



Missoula
Electric
Community
Solar

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YOUR PANEL
TODAY



MEC Solar - Phase II Now Complete

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626-5252

**MISSOULA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808

406-541-4433
1-800-352-5200

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pay Online:
missoulaelectric.com

Pay By Phone:
1-888-477-7340

Questions:
info@meccoop.com

General Manager
Mark Hayden

FROM THE FRONT LINES TO POWER LINES

Electric co-ops care about veterans.

Electric co-ops have long had a special affinity for veterans. Perhaps because they are both so closely aligned in outlook, focusing on service, mission and country. Maybe it's because a disproportionate number of veterans come from rural communities and return to their hometowns following ac-

tive duty. Or, maybe it's due to the shared work ethic of teamwork, cooperation and a "get it done" attitude. Most likely, it is all of the above.

Network of caring

At Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC) we are among the more than 900 electric co-ops across the country to support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. We are grateful to have had veterans within our ranks, and we are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community.



MEC Tree Trimmer Travis Kolbeck attaches a solar light for the American Legion memorial at Frenchtown State Park earlier this summer.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. As part of our national network of electric cooperatives, spanning 47 states and covering 75 per-

cent of the nation's landmass, there are countless programs that our family of co-ops has initiated. At the national level, we support the "Serve our Co-ops; Serve Our Country" program, a nationwide initiative aimed at employing and honoring veterans, military service members and their spouses. This program came with a great vision of forming a national coalition with the shared goal of hiring veterans into co-op jobs across rural and suburban America and setting them up for success in their local communities.

As part of a co-op veteran outreach effort, America's electric cooperatives are working closely with federal partners, including the Department of Energy, Department of Labor, Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, la-

MANAGER'S ARTICLE
By Mark Hayden



bor unions and other trade associations on an industry-wide veteran hiring initiative, The Utility Workforce Initiative. Together, these groups are establishing a national employee resource group, Veterans in Energy, which will launch later this year to provide transition, retention and professional development support to military veterans working in the energy industry.

Many programs, one purpose

At the local level, electric co-ops across America have created their own programs tailored to the unique needs of their community. For example, in the Bluegrass State of

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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Being part of a cooperative means being part of something special. Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC) is celebrating National Cooperative Month in October, along with 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide.

Cooperatives Build is the theme of this year's National Cooperative Month. This year's theme is excellent, because there are so many ways that cooperatives help to build a stronger rural America.

• Cooperatives Build Trust

Cooperatives are unique in that they adhere to seven key cooperative principles, which combine to help build trust between the co-op, its members and the community. For example, the first principle is Voluntary and Open Membership, which means that we are a voluntary organization open to all people to use our services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership. The second principle, Democratic Member Control, gives members a voice in the cooperative's policies and decisions. Through the fifth principle, Education, Training and Information, we enable members to contribute to the development of our cooperative. Our principles separate us from other business by ensuring that we put our members first.

• Cooperatives Build Community

The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and through support for schools. Many of our employees are also MEC members with a vested interest in the communities we serve. The Cooperative's Community Service Committee, an employee led committee regularly volunteers in our communities with the motto "where there is a need, take the lead"

• Cooperatives Build Jobs

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

• Cooperatives Build a Better World

Through all of the above ways, cooperatives work to both serve and improve our communities. With the seven cooperative principles binding these unique and diverse businesses, we can see that co-ops truly do build a better world.

For more information, visit www.coopmonth.coop.



MEC HONORS COUNTY'S SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY SOLAR

On September 8, MEC General Manager presented a commemorative plaque to the Missoula County Commission honoring their support of MEC's community solar program, known as MEC Solar. Missoula County was an early adopter in community solar, initially investing in the last 10 panels in the first phase array located in Lolo. Because panel demand significantly outpaced supply, MEC's board authorized a second phase installation. The second phase installation was ultimately sited atop the Frenchtown Elementary building as part of the Cooperative's partnership with the school district. This second phase installation marks the first time an electric utility and a school have partnered on a community solar installation in Montana.

When additional panels from a second array were proposed, Missoula County committed to the output of 49 panels from the new array. This coupled with the investment in phase 1 commitment, offsets approximately 5% of the County's annual usage from Missoula Electric Cooperative. Missoula Electric commends the County for their support of clean, local energy by investing in both phases of the MEC Solar program.

If you are interested in participating in the MEC Solar program, call the office at 406-541-4433 to check panel availability.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Heating season is just around the corner, and energy assistance is available. Energy assistance programs are administered by the Human Resource Council. The following programs are available:

LIEAP (Low-Income Energy Assistance Program)

LIEAP is a supplemental heating assistance benefit for a household's primary source of heat for low-income households. Benefit is determined by the type of fuel, type of dwelling, number of persons living in the home and the amount of gross income earned by all persons living in the home regardless of relationship.

Household income limits are based on federal poverty guidelines. Benefit checks are issued to your fuel vendor by the State of Montana unless you heat with wood, your utilities are part of your rent or you are being reimbursed for fuel purchases. In those conditions, a check will come to you from HRC.

Energy Share of Montana

Energy Share of Montana is a statewide private non-profit corporation. Application for assistance and intake in Mineral, Missoula and Ravalli Counties is through the Human Resource Council. Energy Share accesses various sources of funds and most of them do not have an income cap.

Energy Share helps households facing an immediate energy emergency when they have exhausted all other resources. Energy Share can help households who have used their energy assistance benefit or do not qualify for LIEAP. Energy Share can also help with some furnace emergencies and refrigerator replacement, if the applicant is a homeowner. A local committee meets regularly to decide on a case-by-case basis whether to recommend assistance, the amount of assistance and any co-payment required.

Energy Share is a revolving loan pool. Households have an eligibility of up to \$700 within a 10-year period. If repayment of all or a portion of the prior assistance is made, additional awards may be made totaling the amount of repayment. The program is active in all three counties.

APPLY BY MAIL FROM 10/1 - 4/30

Human Resource Council
1801 S Higgins Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

Call (406) 728-3710 to
request an application

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

Effective 10/1/2016

APPLIANCES (NEW)

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers	\$15.00-\$50.00
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryers	\$50.00-\$175.00
Thermostatic Shut-off Valves	\$14.00-\$23.00
Pipe Insulation	\$5.00-\$25.00

HVAC MEASURES*

Ductless Heat Pumps*	\$800.00-\$1,000.00
Air-Source Heat Pump Upgrade*	\$500.00-\$700.00
Air-Source Heat Pump Conversions*	\$1,400.00-\$1,600.00
Geothermal Heat Pump Systems (new)*	\$3,000.00
Duct Sealing*	\$200.00-\$250.00

NEW CONSTRUCTION*

New ENERGY STAR Manufactured Homes	\$1,200.00
Montana House (v 2.0)*	\$1,500.00

WEATHERIZATION

Insulation*	VARIABLES
ENERGY STAR Exterior Door*	\$40.00
Low-E Storm Windows*	\$2.00/Sq. Ft.
Prime Window Replacement*	\$2.00-\$8.00/Sq. Ft.

*Restrictions apply, make sure to contact an Energy Sense representative to find out how to obtain your rebate. In cases of HVAC measures, new construction and window replacement and weatherization, pre-approval by MEC is generally required. For a list of qualified ductless heat pump installers or PTCS technicians, please contact Dan at 406-541-6333.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Energy Sense™ 
Together we can...Together we will



FROM THE FRONT LINES TO POWER LINES — Continued from page 3

Kentucky, Pennyrile Electric Cooperative printed more than 10,000 “thank you” cards that members signed and were later delivered to troops on active duty in nearby Ft. Campbell.

Many electric co-ops sponsor “Honor Flights,” enabling veterans from the Korean conflict and WWII to visit war memorials in Washington, D.C. at no charge. In the small town of Fort Dodge, Kansas, Victory Electric Cooperative partnered with the local VFW to create the “Vittles for Vets” program aimed at stocking the food pantry at the Fort Dodge Soldiers Home. Many of the veterans living there and in surrounding communities are on limited incomes, and the food pantry helps the veterans meet basic needs.

Other co-ops forge strong partnerships with the military bases in their service territories. In Wyoming and North Dakota, co-op leaders and staff serve on military-civilian

boards and committees that support activities initiated by their respective bases.

While the activities may differ, a commitment to supporting and caring for veterans is apparent at every electric co-op across this great nation. We at MEC are proud to be a part of the cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military.

Source NRECA

