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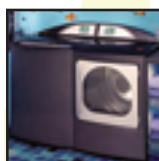
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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Special ENERGY STAR rebates in effect this month



This fall you will have the opportunity to receive a **\$100 rebate** when you purchase a new **ENERGY STAR clothes washer** or **\$150 rebate** when you purchase a new **ENERGY STAR refrigerator** and recycle your old one.

These larger rebates are available for a limited time and cannot be combined with the Cooperative's standard \$25 ENERGY STAR rebates.

You have two convenient shopping options

- ✓ Use the Best Buy coupon found on page 3 of this newsletter between October 14 and 30, 2008. Present the coupon from the newsletter when you make your purchase and receive the \$100.00 rebate instantly. This rebate lasts for only two weeks so you need to make your purchase during the last half of October and see coupons for other requirements.

- ✓ Purchase your new ENERGY STAR clothes washer from one of the local appliance dealers listed below. They will provide you with the McLeod Cooperative Power rebate form. You have a six-week window with the local dealers to make your new ENERGY STAR clothes washer or refrigerator purchase: October 14

thru November 30, 2008. Send your rebate form and copy of your paid receipt to McLeod Cooperative Power before Dec. 10 and your rebate check will be mailed to you in a few weeks. Recycling of your old refrigerator is required for this special rebate.

Participating ENERGY STAR appliance dealers:

Isakson's in Gibbon
Home Source in Hutchinson
Home Solutions in Glencoe and Norwood
Thomes Brothers in Arlington
Y-Not Maytag Appliance Center in Arlington



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Coats for Kids plans coat distribution

McLeod Cooperative Power and other organizations collected coats through October 6. We were helping collect coats for children and youth in need. Coats will be distributed to local youth at the Pla-Mor Ballroom in Glencoe and at the McLeod County Fairgrounds in Hutchinson October 16 from noon to 7 p.m. and October 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are in need of a coat, request a form by calling Common Cup Ministry at 320-587-2213 or 320-864-5511. All coats not distributed these days will be given to needy families in rural Minnesota.

Coats for Kids is sponsored by Common Cup Ministry, McLeod County Social Services, Heartland Community Action and the Glencoe and Hutchinson Rotarians.

\$2 instant rebate Oct. 1- Nov. 30



Local ACE Hardware stores in Glencoe and Hutchinson will be partnering with GE bulbs and Minnesota utilities on the "Change A Light, Change the World" campaign. These stores will offer compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) at a special price. Consumers can get a \$2 instant rebate right at the store Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, or while supplies last. Consumers complete one rebate form and can purchase their bulbs at the two dollar off price instantly. A limit on the number of bulbs at this low price may apply. Check rebate details on store display.

CFLs are a great way to reduce

energy use. They are usually available in sizes from 15 watt to 26 watt that would replace 60 to 100 watt standard incandescent bulbs. Energy used by CFLs is a fraction of the energy used by incandescent bulbs with comparable lumens.

It is important to remember that CFLs must be disposed of properly as household hazardous waste. They **MUST NOT** be discarded in the trash. For environmental reasons, it is very important that CFLs be turned in for recycling at a participating store that sells fluorescent lamps or with your county hazardous waste agency. There may be a fee for recycling.

Why is the Co-op promoting energy conservation?

Why do we encourage our members to use less energy?

The most important reason is that by helping our members conserve energy, we are also helping you save money on energy costs. That is part of our mission. That is why we have offered electric usage audits and provided our members with conservation information for 30 years.

A more recent reason for increasing our conservation efforts is that the 2007 Minnesota Legislature enacted the Next Generation Energy Act. This law requires that by 2010 each individual utility or association shall reduce their energy sales by 1.5% of their gross annual retail sales. This mandate will require our Cooperative members to reduce energy use. Rebates are used to help our members replace older appliances with new ones that are more

efficient. The Co-op must track and report aggregate savings annually to the State.

The demand for electricity continues to climb but it is unbelievably costly and difficult to build a new power plant. Conserving energy helps delay the need for costly new power plants. If we can reduce energy use enough, it could actually replace the need for a peaking plant.

The first incentives that come to mind are rebates for high-efficiency air conditioners, heat pumps and appliances. But the Co-op also offers grants and rebates to commercial customers that are upgrading to more efficient lights, motors, fans, etc.

Farmers do not often take advantage of the Co-op's energy grants but they are an excellent incentive to help pay for energy saving devices that can lower the farmer's monthly energy bill.

Milk Pre-Cooling:
Using groundwater to pre-cool milk cuts compressor use. Milk cooling cost can be reduced up to 50%.

Variable Frequency Drives:
Installing a variable speed vacuum pump control can save up to 65% on vacuum pump energy costs.

Lighting:
Replacing older incandescent lighting with energy efficient light fixtures can reduce your lighting costs by up to 65%.

Variable Speed Milk Transfer Systems:
Regulating the flow of milk through a plate cooler can significantly enhance the effectiveness of your equipment.

Heat Recovery:
Adding a heat recovery system, which uses waste heat from the compressor to preheat water, can save half of the energy used for your water heating.

Whether you are an agricultural farmer or a homeowner, we hope that you find McLeod Cooperative Power to be a source of knowledge regarding energy use, grants and rebates, load management options, etc. Call us with your energy questions.

Keeping an old refrigerator may not save you \$\$\$

That six-pack of soda in the garage refrigerator could be costing you a lot more than you think.

Millions of homeowners have an old refrigerator in their garage or basement, which is often a hand-me-down from the kitchen. These older refrigerators may still run, but can consume twice the amount of energy of a new energy-efficient model.

At a time when homeowners are looking for ways to cut their energy bills, spending as much as \$125 a year to keep a few sodas or beers cold may not make sense. (The old 1970-80's frost-free models that often came in olive green or gold colors could cost you up to \$250 a year to operate).

In a home where the extra refrigerator is regularly stocked with food, replacing it with a new Energy Star-qualified refrigerator is an option to consider. You can save up to \$275 over the next five years, plus you will get better performance. New Energy Star-qualified refrigerators are available in a variety of sizes

and price points, so you do not need to buy anything extravagant (some companies make refrigerators designed just for the garage).

If the extra refrigerator tends to be empty (or home to just a few batteries, stale sodas or mystery containers of food) you should

probably get rid of it altogether. Think of all the extra space you will have in your garage for storing equipment or tools.

If giving up your second refrigerator causes too

much angst, consider opting for a smaller compact fridge. These units are smaller than a regular refrigerator but can still hold extra sodas and other small items. They also use only a fraction of the energy of a full-size model. Look for one that has earned the Energy Star rating and save up to \$80 per year.

If a large amount of food storage is needed, but only at certain times of the year, some families may find it better to keep the old model but only plug it in when it is needed.

Portions of this article are from www.energyefficienthomearticles.com.



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MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

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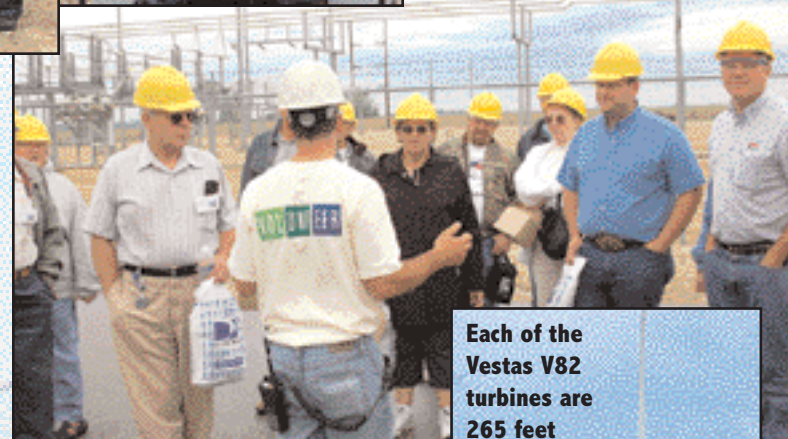
Photo of the entire tour group from McLeod Cooperative Power.



Two of our younger tour participants especially enjoyed their day.

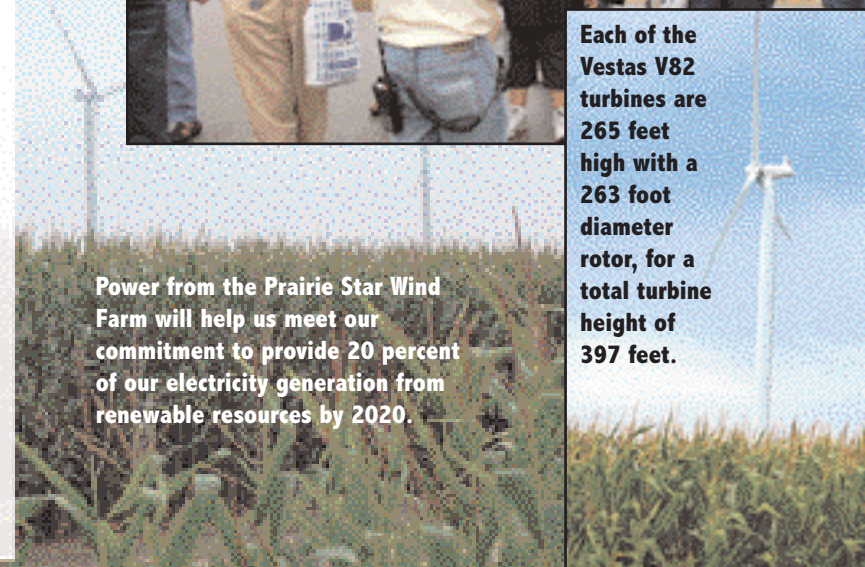


Members broke into smaller groups for their facilities tour.



Each of the Vestas V82 turbines are 265 feet high with a 263 foot diameter rotor, for a total turbine height of 397 feet.

Power from the Prairie Star Wind Farm will help us meet our commitment to provide 20 percent of our electricity generation from renewable resources by 2020.



Members tour wind farm and peaking plant

Fifty-one participants traveled to southeastern Minnesota on August 27 for a tour of the Prairie Star Wind Farm and Pleasant Valley Peaking Plant, located 25 miles southwest of Rochester. Co-op members and employees in attendance viewed some of the sixty-one 1.65 MW wind turbines that came online in 2007. The clean-renewable energy generated by the turbines is purchased by Great River Energy. This wind farm is helping Great River Energy and its 28 member cooperatives meet its commitment to derive 20 percent of its electric energy from renewable resources by 2020. It produces 362,000 megawatt-hours of

electricity annually, which is enough to power 36,000 Minnesota homes. The group toured a turbine site. They got a sneak peak into one of the 61 turbines. Each turbine can generate 1.65 MW of electricity (or 1,650 kW) per hour. Each turbine stands 265 feet high. Total height of the turbine when the rotor is in the 12:00 position is 397 feet.

Members also toured the Pleasant Valley Peaking Plant next door. This 419 MW peaking plant has three combustion turbines. It has been operational since 2001 and is owned by Great River Energy and its 28 member cooperatives.

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Cashier Instructions: Scan coupon UPC. Scan all product(s) being sold. Press "Total." Write "VOID" on coupon and place in register coupon media file.

Coupon Expires: October 30, 2008

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Valid 10/14/08 - 10/30/08 only in Best Buy® Stores

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on a new ENERGY STAR
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Cashier Instructions: Scan coupon UPC. Scan all product(s) being sold. Press "Total." Write "VOID" on coupon and place in register coupon media file.

Coupon Expires: October 30, 2008

ENERGY STAR and the ENERGY STAR mark are registered U.S. marks.



Standard \$25 appliance rebates must be submitted by November 1

If you purchased an Energy Star® appliance in 2008 and you planned to receive a \$25 rebate, you will need to have your rebate form and receipt submitted to the Cooperative no later than November 1, 2008. This includes rebates for Energy Star clothes washers, dehumidifiers, refrigerators and freezers. (Only the special rebates for clothes washers and refrigerators purchased between October 14 and November 30, 2008 have until December 10 to submit their rebate forms).

Rebate forms are available on the Co-op's web site for downloading at www.mcleodcoop.com or by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272.

Rebate forms for air conditioners and heat pumps have one additional month (until December 1) to be submitted. Rebate programs for cooling have changed in 2008. This year only certified installations by trained installers will qualify for the larger cooling rebates from the Cooperative. A list of certified contractors is available by calling the cooperative or checking out the link on our website at www.mcleodcoop.com (click on About Us, Our Partners and Public Search for Certified Contractors).

Dual fuel cuts heating costs dramatically

When Larry Husfeldt built his home on the east shore of Lake Marion in 1967, he put in a fuel oil furnace. Back then, fuel oil was relatively cheap. Even though it took about 1,000 gallons of oil a year to heat his 1,650 square foot home, it didn't cost an arm and a leg then.

Unfortunately, the price of oil rose to the point that Larry knew something had to change.

"I was one of the first in McLeod County to put in an air source heat pump in 1982," Larry said. "It was kind of new at that time, so I didn't really know what to expect."

He was pleasantly surprised by the result. As part of a dual fuel program that uses the heat pump as the primary heating unit and the fuel oil furnace as a back-up, he was able to cut his heating costs dramatically. Larry has kept meticulous records of his heating and cooling costs every month since he built his home, so he is able to accurately report his substantial savings.

"Instead of 1,000 gallons of fuel oil, I used 23 gallons last year, and 17 gallons the year before."

If Larry and his wife Kay had continued to heat their home with

fuel oil, it would have cost somewhere around \$3,200 last winter. Instead, the Husfeldts spend an average of \$53.50 per month for both heating and off-peak storage water. If you figure six months of space heating and water heating, that's around \$321 for the winter.

"We are gone during part of January and February, so we turn our heat down to 55 degrees, but when we're home, we like it warm, so we set the thermostat at 72 degrees."

Simple technology yields super savings

Because an air source heat pump uses a transfer system that is able to pull heat out of the outside air into the home, energy isn't used to create heat. That makes an air source heat pump 180 percent or more efficient, further reducing heating costs.

Better yet, a heat pump does double-duty. During the summer the transfer process is reversed; the heat pump pulls heat from the home and deposits it outside. Since one unit does both, you don't need to add a central air conditioning system. A heat pump is economical to run in the summer, also.

"Last July we spent just \$14.62 to both cool our home and heat our water," Larry said.



A lot of the savings result from the dual fuel program itself. During times of peak electricity use, the primary heating source automatically switches from the electric unit (in this case, the air source heat pump) and runs the back-up heating source (fuel oil, propane, etc.). By allowing this control, members on the dual fuel program enjoy a much lower electric rate. A low electric rate, coupled with reduced use of more expensive fossil fuels, allows savings to really add up.

In 2005, the Husfeldts noticed their heat pump was losing efficiency.

"We were told that since a heat pump runs year-round, that it would last about 15 years," Larry said. "Well,

mine lasted 23 years, and my neighbor's lasted nearly 25 years."

When he purchased a new 14-SEER heat pump this time around, he also purchased a plenum heater to provide supplemental heat during particularly cold weather.

"It's warm, consistent, clean heat, especially compared to fuel oil," Larry said.

"Of all the things I have purchased or done in my life, buying an air source heat pump and plenum heater is the best thing I ever did."

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It takes a lot of energy and money to keep your home comfortable during long Minnesota winters. Don't let precious heat escape easily. As energy costs increase, so do the cost savings from effective winterization.

Whether you use electricity or another fuel to heat your house, you can make a big difference on your winter heating bills by properly insulating.

According to ENERGY STAR you can save up to 20 percent on your heating and cooling

costs by effectively sealing and insulating your home. There are simple measures you can take to winterize your house that will keep your heating and cooling bills down and your home comfortable in the winter and summer.

START FROM THE TOP

Because hot air rises, the attic is the most important place to insulate and one of the easiest opportunities to gain significant energy savings. To gauge whether your insulation is sufficient, just peek in the attic. If the insulation is not as deep as the floor joists, you should probably add more. In cold climates like ours, attic insulation should have an R value of 44, which equals about 16 inches of fiberglass insulation or 12 inches of cellulose.

KEEP THE OUTSIDE OUT

Once the attic is insulated, seal leaks in your basement to prevent the "chimney effect," which is the primary cause of drafts. The chimney effect occurs as hot air generated in your furnace rises through the home and air is drawn in through the basement to replace the displaced hot air. By sealing leaks in your basement, you can cut off the chimney effect at its foundation.

Common locations for leaks include the perimeter of the home where the foundation meets the first floor, all electrical, water or gas lines, and any ducts venting to the outside. Caulk works well to seal cracks that are

a quarter of an inch or less. Spray foam will work for gaps of up to 3 inches.

SEAL DUCT JOINTS

Your ductwork is designed to efficiently circulate air, but if connections are loose you could be venting heat in unwanted places. By sealing all joints with mastic sealant or metal tape you can reduce losses. And, although there are infinite uses for duct tape, you should never use it on ducts. Contrary to what the name suggests, it's not a long-lasting sealant.

SAVE ENERGY BUT STAY SAFE

It's important to recognize that a winterized home will receive less fresh air for ventilation. It's always wise to provide an outside air supply for combustion appliances like gas stoves and furnaces. Always deal with a professional contractor and check with your local building inspector to find out what is required for your home to ensure that the air in your home is not only warm, but healthy, too.

Following these easy steps will go a long way toward saving on your heating bill, but they are just a start. You can contact the co-op office for additional ideas. You can also find an in-depth guide to preparing your home for winter at the home improvement section of www.energystar.gov.

INDUSTRY News

Interstate 35W bridge is stronger, greener

The new Interstate 35W bridge is a white ribbon traversing the blue Mississippi River, its retaining walls wrapped in golden Kasota limestone. But it's also green, saving the environment and possibly lives. The bridge's concrete contains fly ash, a coal combustion by-product released into the environment decades ago. "It's not common concrete at all," said Kevin MacDonald, vice president of engineering for Cemstone, the Mendota Heights-based company that was the main concrete subcontractor on the project.

The high-quality ash used in the \$234 million bridge partly replaces Portland cement, one of the binding ingredients in concrete. Fly ash makes the concrete denser, helping prevent water from getting into the bridge and eroding steel rebar - something that would weaken the structure. And because it replaces Portland cement - which emits one ton of greenhouse gases for every ton of cement produced - there are additional savings to the environment.

The fly ash for the bridge project came from Maple Grove-based Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station plant north of Washburn, N.D. GRE is committed to using its fly ash, which is captured after coal is burned. Last year, the company sold 96 percent of the 500,000 tons of fly ash it produced.

-Pioneer Press

Wind turbine company bringing 100 jobs to southern Minnesota

Moventas, a Finnish builder of gear boxes for wind-power turbines, announced plans to build a production facility in Faribault. Company officials plan to break ground this fall on the 80,000-square-foot plant, which will employ about 100 people, primarily working in assembly and testing.

The state currently ranks third in the country in wind energy production capacity and is fourth in ethanol production. Governor Pawlenty championed a law approved by the Legislature last year that will require at least 25 percent of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by 2025.

Along with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, officials from the city of Faribault, Rice County, Great River Energy and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system helped recruit Moventas. Moventas officials said production at the Faribault facility will begin at the end of next year, reaching full capacity early 2011.

-Hutchinson Leader

Energy assistance providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker County areas

Heartland Community Action Agency

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201

Toll free: 1-800-992-1710
McLeod: 320-587-5244

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144

(320) 587-9533

1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

Renville County Energy Assistance Program

105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2202

(320) 523-1161 Emergency
24 hr phone

Sibley County area

Sibley County Social Services

400 Court Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000

MN Valley Action Council

464 Raintree Road
Mankato, MN 56001

(507) 345-6822

1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota

Community Action Agency
712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952) 496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(763) 963-6500
1-800-627-3529 (Toll free)

Cold Weather Rule helps Co-op members with utility bills during winter months

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 From Oct. 15 through April 15, a Cooperative cannot disconnect a customer if it would affect that person's primary heat source and if:

- You declare an inability to pay.
- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- Your account is current for the billing period immediately prior to Oct. 15, or if you have entered into a payment schedule and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather month, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.

- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.

- A list of local energy assistance providers.

- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.
- A re-connection plan is requested by an income eligible customer who agrees to pay the current bill and arrearages over the cold weather months by agreeable payment arrangements.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 Number of days after notification before disconnection. If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule and provide the names and addresses of human service agencies and local energy assistance providers that may be of assistance in paying electric bills.

Snowbirds —

Get set up on bank draft before you head south

Any senior citizens or other snowbirds that plan to head south this winter should know that bank draft is the easiest and safest way to set up their electric account. Before you leave, contact the Cooperative. We have a simple form for you to complete and then you provide us with a voided check blank. We set your account up to automatically be paid by your checking or savings account each month (whichever account you designate).

About the 14th of the month you will still be mailed a bill. On the 28th of that month, after you have had time to review your bill, we will deduct the amount due from your bank account. It is very safe and very easy. Please call the Cooperative's Billing Department for details.



How to get your rebate for a high-efficiency air conditioner or heat pump

If you purchase a high-efficiency central cooling system with a SEER (seasonal energy efficiency rating) of 13 or greater, AND it was installed by a registered contractor, you are entitled to a rebate.

High Efficiency Rebates

13 SEER	\$30
14 SEER	\$180
15 SEER	\$280
16 SEER	\$330

Additional \$150 available for heat pumps on the Dual Fuel program



Split air conditioning systems or mini/splits do not qualify for these central system rebates. A high-efficiency split system qualifies for the same \$25 rebate as a window air conditioner because it's designed to cool only one or two rooms.

Your contractor must be registered with the HVAC Reducation service. If he is not registered there will be no rebate. Contractors who have passed the Reducation exam, confirming their knowledge of proper installation methods for high-efficiency cooling systems, are listed on the service's web site at www.hvacreduction.net. You may access the list of all contractors in Minnesota certified to do rebate-

eligible installations by going to the Cooperative's web site. Go to www.mcleodcoop.com. Click on [About Us](#), and then [Our Partners](#) on the left margin. Select [search](#) for certified contractors from list. If you are not internet savvy, just call us at McLeod Co-op Power and we can provide you with the names of contractors in your area that are registered. The list is updated daily as contractors receive certification.

All registered contractors will complete the rebate forms as they do the installation and forward them to the Cooperative. We will send the check to you, the member. There is nothing the consumer needs to fill out for the central system high-efficiency rebates.

Heat pumps save energy and money

When people think of home energy conservation, they often think about heating. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, space heating accounts for 34 percent of the average home's energy budget.

You can lower your heating costs and energy consumption by installing a heat pump. Whether it's a ground source or air source heat pump, the unit does not heat air; it harnesses the heat already present in the ground or outdoor air and concentrates it for inside use. Heat pumps cool your home by collecting the heat inside your house and effectively pumping it outside.

A ground source heat pump provides over three times more heat than it consumes in energy and can easily trim over 50 percent from your home heating bill. It is a complete stand-alone heating/cooling system when operated on the regular uncontrolled electric rate. If a member chooses to put it on the Dual Fuel Program, then the cost per kWh is about half as much as the regular rate but a backup automatic furnace or heating system is required to heat the home during Dual Fuel control times. The control times are

expected to total 200-250 hours per heating season.

An air source heat pump is less expensive and easier to have installed, and can provide about 50 percent of your home heating needs and all of your cooling needs. Air source heat pumps are usually operated on the half-price off-peak rate. They are cycled during the summer peak cooling times. They operate mostly in fall and spring and on mild winter days for heating, so they are usually not operating during Dual Fuel control times anyway. An air source heat pump will operate down to about 25 degrees Fahrenheit outside temperature. To operate below this temperature, they need to be coupled with an electric plenum heater or duct heater.

Both air source and ground source heat pumps installed in 2008 may qualify for a high efficiency rebate. Call 1-800-494-6272 for details.



Getting local channels via DIRECTV is an alternative to digital converter boxes



In February 2009, anyone who receives their local TV channels over an off-air antenna (roof-top antenna or rabbit ears) will no longer be able to receive broadcasts without adding

a digital converter box to each television or buying a new TV with a digital tuner.

The other option you have is to subscribe to DIRECTV satellite television service (which is already digital service). If you subscribe to the local channels from DIRECTV you will receive crystal clear delivery of all the local affiliate channels for this area. This includes channels 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 17, 22, 23, 29, 41, and 45. These channels are included in all DIRECTV programming packages for new subscribers. Customers with existing packages may pay \$3-\$6 per month, depending upon the package they currently subscribe to, to get the locals.

Security systems have multiple farm uses

Security systems are used frequently on farms with animal confinement. They are used to monitor not only building security, but also environmental conditions from temperature to power supply to proper ventilation. Now, security systems are also used for protecting grain bin sites that are located away from the farmer's residence. Heartland Security Services, which is now owned by 13 rural electric cooperatives, is able to provide security equipment and 24-hour monitoring for agricultural confinement housing. Heartland can offer to you installers with years of experience specializing in ag confinement systems and farm protection. Call Heartland Security Services at 1-888-264-6380.

Volunteers needed for Nominating Committee

To elect directors in Districts 4, 5, and 6 at the 2009 Annual Meeting, we need members from those districts to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members participate in the election process by selecting director candidates and submitting their names to the Board for approval. They also assist with collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers are needed from the following townships:

District 4:

Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Brookfield, Hector, Osceola and a portion of Kingman Township, all in Renville County, and a portion of East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County, served by McLeod Cooperative Power.

District 5:

Lynn, Collins and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.

District 6:

New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, Dryden, and Transit Townships in Sibley County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power before January 2, 2009. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 15, 2009.

LED Christmas light strings eligible for \$5 rebate

*Turn in your old lights
and get up to \$25 off new LED light strings instantly*

To get members to decorate their homes — both indoors and outdoors —

with the very efficient LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lights, the Cooperative is offering a rebate of \$5 per string of lights. The two participating hardware stores in our service area are: ACE Hardware stores in Glencoe and Hutchinson.

The rebate offer is available only to McLeod Cooperative Power members October 15 through December 15, 2008 or while light supplies last. Each member may use this coupon in the newsletter to get the \$5 per string rebate on up to five strings of LED holiday lights, for a maximum rebate of \$25 per member. Save this coupon because reproductions will not be accepted!

LED Christmas lights come in mini-light sizes, icicle lights, larger C6 lights (sized like the larger outdoor lamps used 20 years ago), LED rope lights and many other varieties. They can be used indoor or outdoor. LED strings use 90% less energy than a

string of mini-bulbs. They last 50,000 to 100,000 hours. They are safer and are cool to the touch. If one bulb goes out, the rest stay lit. They also are sturdier and are difficult to damage.

Many even come with a lifetime or many-year warranty. LED light strings are the best and most efficient way to decorate for Christmas or any holiday.



YOU MUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS CAREFULLY TO GET YOUR REBATE:

1. Cut out the coupon on this page.
2. Take the coupon and up to 5 old strings of holiday lights to the ACE Hardware store in either Glencoe or Hutchinson.
3. Purchase one to five strings of LED Christmas lights that have at least 25 bulbs per string.
4. Present your filled out coupon at the checkout with your old strings to get \$5 off each string you are purchasing, up to a maximum rebate of \$25 per member.



a brighter idea

LED Holiday Lighting Promotion

Oct. 15 - Dec. 15, 2008

Or while supplies last

\$5 instant rebate per strand of LED Holiday Lights

purchased at these participating stores:

- Hite Ace Hardware in Glencoe
- Ace Hardware in Hutchinson

Any LED brand of 25 or more bulb strands eligible for rebate.

Customer name: _____

Address: _____

of strands purchased (Max. 5): _____



1231 Ford Ave. & Hwy. 22
Glencoe, MN

1-800-494-MCPA

Only members of McLeod Co-op Power are eligible for rebate. One coupon from MCPA Newsletter for up to five light strands for a maximum total rebate of \$25 per customer. Reproductions of coupon are not allowed. One strand of non-LED holiday lights should be turned in for each LED strand purchased (up to five).

Fine-tune energy use with the right television

Streamlining your home's energy use can make a big impact on monthly electric bills, especially with rising fuel costs. But the devil is in the details, and everyday energy wasters are sometimes easy to overlook.

One ever-present culprit lurks in your home right now. When combined with DVD players and video game consoles, television use makes up about 10 percent of an average household's annual electricity bill, according to ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Dept. of Energy.

Depending on the technology behind the TV you are watching, your monthly related energy costs can vary dramatically. Standard TV sets use a cathode ray tube, with those smaller than 40 inches drawing roughly 73 watts (W) when on — close to what a

75W incandescent light bulb uses. An average flat screen LCD television of the same size also requires 70W, while a similar flat-screen plasma TV can really suck some power, consuming an average of 246W when on.



With more families opting for flat screen TVs these days, the choice between LCD and plasma can

really make an impact, to almost startling levels on a national scale.

Currently, there are more than 275 million TVs in use across the country, with the average household tuning in 4.7 hours a day. It takes more than 50 billion kWh a year to keep those sets on, according to EPA, meaning it costs Americans \$5.2 billion to watch all of that TV.

Of the total electricity generated in a single year, a full 1.2 percent goes toward keeping televisions glowing, and if current buying trends continue, that number could climb to nearly 2 percent in a few years, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, a New York City-based environmental advocacy group.

The good news is that energy efficient TVs — LCD, plasma, and otherwise — are becoming available. This November, blue ENERGY STAR labels will appear on all TVs that use less energy when turned on. Current ENERGY STAR TV labels only indicate how efficient a set is when switched off, in standby mode.



“ENERGY STAR's new specifications for televisions are turning the channel

on energy guzzling sets, making them go the way of rabbit ears and black and white broadcasts,” said EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson.

ENERGY STAR estimates that if all of the TVs sold in the United States meet the new requirements, energy savings could grow to \$1 billion a year. Related greenhouse gas emissions, meanwhile, would be reduced by the equivalent of taking about 1 million cars off of the road.

If you are not in the market for a new TV, you can still cut back on the electricity your old set uses by adjusting the picture settings. The brighter the screen, the more energy it needs. Also, the small stream of electricity a TV draws while in standby mode can be eliminated by unplugging it, or by plugging it into a power strip that can be switched off.