



Efficiency Efficiency

As mentioned in our Summer Current Connection newsletter, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), MEWCo's power supplier, operates under a Tier Rate Methodology (TRM) for pricing. This means that MEWCo locks in a set amount of power from the existing federal system at a cost-based rate, Tier-1 rates. Beyond that, much more expensive Tier-2 rates are for any energy MEWCo needs from BPA in addition to its fixed contractual right-to-power at Tier-1 rates. Conservation and energy efficiency can help keep our electric rates low by allowing us to reduce the demand on our system, and by offsetting the need to acquire more generation capacity at a higher Tier-2 cost.

Often energy efficiency can be achieved by taking advantage of new technology. To assist with the cost of upgrading or replacing existing items with new qualified energy efficiency products, Modern Electric Water Company, in partnership with BPA, offers numerous conservation rebates. MEWCo hopes you will make an investment in energy efficiency for your home or business which will ultimately save energy and money. To expand and promote conservation, MEWCo has joined forces with Efficiency Services Group (ESG) which specializes in consulting, implementing and managing energy efficiency programs. We are pleased to announce rebates are now available for:

- Residential Weatherization – Windows and Insulation (Permanently Installed Electric Heat Systems)
- Residential Energy Star Qualified Front Load Clothes Washers and Dryers
- Residential Light Emitting Diode (LED) Bulbs or Fixtures
- Residential Heating and Cooling
- Residential New Energy Star Manufactured Homes
- Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Non-Residential Lighting Projects
- Custom Commercial Projects

For more details on conservation rebates please call ESG at 1-888-883-9879 or email rebates@esgroupllc.com. Program descriptions and rebate forms are also available at mewco.com.

Energy Efficiency Good and Bad Habits

Many of us are guilty of standing in front of an open refrigerator, falling asleep with the television on, leaving charged laptops or cell phones plugged-in, leaving ceiling fans on in an empty room, forgetting to change filters, or not vacuuming refrigerator coils. Unfortunately, these types of habits waste energy and cost you money.

On the other hand, energy savings can be gained by applying good conservation practices such as turning off items when not in use. This is especially true for turning off electric water heaters when leave on vacation. Planting the right tree in the right place can help regulate buildings' temperature by providing shade and blocking wind. Opening curtains and blinds on buildings with south-facing windows during the day and closing them during the night can maximize passive solar heating and lighting. Additionally, painting a room with white or light colors reflects light and makes the most out of the existing light sources. Weather-stripping and caulking around all entrance doors and windows can stop air leaks that could account for 15% to 30% of heating and cooling energy requirements. Most of these energy saving habits are easy-to-do, have no-cost or low-cost applications and can save you money.

Need Help? Call SNAP Energy Assistance

Spokane Neighborhood Action Program's Energy Assistance appointments open on October 4th at 8:30 am. Appointment reservations are made by phone at (509) 242-2376 or online at www.snapwa.org.

It's Time to Modernize Our Statements

In 2009, MEWCo converted to a new Customer Information System and a new statement format. This fall, we will be launching a new look to our billing statements. We hope you will find our new design easier to read and understand.

The updated statement will include a billing insert to guide you through its new features.

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If there is an outage

November is the anniversary of the powerful wind storm that struck the Inland Empire and left thousand of people without power for days. The mighty winds uprooted trees and left countless branches tangled in power lines. During this difficult time, the employees of Modern Electric Water Company worked tirelessly to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Aside from tree and branches falling onto power lines, power outages can be cause by many other things out of MEWCo control such as vehicle accidents involving power pole, contractor's mishaps, or birds and animals encountering transformers or other electrical equipment. Because of this, we urge customers who are dependent on power for life-support to have a backup plan for power outages.

If you need to use a generator during an outage to supply power to your home, please be sure to use proper safety equipment. Without an isolated transfer switch the electricity from the generator will back feed onto the power lines. This is a life-threatening safety hazard to our linemen.

Also, consider preparing an emergency box for outages. Place in it flashlights, extra batteries, portable radio to keep updated on the news, manual can-opener, and a wind-up clock. Self-register your cell phone number and email address with Alert Spokane for emergency notifications. It's a good idea also to have a first aid kit, bottled water, fire extinguisher, foods that require no heating or refrigeration, paper plates, and plastic utensils. Remember to keep the refrigerator and freezer closed since this will help to preserve your perishable foods.

Should an outage occur, please turn your thermostat down to 60 degrees, turn off lights, unplug computers, television and VCRs to help us successfully restore power. This is especially true during cold weather. "Cold Load Pickup" refers to the fact that the lower the temperature, and the longer the power is off, the harder it is to restore the system. Once the power is restored, you may turn the thermostat up and resume your normal activities.

Please call MEWCo at (509) 928-4540, or after-hours at (509) 622-9396, to report outages and specific information about the location of a downed tree, transformer issues, or if you see a power line on the ground. For your safety, please stay away from the downed power line, and keep all children and pets away from the area.

Time for a Trim

Tree trimming is an effective way to prevent branches from causing outages. Our crews only trim the portion of the tree growing near the bare, primary conductors (located highest on the pole) or limbs that we deem as hazardous to distribution wires or the service conductor to your home. The purpose of tree trimming is to prevent outages; it is not a removal or pruning service.

For safety reasons, State and Federal laws prohibit any person from working within 10 feet of any high voltage electric power line without proper training and certification. If you have questions regarding the tree trimming program, please call MEWCo at (509) 928-4540, ext 206.

Help Protect Your Drinking Water

As winter approaches, many of us will begin our winterizing projects. For some people, this will include winterizing lawn-sprinkling systems. Many homeowners currently use or are tempted to use compressed air to blow out their lawn sprinkling systems in order to prevent them from freezing. However, using this method without proper backflow protection can create major water quality problems. Because compressed air operates at a higher pressure than the public water system, the compressed air will "push" air, pollutants, contaminants, debris, etc., into your drinking water system and possibly into the public system. When this happens, it drastically changes the quality of your drinking water. For this reason, all plumbing codes, State Drinking Water Regulations, and MEWCo's Cross Connection Program prohibit this operation of blowing out sprinkling systems without approved backflow protection.

Meter Minutes

Water meters are read twice a year to gather actual usage. September marks the end of the water meter readings for this year. If our meter readers cannot get a valid reading, then a card will be left at your door requesting your assistance. Please call in your meter reading as soon as possible. We appreciate your assistance in providing a valid reading for your statement.

Additionally, if your water meter box is located outside. Please insulate the box to prevent it from freezing during the winter. Batt insulation sealed in a plastic bag or a piece of Styrofoam placed over the top of and along the sides of the meter are both good methods of insulation for your meter box.

Modern Electric Water Company ~ 904 North Pines Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Regular Hours Monday - Friday: Lobby Office Hours 7:30 am - 4:00 pm ~ Drive-Thru & Phone Hours 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Business Line: (509) 928-4540 ~ After Hours: (509) 926-9800 ~ Web: www.mewco.com ~ E-mail: modern@mewco.com