



# 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



## Enter Midstate's *Light Up the Season* Contest and Join the Holiday Light Map

Do you go all out with holiday lights and decorations? Midstate Electric invites you to participate in our **2nd Annual Light Up the Season Contest!** This year, we're adding an exciting new feature—a community **Holiday Light Map** to make it easier for everyone to enjoy the festive displays across our service territory.

Our interactive map will pinpoint the stunning holiday light displays, helping neighbors and visitors alike discover the brightest, most creative decorations in the area.

Whether you're driving through rural neighborhoods or exploring from nearby towns, the map will guide you to the most spectacular sights, making your holiday experience even more magical.

Show off your glowing masterpiece by entering the contest and registering your home to be featured on the map. No special themes or guidelines—just bring your creativity and holiday cheer!

### How to Enter:

1. Visit our website: <https://www.midstateelectric.coop/holidaylights>.
2. Submit a photo or video of your holiday light display.
3. Register your home to be featured on our community Holiday Light Map.

**WIN!**

First Place: \$200  
Second Place: \$100  
Third Place: \$50

\*prizes are electric bill credits

**Light Contest Runs:** November 29 - December 12

**Winners Announced:** December 19

## Enter to Win a Giant Stocking by November 21st



We're excited to bring back our **Rocking the Stocking** giveaway this holiday season! 'Tis the season to spread joy and warmth, and we want to make your child's holiday dreams come true.

Our Midstate elves are stuffing two giant stockings, each filled with gifts for two lucky children

in our service territory. To enter, visit our website at [www.midstateelectric.coop/stocking](http://www.midstateelectric.coop/stocking) or scan the QR code to the right.

### Contest Rules:

- Child must live in Midstate's service territory
- Only one entry per child
- Ages 4-12 years old

**SCAN ME!**



**The deadline to enter is November 21**

## Youth Tour of Washington D.C. Applications Open Now!

High school sophomores and juniors are invited to apply for the opportunity to represent MEC at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 15-22, 2025. This all-expenses-paid trip offers an unforgettable experience for students in our service area.



Since the 1950s, America's electric cooperatives have been offering this "Trip of a Lifetime," impacting the lives of thousands of young leaders from rural communities.

This unique program gives students the chance to visit museums, tour historic landmarks, meet with elected officials, explore Capitol Hill, and learn about the vital role electric cooperatives play in their communities.

To apply, visit our website at <https://www.midstateelectric.coop/youth-tour>. For more information, call 541-536-7220.

**The deadline to apply is Thursday, January 30, 2025.**

## We're Grateful for Your Membership

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 28th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Our outage line, 800-752-5935, is open 24 hours a day to assist you.

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



# Is a Ductless Mini-Split System Right for Your Home?

## How would you like a personalized comfort zone within your home?

One where the temperature is customized to your liking and may be different than the temperature in the shared living areas or other rooms in the house. This flexibility and customization are precisely why mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, and their energy efficiency aspects are so popular.

Let's unpack some mini-split basics and explore whether this type of system is a good choice for your home heating and cooling needs.

A mini-split system is a type of HVAC equipment used for heating and cooling, allowing you to control the temperature in individual rooms or spaces. Similar to central heating and cooling, mini-split systems have two main components--an outdoor compressor and an indoor air-handling unit(s). A narrow conduit links the indoor unit(s) to the outdoor compressor.

While central heating and cooling systems feature an indoor unit connected by long lengths of ductwork, mini-splits are typically ductless. This means energy is not lost traveling through long stretches of ductwork. Installing the air-handling unit in a desired room or area enables you to control the temperature more precisely, reducing energy consumption. That's because you're adjusting the temperature to a single room or space rather than the whole home.

## MINI-SPLITS AT A GLANCE

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat/cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating/cooling system.

### Mini-Split System Benefits:

- Zone-controlled heating/cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating/cooling home additions

### Mini-Split System Considerations:

- Potentially higher upfront cost
- Appearance
- May require electrical upgrades
- Not as effective in large spaces

## Is a mini-split system right for you?

Mini-split systems are a popular option in home additions, or to supplement heating and cooling in a space that may be furthest away from the main living area, such as a finished attic or basement. In these instances, it may not be feasible to install or extend the ductwork required in traditional central cooling and heating systems. In contrast, mini-splits are relatively easy to install requiring a small hole for the conduit connecting the indoor and outdoor units. Most systems can handle up to four indoor rooms or zones connected to one outdoor unit. Each of the zones can be customized because each includes a thermostat that enables you to heat or cool the space as needed, saving energy and money over time.

## Cool solutions

Mini-split systems bring additional benefits. They are quiet, improve indoor air quality and are typically easy to install. Many come with remotes to make temperature control even easier, and because of their smaller size, mini-split systems have many placement options for indoor and outdoor units.

One of the greatest benefits of mini-splits is that they typically have a higher SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating than traditional central heating and cooling systems. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is.

## Additional considerations

While the technology is improving and evolving, those in particularly colder climates may need a fuel backup to run a mini-split system. If you're considering an upgrade or additional heating and cooling equipment, talk to a qualified technician to learn if a ductless mini-split system could work for your home.

# Demand Charge Coming to Your Bill in January 2025

Midstate Electric Cooperative is introducing a new demand charge of \$1.25 per kW to our billing structure, which will take effect on your January 2025 billing statement.

In response to rising costs from our power supplier, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), as well as significant increases in material and transportation expenses, Midstate is implementing this new charge. A demand charge is a fee based on the highest level of electricity demand recorded during your billing cycle.

This adjustment is designed to better reflect the true cost of delivering power, based on the peak demand placed on our system, similar to how BPA bills Midstate. After carefully reviewing all options, Midstate's Board of Directors made the difficult decision to implement this change.

By introducing a demand charge instead of an increase to the kWh rate, the cost burden is shifted to high-demand users, rather than the entire membership. This new structure is more equitable and gives members the opportunity to manage their energy costs.

### How the Demand Charge Works

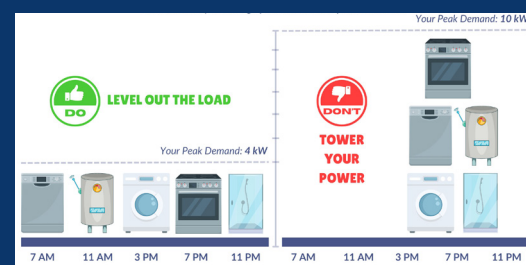
- The demand charge will be calculated based on the highest thirty-minute period of energy use in the billing cycle.

To show how the demand charge impacts an electric bill, refer to the infographic below. Household 1 (left) spread out their energy use, leading to a peak demand of 4 kW.

In contrast, Household 2 (right) used multiple appliances simultaneously, resulting in a peak demand of 10 kW.

### Example demand charge for each household:

- Household 1: 4 kW x \$1.25 = \$5.00 Demand Charge
- Household 2: 10 kW x \$1.25 = \$12.50 Demand Charge



To reduce your demand, consider adjusting your appliance usage to level your load and spread out the use of major appliances throughout the day, rather than running them at the same time.

**For more information, please visit our website: [mse.coop/rate-structure](http://mse.coop/rate-structure)**

