

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

WATTS *Current*

For Our Customers • April 2003

JOIN US FOR PIZZA AND POP

At Our Spring Member Night

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative is hosting a Question and Answer night for all members and families throughout our service area. Listed below are the dates and locations for each event. Hopefully, one location is close to you and you will be able to join us.

We will introduce your Board of Directors and senior staff. Jim Lauzon, CEO, will give a short presentation on the results of the membership survey conducted last fall and will discuss the Cooperative's need to increase electric rates in 2003. Questions will then be taken from the floor on any matter relating to your Cooperative or the service we provide to you.

After the question/answer period, pizza and pop will be served and a short musical program will be presented by the school (not confirmed for all meetings as yet).

We are looking forward to this opportunity to visit with you and hear feedback on how we are doing.

Attend the Location Nearest You!

Thursday, April 3

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Midland High School
Cafeteria
109 W. Green Street
Wyoming

Monday, April 14

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Maquoketa Middle School
Cafeteria
200 E. Locust Street
Maquoketa

Monday, April 7

6:00-7:00 p.m.

West Delaware Middle School
Cafeteria
101 Doctor Street
Manchester

Tuesday, April 15

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Beckman High School
Cafeteria
1325 9th Street SE
Dyersville

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**R
E
Care**

*Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative*
109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

OBJECTIVE: "RECare" is a voluntary energy assistance program established to help low income families weatherize and heat their homes. Funds collected are distributed by a local community action agency. The money does stay in the area; it is a program of members helping members!

One Time Pledge \$ _____

Payable to: Maquoketa Valley
Electric Cooperative

Monthly Pledge:

\$1.00 _____ \$2.00 _____

\$3.00 _____ \$5.00 _____

Other \$ _____

I hereby authorize the Cooperative to add this amount to my monthly electric bill. I understand I can cancel my monthly pledge at any time by notifying the Cooperative in writing.

Account Number _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Return this form with your energy payment and meter reading.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, copies of the Bylaws of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative are available at the reception counter of the headquarters office at Anamosa, Iowa. If you want a copy of the Cooperative's Bylaws, please ask at the Cooperative office or contact us and one will be mailed.

ATTENTION DUAL FUEL CUSTOMERS

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative implemented a new rebate program on January 1st. This new program grandfathers all "Dual Fuel" customers into the new "Heat Plus" program. You will continue to see the same benefits as before and enjoy your special electric heat rate from October 1 through May 31 of each year.

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative staff will continue periodic inspections of all Heat Plus (Dual Fuel) metering equipment to ensure wiring remains in good condition and also to check for broken meter seals or other problem areas. Please be sure to notify MVEC if you plan to do any wiring that may affect the electric heat meter.

If you know someone who is building a new home this year, be sure to tell them about the benefits of clean, safe, efficient electric heat and encourage them to call Gary at 800-927-6068 to learn more about the Heat Plus program.

PLANNING TO BUILD A NEW HOME?

Make it a state-of-the-art all electric home and you could be eligible for our model home rebate program. Call 800-927-6068 for more information.



Energy Working For You!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



JUST IN TIME FOR SPRING PLANTING

New Outdoor (Dusk to Dawn) Lighting Program Available

Over recent years MVEC staff has had numerous requests for assistance installing or maintaining dusk to dawn (security) lights. These requests were reinforced when the results of our membership survey indicated 54% of our members think we should offer an outdoor security lighting program.

We are answering the needs of our members with the addition of a new outdoor security lighting program. MVEC staff will install and maintain high-pressure sodium security or flood lights on your farms or acreages for a small monthly fee.

Two types of rates are being offered. The “metered” rate means the kWh’s used by your new light will register on your meter and be billed as part of the total kWh’s used at your location. The “unmetered” rate means the light will be installed before the meter and no kWh’s will register on your meter for the light usage. Lights will generally be installed as “metered” if practicable.

The following rates will apply:

100 Watt High-Pressure Sodium Security Light	\$9.00/Month Unmetered \$6.40/Month Metered
250 Watt High-Pressure Sodium Security Light	\$12.00/Month Unmetered \$ 6.40/Month Metered
100 Watt High-Pressure Flood Light	\$11.50/Month Unmetered \$ 8.90/Month Metered
250 Watt High-Pressure Flood Light	\$14.00/Month Unmetered \$ 8.90/Month Metered

Members are responsible for installing the pole for the light, if one is not available. Additional costs may be charged if the line extension is over 140 feet or if underground is required.

If you are one of those members that has been patiently waiting for this convenient service, call 1-800-927-6068 and ask for Anna Mary. She will be happy to answer any questions you have and schedule an installation date.





CUT YOUR UTILITY BILLS WITH GEOTHERMAL

What is Geothermal?

The principle behind geothermal is just like that of your refrigerator. Your refrigerator has a heat pump that pulls the warm air out of the refrigerator and its contents. A geothermal unit uses the earth or groundwater as a source of heat in the winter. In the summer, heat is transferred from the house to the soil. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, geothermal is the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean and cost-effective heating and cooling system available.

How Does it Work?

The Earth absorbs 47% of the sun's energy. That's more than 500 times the total amount of energy used by mankind in a year. That makes earth a giant energy storage device.

In a geothermal system, a mixture of water and alcohol is circulated through a pipe or hose buried underground.

Underground the temperature stays around 55 degrees year-round unlike above ground where temperatures can vary greatly. The circulating fluid absorbs heat from the earth in the winter and transfers it to the house. Inside the home, a heat pump concentrates the thermal energy and transfers it to the air

circulating through ductwork to fill the home with warmth. In the summer, the hot air in your home is transferred through the heat pump to the ground loop piping and back to the earth. The only external energy required in a geothermal unit is a small amount of electricity needed to operate a ground loop pump and fan.

What are the Major Benefits?

• Lower Utility Bills

A geothermal system can reduce heating and cooling bills by 25-50%. In addition, the heat removed from a home's interior during the summer months provides virtually free hot water. The result is a hot water energy savings of about 30%. Cost for maintaining the system is cheaper than a conventional system and many units have lifetime warranties. Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative offers a \$400 rebate per ton for a new closed loop geothermal system and a \$250 rebate per ton for an open loop system. In addition a \$250 rebate will apply to the new premium electric water heater. These installations will also qualify you for our "Heat Plus" discounted rate on kWh's used by the geothermal unit during the months of October through May.

• Safety

There is no flame or flue with a

geothermal system and it eliminates a potential source of poisonous carbon monoxide.

• Environmentally Friendly

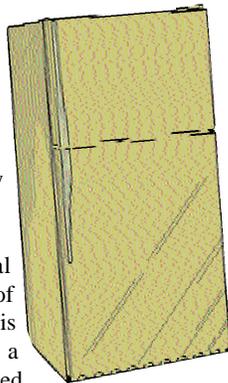
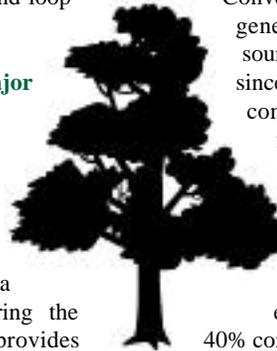
Geothermal is a form of "green power", electricity that is generated from a renewable resource.

Conventional electricity generation is a large source of air pollution since it is based on the combustion of fossil fuels. Since a

geothermal system burns no fossil fuel, it can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 40% compared to air source heat pumps and by over 70% compared to electric resistance heating with standard air-conditioning equipment.

Approximately 650,000 geothermal units are installed in the U.S. annually. That amounts to a savings of 5.2 billion kWh's, 26 trillion BTU's of fossil fuels and the elimination of almost 4 million tons of CO₂. In other words, that's the same as taking 840,000 cars off the road, planting 250 million trees, or reducing the U.S. reliance on imported fuels by 14 million barrels of crude oil per year.

Geothermal energy production is ranked third among renewables, just behind hydroelectricity and biomass and ahead of solar and





wind. However, the current production figures are small in comparison to its potential.

• Constant Temperature

Geothermal offers even heating throughout the house with no drafty areas. Since a geothermal unit has a two-speed compressor, humidity is reduced during the summer months.

• Quiet

The geothermal unit is electric with few moving parts.

• Aesthetically Pleasing

Indoor equipment can be stored in smaller areas or underground and boiler rooms can be eliminated. Any necessary indoor equipment can be subdivided to fit remodeling project needs. There is no outdoor equipment, allowing architects and landscape designers plenty of flexibility. This also means the geothermal system will not be exposed to temperature extremes, dirt, pollution or vandalism.

Besides Homes, Where Else is Geothermal Used?

Many commercial buildings such as factories, stores, offices and schools use geothermal. Geothermal units not only provide heating, cooling and water heating; but can also be used to melt exterior snow, heat swimming pools, and provide refrigeration for commercial buildings.

Schools, in particular, are a great place for geothermal. Right now, across the U.S. about \$25,000,000 is being saved in energy costs from schools alone. This savings can be better used for new equipment and more teachers.

Are There Any Drawbacks?

The initial cost is higher than a conventional furnace and/or central air-conditioner. The cost is due to the ground loop piping; however, installation costs continue to decline as developments are made to improve the speed and efficiency of installation. Builders have developed geothermal subdivisions that have reduced the cost as well. Still, a geothermal system has a lower life-cycle cost than any other conventional system and the energy efficiency adds to the value of the home. The savings in energy costs every month is more than enough to offset the higher installation cost.

Where Do I Begin?

To find out how you can benefit from a geothermal system, contact Gary Weber, Energy Advisor for Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative or your local heating and cooling contractor. Greater public awareness is the key to wider geothermal use.

WATTS THE ANSWER?

How much money is the Cooperative allocating back to our members?

Where does geothermal heating/cooling rank in the renewable energy market?

How many million pounds of asparagus does the California market produce?

Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to pmanuel@mvec.com

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bill.

Name:

Address:

February Winners:
Gary Capron, Anamosa
Robert Orris, Center Junction





WATTS HEALTHY

Susan Uthoff, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Specialist

Are You Eating Your Colors Every Day?

As spring approaches it will be easy to eat colorful vegetables. Green vegetables are starting to appear in gardens and at Farmer's Markets. Are you hungry for asparagus?

In spring a food lover's fancy turns to thoughts of asparagus. In ancient times harvesting the wild asparagus, famous for its medicinal qualities, was a springtime ritual. These days the ritual is more likely to take place in the produce aisles of the supermarket when California's 116 million pound asparagus crop comes to market.

Today we know that just 5 stalks of asparagus is an excellent source of folic acid, a B vitamin that is associated with a decreased risk of

neural tube birth defects. Asparagus is also a good source of vitamin C and carotenoids. Our bodies use some carotenoids to make vitamin A, while others are strong disease-fighting antioxidants.

When buying asparagus look for spears that are crisp, round and straight with tight pointed tips that have not begun to flower. Choose asparagus spears that are the same thickness so that cooking time will be similar. One pound makes 3 servings. You can store asparagus in the refrigerator in a plastic bag and use within 3-5 days.

Quick cooking best preserves the distinctive taste and nutritional bang of asparagus. Wash the spears well and trim off about an inch at the end of the spear if it is tough.

Asparagus is best when cooked until just tender.

If you want to steam the spears, lay flat in a steamer or stand upright in a tall pot in about 1 inch of water. You can also microwave asparagus, stir-fry or roast them in a hot oven (450 F degrees) with a little olive oil. But it only takes a few minutes until they are crisp-tender, so check them after about 4 minutes.

Warm asparagus is delicious with a little olive oil or butter and a squeeze of lemon juice. The nutty flavor of toasted sesame seeds is also a good match with the fresh taste of asparagus.

The opportunities to use asparagus are endless and the results always taste great. Here is a quick, easy, nutritious and delicious ways to serve asparagus.

Grilled Asparagus

- 2 pounds fresh asparagus
- 2 tablespoons olive oil or corn oil
- salt and pepper to taste

Steps:

1. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat and lightly oil grate.
2. Trim bottoms of asparagus. Lightly coat the spears with oil.
3. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Grill over high heat for 2 to 3 minutes, or to desired tenderness.



Energy Working For You!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



THE REWARDS OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

\$399,814 Allocated to Members

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative rewards its members by returning profits in the form of patronage dividends. The Board of Directors of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative recently approved allocating 2002 margins of \$399,814 to members and former members. This allocation represents 2% of your 2002 electric revenue.



The energy bill you receive approximately April 8th is scheduled to include a notice informing you of your 2002 patronage dividend allocation. This is only a notice and cannot be treated as cash and deducted from the bill. Payment of this dividend will be made at a future time as determined by the Board of Directors.

Your Cooperative operates to provide you a service, not to make a profit. Revenue collected that is not needed to cover the cost of providing service is set aside and divided among the members in proportion to their patronage (how much electricity they used during the year). This is just one more advantage to being a Cooperative member versus a customer of a for-profit utility.

If you should discontinue membership with the Cooperative, it is important you keep us informed of your current address so when it comes time to issue you a check we can send it to the right place. If you have questions about your deferred patronage dividends, please call Cleo at 800-927-6068 or email crogers@mvec.com.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Matt Appelhans



Matt joined the MVEC team in February, 2001 and is currently a Journeyman Lineman working out of the Anamosa headquarters. Matt lives in Lisbon and he and his fiancée, Paula, are planning a November wedding.

His hobbies include farming with his parents, boating and stories from Kirby.

Kathy Schnieder



As MVEC's billing supervisor, Kathy is responsible for more than getting the bills out and processing payments that come back in. Her department also issues memberships and answers all billing-related phone calls. Kathy has 29 years of experience in the billing department as she began employment in 1974.

Kathy enjoys walking and reading in her free time.



NOTICE



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative office will be closed April 18, 2003 in observance of Good Friday.



Visit our Web Site

at www.mvec.coop or
Email direct to the following departments:

- Billing questions: billing@mvec.com
- Product or service questions: memberservice@mvec.com
- Maintenance issues: maintenance@mvec.com



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative
109 North Huber St.
Anamosa, Iowa 52205-0370

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109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205
319-462-3541 or 800-927-6068

OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.mvec.coop
e-mail: mvec@mvec.com

After Hours Call Center

800-582-8998

After hours you may also call the service person in your area to report outages or trouble on the line.

Anamosa, Dallas Paustian.....	319-462-4848
Cascade, Pete Boffeli	563-852-3180
Dubuque, Rick Olsem.....	563-582-3668
Farley, Jim Lehman.....	563-744-3005
LaMotte, Vernon Konrardy.....	563-773-2309
Manchester, Dan Petersen.....	563-927-6491
Maquoketa, Jerry Streeper.....	563-652-5014

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