

# PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.

## Celebrating Our Members During National Co-op Month

It's National Co-op Month, which means it's time to shine a spotlight on our members. Members are the most important people in our community; they play an essential role in MPE's ability to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective power. In fact, members are at the core of any cooperative, as demonstrated by the first three cooperative principles—essentially, members are always welcome, and they always have access to democratic control and economic participation.

### The First Three Cooperative Principles



#### 1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.



#### 2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their boards of directors, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.



#### 3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative.

***"I'm proud to say that Mountain Parks Electric is managed with a members-first mentality."***

"We look forward to our community events, such as our Member Appreciation Event, Coffee with MPE events, and Annual Meeting, as opportunities to hear firsthand from our members across our service territory so we can better serve their needs. We enjoy seeing familiar faces, as well as those who attend an MPE event for the first time," said Virginia Harman, MPE's CEO.

Because our members are integral to our mission, MPE hosts events throughout the year that allow us to listen to and celebrate our members. Learn more about what happened at some of our recent member-centric events on the right side of this page.

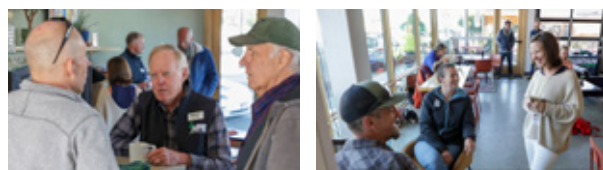
See page 3 for more recent MPE member event photos



### MPE's Annual Member Appreciation

Our annual event rose to new heights this year as the beautiful September morning at Polhamus Park and the colorful Touchstone Hot Air Balloon attracted nearly 300 members. MPE's community partners in attendance – Mountain Family Center, Sustainable Grand, Grand Foundation, and Energy Outreach Colorado's CARE Program – provided materials and information on their energy efficiency and family assistance programs.

Two Pines Supply had e-bikes on hand for attendees to test ride, and MPE had our Ford Lightning and Tesla available for EV test drives. Java Lava came through with their famous breakfast burritos and coffee. MPE's energy provider, Guzman Energy, sponsored the hot air balloon and provided a Yeti cooler for a member drawing... and the winner was Steve Hickox.



### Coffee with MPE

MPE's first Coffee with MPE event of the season on Sept. 15 was at Simple Coffee in Fraser. More than 50 members stopped by to enjoy a warm cup of coffee and a pastry. Members visited with MPE's CEO Virginia Harman and other staff, as well as MPE board members Ryan Zorn (District 1) and Cray Healy (District 2). Staff shared about MPE's rebates and other member programs, the energy supply transition, the New ERA grant, and electric vehicles.

#### Remaining Coffee with MPE events:

**Oct. 2:** The Hub in Grand Lake, 8-10 a.m.

**Oct. 14:** Big Shooter Coffee in Kremmling, 8-10 a.m.

**Nov. 11:** Grand County Roastery in Granby, 8-10 a.m.

# Save Money this Winter with an Efficient Home

When winter arrives, it doesn't have to mean higher energy bills. Taking time to prepare for the season by checking and improving the efficiency of your home can help you keep your electricity bill down, even when the temperatures drop.



## Here are a few home inefficiencies that could lead to a higher heating bill:

- Inadequate insulation
- Air leaks
- Dated or clogged HVAC systems
- Uninsulated hot water heater
- Using space heaters
- Thin window panes or coverings



Dated or inefficient appliances could also lead to higher bills.

Upgrading to energy efficient appliances and smart thermostats can help you save money in the long run.

If you're unsure whether your home inefficiencies are costing you more, you can get a home energy assessment from an organization like Sustainable Grand.

Remember that MPE offers rebates for energy efficient appliances, smart thermostats, home efficiency audits, insulation projects and more (see [www.MPEI.com/Rebates](http://www.MPEI.com/Rebates)).

## Save Energy & Money with Sustainable Grand

**Qualifying households can receive an additional \$100 off a home energy assessment and up to \$2,000 toward recommended weatherization upgrades, such as air sealing and insulation improvements, through Sustainable Grand's Grand Energy Saver Program.**

Designed exclusively for Grand County residents, this program makes it easier than ever to take action on the results of your home energy assessment and start enjoying real savings. During the assessment itself, you'll also benefit from quick fixes like free LEDs, pipe wrap, and hot water heater blankets to help cut energy use right away.

These upgrades not only lower monthly utility bills but also make homes more comfortable, safer, and better prepared for Colorado's winters.

Sustainable Grand is a nonprofit dedicated to helping Grand County residents and businesses save energy, lower utility costs, and reduce environmental impact. They connect the community with resources, workshops, rebates, and hands-on support to make sustainability both accessible and affordable.

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this limited program before winter arrives.

**Learn more and see if you qualify at [sustainablegrand.org/home-energy/income-qualified-programs](http://sustainablegrand.org/home-energy/income-qualified-programs).**



Although the Grand Energy Saver Program is only available through Sustainable Grand to residents of Grand County, MPE members in Jackson, Summit, and other counties in our service territory have energy audit and other rebates available, as well as access to the CARE Program through Energy Outreach Colorado and MPE. Those who apply for the Boost Program are automatically referred to CARE.



## Celebrating Our Members Event Gallery

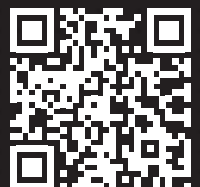


## Enter our outdoor photo contest, win prizes!

Send us your best seasonal outdoor shots for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter. Winners will be selected monthly and, in addition to social media tags and promotion, will be entered to **win a \$500 gift certificate to B & H Photo.**

Visit [tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest](https://tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest) or scan the QR code to submit your photos! And for complete rules.

*Photos must be received by the 20th of each month.*





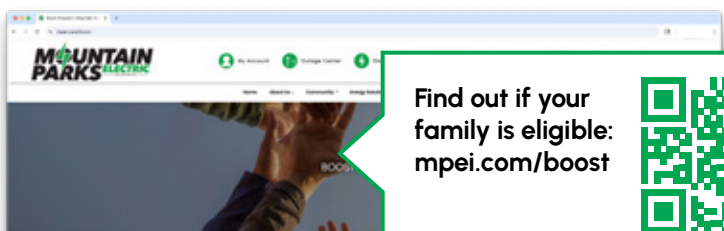


## Supporting Income-Qualified Households Through CARE


MPE's participation in Energy Outreach Colorado's CARE (Colorado's Affordable Residential Energy) Program has paid off for 10 area households so far this year, with an additional two to reap the benefits of free energy-efficiency improvements in the coming months.

The CARE Program uses MPE's investment to unlock other funding for income-qualified households to allow for a no cost home energy audit and installation of identified needed upgrades like insulation, efficient appliances, LED lights, low-flow shower heads, air sealing, and qualifying furnaces or water heaters.

MPE's commitment to the CARE Program is just one way our co-op supports energy efficiency and keeping costs manageable for our income-qualified families. The Boost Program (more info below) provides financial assistance to eligible income-qualified households for MPE bills. MPE's Rebate Program ([www.MPEI.com/Rebates](http://www.MPEI.com/Rebates)) offers MPE members incentives for energy efficiency and electrification.



Find out if your family is eligible:  
[mpei.com/boost](http://mpei.com/boost)



## Energy Bill Discounts For Qualifying Members

The BOOST Program helps decrease the energy cost burden by providing financial assistance to eligible income-qualified households for MPE bills. Eligible members will receive a 20% discount on their total current bill.

To apply or to find out more about the application process, please contact Mountain Family Center at 970-557-3186 or by visiting their offices at 480 E. Agate Ave. in Granby from 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Monday – Thursday, and from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. on Fridays.

Ann Cruz, CARE Single Family Program Manager, shared two CARE Program success stories from MPE's service territory:

### MARIA IN KREMMLING:



The home energy auditor found a disconnected gas water heater vent spilling flue gases in the mobile home. This was an immediate health and safety replacement. Additionally, CARE was able to replace an aging gas furnace and several old window AC units with a cold climate heat pump. The team added insulation and was able to get an **overall 36% air leakage reduction**. **MPE's \$390 investment on this home unlocked more than \$60,000 in rebates** from Xcel Energy and Energy Outreach Colorado funding, ensuring that the home was left in safe condition.

### TAMMY IN KREMMLING:

This single-family home with electric baseboard heating received attic insulation to get to R60, LED lights, and a water heater blanket for the electric water heater. **The total investment from MPE was \$3,655**. The work was completed in July, and the participant is looking forward to saving on her energy bills as we go into the winter season.



### Need support, have questions?

We are here to serve. Call member services M–Th 7:30–5:30 (970) 887-3378.

# GIVING MEMBERS A BOOST

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC  
**BOOST**  
PROGRAM

SAVE UP TO

**25%**  
ON YOUR  
ELECTRIC  
BILL

## ***Benefiting Our Own in our Service Territory***

The BOOST Program was established to decrease the energy cost burden within our communities by providing financial assistance to eligible income-qualified households for MPE bills.

Effective February 1, 2025, it will run as a pilot program for 18 months.

Mountain Family Center is partnering with MPE to administer the income-qualification application process.

### **To Apply**

or to find out more about the application process, please contact:

#### **Mountain Family Center**

**Call:** 970-557-3186

**Visit:** 480 E. Agate Ave. in Granby

Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday – Thursday,  
and from 9 a.m. – noon on Fridays

#### ***Eligible members will receive a 20% discount on their total current bill.***

Participants will be encouraged to enroll in MPE's prepay program ([www.MPEI.com/EZ-Pay-Prepaid-Metering](http://www.MPEI.com/EZ-Pay-Prepaid-Metering)) to assist them in managing their energy costs. If BOOST participants sign up for prepay, they will receive an additional 5% discount, bringing the **total discount to 25%**.

Participants will also be provided with educational materials and contact information for energy audits, weatherization, and rebates.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- MPEI current member for a minimum of 6 months
- Full-time, primary resident
- Residential service only; must be on Residential Rate 1R
- At or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (see [www.MPEI.com/Boost](http://www.MPEI.com/Boost) for income qualification levels)
- Pilot program participants will be required to undergo recertification in June 2026

### **Other Energy Assistance/ Savings Opportunities**

#### **• CARE Program:** BOOST

participants will be automatically referred to Energy Outreach Colorado's CARE program ([www.nwccog.org/programs/energy-program/colorado-affordable-energy-program/](http://www.nwccog.org/programs/energy-program/colorado-affordable-energy-program/)), which provides free home energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades to qualified applicants. The program is administered by CARE contractor Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Energy Program.

- **LEAP Program:** The State of Colorado and Mountain Family Center offer additional utility assistance through its LEAP Program (<https://cdhs.colorado.gov/leap>).

- Use **SmartHub** to track energy usage: [www.MPEI.com/SMARTHUB](http://www.MPEI.com/SMARTHUB)

- **MPE continues to offer cost-cutting opportunities**, including new rebates for electric heat tape and home insulation: [www.MPEI.com/REBATES](http://www.MPEI.com/REBATES)

