



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



Photo Credit: Jakob Welch - 2024 Calendar Cover Winner

Submit Your Photos For Our Member Calendar Photo Contest!

Join in on the fun with MEC's annual calendar photo contest! Share your best photos for a chance to be featured in our 2025 calendar. Thirteen winners will be chosen, with each monthly winner receiving \$50 and the cover photo winner scoring a \$200 grand prize.

Submit your digital entries online at www.midstateelectric.coop/calendar-contest.

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

Midstate Electric Marketing & Communications
PO Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739

By entering, you grant MEC one-time rights to publish your photo in the calendar and to use it for future promotional purposes. Contest is open exclusively to MEC members.

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. Preference will be given to photos taken within MEC's service areas.
- An email address and telephone number where the photographer can be contacted.
- Printed photo entries must be at least 300 dpi at 10 inches wide by 8 inches tall.
- Digital JPEG photos must be at least 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.

Submissions close on August 5, 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS Midstate Scholarship Recipients!

Garrett Joye

North Lake School

Awarded \$25,000 for Northwest Lineman College



Savannah Johnstone

La Pine High School

Awarded \$10,000 for George Fox University Nursing Program



Daniel Price

La Pine High School

Awarded \$10,000 for Grand Canyon University Business Studies



Blake Herinckx

North Lake School

Awarded \$10,000 for Oregon State Crop and Soil Science Studies



Jillian Rudolf

Continuing Education

Awarded \$2,500 for Gonzaga to study Environmental Law for Rural Communities



Linda Marie Keeney

Continuing Education

Awarded \$2,500 for Eastern Oregon University for Clinical Mental Health Masters



Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.



10 ways to prepare your home for Summer Vacation

Once you have packed your bags, get your house ready for vacation too.

1. Set or program your thermostat to 85 degrees.
2. Unplug small appliances and electronics.
3. Turn your natural gas water heater to low.
4. Turn off your electric hot water heater.
5. Use light timers or smart lighting.
6. Ensure your sump pump is operational.
7. Clean out your refrigerator.
8. Pause your mail.
9. Make sure doors and windows are locked.
10. Let a neighbor know your plans.



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MEC Office Closed July 4th

Our office will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Thursday, July 4th. Give us a wave at the Frontier Days 4th of July Parade!

Our outage line is available 24/7 at 800-752-5935.



TIPS FOR INTEGRATING SMART HOME TECH

If you're new to smart home technologies, keep the following tips in mind as you explore home automation options.

- 1. Define goals.** Determine the areas in your home you want to make smart, like lighting, security and entertainment systems.
- 2. Choose compatible devices.** A smart hub can make integration easier with a central device to control multiple smart technologies.
- 3. Check Wi-Fi strength.** Smart home technologies require a stable internet connection to function properly, so consider factors like router placement and signal strength.
- 4. Prioritize security.** Set strong, unique passwords for your Wi-Fi network, set devices to update automatically and limit personal data collection.

The Power of Smart Home Technologies

Smart home technologies are transforming how we live, making our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient than ever before.

Smart home technologies are devices that communicate with each other to automate everyday tasks and functions around the home, like heating and cooling, lighting and security. In addition to convenience, smart technologies enable consumers to manage and monitor their energy consumption through device scheduling and control.

With just a tap on your phone or a voice command to your virtual assistant (like Alexa or Siri), you can conveniently control many aspects of your home environment. If you're new to the smart tech world, there are several cost-effective devices you can try as you explore ways to make your home smarter.

One of the best and most inexpensive places to start is with a smart bulb or plug. Smart LED bulbs allow you to control home lighting remotely through a smartphone app or voice commands. You can set schedules to automatically turn lights off or on, which can help you save energy and boost home security.

Smart plugs are another inexpensive way to give electronics and small appliances the smart home treatment. Smart plugs allow you to set schedules and remotely control power to lamps, small appliances and electronics, minimizing standby energy consumption and maximizing convenience. For example, you can sync the timing of your bedside lamp, alarm, speakers and coffee maker to turn on at the same time each morning.

If Alexa or Siri is already part of your household, you can build on your existing "tech ecosystem" by adding a smart hub,

like Amazon Echo or Apple HomePod. Voice assistants that are synced to smart devices like bulbs and plugs provide additional options for device management and allow family members to interact with the various devices through voice control rather than individual apps.

Home heating and cooling account for a significant portion of energy use, so one of the best investments you can make in smart tech is a smart thermostat. While traditional programmable thermostats can be set to your schedule and preferences, a smart thermostat takes this one step further by learning and adjusting to your routine and building a schedule around it.

Smart security systems are popular options for homeowners looking for advanced security solutions that incorporate cameras, sensors and cloud-based video recordings. As with other smart technologies, smart security systems provide convenient, flexible ways to monitor homes (and businesses), giving you peace of mind even when you're away.

If you're considering smart tech for your home, start by defining your goals. Is saving energy your top priority, or are you aiming to improve home security? Smart home technologies provide great convenience--but remember, they are internet-connected devices. That means you'll need a stable Wi-Fi connection to ensure devices are working properly, and you'll need strong passwords for your router and individual devices.

Whether you're looking to automate every aspect of your home or simply want to try a device or two, smart technologies have the power to transform your living space into a home where comfort and convenience reign supreme.