

# Missoula Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Find us on



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General Manager  
Mark Hayden

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CO-OP NETWORK

*The power behind your power*

Every day, Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC) is hard at work to make sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. Our guiding principle of “cooperation among cooperatives” acknowledges that we are most effective when cooperatives work together toward a common goal. That’s why behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either elec-

tronically or through regular mail. Recently we introduced the Smarthub mobile app and web tool allowing 24/7 access to your account information. We use National Information Systems Cooperative to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workmen’s compensation. So once again,

along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a whole lot of “stuff” to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items installed above and below ground. This is why we partnered with other electric co-ops when we joined the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative, or RESCO. Like all of our cooperative partners, we have a say in how RESCO operates through its democratic form of governance. In fact, I am pleased to represent Montana’s interest as a RESCO Board member working to ensure quick access to all the materials we need at the best possible price.

MEC is a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide alliance of

## MANAGER’S ARTICLE By Mark Hayden



750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so that we can learn from others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

MEC is also part of the Security and Response Services (SRS), which allows us to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. SRS is operated by Basin Electric Cooperative in Bismarck, North Dakota, and provides after hours dispatch and crew monitoring for the safety of our employees and members alike.

Here at home, our partnership with

**MEC would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy Independence Day. Our office will be closed Monday July 4 in honor of the holiday.**

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Blackfoot through the EEE program funds educational equipment for students and teachers across Western Montana. Energy Partners, our jointly owned subsidiary with Mountain West Cooperative, and has supplied propane and related services to the region for more than 15 years.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.

Source: NRECA

## OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, Missoula Electric Cooperative reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous--or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it--no matter how furry and cute! Call Missoula Electric Cooperative or 911 for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

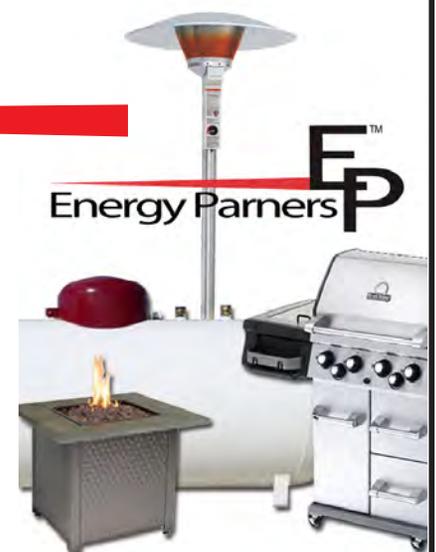
- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at Missoula Electric Cooperative, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun! Visit [www.missoulaelectric.com](http://www.missoulaelectric.com) for more electrical safety tips.



## WHEN YOU SUPPORT ENERGY PARTNERS, YOU SUPPORT MEC

For all your summer propane needs, look no further than Energy Partners. This summer, your patio living is brought to you by EP.



# COMMERCIAL LIGHTING REBATES

## Calling all businesses

Missoula Electric Cooperative's commercial lighting rebate program is a great way to jumpstart energy savings at your business. By calling and scheduling a commercial lighting audit, your business can see just how much energy and money can be saved by retrofitting your current lighting to new, more efficient LED replacements. In addition, our commercial lighting auditor can give you an idea of what kind of rebate you could expect to receive if you pursued a retrofit.

Lighting technologies and rebates change continually and scheduling a free lighting audit is a great way to find out what is available on both fronts. The current trend in commercial lighting is all about LEDs, or light emitting diodes. LEDs are making it into all areas of commercial lighting from warehouses to offices to parking lot lighting. At the same time, LED fixture wattages and prices continue to trend downward as the technology becomes more energy-efficient and cost-effective.

### Example:

#### Before

##### 400 Watt Metal Halide Highbay

Total Wattage	460 Watts
Annual Operation	2,600 Hours per year
Operating Costs	\$49.14 per year to operate

#### After

##### 160 Watt LED Highbay

Total Wattage	160 Watts
Annual Operation	2,600 Hours per year
Operating Costs	\$16.76 per year to operate
Fixture Cost	\$360
Installation	\$100
Total Cost	\$460
Rebate	\$240
Electric Savings	\$70
Maintenance Savings	\$14



Estimated Simple Payback 2.6 years

Return on Investment 38%

The goal of our commercial lighting program is to incentivize the replacement of old inefficient lighting, and most times that means switching to LEDs. However, anyone who has shopped for LEDs, especially online, can quickly be overwhelmed by the vast number of models to choose from. The abundance of products can make it hard to know what kind of quality you can expect for your investment. For this reason, we require all LED fixtures to be DLC qualified. The Design Lights Consortium (DLC) is an independent organization who tests and certifies LED fixtures and retrofit kits. The DLC listing sets these products apart from others on the market. When looking for LED fixtures, be sure to look for the DLC logo.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

### APPLIANCES (NEW)

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers	\$20.00 - \$60.00
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryers	\$25.00
ENERGY STAR Freezers	\$15.00
ENERGY STAR Refrigerators	\$5.00 - \$30.00
Pipe Insulation	\$5.00 - \$25.00

### WATER HEATING

Heat Pump Water Heaters <sup>1</sup>	\$300.00
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### HVAC MEASURES<sup>2</sup>

Ductless Heat Pumps <sup>2</sup>	\$800.00 - \$1,200.00
Air-Source Heat Pump Upgrade <sup>2</sup>	\$500.00 - \$1,000.00
Air-Source Heat Pump Conversions <sup>2</sup>	\$1,400.00 - \$1,900.00
Geothermal Heat Pump Systems (new) <sup>2</sup>	\$3,000.00
Duct Sealing <sup>2</sup>	\$200.00 - \$250.00

### NEW CONSTRUCTION

New ENERGY STAR Manufactured Homes	\$1,450.00
Montana House (v 2.0) <sup>3</sup>	\$200.00 - \$1,500.00

### WEATHERIZATION

Insulation <sup>4</sup>	VARIES
Prime Window Replacement <sup>4</sup>	\$3.00 - \$8.00/Sq. Ft.

Restrictions apply, make sure to contact an Energy Sense representative to find out how to obtain your rebate.

- 1 - Must replace an existing electric water heater.
- 2 - Requires use of certified installer, call for details.
- 3 - Requires pre-approval, call for details.
- 4 - Requires electricity as primary heat source.

Call 541-4433 with questions.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

For central air conditioning systems, keep the fan switch on your thermostat in the “auto” position when cooling. This gives you better cooling and humidity control. Having the fan switch “on” continuously could cost \$25 extra a month on your electric bill.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

Energy Sense   
Together we can... Together we will



## PAYMENT SCHEDULING

Members using SmartHub can now schedule payments in advance. If you have ever wanted to set up a payment to come out of your bank account at some future date, but didn't want to set up reoccurring automatic payments, now you can. Payments can be scheduled to come out on the due date, or another date of your choice. Scheduling a payment is easy with SmartHub. Once logged in, click on the maroon “Make Payment” button, enter the amount you want to pay and click Pay Now button. On the next screen you can choose to make the payment today or schedule it for a future date and search for “SmartHub”.



**SERVICE AWARDS** Missoula Electric Co-op would like to recognize the following employees for their years of dedicated service.

Cathy Walker 10 years | Mitch Dupree 20 years

It is because of the commitment of our employees, that MEC has been going strong for 80 years. Thank you!

