



MUSEUM BENEFITS FROM ENERGY AUDIT

EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE MORE THAN ENERGY AND COST SAVINGS

Story Contributed by Todd Budin – Executive Director of Sustainable Grand

Established in 1974 as a successor to the Grand County Pioneer Society, the Grand County Historical Association (GCHA) brings together people interested in preserving the history, historical artifacts, and historical buildings of Grand County. From Kremmling to Winter Park, GCHA operates four museums, which are housed in some of the oldest buildings in Grand County. While these century-old buildings have great historic value, their energy efficiency is unsurprisingly very poor. This requires GCHA to budget a large dollar amount – approaching \$10,000 per year – for energy bills, just to keep their spaces bearable in the winter. More money going to energy bills means that less money goes to the primary mission of the organization, eventually impacting the experience for all visitors.

In search of a solution, Shanna Ganne, GCHA's executive director, contacted Sustainable Grand, a local energy efficiency non-profit, about getting an energy audit/assessment. Tim Archie, an energy analyst from Granby, performed the assessment at the Pioneer Village Museum in Hot Sulphur Springs, where he identified many opportunities for air sealing and insulating the building.

"With the thermal camera, we're able to see all of the places where the cold air is entering and the warm air escapes. This makes the set of recommendations pretty straightforward," said Archie.

A rebate offered by Mountain Parks Electric helped to bring down the cost of the energy assessment. More about MPE rebates is available at www.mpei.com/rebates.

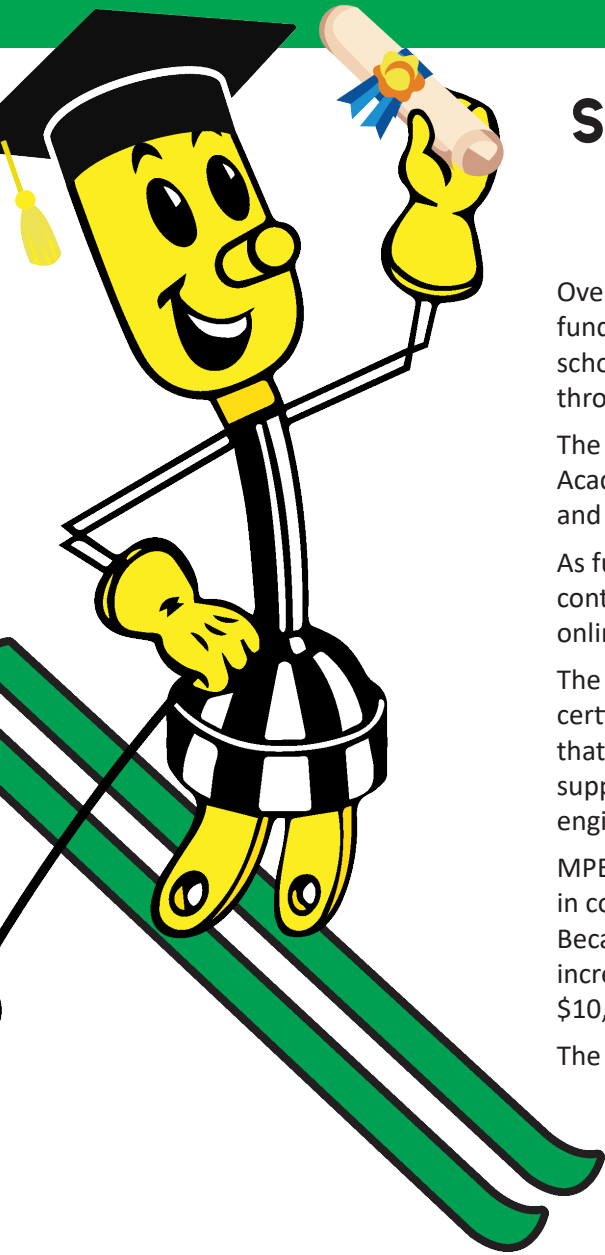


Grand County Historical Association Executive Director Shanna Ganne

From here, Sustainable Grand will help Ganne get quotes and find funding to get the energy efficiency work completed this year. The benefits for Pioneer Village are greater than just the dollar savings (which over 50 years could exceed \$150,000); the building will be more comfortable and resilient to power outages and wildfire smoke.

"These improvements are an investment in the long-term preservation of Grand County's storied history and legacy. We're excited to get them completed," said Ganne.

Visit www.sustainablegrand.org/energy-efficiency/energy-audits to schedule your energy audit or for information, including available rebates.



SCHOLARSHIP APP'S BEING ACCEPTED

TRADE SCHOOL AND ELECTRIC-INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES HAVE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR 2024

Over the past 20 years, MPE has significantly increased its focus on scholarships funded by unclaimed capital credits (the UCC fund). After a review of MPE's scholarship program in late 2023, the MPE board decided to continue this tradition through a three-category system and by allocating additional UCC funds annually.

The three scholarship categories are Academic, Trade School and Electric-Industry. The Academic category has up to \$75,000 available annually, while the new Trade School and Electric-Industry portions each have up to \$25,000 available.

As funds remain in both the Trade School and Electric-Industry categories, MPE will continue to accept scholarship applications, which can be completed and submitted online at www.mpei.com/scholarships.

The Trade Scholarship category will help students seeking education and/or certification in various trade programs, many of which provide workers in fields that are in high demand for our area. The Electric-Industry Scholarship category will support students seeking a career field in the electric industry, including linemen, engineer, staker, GIS, electrician, accountant and so on.

MPE's scholarships are single-year awards and are available for traditional (enrolling in college directly following high school) and non-traditional or returning students. Because college students are facing rising costs for tuition and expenses, the board increased the individual scholarship amounts to be a minimum of \$2,500 and up to \$10,000.

The MPE Scholarship Program recently awarded scholarships to 21 applicants, including 18 in the Academic Scholarship, utilizing the total \$75,000 allocated to that category, and three in the Trade School Scholarship category, for a total of \$83,000 from the UCC fund.

TECHNOLOGIES AND PROTOCOLS IN PLACE FOR FIRE MITIGATION

When fire danger is high, MPE places its system settings to a greater sensitivity, which means we may experience more frequent outages, but in doing so we reduce the chances of starting or spreading a fire. We have, at the request of local government, shut off power lines in cases such as an active fire.

MPE works with the counties within our service territory to determine when our system's sensitivity levels should be increased. When a nearby area goes into high fire danger status, that triggers MPE to switch to the more sensitive system settings.

MPE has protocols in place – such as annual system-wide line patrols, pole inspections/testing, and a

rigorous vegetation management system – to ensure our lines are in good working condition and to help mitigate fire danger. By placing our system on “one shot,” the increased sensitivity settings, MPE greatly reduces the chances of starting a fire. MPE builds our lines to the highest standards and is continuously hardening our system to withstand our ever-changing environment with new technology and equipment. These include changing out expulsion fuses to non-expulsion fuses or equipment that does not arch; installing smarter devices that will be able to shut off a power line when an arch is sensed; and undergrounding power lines and installing fully insulated tree wire in heavily fueled areas.



MPE IN THE COMMUNITY

EMPLOYEES HELP LOCAL FOOD BANK



MPE Engineering Clerk Kathi Crawford was one of the employees who recently helped unload a food delivery truck at Mountain Family Center.

The Mountain Family Center in Granby experienced an increase in its number of food pantry visitors this mud season and has been running low on certain items.

In response, MPE staff held a two-week food drive to help them stock back up in the following items, which are still in demand and can be donated at 480 E. Agate Avenue, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. – noon on Friday:

- Rice
- Dried beans
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Canned soups
- Easy meals
- Crackers
- Granola bars

MPE PARADE SCHEDULE

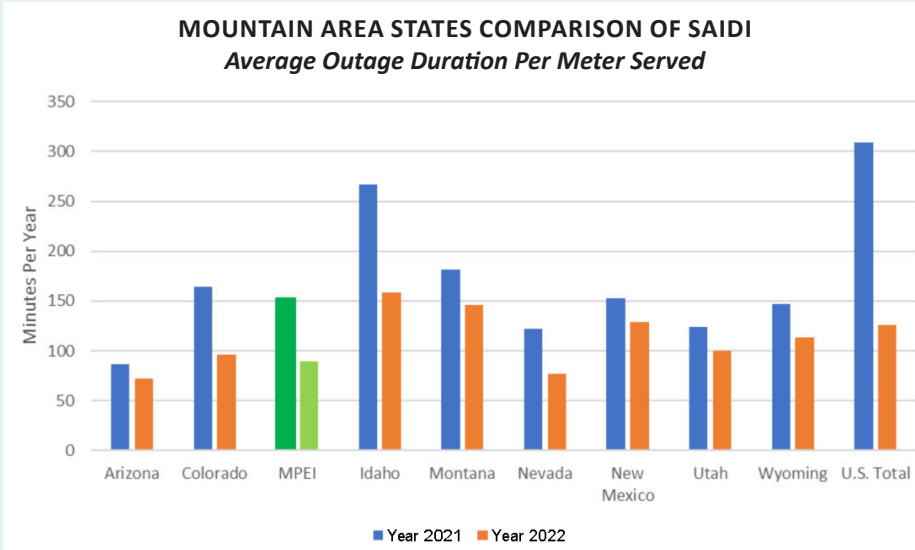
MPE is excited to participate in community parades across our service territory. We look forward to seeing you at the following events:

- June 8 – Hot Sulphur Springs
- June 15 – Kremmling
- June 23 – Walden
- July 4 – Granby

MPE's float and team at the 2023 Granby 4th of July Parade.



TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING MINIMIZE OUTAGE TIMES



This SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) graph is one metric MPE uses to see how our co-op compares with other utilities in regions such as ours. (2023 data was not yet available)

The wet, heavy snow that fell at just the right temperature to stick to the power lines, along with seasonal bird migrations and commercial heavy equipment incidents, caused quite a few power outages this spring.

Manager of Operations Adam Paulson shared at the May Board Meeting (also shared in the May *General Manager's Board Meeting Bulletin*) that despite the busy month of April, response times were really good. He pointed to new technology that can pinpoint exact locations of outages as a key factor in keeping MPE's reliability strong.

He cited an outage on May 8 in which he and the responding linemen were immediately given the exact location, whereas in the past it might have taken hours to locate.



WAYS TO \$AVE

LINDSAY McCANN

MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST

Laundry Savings

These simple tips can help save electricity, water, and time:

Short cycles

Wash your clothes in cold or warm water on short cycles.

Hand wash

Hand wash delicate items in cold water.

Dry outside

On sunny days, hang clothing outside to dry.

Shower rod

On rainy days, hang clothing on a drying rack or shower curtain rod to dry inside.

He added that although the MPE line crew is young, they are quick learners and each have thousands of hours of training. "They know what to do," he said.

As they respond to outages, they are also adding bird protection to poles, where needed, and are identifying future Work Plan opportunities to continue to improve system reliability.

Also from the May *Board Meeting Bulletin*, the Board held officer elections for the MPE Board and for MPE Services, and appointments remained the same in both, as follows:

- MPE Board: President, Liz McIntyre; Vice President, Justin Fosha; Secretary/Treasurer, Cray Healy.
- MPE Services: President, Justin Fosha; Vice President, Cray Healy; Secretary, Mark Volt.

MPE Board Committee assignments also remained unchanged, with Liz McIntyre as chair of the Executive Committee, Ryan Zorn as chair of the Finance Committee, and Mark Volt as chair of the Member Relations Committee.

Read the full report at
www.mpei.com/BOARD-BULLETIN