



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Operation Round Up®

You can support worth-while projects in MEC's service area by rounding up your monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. Every penny donated is used to support charitable causes and nonprofit community services and programs.



Are you in Operation Round Up®? If not, call 541-536-2126 option 3 to sign up. Single donations are welcome. Simply mail a separate check, indicating it is for Operation Round Up® to PO Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739.



Message from General Manager, *Dave Schneider*



In accordance with recent steps taken by the State of Oregon, Midstate Electric Cooperative will begin a measured and gradual approach as we look to return to normal work and

business practices. Our employees have been working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in the field, office and remotely to continue providing you with safe and reliable service.

We reopened our lobby to the public on Monday, June 15, 2020 resuming our normal office hours of 7:00 am - 5:30 pm Monday - Thursday. Special measures are being taken to protect members and employees. There are clear barriers installed at the counters, social distancing indicators are posted in the lobby, and members are being encouraged to adhere to CDC Guidelines.

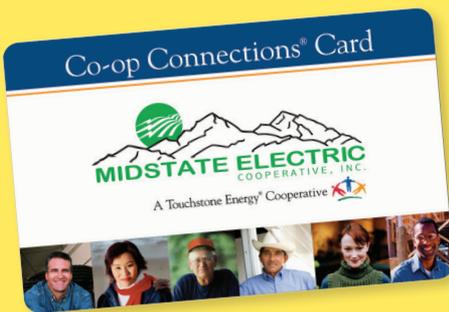
The health and safety of our members and employees remain MEC's top priority. We will continue to closely monitor the latest developments regarding COVID-19 to ensure we are following the latest recommendations from local and state officials, and CDC.

Remember, most services can be handled remotely. We are asking you to continue using these services rather than visiting the MEC office at this time. Accounts can be managed on SmartHub (standard billing) and, MyUsage (prepaid billing) programs located on our website, www.mse.coop. Payments can be made at the payment drop box, payment kiosk or by phone at 541-536-2126 option 2. For questions or concerns about your service, call 541-536-2126.

To provide financial assistance to members negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, MEC temporarily suspended service disconnections. MEC will not be discounting, excusing, or in any other method relieving a member of their energy bill amounts owed before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge all members to make every effort to keep their accounts current. If you anticipate problems paying your electric bill, please contact our member services representatives at 541-536-2126 option 3 as soon as possible. There are several energy-assistance programs available and they can work with you on a payment plan.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



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 \$1,008,417 since June 2009.

For more information or if you need a Co-op Connections Card, call 541-536-2126 option 5.

Friends Stay Connected



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter

2020 Photo Calendar Contest

One of our members' favorite yearly events is MEC's photo calendar contest. For the first time in contest history, digital JPEG photos will be accepted! We invite members to share their most beautiful, engaging, and fun photos for the chance to appear in our 2021 calendar.

A total of 13 winners will be selected. Each monthly winner will receive \$50 and our cover photo winner will receive a grand prize of \$200.

Submissions are accepted until Monday, August 10, 2020.

- The contest is open only to members of MEC. -

Each person may submit up to five photos. Each photo should include:

- Photographer's name and address.
- A short description of what is shown in the photo.
- An email address and telephone number where the photographer can be contacted.
- Printed photo entries must be at least 300 dpi at 10 inches by 8 inches tall. Horizontal or landscape photos only – vertical photos will not be accepted.
- Digital JPEG photos must be at least 3,300 pixels wide (300 dpi at 10 inches wide by 8 inches tall). Horizontal or landscape photos only. Vertical photos and files larger than 20 megabytes will not be accepted.

Digital submissions should be submitted online at www.mse.coop/calendarcontest along with supporting information. Please put the words "2020 Calendar Photo Contest" in the subject line.

Printed submissions can be dropped off at our office or mailed to:

Midstate Electric Marketing Department
PO Box 127
La Pine, OR 97739

Winning photographers will receive photo credit and copies of the calendar to share.

By entering the Contest, you agree to give MEC one-time rights to publish your photo in the calendar and to use it to promote the calendar contest in the future in print and social media.

Helpful Hints:

- Use the highest resolution setting on your digital camera.
- Photograph beautiful places and wildlife. Selected photos will have dramatic colors or scenery.
- Photos should reflect the beauty of the areas where we live.
- Submit photos that suggest a season or holiday.
- Just after sunrise and just before sunset are beautiful times to photograph.



Midstate Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

In compliance with Governor Kate Brown's mandate limiting travel and meetings to protect citizens from the COVID-19 virus, Midstate Electric Cooperative held a limited annual meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

MEC's bylaws require a meeting of the membership in April or May and an election of the Board of Directors. For purposes of the election, MEC held a limited meeting before the regular Board of Director meeting. Board elections took place by mailed-in ballot only. No other business matters or actions were taken at the limited annual meeting other than those necessary for the election of the Directors.

Board of Director election results: Ken Wilson– District 5 and Alan Parks– District 7 were unopposed and re-elected to serve the members for another three-year term. Board officers for 2020 are Alan Parks–President, Gordon DeArmond–Vice President and Vic Russell– Secretary/ Treasurer. Other directors on the board include Diana Cox, Bud Kendall, Robert Reed and Ron Sommerfeldt.



Conserving Energy in the Summer

Summer's heating up – use these tips to stay cool and conserve energy:

- 1 Set the air conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. Lower temperature settings significantly increase costs. An air conditioner set at 70 degrees instead of 78 degrees, can almost double your energy bill.
- 2 When weather is mild, use fans instead of the air conditioner. A central air conditioner will use about 100 times more energy than a fan at medium speed.
- 3 Adjust your ceiling fan to turn counterclockwise to take full advantage of cooling.
- 4 Run ceiling fans and the air conditioner at the same time. But set the air conditioner a few degrees higher, to 80 or 81 degrees. The breeze from the fan will make it feel like 78 degrees – and cut costs by 15 to 25 percent.
- 5 Run the Air Conditioner thermostat set on AUTO, never on FAN.
- 6 Keep up the habit of turning off lights when leaving a room – especially during the summer. Lights add a lot of heat to a room. Ninety-nine percent of a light's energy use is converted to heat, so use only as much light as necessary.

The Center of Member Engagement



Manage your electric account 24/7 by accessing SmartHub at 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 MECs news feed

