

WATTS *Current*

March 2021

For Our Members

Your Source For Power, Internet And Information

You pay your electric and internet bill every month and more than likely you think to yourself, "That's done". But, the truth is we're more than just your service provider, we're also committed to building even stronger connections with you and the local communities we serve. One of the ways we are delivering on this goal is by providing you with information, resources and services that are as reliable and useful as the electricity and internet we supply. We want you to view us as your trusted partner and we want to be your first stop whenever you have a question about energy efficiency, renewables, internet, telephone service, membership dividends or other information about your service or your cooperative.

Here are just a few of the ways we are sharing our expertise and leveraging the cooperative advantage to benefit every member.

- We help you keep energy use in check by providing energy efficiency tips and allowing you to track your usage via our secure website.
- Electrical safety is always a priority, but we take this commitment a step further by providing tips to help keep your family safe in and around your home or farm.
- When it comes to renewable energy, we are here to answer your questions about options and requirements for your own system. And you can trust the power we provide you is well diversified with a broad renewable mix.
- We produce, print and deliver our monthly newsletter to you because as a member-owned cooperative we have an obligation to help you use our services wisely and safely. We'll also share emerging technology trends or success stories about our member businesses.
- We invest in high-quality education and training for employees and our elected directors because we know that informed leaders make the best decisions.

Membership in MVEC is a powerful thing. It means we are owned by you - our members. It means you have an energy and internet partner you can trust to look out for your community's best interests, not our own bottom line; and it means we are always here and ready to work with you and for you.

At the end of the day, it's the cooperative advantage that allows us to be your trusted partner, provide you with services to power your daily life, and be your source for information. Thank you for spending time with us every month and for being an educated and informed member of MVEC.



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Stay Comfortable.

Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.



Outage Reporting

Members, we need your help. Every day we work to ensure you have reliable service, which includes keeping an outage as short as possible. You can help us reduce the length of an outage if you tell us the exact location that is out of service. Recognize that a service address may be different from the mailing address.

If you have more than one electric service with us, please be prepared to identify the location(s) that are out of service. Your electric bills are a great place to gather the information you need and then keep it handy for future calls. You most likely know what each bill is for, so providing us the account number, or the service address, is the most effective way to direct us. Your phone number is an additional verification tool if it matches our records.

We have experienced some recent issues where a member simply stated 'all my accounts are out'. This can result in delays as we confirm the location(s), creating a longer outage for the member, and creating unnecessary time and expense for your cooperative.

Power outages can also be reported through our website at www.mvec.coop. It's fast and easy if you know the account number for the location out of service. If you don't know the account number, you can enter your phone number and if it matches our system a list of your accounts will appear with the service address and you can select which account(s) are out of service. You may also enter the meter number as shown on the face of the meter at the location out of service.

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



Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:00p.m.
After Hours Call Center
Outage Reporting
800-582-6998

14504

Account Number	Account Name	Service Address	Meter No.	Bill Date			
12345001	MARY JONES	110TH ST 101	1234567	01/08/21			
Meter Reading		KWH Usage	Read Type	Charges			
Previous	Present				Mult		
25955	26281	1	126	2	X 0.16	ON PEAK	\$20.16
48511	50550		359		X 0.08	OFF PEAK	\$28.72
POWER COST ADJUSTMENT							\$1.65
BASIC SERVICE CHARGE							\$33.25
OPTION TAX							\$0.80
CURRENT ELECTRIC CHARGES							\$81.28
PREVIOUS AMOUNT DUE							\$73.73
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT							-\$73.73
Your Electricity Use Over The Last 12 Months Averaged 456 KWH Monthly				Cycle	Total Due Now	\$81.28	
KWH				209	Due Date	01/28/21	Bill Is Delinquent After Due Date
				Rate	After Due Date Pay	\$81.28	
				151	DRAFT SCHEDULE 01/27		
INVOICE DATE - JANUARY 8, 2021 ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR DECEMBER 2020							

Why Celebrate Ag Day?

We need to understand the value of agriculture in our daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize and celebrate Ag Day each year:

Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows us to make informed personal choices about diet and health.

Will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture. Career choices include:

- farm production
- agribusiness management and marketing
- agricultural research and engineering
- food science
- processing and retailing
- banking
- education
- landscape architecture
- urban planning
- energy
- and other fields.

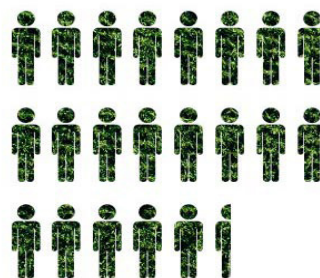
Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some instruction about agriculture.

Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.

Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food, fiber and renewable resource production, processing and domestic and international marketing.

Food Brings Everyone to the Table

The U.S. DEPENDS on Farming



Farming and related industries employ

21.6
million people

making up 11% of total U.S. employment

WWW.AGDAY.ORG



Four Electrifying Kitchen Appliances To Save Time And Energy

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are four electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

1. **Air fryers** are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food. This means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze.



2. **Electric pressure cookers** - more accurately called a multi-cooker because it can also slow-cook, sauté,

and more - can help get dinner on the table quickly and easily even when you're swamped. The Instant Pot is an example of a multicooker. Energy efficient and versatile, it replaces 6-7 kitchen appliances by combining the



functions of a pressure cooker, slow cooker, rice cooker, sauté, steamer, and warmer. It also speeds up cooking by 2-6 times and saves up to 70% of the energy used in traditional cooking methods.

3. Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a **pizza maker** for your kitchen?



These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more.

4. **Electric griddles** have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once - like a "one-pan" meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you.



These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen. Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy. To learn about additional ways to save energy at home, visit mvec.coop.



What Is Beneficial Electrification?

If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As utilities shift to more options to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

Here's how this concept impacts you. It means that electric appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When MVEC's power supplier takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, our member.

Electricity is getting cleaner

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

As MVEC is able to tap into more renewable options, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Small steps to help the environment

For members and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate

into a better quality of life. For example, when you trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, our power supplier strives to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. By leveraging the flexibility of the grid to offer a diverse range of power selections we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our communities.

We also promote energy efficiency rebates, free in-home energy audits and an energy portal where members can manage and monitor their usage.

We care about our communities because we live here too. We hope you'll reach out to MVEC, your trusted energy partner, to discuss renewable energy options and to learn about ways to reduce your energy use. When you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. That means a brighter future for all of us.

Environmentally Beneficial Electrification





Vegetation Management Legislation

MVEC CEO, Jeremy Richert, was recently featured in the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative’s statewide magazine ‘Living with Energy in Iowa’. This is an excerpt from the article as it relates to discussions in the Iowa legislature regarding easements and vegetation management.

“Trees are one of the top two causes of outages. In the past two years, they have been the No. 1 cause of outages,” says Jeremy Richert, CEO and executive vice president, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative. “On average, it also takes nearly twice as long to restore power to member consumers from tree-related outages.” Richert cites data gathered from analyzing every outage at the co-op, which serves 14,000 members in nine east-central Iowa counties. “The average time to restore power to member-consumers from an outage that is not tree-related is 1 hour, 12 minutes,” he explains. “That’s compared to an average of 2 hours and 20 minutes for every outage caused by trees.” Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative’s vegetation management program includes a systematic, planned program where every area within its service territory is examined annually as part of the co-op’s drive-by inspection program. This program identifies where trees and other vegetation are growing too close to power lines and equipment, and those trouble spots are trimmed or sprayed by the co-op’s maintenance crews. In addition, the co-op uses technology to identify system faults that cause blinks but not necessarily outages, such as branches rubbing against power lines. By continually tracking those things in real-time, crews can take care of issues before they become bigger problems. “Whether it’s a derecho, thunderstorm, ice storm or wind, it’s often the trees that are larger and a bit farther out, which cause more problems than the vegetation right below the lines,” Richert explains. “They might not look that close, but when they go down in a weather event, they fall onto the line, breaking poles and pulling the lines down.” He adds, “This is why it’s so important for us to maximize and clear out the right-of-way as much as the property easement allows so that we can stop trees from falling onto power lines and equipment.” During the derecho, 51% of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative’s outages involved trees and accounted for 73% of the total time member-consumers were without power. Richert says the trees would have eventually been a problem with or without a derecho.

Celebrating Our Team 2020

10 YEARS



Corey Johnson
Accountant

15 YEARS



Brent VanDorn
Warehouse Supervisor

20 YEARS



Keith Helmold
GIS/Dispatch Technician



Jeremy Richert
CEO

30 YEARS



Dean Koopmann
Technical Services Manager

NEW EMPLOYEES IN 2020

Beau Klostermann
Anamosa Apprentice Lineman

Spencer Norton
Anamosa Apprentice Lineman

Ben Ernst
Anamosa Apprentice Lineman

Trevor Koopmann
Cascade Apprentice Lineman

Cody Horsfall
Peosta Apprentice Lineman

Skyler Houseal
Fiber Technician

Jeff White
Engineering Technician

Jason Arduser
IT Support Specialist



TECH LINK



Modem? Router? ONT?

Making sense of your home networking equipment

Most of the time, you don't need to know anything about how the water gets into your home—you just turn on the tap. And you don't need to be an electrician to use your refrigerator; you just plug it in and you're all set. With your home Internet service, it should be the same way. You shouldn't need to know much about the technology to use it. But the reality is that it's helpful to have a basic understanding. MVlink's in-home fiber devices continue to evolve with technology and the needs of individual members. Below is an explanation of the various devices and the terminology our member service representatives may use as we assist you. Depending on member's needs and MVlink's offerings at the time of install, not every user will have the same in-home/business devices.

ONT (Optical Network Terminal) – An ONT is the fiber version of a cable modem. The ONT changes the fiber light signal to an Ethernet signal; whereas a cable modem changes a coax signal to Ethernet. All MVlink users will receive ONT capabilities upon installation.



Modem/Router – MVlink's modem/router device provides the Ethernet connection and also allows users to connect multiple devices to the internet, and connect the devices to each other. It does not offer a wireless connection. It may be paired with a member-owned router.

Managed Modem/Router – This device is offered to MVlink users who need a wireless option. It combines the ONT, Modem/Router and WiFi into one. Users will pay an additional **\$4.95/month** for this option, which includes access to MVlink's tech teams for troubleshooting expertise.



Mesh WiFi – A mesh unit extends WiFi throughout the home by communicating with MVlink's Managed Modem/Router to ensure wireless connectivity. For a one-time upfront fee, MVlink users can purchase a Mesh Unit for **\$90 plus tax**.



Ready To Re-Connect Your Meter?

When you are ready to have your meter re-connected this spring, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will need two weeks notice. Please contact Jeane at 800-927-6068, extension 357.

ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about electronics efficiency.



WORD BANK:
 label
 chargers
 computers
 rechargeable
 power strip

- 1 DOWN: Use a _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- 2 ACROSS: For devices that require batteries, use _____ ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- 3 DOWN: Unplug electronic products, like _____, when you're not using them.
- 4 DOWN: Electronics that include the ENERGY STAR® _____ are the most energy efficient.
- 5 ACROSS: Many _____ come with a sleep mode or power management feature, which can save \$30 on annual energy costs.

ANSWER KEY 1. DOWN-POWER STRIP 2. ACROSS-RECHARGEABLE 3. DOWN-CHARGERS 4. DOWN-LABEL 5. ACROSS-COMPUTERS

Watts The Answer?

1. It means you have an energy and internet _____ you can trust to look out for your community's best interests, not our own bottom line;
2. While each member's reduction might be _____ together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions.
3. MVlink in-home fiber devices continue to _____ with technology and the needs of individual members.

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

January winners:

Phil DeShaw, Dyersville
 Tom Koopmann, Bernard

Welcome New Member



**JACKSON COUNTY
 REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER**
 GENESIS HEALTH SYSTEM



MVEC is proud to provide reliable service to the new JCRHC

Jackson County Regional Health Center is a new 25 bed Joint Commission accredited critical access hospital offering a wide range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services. JCRHC strives to meet the ever changing needs of the people it serves through the development of a progressive, consumer focused health system.



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

PRSRT STD
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Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit 174

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on March 14!
Set your clocks forward by one hour.



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-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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.



Source: www.energy.gov

Printed by Julin Printing Company
Monticello, IA

