



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



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 \$1,012,559 since June 2009. Download the app by searching *Co-op Connections* or visit www.connections.coop and start saving today.

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

SmartHub - 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



Retirement of Capital Credits

Your Midstate Electric Cooperative board of directors has reviewed the financial condition of the cooperative and is pleased to announce the retirement of \$1,560,000 in capital credits. In mid-December, members who purchased power during 2005 and a portion of 2006 will receive capital credit refunds in proportion to how much they contributed to that year's margins.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits. Margins are retained by the cooperative and used for several years as opposed to borrowing money, thus lowering the cost of providing electricity.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As this unforgettable year comes to a close, MEC wants to thank you for your support and understanding. We continue a measured and gradual approach as we look to return

to normal work and business practices. We are following all recommended health protocols to keep our employees and members safe and healthy. We will continue doing our part to provide services and keep your lights on.

We are open 24/7 at [800] 752-5935. We wish you a merry and bright holiday season.

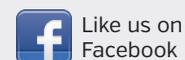
Facilities Charge Increase

You invest in the co-op every time you pay your bill. A portion of this monthly investment helps cover the fixed costs of delivering electric service to your home or business regardless of how much electricity is used. This includes the costs of electrical system maintenance, tree trimming, outage restoration, taxes, insurance, materials, fuels, and administration of the utility. On your bill, this is identified as the facilities charge.

MEC had a cost of service study conducted. The study indicated the actual fixed cost in our area is \$35 per month. To help ensure long-term financial stability for the co-op, the board of directors and management are working towards bringing the monthly charge up to the actual cost. Therefore, in January the Single Phase Residential and Single Phase General Service facilities charge will increase by \$3 to \$32 while the energy charge will remain the same.

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable, and affordable power when you need it. We strive to use that investment wisely.

Friends Stay Connected



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



CONGRATULATIONS!

In recognition of National Cooperative Month in October, MEC held drawings for nine members to receive a \$100 credit on their electric bills. Five winners

were drawn from the Ruralite and Midstate Connection Newsletter and four from members who have Liked Us on Facebook. This year's Co-op Month winners were:

Alice Ivie Randy Miller Jared Motta Brad Meyer Krystal Houston
Melisa Elzey Carol Fink Diane Sauer Rebecca Coder

Safety Reminder

Winter weather increases the chance of downed power lines. If you see a downed power line, keep yourself and others away. Do not ever try to help by moving downed wires or cutting trees off power lines. If a power line is blocking the entrance to your driveway, do not attempt to drive over it. Immediately report downed power lines by calling 911 and then MEC at 800-752-5935.

A Note from the GM

The end of another year is fast approaching.

The last 6 months have gone by in the blink of an eye as your new Manager, Dave Schneider, your past manager told me that this cooperative was a gem and I could not agree more. Midstate models what a cooperative should be.

Your Board of Directors work hard at developing the Strategic Planning and setting policies to help guide us into the future, always putting the membership first in each decision.

I am honored to lead an incredible and talented team who works together to overcome obstacles and develop solutions to keep the lights on safely.

This year has seen increased power sales as well as an increase in membership as new members move into our service territories and away from major cities.

Midstate and our fellow co-ops have met the continued COVID challenges head on and worked together to keep the lights on. We have also put another fire season behind us, and we are stronger and wiser from the lessons we have learned.

We will continue to be proactive in planning for all possible events as we head into the future to make sure we are ready for any situation that may arise.

Yes, 2021 is almost behind us and we can all look forward to a new year.

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by good food, great company, and lots of festivities. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. I look forward to community events and more time spent with family and friends.

During the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Midstate Electric, we are grateful for you, the members of the co-op.

From our family to yours, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

– Jim Anderson

Holiday Safety



As you and your family celebrate the Holiday Season, MEC encourages you to think safety when it comes time to decorate. Here are a few tips to add safety to that holiday sparkle:

- Before you start decorating, check cords for wear. When decorating outdoors, be sure decorations and extension cords are designed for outdoor use. All cords should be insulated and sockets attached firmly.
- When decorating outdoors, keep ladders away from overhead power lines.
- Uncoil extension cords fully before use. Also, make sure the extension cord matches your amperage needs.
- Avoid placing cords near water pipes and appliances that put off a lot of heat. And remember, don't overload electrical outlets—too many plugs in one outlet can start a fire.
- Unplug cords when you string lights.
- Unplug lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave home. When unplugging a cord, pull on the plug head, not the cord.
- Place trees away from fireplaces, candles, space heaters, electrical appliances and other heat sources.
- If you have a live tree, make sure it is fresh and gets lots of water.
- If you have an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant.
- Keep paper decorations away from tree lights.

We are available 24 hours a day by calling [800] 752-5935.