



# MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday  
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126  
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935



## 2019 Scholarship Program

Midstate Electric Cooperative (MEC) is offering seven \$2,500 scholarships for those seeking to continue their education. Three scholarships are available for seniors who will be graduating from La Pine, Gilchrist and North Lake County High Schools; one scholarship is available to seniors attending other high schools located in Klamath, Lake and Deschutes Counties (including home school); two "at-large" scholarships are available for persons already graduated wishing to continue their education; and one scholarship is available for lineworker school.

### Scholarship Eligibility:

- Applicants' primary residence must be served by MEC.
- Applicant must meet the entrance requirements of the elected school.
- College/Technical/Lineworker school must be an accredited school.

The application is available at [www.mse.coop](http://www.mse.coop). The final deadline for submitting the application and all required materials is Monday, May 6. For more information call [541] 536-2126 option 5.

## Legislature Makes Cap and Trade a Priority



**Ted Case is a native Oregonian and executive director of our statewide organization - Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Ted has spent 20 years in Washington, D.C., including stints as staff director of the House Water and Power Subcommittee that oversees the Bonneville Power Administration.**

The Oregon Legislature is underway, and the leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—have made clear that passing cap-and-trade legislation is a priority. A cap-and-trade program, which California enacted several years ago, is designed to put the state of Oregon on a path toward reducing its carbon emissions.

The "cap" on emissions is a firm limit that gets stricter over time. The "trade" part is a market for companies, such as utilities and manufacturers, to buy and sell allowances that let them emit only a certain amount of carbon, as supply and demand set the price. As you can tell, it's a bit complicated. For Oregon's electric cooperatives, the issues are exceedingly complex.

The good news is that for Oregon electric cooperatives such as Midstate Electric Cooperative, your actual carbon emissions are relatively small because of your reliance on the emission-free hydropower from the Federal Columbia River Power System. In fact, I will argue that Oregon cannot meet its ambitious carbon reduction goals without the renewable resources from our federal dams. Ironically, the state of Oregon has aggressively pursued policies and operations that significantly reduce hydropower generation at our federal dams.

There are other issues for us to consider. What will a cap-and-trade program mean for family-wage manufacturing jobs, which are so

important to providing economic opportunity in rural Oregon? It would be devastating if these manufacturers were compelled to relocate to states such as Idaho that do not have a similar program.

Then there is the price at the pump. Emissions from the transportation sector account for approximately 40 percent of the state's emissions. One economic study concluded that, under a cap-and-trade program, gasoline could increase immediately by an estimated 16 cents a gallon.

This could disproportionately harm rural Oregonians, who often have to drive long distances for basic services such as health care.

Clearly, there are many unanswered questions about how this proposal will affect electric utility rates, our major industrial sectors, jobs and transportation costs in rural Oregon. What is known, however, is that this proposal has undeniable momentum and likely will pass the legislative assembly. Accordingly, we have no choice but to be at the table with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Brown, forcefully making the case that Oregon cannot solve a global problem on the backs of rural Oregonians.

### Ted Case

Executive Director  
Oregon Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association

### Friends Stay Connected



# HELP ADVOCATE FOR AFFORDABLE RATES & RELIABLE SERVICE



[www.ORECA-Action.org](http://www.ORECA-Action.org)

## INVESTMENTS IN WIND POWER

Midstate Electric Cooperative purchases Environmentally Preferred Wind Power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Join MEC and BPA in supporting wind power.

- Send a clear message that you not only believe in clean, sustainable wind power, you're actually doing something about it.
  - Support renewable research, development/demonstration projects and educational programs in the Pacific Northwest.
  - Know that an equal amount of BPA system power is replaced with wind power.
- Sign up for Environmentally Preferred Wind Power by Earth Day - April 22, 2019 and you will be entered to win a \$100 credit on your electric bill. For as little as \$5.00 a month, you can show your support for wind power.

- |                                  |         |                                    |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 200 kWh | \$5.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 kWh | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 400 kWh | \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,200 kWh | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 600 kWh | \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1400 kWh  | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 800 kWh | \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other     |         |

*I understand this is an additional charge accepted voluntarily by me to purchase wind power. I agree to pay the additional amount I have selected.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ MEC Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All entries must be submitted to: MEC Marketing Dept. PO Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739

## Peak Demand Reduction Program

If you own your home, heat with an air source heat pump or electric forced air furnace and have Wi-Fi, you may be eligible to join our Peak Hour Rewards Demand Reduction Pilot Program.

Qualifying participants receive:

- Free programmable Wi-Fi thermostat
- Complimentary home energy audit
- Entry in a monthly drawing for [2] \$250 bill credits for 100% participation in events

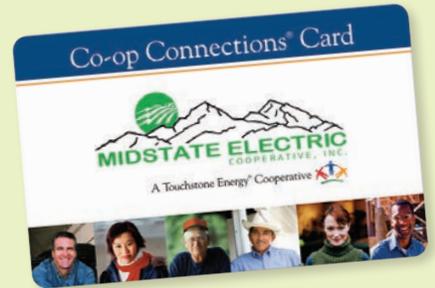
This is a limited time offer. Contact us today at [541] 536-2126 option 5 or [marketing@mse.coop](mailto:marketing@mse.coop).



## Save the Date

MEC Annual Meeting  
Saturday, May 11, 2019

**NEW LOCATION:  
LA PINE HIGH SCHOOL**



## Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Update

The Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving member benefit program that provides valuable local and national discounts. The most widely used benefit of the card, the pharmacy discount, has saved members \$1,004,243 since June 2009. For more information, or if you need a Co-op Connections Card, call [541] 536-2126 option 5.



## The Center of Member Engagement

Manage your electric account 24/7 by accessing SmartHub at [www.mse.coop](http://www.mse.coop).

With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your bill online
- Monitor energy use
- View billing history
- Receive notifications via email or text message
- Report outages and track outage restoration progress
- Check MEC's news feed

