ticket booth will be closed please proceed and park anywhere between the first row in front of the screen and the train shed in the rear of the property.
- Pack your lawn chairs, cozy blankets and portable radios (*tune your radios to 88.5 FM*)
- NO pets or grills as they are not allowed
- Gates open at 6:30 pm (*make sure to arrive before dusk, the movie will begin when it's dark enough*)
- Before the movie, enjoy all the fun activities Voy has to offer: *Swing set, sand box, tetherball, basketball and train rides*
- Don't forget to grab your concessions before the movie starts (*concession stand closes once the movie has started*). You are welcome to bring your own snacks and coolers but please consider supporting Voy's concession stand.
- Each car will receive 1-coupon for **FREE POPCORN**.



We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, June 24 at Voy 61 Drive In!



Watt's Up: MVEC Safety Committee

By Steve Peterson, Lead Lineman - Peosta

MVEC's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to our members. Safety is at the forefront of all that we do at the cooperative. However, operating in a safe manner doesn't just happen automatically. We work hard to build a culture of safety here at MVEC and the Safety Committee is one of the driving forces behind that culture.



I've been on MVEC's Safety Committee for two and a half years. Each year, the linemen vote on who they want to see on their safety committee the following year. Each member serves a two-year term. In total, there are 10 members on the Safety Committee: the CEO, Operations Manager, Safety Director, Tech Services Manager, two foremen linemen, one journeyman lineman, one fiber lineman and one tech services employee. This is a typical mix of representatives on the committee, although, at times, we have also had apprentice linemen as it is valuable to have different opinions, perspectives and experience levels participate.



The committee meets once a month with the goal of continuing to develop, grow and improve our safety culture at MVEC. At these monthly meetings, we discuss safety concerns, incidents and close calls to get to the actual root causes to determine how we can prevent similar situations in the future. Annually, we create safety improvement plans, select agenda topics

for safety meetings, and set safety goals for our organization. We have difficult conversations in those meetings to help employees and the public stay safe. The committee works to find ways to keep safety at the forefront of everything we do at MVEC—making us more proactive than reactive. We even discuss close calls outside of work to apply any learnings to our jobs at MVEC.

To evaluate our safety program, we track key metrics including injury rates, incident counts, and root-cause analyses. Notably, we've seen an uptick in reported "near-misses"—a trend we actually celebrate. Previously, hesitation or embarrassment often kept these incidents quiet. Today, our team feels empowered to share them, recognizing that a reported close call is a prevented accident. This transparency is a direct reflection of our strengthening safety culture.

I am incredibly grateful to be part of a cooperative that backs its "safety first" claim with tangible resources. A prime example is our participation in the NRECA Safety Summit. At this year's summit in St. Louis, I attended sessions ranging from field hazard identification to workplace communication. The most impactful session focused on navigating generational differences. With many young linemen joining MVEC, it was a vital reminder that safety relies on inclusive communication. By valuing every perspective, we ensure that every team member—regardless of experience level—is an active participant in our culture of protection.

In my 13 years at MVEC, there have been a lot of advancements in our safety protocols and practices but there is always room to improve and that is the purpose of the Safety Committee—to drive our safety culture forward, so that the next group of employees can be part of something better.





TECH LINK

Don't Get Burned by Summer Cyber Scams

Cybercriminals don't take summer vacations. In fact, seasonal travel, online shopping, and social media sharing actually make it easier for scammers to find their next target. Stay one step ahead of fraud this season by keeping an eye out for these common summer scams.



1. Fake Vacation Rentals & Booking Sites

Scammers post attractive, low-priced listings on Airbnb, VRBO, or social media, often with stolen photos. Victims pay via wire transfer or cryptocurrency, then discover the property doesn't exist or is unavailable.

Tip: Book only on verified platforms, check reviews, and avoid wire transfer-only deals.

2. Phony Airline & Travel Rescheduling Emails

Scammers often spoof airline or travel platform notifications, claiming your flight has changed. They prompt you to click a link or call a fake hotline to "update" your booking.

Tip: Always verify flight details through the official airline site or app; don't click links from unknown emails or texts.

3. Vacation Cancellation Refund Scams

You get a call or email saying your trip was canceled and you're eligible for a refund. The scammer asks for personal info or upfront payment to process the refund.

Tip: Never give payment or personal info over the phone; contact your travel provider directly using known contact details.

4. Fake Product Sites & Pop-Up Summer Sales

Scammers run social media ads for "limited-time" deals on summer must-haves like sunglasses, swimwear, or outdoor gear, leading to knock-off products or nothing at all.

Tip: Use secure payment methods like PayPal or virtual cards; avoid random ads and verify the site's legitimacy.

5. "Your Family Member is in Trouble" Scam

You get a call (sometimes with AI-generated voice) claiming a friend or relative was robbed or detained abroad and needs urgent money.

Tip: Verify with a second call or text before sending money; don't act until you confirm directly with the person.



6. Wi-Fi Hotspot Scams

In tourist areas, scammers set up fake "Free Wi-Fi" networks. Connecting can expose your data or personal information to theft.

Tip: Avoid public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions; use a VPN if you must connect in public.

General Safety Tips:

- Be skeptical of "too good to be true" deals.
- Use strong, unique passwords and enable two-factor authentication.
- Monitor your accounts for suspicious activity.
- Report scams to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud).

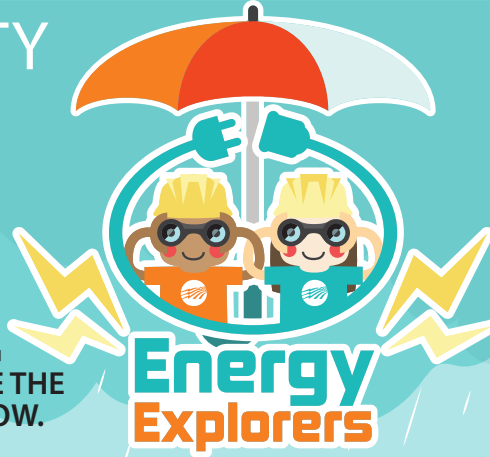
Don't let a scammer ruin your summer vibes. Stay alert, verify before you click or share, and keep your hard-earned vacation funds right where they belong—in your pocket.



LIGHTNING SAFETY WORD SEARCH

DID YOU KNOW JUNE 21-27 IS NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK?

LIGHTNING CAN HAPPEN FAST AND BE VERY DANGEROUS BUT STAYING SAFE IS EASY WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! READ THE FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS, THEN FIND AND CIRCLE THE **BOLDED** WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.



- WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO **INDOORS!** IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER, **LIGHTNING** IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE DANGEROUS.
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL **WATER SOURCES**. DON'T SWIM, USE HOSES OR PLAY NEAR STANDING WATER WHEN A **STORM** IS PRESENT.
- AVOID TALL THINGS AND OPEN SPACES. STAY AWAY FROM **TALL TREES**, **POLES** AND OPEN FIELDS WHERE LIGHTNING TENDS TO **STRIKE**.
- WAIT 30 MINUTES AFTER THE LAST SOUND OF **THUNDER**. EVEN IF THE RAIN STOPS, **WAIT** AT LEAST 30 MINUTES BEFORE GOING BACK OUTSIDE.

H	M	E	K	H	I	S	O	D	G	W	R	D	A	Q
I	L	Y	T	U	O	K	Y	K	P	A	E	G	Z	T
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T	A	K	G	P	H	O	P	J	F	E	N	K	G	L
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Q	D	O	R	Z	H	S	I	P	Y	T	L	J	W	V
E	G	J	R	T	Y	J	D	N	U	P	V	T	T	Q
V	I	A	Y	X	C	U	Y	N	G	W	Z	B	M	X
I	I	A	T	V	D	O	M	W	P	A	L	S	T	V
D	O	U	J	S	B	W	A	R	X	C	T	W	O	H
E	Y	E	S	J	P	P	P	R	B	O	F	M	Q	H
V	O	K	R	M	C	G	X	O	R	D	A	O	D	V
T	G	B	X	N	B	R	K	M	X	B	I	F	K	U

Watts The Answer?

1. The increased _____ in vegetation management will decrease the number of tree-related outages and help maintain the reliability that you have come to expect from MVEC's electric grid.
2. Watch for candidate and election _____ in the August issue of Watts Current.
3. Don't let a _____ ruin your summer vibes.

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 _____

April winners:

Douglas Picray, Monticello

Jason Geerts, Maquoketa



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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit 174



**NOT ALL
SUPERHEROES
WEAR
CAPES;
SOME
WORK
AT MVEC!**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a Smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.

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.

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Mailing Address:

109 North Huber Street • Anamosa, IA 52205

319-462-3542 or 800-927-6068

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

Friday • 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

800-927-6068
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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