

NEWS

February 2008

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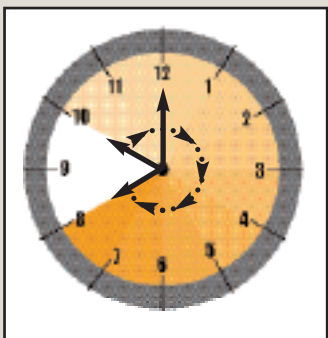
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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Energy costs are rising

Most consumers have already felt the pain of higher prices for gasoline, propane, fuel oil, as well as most consumer goods that require transportation to market. Eventually, we knew there would be increases in the cost of electricity, too.

Providing you with reliable electricity comes with some costs, and those costs have continually been on the rise. The cost of purchased power is the biggest piece of the energy bill pie for McLeod Co-op Power members, representing 65 percent of each dollar we pay (see graph, right).

In 2007 and 2008, the cost of mining coal and generating electricity from it increased. The cost of fuel to operate gas and jet fuel peaking plants increased dramatically. The drought in many areas of the U.S. and Canada has reduced the amount of energy we get from hydro-electric dams and increased the cost of hydro energy by 25 percent. The cost of conductors, transformers and electrical equipment used to

maintain the transmission system has skyrocketed. The list continues and, unfortunately, the increased costs for generation and transmission are passed through to our members.

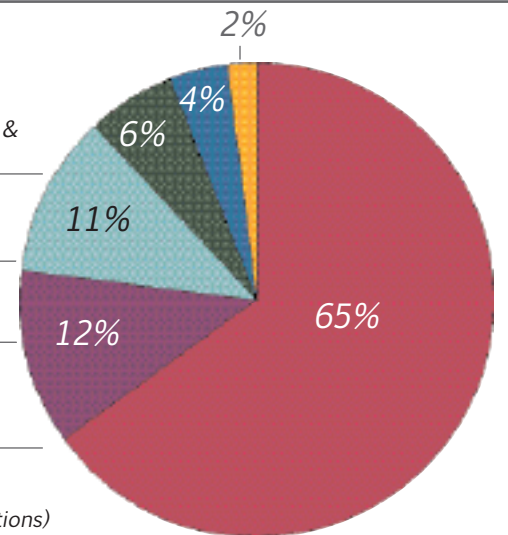
The in-house costs at McLeod Cooperative are a little easier to manage. We cannot control the astronomical price of trucks, wire, transformers and other equipment, but we are able to conserve resources, invest wisely, and

operate our organization more economically. These costs, which include distribution expenses, customer service, administration and finance, are not responsible for any part of the power cost adjustment increases that members are currently experiencing. Only increases in our power costs are included in the power cost adjustment.

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55350

Energy Cost Breakdown

- 65%** Purchased Power
(wholesale power purchased from GRE & WAPA)
- 12%** Depreciation, Interest, and Taxes
- 11%** Distribution Expense
(cost to bring electricity to member)
- 6%** Administrative & General
(general plant, board, administration, accounting)
- 4%** Customer Service
(billing, load management, communications)
- 2%** Margins



Power cost adjustment increases for 2008

The new power cost adjustment (PCA) for 2008 for farm, residential, small commercial, and most industrial accounts will be + \$0.0093. The cost increases are due to wholesale rate increases of about 11 percent from Great River Energy and 25 percent from Western Area Power Administration (power from federal hydro dams). General Service energy has increased 1.01 cents per kWh since last year.

This means members will pay approximately 10¢ per kWh in summer and 9¢ per kWh the other nine months of the year for energy. The load management PCA is 50 percent of the regular PCA, adding \$0.0047 per kWh to off-peak kWh purchases. This means members will pay about .0477¢ per kWh for off-peak. Members will still save 50 percent off the general service rate when participating in off-peak programs.

Members will see the power cost adjustment as a separate line item on their electric bills. A member using 700 kWh per month will see a \$7.00 increase on their billing. For a member using 1,400 kWh per month, this equals a \$14.00 per month increase.

Web site improvements coming to www.mcleodcoop.com

By mid-March, members will see new features at McLeod Cooperative Power's web site. The site should be easier to navigate. It will have more downloadable forms which will be more convenient. Members will now have the ability to view their current electric bill and usage history. And best of all, members will now be able to go to the Co-op site at www.mcleodcoop.com to get important messages regarding events, outages and news pertinent to our Cooperative members.

The site will still have the same important features like checking to see if it is a load control day, coming events and DIRECTV program packages. A few things have not been kept up-to-date during this web rebuild. So if you check the site this month, it will still look like the same old site. Check back by mid-March and you will see new, exciting features.

Important dates to remember

March 13

Ballots mailed to District 1, 2 & 3 members

March 13

Tickets for Annual meeting mailed to all active members

March 21

Good Friday — MCPA office closed

April 2

Annual meeting at Pla-Mor Ballroom in Glencoe

Nominating Committee working on slate of director candidates for 2008



2008 Nominating Committee: (seated l to r) Judy Radunz, Jeffrey Schwarze, Dennis Dusoski, Gerald Harbarth and (standing l to r) Elaine Prieve, Donna Wahl, Charles Mathews, Edmund Ehrke, and Leo Weber

Marathon Water Heaters

The water heater with a lifetime warranty from leaking, plus a six year warranty on elements and thermostats. It is the highest efficiency, R-25 insulated electric water heater on the market. Durable exterior tank that won't rust. No anode rods.

Available in 50-gallon, 85-gallon and 105-gallon capacities. For sale to electric members and the general public. Available at your Cooperative.



Marathon
WATER HEATERS

Members of the nominating committee from Districts 1, 2 and 3 met on January 30 and will meet again on February 13 to finish their work of selecting candidates to run for director elections in their respective districts. Serving on this year's nominating committee are:

District 1:

Charles Mathews of Glencoe, Leo Weber of Winsted and Edmund Ehrke of Plato

District 2:

Dennis Dusoski of Glencoe, Gerald Harbarth of Brownton and Jeffrey Schwarze of Brownton

District 3:

Judy Radunz of Hutchinson, Donna Wahl of Hutchinson, and Elaine Prieve of Hutchinson

Service call rates for outages have changed

If the McLeod Cooperative Power line crew is dispatched on an outage that is determined to be caused by a consumer's negligence or faulty equipment on the member's side of the meter socket, service call charges do apply. This is not new. Just the rate charged per hour has changed.

The most common example of when this rate is applied would be a consumer who calls that their power is out but their neighbors still have power, and it is found that the outage was caused by the individual consumer's fuse on their own side of the meter. This is why when you call in a power outage, the dispatcher will ask you if your neighbors still have power and if

you have checked your own main service breaker.

During normal working hours, if MCPA's crew is dispatched to a consumer residence or business for an outage, there will be a minimum charge of \$100 if the problem is determined to be on the consumer's side of the meter. If the MCPA line crew is on site for over an hour the consumer will be charged at the rate of \$100 per hour until the crew finishes their work. On evenings, weekends and holidays, the minimum charge will be \$150, with an additional \$150 for each additional hour until the work is completed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1
Oria Brinkmeier, *Lester Prairie*

District 2
Dale Peters, *Brownton*

District 3
Roger Karstens, *Hutchinson*

District 4
Curtis Rossow, *Buffalo Lake*

District 5
Allan Duesterhoeft, *Hutchinson*

District 6
Lester Ranzau,
Vice-President, *Glencoe*

District 7
Bill Polchow, *Silver Lake*

District 8
Doug Kirtz,
President, *Hector*

District 9
Gerald Roepke, *New Germany*

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is published monthly by McLeod Cooperative Power Association
PO Box 70
1231 Ford Ave.
Glencoe, MN 55336

General Manager: Kris Ingenthron
Editor: Sue Pawelk

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is the official member publication of McLeod Cooperative Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk, editor, at the above address.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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1-800-494-6272

24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166



Every home will be required to have a carbon monoxide detector by August

Each year, more than 200 Americans die from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Several thousand individuals are treated in emergency rooms for CO poisoning each year. The risk of CO poisoning increases during the winter, as more people run fossil fuel furnaces, space heaters and fireplaces. Also increasing risk during the winter is the exhaust fumes from cars parked inside garages or outside near homes that allow CO gases to enter a home.

A Minnesota law requiring CO detectors in all homes by August 1, 2008, will apply to all residences. Even those with no fossil fuel appliances will be required to have the CO

detectors, as exhaust fumes from cars running outside in Minnesota is still a CO danger to the occupants of those homes. All new Minnesota residences built in 2007 were already required to have CO detectors under this law. Additional regulations are addressed for multi-family and rental housing sites in the fire code.

For more information, go to www.fire.state.mn.us. Click on fire codes and then choose Carbon Monoxide Alarm Info Sheet or call the State Fire Marshall's Office at 651-201-7200.

Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 6

Cooperative members residing in Districts 1, 2, or 3 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2008 director election in their district. To have another name, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, on the ballot, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 6, 2008.

The Cooperative secretary shall post at the Cooperative office the names of additional nominations and also persons selected by the nominating committee.

District 1

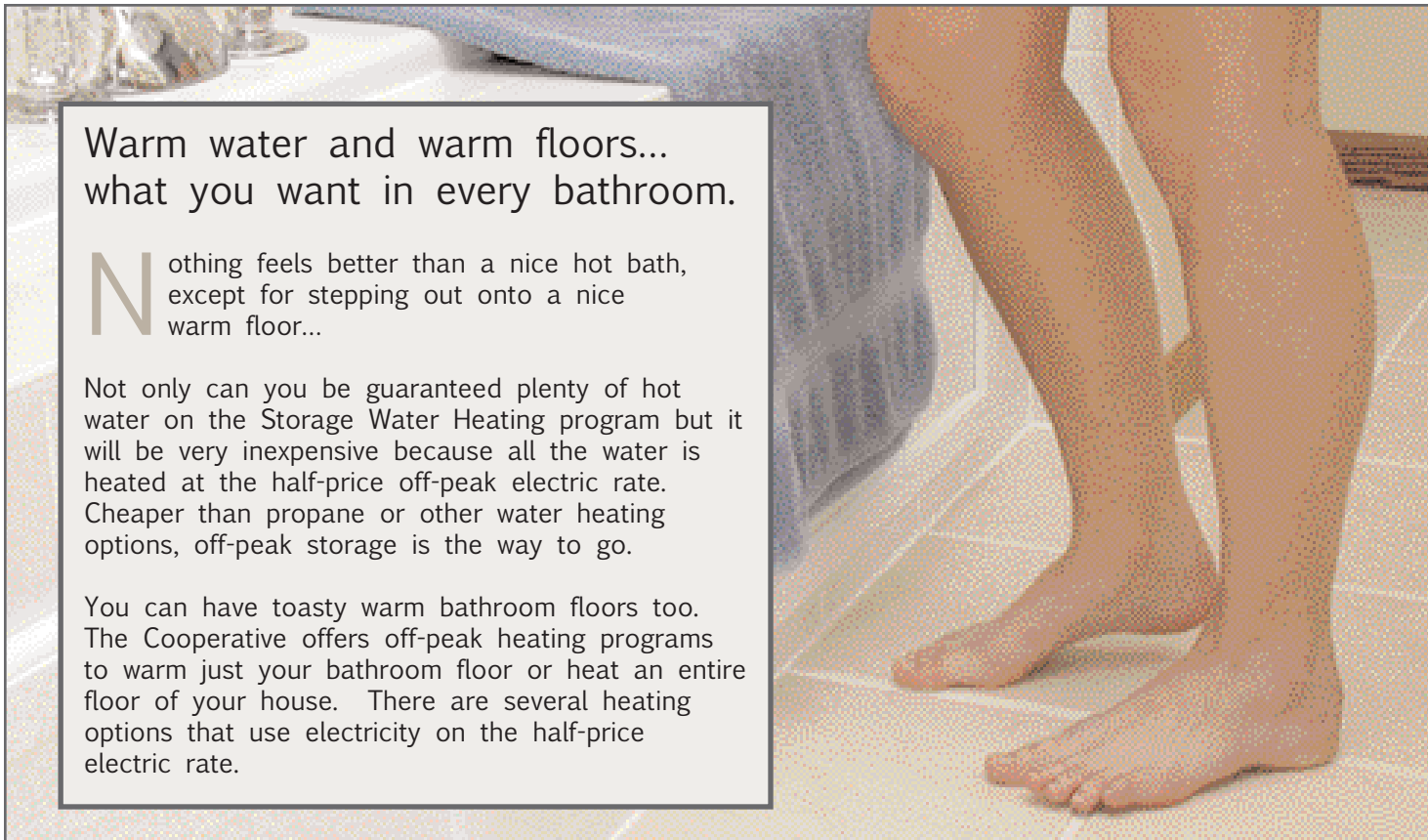
Includes Winsted, Bergen and Helen Townships in McLeod County and Victor Township in Wright County.

District 2

Includes Hassen Valley, Sumter and Penn Townships in McLeod County.

District 3

Includes Acoma and Hutchinson Townships in McLeod County and Ellsworth and Collinwood Townships in Meeker County.



Warm water and warm floors... what you want in every bathroom.

Nothing feels better than a nice hot bath, except for stepping out onto a nice warm floor...

Not only can you be guaranteed plenty of hot water on the Storage Water Heating program but it will be very inexpensive because all the water is heated at the half-price off-peak electric rate. Cheaper than propane or other water heating options, off-peak storage is the way to go.

You can have toasty warm bathroom floors too. The Cooperative offers off-peak heating programs to warm just your bathroom floor or heat an entire floor of your house. There are several heating options that use electricity on the half-price electric rate.

Members may begin donating to Operation Round Up[®] any time of the year



Members helping members and members helping their community = Operation Round Up

The few cents that our members give by rounding up their electric bill can multiply to dollars for local charities that build up our whole community. It is easy to sign up, painless to participate in, and a great opportunity for your small donations to make a big difference.

Members who sign up for Operation Round Up will have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. The difference between the billing amount and the nearest dollar goes to the Operation Round Up Trust. Members on the program donate from -0- to \$.99 a month, depending on the amount of their electric bill. The average member donates \$6.00 a year to the program. Many worthwhile charities benefit from the proceeds of the trust each year. If you do not already participate, please fill out the form and return it to the Co-op. We will get you set up as an Operation Round Up participant.

Yes, sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Account #: _____
 Signature: _____

Electrician Chad Kuechle knew what heating system he wanted before he built his home

One of the advantages of being an electrician, says Chad Kuechle, is getting a first-hand look at many new home designs and heating systems. As owner of Valley View Electric, Eden Valley, there aren't many things he hasn't seen.

"The strangest thing I've been asked to do is install heat under a granite island countertop," he said. "I have no idea why."

So when it came time to design and build a home for he, his wife Rebecca and their future family, he had the equivalent of a homebuilder's supermarket, so to speak.

"I'd pick and choose things I saw in other houses that I liked or didn't like," he said. "Then I'd come home and draw up a plan and we'd discuss it." Five years later, the couple have a beautiful 3600 square foot home and detached office/shop that overlooks Vails Lake.

"Our families pitched in and it was done in less than three months," he said.

The Kuechles installed an air source heat pump to provide all their cooling in the summer and most of their heat during the winter months. Although an air source heat pump is up to 200% efficient and low-cost to operate, because it works by transferring heat from the outside air in, the coldest winter months often get too cold to completely heat a good-sized home. So Chad installed a Steffes furnace to supplement the heat pump once the temperature dipped below 20 degrees.

"I had installed a Steffes electric storage furnace in someone else's house and I talked with Darrell Ward at Meeker about it. He said that a heat pump and Steffes would be the most efficient and cost effective for me."

A Steffes uses off-peak electricity to heat specially designed bricks that give off their heat whenever needed. Because it heats during off-peak hours, it qualifies for the low energy management rate.

"My electric bill, which includes heating my house, my 1,000 square foot shop—which uses slab heating and dual fuel—and all my lighting, has never hit \$350 for a month. It costs me \$100 during air conditioning



months, so on average, I heat, cool and light my home and shop for about \$200 a month year-around. That's keeping the temperature around 70 degrees."

As an electrician, Chad is often asked what heating system he'd recommend.

"If I had it to do over, I'd put in the same system I have now." Even though he often recommends a Steffes, he said people sometimes veer away from that option because of the higher initial cost and the need for a larger electrical panel.

"The next best choice I recommend is a dual fuel system with an air source heat pump and gas furnace as a back-up. By adding a plenum heater that provides the supplemental heat, you don't have to use the furnace much," he said. "We just put this system in my brother-in-law's new home and he didn't even go through 100 gallons of L.P. last year." That's important, he said, because gas prices keep going higher.

"I'm an electrician, so of course I was going to put all electric in my home," he said, smiling. "But gas prices are so high now that more and more people are going with electric."

Talk with our Energy Experts at the

Hutchinson Home & Garden Show!

Friday, Feb. 22 - Sunday, Feb. 24

Fri., 2-8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

See equipment & demos on:

- Energy Management
- Dual Fuel
- Heartland Security Systems
- Energy Conservation
- New Home Building Information
- WildBlue High-Speed Internet
- DIRECTV

Commercial Exhibit Building – McLeod County Fairgrounds, Hutchinson

When it comes to the cold and keeping ourselves safe, advice can be confusing.

— Do you rub the skin to warm it up? — Do you submerge the person in warm water?
— When is it a medical emergency or do you just have to get the person inside?

It's time for a refresher.

Frostbite

Pale, waxy-white skin color; skin becomes hard and numb.

- Move the person to a warm, dry area. Don't leave the person alone.
- Remove any wet or tight clothing that may cut off blood flow to the affected area.
- DO NOT rub the affected area, because rubbing causes damage to the skin and tissue.
- Gently place the affected area in a warm (105°F) water bath and monitor the water temperature to slowly warm the tissue. Don't pour warm water directly on the affected area because it will warm the tissue too fast, causing tissue damage. Warming takes about 25-40 minutes.
- After the affected area has been warmed, it may become puffy and blister. The affected area may have a burning feeling or numbness. When normal feeling, movement, and skin color have returned, the affected area should be dried and wrapped to keep it warm. NOTE: If there is a chance the affected area may get cold again, do not warm the skin. If the skin is warmed and then becomes cold again, it will cause severe tissue damage.
- Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Resource Material from the Center for Disease Control's website. Download a copy today and keep in your vehicle and at home.

Hypothermia

Fatigue or drowsiness; uncontrolled shivering; cool bluish skin; slurred speech; clumsy movements; irritable, irrational or confused behavior.

- If any signs are noticed, take the person's body temperature if possible. If it is below 95 degrees F, this is a medical emergency and immediate aid is necessary.
- If you cannot get to a medical facility immediately, move the person to a warm, dry area.
- Don't leave the person alone.
- Remove any wet clothing and replace with warm, dry clothing or wrap the person in blankets.
- Have the person drink warm, sweet drinks (sugar water or sports-type drinks) if they are alert. Avoid drinks with caffeine (coffee, tea, or hot chocolate) or alcohol.
- Have the person move their arms and legs to create muscle heat. If they are unable to do this, place warm bottles or hot packs in the arm pits, groin, neck, and head areas.
- DO NOT rub the person's body or place them in warm water bath. This may stop their heart.
- A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or be breathing. Even if the victim appears dead, CPR should be administered. Continue while the victim is being warmed, the victim responds, or medical assistance arrives.

We have heard this information before, but has it really sunk in?

Test your knowledge.

1. Can you get hypothermia inside?
2. Can you have frostbite and not even be aware of it?
3. Does it have to be below 32 degrees F in order to get frostbite or hypothermia?
4. Should you walk on your feet/toes if you suspect frostbite?
5. Is frostbite more serious than hypothermia?

Answer 1 – Yes, infants sleeping in a cold bedroom could have hypothermia since they are not as able to keep their bodies warm.

Answer 2 – Yes, a victim is often unaware of frostbite until someone else points it out because the frozen tissues are numb.

Answer 3 – No. Both can likely occur at very cold temperatures but both can also occur in cool temperatures (above 40 degrees F) when a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat or submersion in cold water.

Answer 4 – No. Do not walk on any area that is suspected to have frostbite; this will only further damage the skin.

Answer 5 – No. Although both are cold-weather problems, hypothermia is a medical emergency where the victim must get medical assistance immediately.

INDUSTRY

News

GRE's Elk River Station receives environmental certification

Elk River Station, a waste-to-energy power plant owned by Great River Energy (GRE), has received ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 14001 certification of its environmental management system (EMS). This certification demonstrates conformance to an international standard that reflects global consensus on superior environmental practices.

"Great River Energy is the only generation and transmission cooperative in the U.S. with ISO 14001 certified facilities. This is a significant demonstration of our commitment to being an environmentally responsible company," says Mary Jo Roth, manager, environmental services, Great River Energy. ISO 14001 requires that a company continuously evaluate and improve its environmental performance.

Elk River Station diverts about 300,000 tons of municipal solid waste annually from landfills to its electric generating station in Elk River, producing enough electricity for approximately 30,000 homes.

GRE purchases energy from Prairie Star Wind Farm

Great River Energy (one of Meeker Cooperative's energy suppliers) has begun taking power from the Prairie Star Wind Farm located about 15 miles southeast of Austin, Minn.

Prairie Star Wind Farm will produce enough energy to power approximately 33,000 Minnesota homes. Prairie Star Wind Farm will prevent the annual emission of approximately 290,000 tons of carbon dioxide, nearly 700 tons of nitrogen oxide (which causes smog), and nearly 900 tons of sulfur dioxide (which causes acid rain). This is the equivalent of taking nearly 60,000 cars off the road.

With the Prairie Star Wind Farm output, Great River Energy's renewable portfolio includes 213 MW of wind resources as well as a number of renewable biomass resources.

"The Prairie Star Wind Farm gets us closer to our commitment to reach 25 percent renewable energy by the year 2025," said Mark Rathbun, GRE's renewable energy project leader.



Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered

Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2008-09 school term may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award up to four \$500 scholarships for local students.

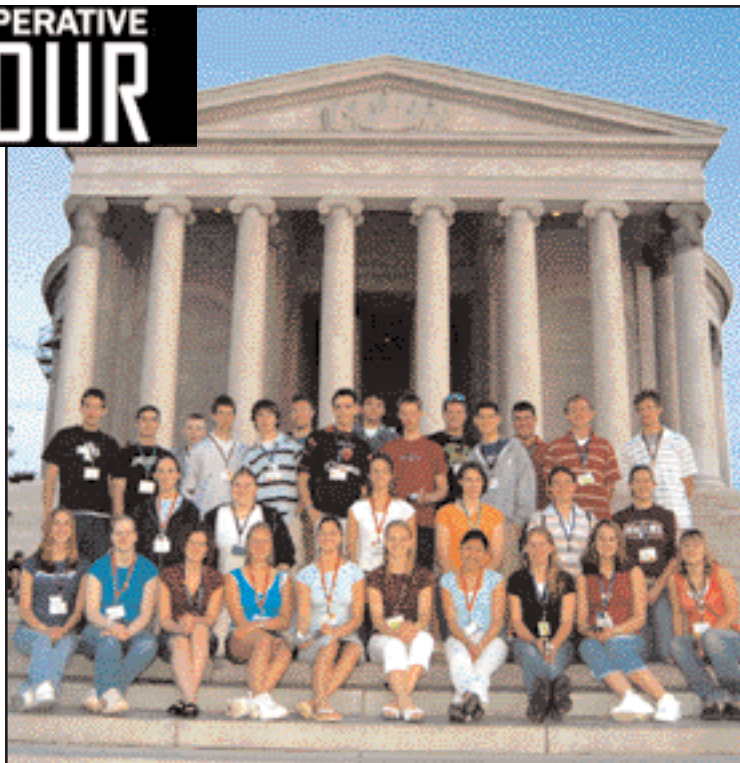
If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County (or are a resident of one of those four counties) and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply. Applications and informative career brochures are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 15, 2008.



Attention High School Juniors & Seniors: This is your time to experience Washington D.C.

Enter the Cooperative's Washington D.C. Youth Tour competition and possibly win an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 14-19, 2008.

For over 40 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour by sending their high school juniors and seniors to Washington D.C. to experience, first hand, the essence that is our republic. An information packet is available for any high school junior or senior that requests one. Just call the Co-op office at 1-800-494-6272. You will have until March 3, 2008, to submit your application for the



contest. A new application and questionnaire have replaced the essay to qualify. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, according to the students from our area that have participated in past youth tours. Please encourage your child or grandchild to apply. They need only attend a high school in or reside in McLeod, Renville, Sibley counties or western Carver County.

Reservations being accepted for Coal Creek Tour

This year's Coal Creek Tour is June 10-12.

Reservations are now being accepted for this popular tour. It is both an education and fun trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. Tour participants will visit Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, North Dakota Heritage Center, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center. Possible additions to this year's tour could be the new ethanol plant being constructed adjacent to the Coal Creek Generating Plant and a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area.

Cost for adults is \$150 per person. Cost for students 10-18 years of age who share a room with their parents or grandparents is \$100 per person. This makes it an affordable mini-vacation. Motor coach transportation, accommodations at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and most meals are included. The hotel offers an indoor pool, water slide, hot tub and exercise room. The hotel is located across the street from a shopping mall. So there is plenty to do during free time.

The group leaves the Cooperative about 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10 and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. Members going on the tour need to be physically able to climb stairs and do a substantial amount of walking. The tour is not



suitable for children under 10 years of age.

If you have never been on this tour, we encourage you to sign up. If you have been on the tour before, we will accept your reservation. However, people who have never been to Coal Creek will be given preference. Call the Cooperative to make reservations with your VISA or Mastercard or return the completed form with your check. Call 1-800-494-6272 ext. 521 to sign up.

Please reserve _____ places for the Coal Creek Tour, June 10-12, 2008

Name and Age of Students: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Return to: *McLeod Cooperative Power Assn.
1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70,
Glencoe, MN 55336.*

Beware of Energy Hungry Gifts



“Consumer electronics in general were one of the hot gift categories this year,” said Brian Lucas, a Best Buy spokesperson. Best Buy is a nationwide electronics store based in Richfield, Minnesota. Lucas said the hottest-selling categories were flat panel televisions, laptop computers, global positioning satellite devices, iPods and MP3 players, digital cameras and video game systems. But with those hot gifts may come some unexpected energy costs. “The gaming systems were sort of off the charts,” said Lucas.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, residential electricity use by consumer electronic products is responsible for more than 20 percent of household electricity use. For the most part, newer equipment will be more energy efficient, but just because something's new, doesn't make it energy efficient.

For example, one manufacturer's 42-inch LCD television consumes 236 watts when the power is on, while that same manufacturer's 42-inch Plasma-screen television will take 311 watts while running. (By comparison, that manufacturer's 46-inch television manufactured in 1990 consumed 121

watts while on, but its standby mode sucked in 3.3 watts — nearly quadruple what the newer 42-inch models use when in the off mode.)

In the world of gaming, the more popular systems consume roughly the same amount of power in standby mode (1.3 watts for Nintendo's Wii, 1.9 watts for Playstation 3, and 2.5 watts for the XBOX 360,) according to Hardcoreware.net.

However, if the Connect24 option on the Wii is on, that unit consumes 9.6 watts in standby. The numbers are a bit different when the game consoles are in idle mode. The Wii consumes 13.5 watts while the XBOX and Playstation take in 157 and 177 watts, respectively.

Mom's adage of “if you're not using it, turn it off,” holds true in many instances. However, getting the devices to truly turn off may take more than simply pushing the power button on the remote control. According to the DOE, home electronic products use energy when they're off to power features like clock displays and remote controls. Those that have earned the EnergyStar® rating use as much as 60 percent less energy to perform these functions, while providing the same performance at the same price as less-efficient models.

Less energy means you pay less on your energy bill. Simple actions can make a big

difference, the DOE says. The average home has roughly two TVs, a VCR, a DVD player and three telephones. If these items were replaced nationwide with EnergyStar® models, it would save more than 25 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent to taking more than 3 million cars off the road.

Additional savings may be realized by plugging the devices into a surge-protecting outlet strip and then turning the outlet strip off when the devices aren't in use.

Article courtesy of Renville-Sibley "Cooperative Connections"

WHEN TO TURN OFF

Personal Computers

General guidelines for turning off your personal computer for energy savings

- Though there is a small surge in energy when a computer starts up, this small amount of energy is still less than the energy used when a computer is running for long periods of time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off:
 - the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes;
 - both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than two hours.
- Make sure your monitors, printers and other accessories are on a power strip/surge protector.

More Energy Tips for Home Electronics

If you live in a typical U.S. home, your appliances and home electronics are responsible for about 20 percent of your energy bills. These appliances and electronics include everything from clothes washers and dryers, to computers, to water heaters. By shopping for appliances with the EnergyStar label and turning off appliances when they're not in use, you can achieve real savings in your monthly energy bill.

- Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade; they use much less energy than desktop computers.
- There is a common misconception that screen savers reduce energy use by monitors; they do not. Automatic switching to sleep mode or manually turning monitors off is always the better energy-saving strategy.
- EnergyStar computers and monitors save energy only when the power management features are activated, so make sure power management is activated on your computer.
- To maximize savings with a laptop, put the AC adapter on a power strip that can be turned off (or will turn off automatically); the transformer in the AC adapter draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged into the adapter.
- Studies have shown that using rechargeable batteries for products like cordless phones and PDAs is more cost effective than throwaway batteries. If you must use throw-aways, check with your trash removal company about safe disposal options.
- Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.
- “Phantom” loads occur in most appliances that use electricity, such as VCRs, televisions, stereos, computers and kitchen appliances. In the average home, 75 percent of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed

while the products are turned off. This can be avoided by unplugging the appliance or using a power strip and using the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance.

- Look for the EnergyStar label on home appliances, electronics and other products. EnergyStar products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- When shopping for a new clothes dryer, look for one with a moisture sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry. Not only will this save energy, it will save wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying.
- Consider air-drying clothes on clothes lines or drying racks. Air-drying is recommended by clothing manufacturers for some fabrics.
- Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material, not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.
- Use the cool-down cycle to allow the clothes to finish drying with the residual heat in the dryer.

- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation.
- Don't over-dry your clothes. If your machine has a moisture sensor, use it.
- Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load from lighter-weight clothes.
- Wash and dry full loads. If you are washing a small load, use the appropriate water-level setting.
- Wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.
- For older appliances, use a power controlling device to reduce the energy consumption of the appliance's electric motor.
- Turn off your personal computer when you're away from your PC for 20 minutes or more and both the CPU and the monitor if you will be away for two hours or more.
- Saving energy starts with being an informed consumer. Estimate an appliance's annual energy cost before purchasing.
- Always look for the EnergyStar and EnergyGuide labels when shopping for home appliances. The EnergyStar label is the government's seal of energy efficiency. The EnergyGuide label estimates an appliance's energy consumption.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION
 GLENCOE, MINNESOTA
 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF McLEOD COOPERATIVE
 POWER ASSOCIATION:

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be held at the Pla-Mor Ballroom at 9th Street and Stevens, in the city of Glencoe, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on April 2, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 1, 2 and 3. The polls for the election of directors will be opened at the meeting place at 8:30 a.m. and will be closed at 10:15 a.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
3. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 22nd day of January, 2008.

Dale E. Peters, Secretary



Changes to appliance rebate program

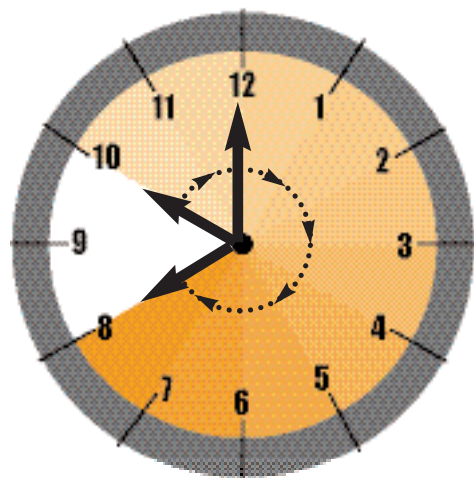
Bigger rebates are now available to members purchasing specific Energy Star® appliances in 2008 and consumers may now receive more than one appliance rebate per year.

- **High efficiency refrigerator or freezer before Nov. 1, 2008\$50 rebate**
- **Clothes washer or dehumidifier during the eligible months\$25 rebate**
- **Room air conditioners meeting criteria\$35 rebate**

Rebate forms are available from the Co-op office and after March 8 will be available for downloading on the Co-op web site. Forms need to be returned to the Co-op within 90 days of purchase with a receipt or bill of sale. Rebates will be applied as credits to your electric bill.

Conservation encouraged during ON-PEAK hours in 2008

What are ON-PEAK hours?



Weekdays between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. is considered ON-PEAK hours by our power supplier, Great River Energy.

Any energy that our cooperative members purchase between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday is now billed to MCPA at a higher cost per kilowatt-hour. Any way MCPA members can reduce energy use during these hours helps the Cooperative keep energy costs to the membership as low as possible.

Energy used by cooperative members outside of ON-PEAK times - that could be later in the evening, overnight, in the early morning on weekdays—or anytime on the weekends—is billed at a lower energy rate. The end result is that if our cooperative members voluntarily choose to do more laundry, dishes, and other chores after 8 p.m., early in the morning or on weekends, we could impact the total cost we pay for electricity. If the cooperative has to pay less for energy, then it reduces how much our members collectively pay for electricity

through the power cost adjustment (PCA). MCPA does not currently bill its members at different rates for electricity used during different times of day, except for members participating in load management control programs such as Dual Fuel, Storage Heating or Storage Water Heating. If you have a water heater or electric heat that is not on one of these programs, call the Energy Management Specialists at the MCPA. You could reduce your cost to operate that appliance by 50 percent if it is on the load management program.

Take a look around your house. Do a little inspection of what is plugged into each outlet and what is using electricity during those more expensive daytime hours that does not need to be. Examples: Cell phone charger; i-pod charger; hand vacuum charger; flashlight charger; dehumidifier; computer printers or monitors, unnecessary lights, and the list goes on.

Unplugging things that do not need to be on all the time saves you money directly on your electric bill. Collectively, if hundreds of us are not using these appliances during ON-PEAK hours, it keeps the blended cost of energy down to all of our members. Even small conservation efforts do make a difference.

We thank you in advance for any efforts you make.