

July
2026

WATTS *Current*

Attend YOUR Annual Meeting on August 20!

At Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, you are a member, not just a customer. With your MVEC/MVlink membership comes ownership and involvement in the cooperative. Attending MVEC's Annual Meeting is one way you can exercise your membership in the cooperative you own. We hope that you will join us on Thursday, August 20th at the Peosta Community Centre in Peosta. Look for the August Watts Current as it will include MVEC's Annual Report, director candidate biographies, and election information for voting via mail, online or in-person at the Annual Meeting. We are pleased to once again provide the online voting option (look for more details in the August report and in your email in-boxes). MVEC strives to make it easier than ever to engage with your cooperative. This year's event will also feature a festive Hawaiian theme and we can't wait to say aloha in Peosta on August 20th!

New Timeline for Annual Meeting

You spoke and we listened! Based on member feedback, and in an effort to keep the meeting moving along, we are implementing a new timeline for the event this year:

9:30 am – Doors Open

10:30 am – Business meeting begins

11:00 am – Director election takes place

11:30 am – Lunch is served (*enjoy fellowship with fellow members*)

12:30 pm – Business meeting resumes and Director election results announced

1:00 pm – Business meeting concludes

ONLINE VOTING

Your participation and confidence in the upcoming director election is crucial to MVEC! Feel at ease knowing your vote is well-protected with our new online voting system. Look for more information in the Annual Report.

To vote online, you will need your:
Account Number and Mailing Zip Code.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!



YOU HAVE 3 EASY WAYS TO VOTE

Reminder, you can only vote once and must choose 1 of the 3 methods below.



BY MAIL



ONLINE



IN PERSON

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Countdown To
**ANNUAL
MEETING OF
MEMBERS**

08-20-26

**PEOSTA
COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

7896 Burds Rd. Peosta



Safety Matters: Tips for Safe Camping

By Jenna Curtis, Safety Director

Whether you're heading to a local Iowa state park or traveling beyond Iowa's borders, camping is the ultimate summer tradition for building family memories. However, a trip can take a wrong turn if safety isn't a priority.



The secret to a stress-free adventure is a mix of solid preparation, environmental awareness, and having the right gear to handle whatever nature throws your way. Here are tips for staying safe in the great outdoors.

1. Prioritize Personal Safety and Well-Being

Your health is the most important component of a successful camping trip.

Hydration: Carry at least 1 liter of water per person and bring purification tablets or filters for refills.

Sun Protection: Apply sunscreen year-round and dress in moisture-wicking layers to regulate your body temperature.

First Aid: Keep a kit stocked with bandages, disinfectants, and antihistamines (and specific medications you need).

Emergency Signal: Always carry a high-decibel whistle; it travels much further than a human voice.

2. Follow Campsite Best Practices

Setting up a safe "home base" prevents accidents.

Site Inspection: Look up for dead branches and down for uneven ground or flood-prone areas.

Fire Safety: Only build fires in designated pits. Keep them small, never leave them unattended, and always have a bucket of water or dirt nearby to extinguish the flames completely.

Organization: Keep a tidy site to avoid tripping hazards and maintain a safe distance between your fire and your sleeping quarters.

3. Be Weather Aware (and Prepared)

Nature is unpredictable, so pack for the "worst-case" forecast.

Layer Clothing: Bring windbreakers for the day and warm hats/gloves for those surprisingly chilly nights. Make sure to pack extra shoes and socks in case your feet get wet.

Battery Conservation: If you're going off-grid, keep your phone on Airplane Mode and turn off Bluetooth/GPS to save power.

Backup Power: Bring a portable power bank or solar charger to ensure you can call for help in an emergency.

4. Respect Wildlife & the Environment

Respecting nature keeps both you and the local inhabitants safe.

Store Food Properly: Use bear-resistant containers or locked vehicles to avoid attracting uninvited guests.

Distance is Key: Observe animals from afar; never feed them, as this encourages aggressive behavior.

Leave No Trace: Follow "Leave No Trace" principles to ensure the wilderness stays wild for the next family to enjoy.

5. Plan Ahead for Emergencies

Despite the best preparation, things can still happen. Never head out without a "Flight Plan."

Share Your Plans: Leave your route, campsite location, and expected return time with a trusted friend at home.

Navigation: Don't rely solely on your phone. Carry a physical map and compass.

Medical Knowledge: Familiarize yourself with the signs of heatstroke and hypothermia so you can act fast if a group member feels unwell.

If your travels take you beyond Iowa's borders, research destination-specific risks like altitude sickness or flash flood zones in canyon country.





Our Energy Working For You: An Update on MVEC's Vegetation Management

By Jeff White, Energy Advisor

At MVEC, we are proud to be one of the most reliable utilities in the state. Achieving this level of service requires regular tree trimming, cutting, and spraying across our service area because reliable power starts with clear lines.

In fact, trees and brush are the single largest cause of service interruptions, accounting for 40% to 50% of MVEC's power outages—a reality we are reminded of whenever storms or strong winds roll through. Each year, MVEC makes significant investments in vegetation management. Here is an update on our efforts for this year:

Current Progress & Schedule

- **Wrapping Up:** Crews and contractors are currently finishing work in the Van Buren, Graf, and Bankston substation areas.
- **Up Next:** The next substation areas scheduled for clearing are Peosta and Paradise.

Note: MVEC sends letters to members in advance to notify you vegetation management is coming to your specific area.

What to Expect During Tree Trimming

Our crews and contractors trim trees with electric grid safety and reliability in mind, rather than aesthetics. Our goal is to trim what is necessary to ensure safety and service reliability (generally 20 feet on either side of the power line).

- **Work Quality:** Work is done professionally and efficiently to limit the need for return trips.
- **Debris & Clean-Up:** Tree stumps and logs are the property and responsibility of the landowner. In maintained yard areas, branches and small debris are generally left piled together. In unmaintained areas, they are left to decompose naturally where they are cut. Larger limbs will be left in a contained area on the member's property whenever possible.

Member Contact & Communication

When crews or contractors arrive in your area, they will do their best to contact you by knocking on your door or calling if you aren't home. Please note that work will still be performed if we are unable to connect with you. To ensure we can reach you, we highly recommend keeping your contact information up to date. You can do this by calling our office or logging into your member

portal (click the green **My Electric Account** button at the top of any mvec.coop page).

Our crews are experts in the field. When they connect with you, it is a great opportunity to ask questions or address concerns directly. If you need further assistance, please call our office and ask for Jim Waterman (Operations Manager) or myself (Jeff White).

Help Keep Our Crews Safe

As our work continues through the summer and into the fall, please be respectful of MVEC's crews and contractors as they perform this vital work.

Additionally, you can help our crews work safely by letting us know if there are any potentially aggressive animals on your property before we arrive. To add a note to your account, please call our operations department at 800-927-6068 (ask for Keith). Thank you for helping us keep our team safe!

Additional Resources

For more information on our vegetation management program, visit mvec.coop/tree-trimming. This page contains helpful resources, including:

- MVEC's Right of Way guide
- Specific planting guidelines
- Meter Equipment Clearance guidelines
- County Vegetation Management program links

You can also contact the co-op directly at 800-927-6068 with any questions.



Outstanding Patronage Dividend Checks

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, 109 North Huber Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, has abandoned property that results from uncashed patronage dividend checks issued in 2023. To see if your name is on the list of uncashed patronage checks, visit: www.mvec.coop/patronage-dividends.

If this property is not claimed within three years from the original check date, it will be forfeited to MVEC according to Iowa law.



Watt's Up at MVEC: Your Annual Meeting

By Jeremy Richert, MVEC CEO

Each August, MVEC holds our Annual Meeting of the Members—an opportunity for you to actively participate in the business of the cooperative you own. We look forward to seeing you in Peosta on Thursday, August 20th.

Attending Annual Meeting is important for several reasons:

- **Stay Informed:** Hear firsthand updates on the cooperative's performance, future plans, and vote for your Board of Directors.
- **Connect with Us:** Meet our team in person, ask questions, and share your feedback.
- **Community & Fellowship:** Perhaps most importantly, enjoy a wonderful meal and socialize with your fellow members.

We Listened to Your Feedback

Every year, our management team and Board of Directors carefully review the feedback cards left on the tables at Annual Meeting. Based on your input, we are adjusting this year's schedule to improve the meeting's flow and shorten the event slightly (*see the pull-out to the right or page 1 for details*).

Say Mahalo with an Ohana Theme

You will also notice a brand-new menu this year to match our Hawaiian theme! We chose this theme because the Hawaiian concept of ohana (family) mirrors our cooperative culture and values. The Annual Meeting is our opportunity to say Mahalo (thank you) to you, our member-owners, and celebrate our cooperative community.

The Cooperative Difference

Being a member of a cooperative is different than simply being a utility customer. As a member-owner, you earn patronage dividends back on what you spend, and you have a voice in how we operate—either by voting for the Board of Directors or by running for a seat yourself.

Three Easy Ways to Vote

To make participation as easy as possible, MVEC offers three ways to cast your vote for the Director election:

1. **By Mail:** Mail or drop off your ballot in its official envelope (found in your August Annual Report packet) to our office by noon on **Tuesday, August 18**.
2. **Online:** Cast your vote electronically by **noon on Wednesday, August 19**. We will once again offer online voting as a way for all of our members to easily participate in the election of Directors.
3. **In Person:** Vote at the Annual Meeting on **Thursday, August 20** at the Peosta Community Centre.

Keep an eye on your mailbox during the first week of August for your Annual Report, which will include your mail-in ballot and online voting instructions.

We look forward to welcoming you on August 20th in Peosta! If you cannot make it in person, we strongly encourage you to cast your vote by mail or online. Thank you for participating in the business of the cooperative you own!

What's on Your Mind? Help Shape Your Annual Meeting

As we prepare for MVEC's Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 20, we want to ensure we address the topics that matter most to you, our members.

If you have a question or a topic you would like our CEO to address during the co-op update, please let us know!

- **How to submit:** Email your questions to hottopic@mvec.com
- **Deadline:** Close of business on **Monday, July 13, 2026**

This is your meeting, and your feedback will help us tailor it to what you care about. Thank you in advance for helping us plan a great event!

Annual Meeting Agenda

9:30 am – Doors Open

10:30 am – Business meeting begins

11:00 am – Director election takes place

11:30 am – Lunch is served
(*enjoy fellowship with fellow members*)

12:30 pm – Business meeting resumes and election results announced

1:00 pm – Business meeting concludes



Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative



MEMBER MEET-UP EVENT!

at the *Delaware County Fair*

WEDNESDAY
JULY 15TH
1:00-6:30PM

VISIT OUR BOOTH

Find us at the NW corner of the Pavilion

Pick-up your Fair Bucks

Win MVEC Swag

Learn about MVlink

Ask us questions

See MVEC/MVlink in
the opening night parade on
Monday, July 13th



Stop by our booth on July 15th
from 1:00 to 6:30 pm.

*Pick up Fair Bucks, win MVEC swag,
learn about MVlink fiber internet
and meet MVEC team members.*

Then at 7:00 pm head over to
**Tough Truck Races or
Christian concert with Jon Reddick**





TECH LINK

Protecting Your Tech this Summer

Summer brings a unique mix of tech opportunities and risks—from overheating hardware to travel-related cyber threats. Here are a few tips to keep your devices safe, data secure, and summer productive and fun.

1. Protect Your Devices from Heat

High temperatures can damage electronics. Keep phones, tablets, and laptops out of direct sunlight, avoid leaving them in hot cars, and use cooling pads or elevate laptops for better airflow.



2. Prepare for Power Surges

Invest in surge protectors and UPS battery backups for sensitive equipment during storms.



3. Shield Your Devices from Water

Waterproofing your tech is essential for protecting against moisture damage, which can cause short circuits, corrosion, and permanent failure.

- Use waterproof cases with high IP ratings (e.g., IP68 for dust and water immersion) depending on your summer activities.
- Everyday use, choose water-resistant cases to handle splashes and rain.
- Ensure seals are intact and resealable.

4. Stay Cyber-Safe While Traveling

- Avoid public Wi-Fi for sensitive tasks; use a VPN if you must connect.
- Enable two-factor authentication (MFA) on all accounts.
- Don't leave devices unattended in public spaces.
- Refresh passwords and use a password manager.

5. Back Up Your Data

Before trips or outdoor adventures, back up important files to secure cloud storage (e.g., OneDrive, Google Drive) or an external drive.

6. Keep Devices Charged

Carry a portable charger or power bank for long outings to avoid downtime and to ensure useful apps like GPS and maps are available at all times.

7. Use Tech for Fun & Learning

- Creativity: Apps like Procreate or Tynker for art and coding.
- Learning: Keep those learning skills sharp all summer long with Libby, Epic!, Khan Academy, BrainPOP, and Duolingo for reading, math, science, and languages.
- Outdoor adventures: GPS trackers, Seek, Skyview Lite, and geocaching apps

8. Explore New Tech Skills

Use summer to learn coding, VR experiences, or new software through online courses or challenges. Get the kids involved in coding camps or Lego leagues often available at local public libraries.

Tip: Refresh your tech setup in summer — clean devices, remove unused apps, and organize files to improve performance.

By combining device protection, cyber safety, and intentional tech use, you can enjoy a summer that's both productive and relaxing.





MVEC Welcomes Summer Crew

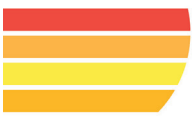
MVEC welcomes Simon Robertson and Chris Rauen as our summer help. Simon, a recent Anamosa High School graduate will be helping our Anamosa crews and Christopher, a recent Western Dubuque High School graduate will be working out of our Peosta outpost this summer. This fall, Simon will attend Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, IA, and Chris will attend Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore, WI, both for powerline school. Welcome Simon and Chris and thank you for your help this summer!



Chris Rauen



Simon Robertson



SOLAR ENERGY POP QUIZ

Solar energy is amazing because it allows us to use electricity generated from natural sunlight. Complete the quiz below by matching the solar energy terms in the word bank to the correct description.



- _____ A star at the center of our solar system that provides light and heat.
- _____ Flat devices often placed on rooftops that collect energy from the Sun and help power homes and businesses.
- _____ Tiny particles of energy that travel through space and reach Earth in about eight minutes.
- _____ The basic building block inside rooftop equipment that converts sunlight into usable power.
- _____ The type of energy that runs appliances, lights and electronics in your home.

Word Bank

- A. Solar Cell
- B. Electricity
- C. Solar Panels
- D. Sun
- E. Photons



Answer Key: 1) D 2) C 3) E 4) A 5) B

June MVEC Board Meeting Update

- Reviewed and approved a revolving loan fund application.
- Reviewed plans for the Annual Meeting that will take place on August 20.
- Discussed the process and approach for serving potential larger loads.
- Reviewed progress on existing Strategic Plan initiatives and discussion focus points for new Strategic Planning session scheduled for September.

Watts The Answer?

- Based on member feedback, and in an effort to keep the meeting moving along, we are implementing a new _____ for the event this year:
- Stop by our booth on July _____ from 1:00 to 6:30 pm.
- If you have a question or a _____ you would like our CEO to address during the co-op update, please let us know!

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 _____

May winners:

Laurine Gruhn, Sabula

John W. Caven, Maquoketa



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

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



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

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mailing Address:

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

Summer Office Hours (April 29-September 27, 2024)

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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