



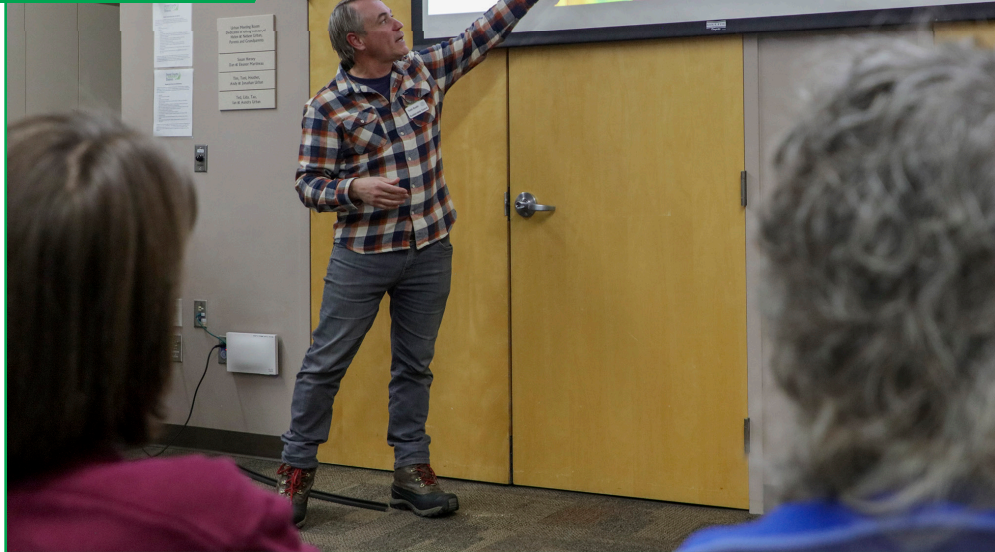
MPE is celebrating a safety achievement as employees went all 2024 without a lost-time injury/incident. In fact, it will be 3 years running in March 2025 with no lost time incidents.

## Sustainable Grand shares DIY weatherization tips

Residents from across Grand County braved an icy evening to learn how to keep the cold out of their homes in a Weatherization Workshop by Sustainable Grand on December 10 at Fraser Valley Library.

MPE provided funds from the Clean Power Program to sponsor this workshop and a second one to take place in Granby in 2025.

Sustainable Grand Executive Director Todd Budin shared that weatherization can be defined as keeping the weather out of your home while keeping the heat in. Three primary reasons to consider weatherization are to save money, to improve comfort, and to lower energy use for the environment. There are three ways to find out if your residence might need weatherization work done – income qualified programs, an energy audit (rebates are available), or by exploring on your own using online resources and a thermal camera.



**Todd Budin explains how a thermal camera can help identify areas of your home that may need extra sealing and/or insulation.**

Depending on the type(s) of energy your residence utilizes – electric, gas, and/or propane – an energy audit can range from no cost to as little as \$100 after MPE and other rebates and tax credits. Visit [www.sustainablegrand.org/home-energy/home-energy-audits](http://www.sustainablegrand.org/home-energy/home-energy-audits) for more info. But, as Todd shared with the group, an audit report is only as good as the paper it's printed on unless the recommendations are seen through.



# 2025 Rebate Program

*New incentives include heat tape and insulation rebates*

[www.MPEI.com/REBATES](http://www.MPEI.com/REBATES)

MPE's new Rebate Program, effective Jan. 1, 2025, keeps many of the most popular rebates while adding incentives for heat tape timers and insulation.

"Many MPE members are surprised by how much energy heat tape uses, especially if it's left running. However, it can be effective on a schedule of just 6 hours a day with the use of a timer," said MPE Energy Resource

Coordinator Megan Moore-Kemp. A member can receive a \$300 rebate for the new installation of heat tape plus a timer, a \$150 rebate for hardwired heat tape timer, or \$15 for a plug-in heat tape timer. Insulation rebates were added to the program in coordination with Sustainable Grand. The new insulation rebates cover 15% of cost, up to \$250, per location (attic, crawlspace, and walls). "Proper insulation, particularly in our climate, is vital to home energy efficiency," Megan added.

The rebates that are continuing include electric outdoor power equipment, energy audits, heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, induction cooktops and ranges and heat pump dryers. For the complete list and additional information, visit [www.MPEI.com/REBATES](http://www.MPEI.com/REBATES).

Rebates that are no longer available through MPE include LED lighting, e-bikes, refrigerator/freezer



*MPE Energy Resource Coordinator Megan Moore-Kemp, left, visits with a member about the rebate program at a Coffee with MPE event in the fall.*

recycling, electric pallet jacks/forklifts, smart thermostats for gas heating, and Level 3 EV chargers.

"One reason for electric cooperatives to offer rebates is to move the market or incentivize members to try something new. With LED lighting, the market has moved – this technology has been widely adopted," said Megan. "Though the e-bike rebate was popular, there are other rebate sources available, such as

through the state and through the Town of Winter Park. Other rebates we are sunsetting as they were utilized very little by our membership."

MPE hopes the 2025 rebate program will help members control costs, promote electrification, and reduce energy burden for low- to moderate-income families while stretching the rebate funds as far as possible, Megan explained. The previous rebate program was facilitated through Tri-State Generation and Transmission and MPE paid for the program through the power supply rates. With the power supply transition, MPE has more control and flexibility with its rebate program, as well as the ability to make it more streamlined and efficient.

MPE members must submit receipt dated prior to Jan. 1, 2025, to MPE by Feb. 1, 2025, to receive a rebate under the 2024 rebate program.

## Director Elections

[www.MPEI.com/Director-Elections-2025](http://www.MPEI.com/Director-Elections-2025)

- Director elections for District 4, District 6, and District 7 will take place at the Annual Meeting on **April 26, 2025**.
- Deadline to submit a Candidate Packet is 5 p.m. on **February 24**. Candidate Packets are available at MPE's offices and can be mailed upon request.
- In the case of a contested election, mail-in ballots will be mailed to members in the corresponding contested election district. Ballots will be mailed no later than **April 1**. Mail-in ballots must be received by **April 23**. Voting can also be done in person at the Annual Meeting.

[www.MPEI.com/RATES](http://www.MPEI.com/RATES)

## New rates take effect Feb. 1

In 2024, MPE hired Power Systems Engineering to perform a Cost of Service and Rate Study (COSS). This is a tool used throughout the utility industry to analyze whether rates accurately reflect the cost of providing electric service to different classes of customers/co-op members (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, etc.). The study provided important information to MPE regarding which classes of members may be paying too much or too little for the electric service they're being provided. The study results recommended MPE adjust each of its rate classes.

Therefore, the MPE Board of Directors approved a rate change, effective Feb. 1, 2025. At the heart of the decision to adjust rates is the motivation that they be objective, fair, and equitable. Because MPE is a not-for profit electric cooperative, the only way to recover the cost of purchasing and distributing power is to pass on those costs in through power bills. At MPE, the mission is to provide cost-based energy, while also providing a high level of reliability and safety.

Since 2016, operational costs resulting from inflation have also gone up by an average of more than \$1.8 million annually, or 13%. The upcoming rate increase is only the second for MPE in 9 years. There were no rate increases for the 7 years between 2016-2023.

The average residential electric bill will increase by approximately \$11.77 monthly. In aggregate, total rate increases amongst rate classes will result in an overall 10.4% increase in revenue. Individual rate classes will be impacted differently. See all of the rates and more information at [www.MPEI.com/RATES](http://www.MPEI.com/RATES).

MPE's new residential electricity charge of \$0.12690 kWh is well below both the Colorado electric utility rate from September 2024 of \$0.15030 kWh and the national average from that same month of \$0.1683 kWh. (U.S. Energy Information Administration)

To help mitigate future anticipated rate increases, MPE has spent the last 2 years exploring alternate power supply options. In January 2023, MPE provided Tri-State the required 2-year notice to terminate its wholesale power contract, effective Feb. 1, 2025. MPE has secured a 20-year power purchase agreement with Guzman Energy to follow its exit from Tri-State.

MPE will continue to share and promote ways for members to improve energy efficiency, cut costs, and take advantage of financial assistance programs.

## Energy Efficiency and Savings

- Use SmartHub to track energy usage: [www.MPEI.com/SMARTHUB](http://www.MPEI.com/SMARTHUB)
- Sign up for pre-pay/EZ Pay: [www.MPEI.com/ez-pay-prepaid-metering](http://www.MPEI.com/ez-pay-prepaid-metering)
- Utilize MPE's Rebate Program to install an energy-efficient heat pump, add insulation, put a timer on your heat tape, etc. (see story on Page 2): [www.MPEI.com/REBATES](http://www.MPEI.com/REBATES)
- BOOST (Benefiting Our Own in our Service Territory) is an income-qualified rate discount pilot program for those who may be disproportionately impacted by any rate change. It will be administered in partnership with Mountain Family Center and will take effect on Feb. 1: [www.MPEI.com/BOOST](http://www.MPEI.com/BOOST)

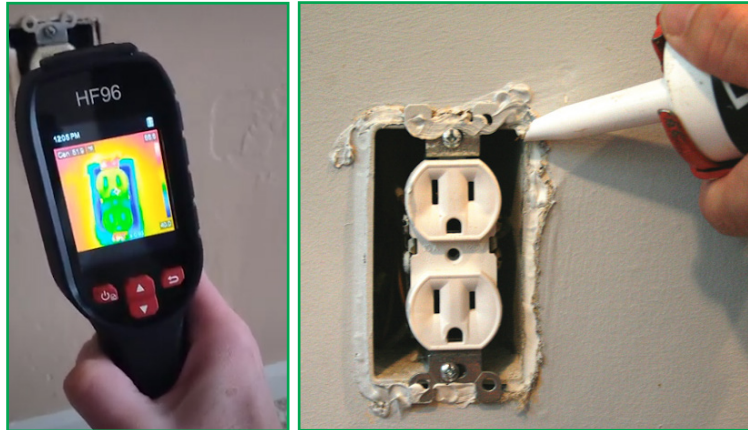
*Weatherization tips continued from Page 1*

As such, he shared a series of DIY solutions along with a few that may require hired help.

A great place to start is by sealing the leaks on outlets and switch boxes on all exterior walls. They often leak cold air and, when added all together, can mean a lot of extra cost and loss of comfort. It is recommended to do all outlets at once and to

turn off the breaker to the outlets while doing these upgrades. The easiest solution is by installing electric outlet sealers, which are available at your local hardware store. A better option is to use painter's caulk to seal the electric box to the drywall. If you remove the outlet, you will get a better seal. The best option is to use painter's caulk and to seal the electric wire holes with spray foam.

Exterior doors may also be leaky culprits. A good solution is to make sure the weather stripping is sufficient. Weather stripping can wear out over time and needs replacing. Adding a door sweep can



*A thermal gun may identify your exterior wall outlets as cold air culprits. If so, there are DIY ways to seal them.*

also cut back on air leaks below the door. The best option, albeit the most expensive, may be to add a storm door.

The remaining tips involved adding a combination of air sealing and insulation, as needed, to any attic access hatches, attic/crawl spaces, and unfinished basements. Aside from the attic hatch upgrade, sealing

and adding insulation to crawl spaces, basements, and attics may require hiring a professional.

Income-qualified programs are available for renters and owners, with two levels of support based on income. Home weatherization upgrades can be completed at no cost. For more information, visit [www.sustainablegrand.org/home-energy/income-qualified-programs](http://www.sustainablegrand.org/home-energy/income-qualified-programs).

Sustainable Grand is a Grand County non-profit, helping to protect the planet and create a more environmentally friendly community.

## Conexon Connect to notify landowners regarding fiber buildout

[www.ConexonConnect.com](http://www.ConexonConnect.com)

Conexon Connect is continuing its pre-buildout work to provide fiber internet throughout MPE's service territory. As a requirement for this buildout, Conexon Connect must notify landowners who have existing utility easements with MPE that Conexon Connect will be using the easement for broadband services on existing MPE electric poles.

In a few cases, Conexon will need a signed easement from landowners to allow Conexon Connect to install the fiber across landowner's property. This is for underground easements only. Conexon Connect is collaborating with Linderlake Corporation to send notifications and secure right-of-way easements. If you are a landowner with utility easements, you may be hearing from them.

The fiber easement agreement does not give ownership to the land but allows access for installation and maintenance of the fiber optic cable. For aerial

construction, the fiber optic cables will be 18-inches under the electrical wires on the existing utility poles. In cases where we are unable to utilize the existing electrical poles, we may need to run the fiber-optic cabling a short distance underground to the next electrical pole. For underground construction, Conexon will trench or bore to lay the fiber cables using the safest and least disruptive methods possible. Although there may be temporary disruptions to a small portion of your property during the construction and installation process, the land will be restored to its original condition once the fiber is installed.

Participation in the easement is generally required to allow for community-wide access to the fiber network.

For more information, please contact the Conexon team at 816-710-9124.