



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



CONTEST DETAILS

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.

Member Calendar Photo Contest is Open

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. **Submissions close on August 5, 2024.**

PLEASE DON'T POST SIGNS ON POWER POLES

Foreign objects can tear utility workers' protective clothing



Signs, balloons, and other materials on utilities poles are more than just an unpleasant neighborhood eyesore; they can be dangerous—even life threatening—to the professionals who maintain our vital lines of electricity, communication and other services. Midstate Electric and Safe Electricity urges everyone to help keep utility poles free of such materials.

The clamped safety boots used by line workers to climb poles are vulnerable to becoming snagged on staples and nails embedded in posts. Foreign objects can also tear utility workers' protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock. They can also injure workers despite the safety gear

they wear to avoid contact with rough surfaces.

Posting items to power poles can also be a public safety hazard. The materials posted on the poles not only distract people as they drive, but they also degrade the quality, effectiveness, and stability of the wood. Posting items to utility poles is usually a violation of local ordinances as well.

It is also just as important to avoid tampering with or disrupting the guy wires that surround utility poles. Please inform children not to play or swing on them and maintain your distance when performing yard work. If you see the poles or guy wires are disrupted in some way, please give us a call.

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



Help Protect Reliable and Affordable Power

Electric co-ops are built and run differently than large investor-owned utilities. As a member-owner of a co-op, you understand the distinct local challenges we face, and your perspective is important and deserves to be heard.

If we stand united behind common priority issues like opposing the removal of the Snake River Dam, we can help influence elected officials who are making policy decisions that impact the co-op and our way of life.

Losing the Lower Snake River dams would require billions of dollars in new infrastructure and could lead to as much as a 25% rate increase for consumers in our region.



Please join our network of electric co-op members working together to make our voice heard. The **Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP)** network gives you a platform to join the conversation about energy policies.

We need you to join us in saying no to breaching the dams and protecting our hydropower. Let's keep Oregon green together!

Sign up today for regular updates and to find out how you can get involved at <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/lrsdregister>.

Unlock Comfort *and* Savings

If you're working on your summer to-dos, consider adding home weatherization to your list.

We typically think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or a drafty exterior door. But weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to energystar.gov, a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home--that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY and can be completed in a day.

The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors.

If you have older windows, odds are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight.

If you suspect you have leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength and properties, but you'll likely need a half-cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a popular choice and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.

Another effective but simple weatherization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weatherstripping options are V-channel, felt and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install but will need to be replaced every couple years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping should be installed around the top and sides of the door.

If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping. Door sweeps are available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options.

Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double hung or sliding window, or around the window sash.

If you're unsure how to install weatherstripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites like Lowes.com or energy.gov for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs.



3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort *and* savings.

