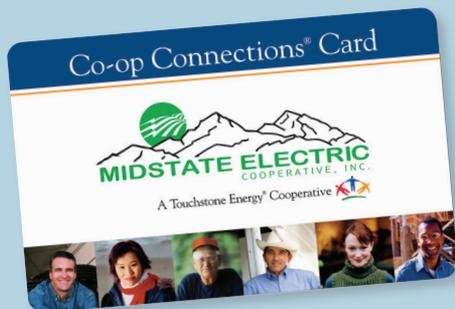




MIDSTATE CONNECTION

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 \$1,012,160 since June 2009.

For more information call 541-536-2126 option 5.

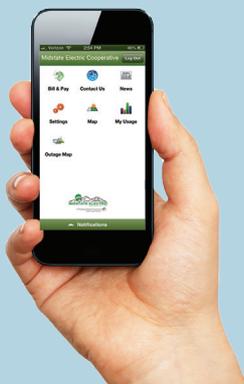
The Center of Member Engagement



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



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

James Anderson

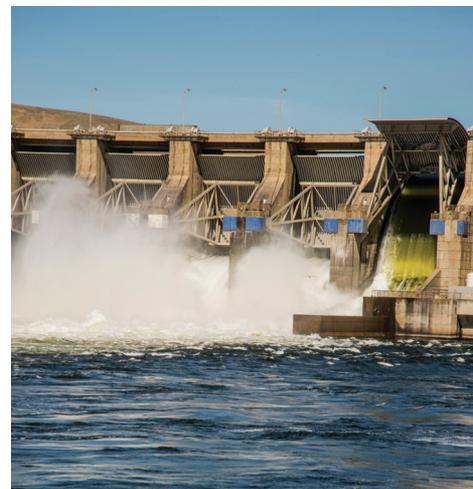
The four federal dams on the lower Snake River have long been discussed for breaching or removal to help salmon and steelhead runs. While we all wish to be good wildlife and environmental stewards, the role these dams play in affordable and reliable carbon-free renewable energy cannot be overemphasized.

During our region's recent June heatwave these dams played a critical role in managing the extreme heat. According to the Bonneville Power Administration, the electrical generation of the four lower Snake River dams ranged between 439 and 1,009 megawatts during this time. To put that in perspective, the average annual consumption of the City of Seattle is 1,000 megawatts. As the region adds more intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, the balance reserves these dams afford us is becoming even more vital.

In addition to delivering affordable and reliable carbon-free renewable energy, these dams feature state of the art fish passages and contribute to our region's economy by supporting irrigation, navigation, and recreation.

A recent assessment by the Bonneville Power Administration concluded the four lower Snake River dams also played a crucial role during the deep freeze of early 2021. As the Northwest turned up their thermostats to keep warm during the February storm, the dams revved up on numerous occasions to meet the demand. While Texas plunged into a deep freeze where, unfortunately, many Texans lost their lives, the Snake River dams helped keep the Northwest electric grid humming when other power sources failed.

However, even with these recent substantiating weather events the move to breach the four lower Snake



River dams continue. Federal studies show removing these dams would be detrimental to consumer rates and the Northwest's efforts to decarbonize. The studies indicated breaching these dams would add 3.3 million metric tons of carbon a year to our atmosphere, the equivalent of adding over 717,000 internal combustion engines to the road. This is counterintuitive to the recently passed Oregon HB 2021 clean energy bill which strives to move Oregon to 100% clean energy by 2040.

Wind and solar are good renewable resources but our existing affordable and reliable carbon-free Northwest hydropower should not be underscored. Wind and solar cannot serve as the foundation of the state's reliable energy supply. Hydropower is flexible and can be ramped up and down unlike when there is a lack of sun and wind to power solar panels and wind turbines.

In the future, resource adequacy - the ability to meet consumer energy needs - is sure to be a frequent topic as we prepare to meet energy demand in all scenarios with energy sources that are available at the ready.

MEC will continue to work to ensure our members continue to enjoy clean, affordable, and reliable energy.

James "Jim" Anderson
General Manager

Friends Stay Connected



THE BENEFITS OF HYDROPOWER

As a member of MEC, you are experiencing the benefits of hydropower. MEC purchases 100% of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets wholesale hydroelectric power produced by the Columbia Snake River System.

The Columbia Snake River System supplies a constant source of energy. Since the rivers flow continually, hydroelectric dams can generate electricity constantly. Hydropower offers several economic and environmental benefits:

- **Hydropower is renewable.** Each year, rain and snow replenish the supply. It is the nation's most abundant source of renewable energy.
- **Hydropower is efficient.** Hydropower plants at dams convert about 90 percent of the energy in falling water into electrical energy. By comparison, fossil-fueled plants lose more than half of the energy content of their fuel as waste heat and gases.
- **Hydropower is clean.** Hydropower produces no emissions. There are no gases or waste products that contribute to air pollution. Northwest hydropower offsets greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 10 million cars.

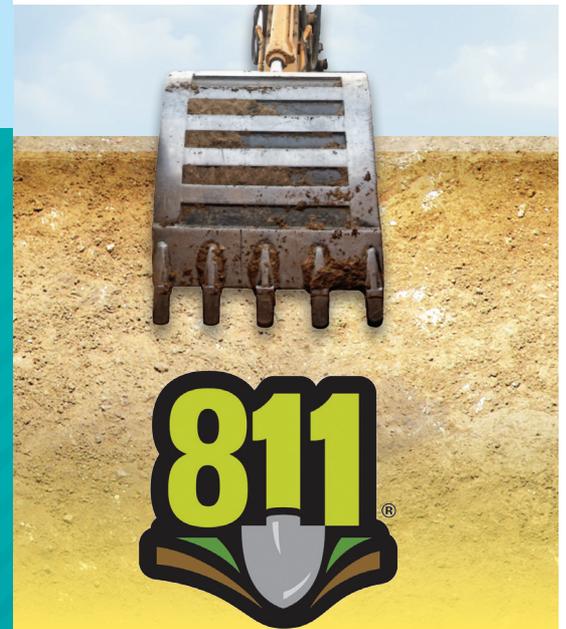
- **Hydropower is secure.** Water from our rivers is largely a domestic resource that is not subject to disruptions from foreign suppliers, cost fluctuations in power markets, international political crises, or transportation outages.
- **Hydropower is flexible.** By adjusting the amount of water flowing through the dams, hydropower can be increased or decreased to meet changes in demand for power.
- **Hydropower allows for the growth of other renewable resources.** Hydropower is a great back-up resource for wind and solar power. It can be ramped up to meet demand when the wind is not blowing and dialed down at times of high winds.
- **Hydropower is affordable.** The fuel source, water, is free, which keeps operating costs low and protects against cost fluctuations. Over the years, the dams have consistently provided some of the nation's most affordable electricity.



Operation Round Up®

MEC members can support worthwhile projects throughout the co-op's service area by rounding up their 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. Specific dollar amounts added to your monthly electric bill and one-time donations by cash, check or debit card are welcome.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

When you Dig - DIG SAFELY

Call the Oregon One-Call Center 811

- Wait for the site to be marked.
- Respect the marks.
- Dig with care.

State law requires 2 business days' notice if you dig deeper than 12 inches.

811 does not work in all areas, so you may need to call 800-332-2344.

Payment Options

MEC offers several different payment options for our members convenience:



Pay Online Using SmartHub - Pay with a credit card or debit card. Account information can be accessed.



Electronic Funds Transfer - Automatically pay your bill from your checking or savings account.



Electronic Billing - Receive bill notifications by email and choose several options for payment.



Payments by Phone - Call 541-536-2126 option 2 to pay by phone with a credit or debit card. The system prompts for an account number and provides instructions for paying.



Automatic Credit Card Payment - Allows monthly electric bill payments to be automatically charged to a credit or debit card.



Drive-up Payment Depository - Located in the parking area at the headquarters facility, 16755 Finley Butte Rd, La Pine, OR.



24 Hour Payment Station - Installed at the entrance of the headquarters facility. The system prompts for an account number to make payments or view bills and payment history. Payments can be made by cash, credit or debit card.



Drop Boxes - Located inside Washington Federal Bank in La Pine and Lakeview as well as at Sagewood Grocery in Christmas Valley. Payments can be made with cash, check or money order at these locations.



In Person - At MEC headquarters facility during office hours.



By Mail - Using the self-addressed envelope enclosed with the bill.



VISA, Master Card, American Express and Discover Cards are accepted at MEC.

A Prompt Payment Discount is available to all members who pay their electric bill in full within 10 days of the billing date. By doing so, a 1.5% credit is applied on the next month's bill.