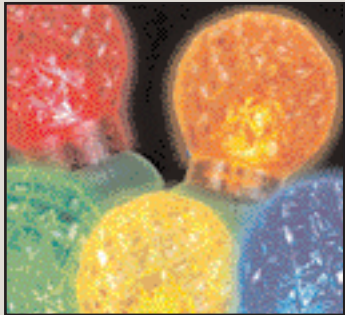


NEWS

November 2008

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

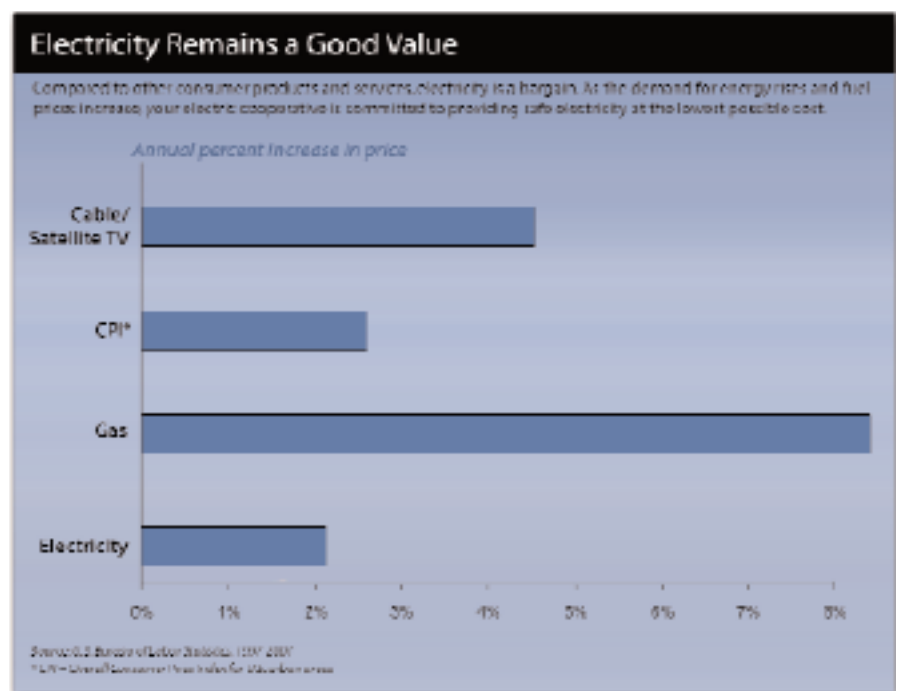


Holiday Treats Dec. 17 & 18

McLeod Cooperative will be offering cider, coffee and cookies for any members stopping in to pay a bill or do business with us **Wednesday, December 17 or Thursday, December 18.**

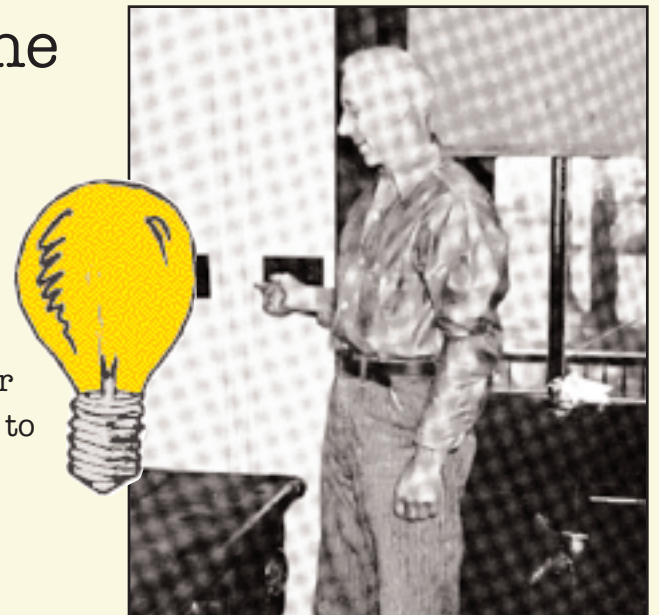
It is just our way of sharing the holiday warmth with our members.

2009 scenic calendars will be available beginning at Thanksgiving and throughout the month of December, while supplies last.



Were you around when the lights came on?

The Cooperative is looking for any members who remember when their home or farm first received electricity. If you are a member with stories or photos to share, please call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 and ask for Sue Pawelk. We would like to visit with you to start to record historical stories for the Cooperative's 75th anniversary, which will take place in 2010. Any photos you would loan to us would be copied and returned promptly.



A message from Great River Energy

October 31, 2008



Dear Co-op Member:

As you know, Great River Energy is your electric cooperative's wholesale power provider.

We generate the electricity you use at your home, farm or business. Your electric cooperative is one of our 28 member-owners.

This year, Great River Energy's wholesale power bill to your electric cooperative was, on average, 10% higher than expected. A good share of that increase has come in the last quarter of 2008, so you probably have seen — or will see — a surcharge on your electric bill.

Since about 60% of your electric bill is made up of wholesale power costs from Great River Energy, I wanted to take the opportunity to explain some of the reasons our costs have increased.

Loss of revenue

The single biggest factor affecting wholesale power costs this year has been a reduction in revenue from selling electricity to non-members. While we build power plants principally to serve our own membership, Great River Energy sells excess electricity to other utilities, which offsets a significant portion of our costs. In 2008, the market's need for excess energy was reduced dramatically,

primarily due to cooler than normal weather this summer. This reduced our non-member revenues considerably.

Increased cost of fuel

We've all experienced higher fuel costs this year, whether it's gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas or propane. These increasing fuel costs have also had an impact on our operations. All of our power plants are subject to fluctuations in the price of these fuels. While we had anticipated some increase in the cost of fuel this year, the magnitude of these increases was markedly beyond what we forecasted.

Power plant outage

The output of electricity from Coal Creek Station, our largest and lowest-cost power plant, was reduced due to a two-week outage caused by a mechanical failure earlier this year. The power we had to buy in the marketplace to replace that lost generation cost Great River Energy more than \$8 million.

Impact of wind energy

We are adding resources to meet the state's renewable energy standard. Currently, we have more than 200 megawatts of wind energy on our system. The addition of wind energy is increasing our costs in two ways. First, adding wind energy requires other types of generation to back it up, because the wind doesn't always blow. This "overlapping" investment in generation drives up our costs. Second, wind turbines are most productive at night, and in the spring and fall months when we need the energy the least. We sell excess energy into the market at these times, and the addition of wind to our portfolio drives down the prices we receive.

What about 2009?

For a variety of reasons, some of which are described above, electric utility costs are rising

all across the country. We anticipate our wholesale power rate will increase 14% in 2009. Since wholesale power costs make up about 60% of your electric bill, this means an additional \$8 per month for the average household.

What is Great River Energy doing about costs?

We're aggressively managing those costs we can control, such as reducing capital expenditures and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, while improving efficiencies throughout our system. Despite our increasing costs, Great River Energy is still a good value for its members. Our wholesale power costs are below the regional average cost for electricity, and we have the fifth lowest wholesale power rate of any generation and transmission cooperative in the country.

What can you do?

You can take advantage of your cooperative's energy efficiency and conservation programs. In addition, Great River Energy and your cooperative are offering money-saving EnergyWise® off-peak electricity programs for your home. Watch for announcements of EnergyWise opportunities in the coming months.

We are grateful for our association with you, and we look forward to our continued partnership with your electric cooperative.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY
David Saggau, President and CEO

12300 Elm Creek Blvd
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718
763-445-5000, Fax 763-445-5050

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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
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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.

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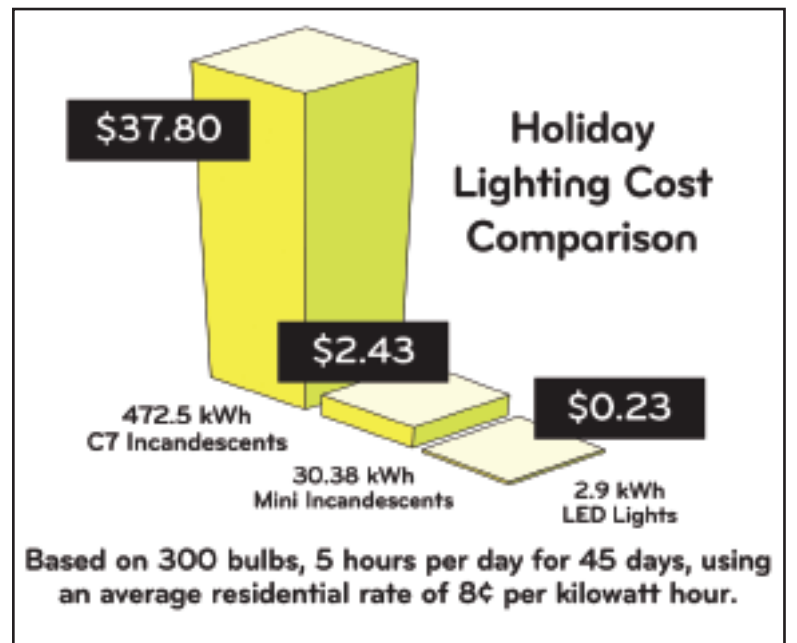
How much will I save if I switch to LED lighting strings for holiday decorating?



Choosing the right holiday lights can add up to big energy savings. Consider light-emitting diode (LED) strings this year for holiday decorating. LED strings use up to 95% less energy. See the graph (right) for an example of just how much LED's can save you over older string types.

LED's last up to seven times longer than standard or mini-bulb strings. They are more durable, with no filaments or glass bulbs to break. They are safer because they produce very little heat and reduce the risk of fire.

If you make the decision to try some LED's for Christmas lighting, just use the coupon on page 7 to get up to a \$25 rebate at local ACE Hardware Stores.



Register to win \$500 in Groceries



Go to www.mnbrighterideas.com and take a short quiz about energy-efficient appliances to enter the Groceries to Fill Your Fridge Sweepstakes.

\$500 Groceries to Fill Your Fridge Sweepstakes

One grand prize of \$500 in groceries to Fill Your Fridge will be awarded by Great River Energy to a member who resides within one of our 28 member cooperative service territories.

First Place Prizes

Each first place winner (1 from each participating co-op) will receive \$100 in groceries to Fill Your Fridge.

You must register by 11:59:59 p.m. CDT on November 30, 2008 to be eligible for the Giveaway drawing(s). Enter as often as you like. Limit of one prize per person. No purchase necessary to enter or win. A purchase or payment of any kind will not improve your chance of winning.



Round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar

And do good things in your community through Operation Round Up



The more MCPA members who choose to round up their electric bills, the more charitable groups and projects can be helped. By rounding your bill up to the nearest dollar, you will be donating between \$0 and \$11.98 per year. The average donation is \$6.00 per year.

So, we are calling all members (who have not already signed up) to join Operation Round Up. Just complete the box below and mail to the Cooperative. You may send it along with your electric payment.

Local charitable organizations with projects planned for 2009 may apply for funds at this time. Applications are accepted through March 1, 2009, and our volunteer Operation Round Up Trust Board will select those projects to receive funding before the annual meeting in April. Call the Cooperative for an application form.

The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish all of our members and their families a blessed Thanksgiving. Take this time to be grateful for the many blessings we each enjoy.

The MCPA office will be closed Thursday and Friday Nov. 27 & 28. Please use the 24-hour outage number to reach the Cooperative for outages, emergencies or other messages: 1-800-927-5685.



Electric Heating Sales Tax Exemption

Electricity sold for residential space heating, when used as the primary source of heat, is exempt from Minnesota sales tax for the billing months of November through April. To qualify, members must complete a State of Minnesota Certificate of Exemption available from the Cooperative.



If you want to sign up to participate in the Operation Round-Up Program:

1. Check box below
2. Complete and sign card
3. Return with electric bill
4. We will take care of the rest

Yes, I would like to participate in the program. I give MCPA my permission to round up my electric bill (account # shown below) to the nearest dollar each month, as my contribution to the McLeod Cooperative Power Trust.

Account # _____ Location # _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Building a house the Energy Star way

After years of remodeling older homes, Steve and Sarah Nivaud were thrilled to be building a home where everything was new all at once.

Their 2,400 square foot home, designed by Ideal Lumber, would sit on a piece of property that offered sweeping views of wild prairie, perfect for their two dogs and kids to explore. The plan was to begin building in the spring of 2008. The Nivauds were energy conscious and had specified a home that was at once spacious yet easy and inexpensive to heat and cool.

In the meantime, Chris Toenjes of Meeker Cooperative was looking for a homeowner interested in building an Energy Star home.

"I asked Ideal Lumber if they were going to be building a home that might fit into the Energy Star guidelines," said Toenjes. "I was told the Nivauds might be interested."



Chris Toenjes (right) discusses construction issues with Mike Grotto of Grotto Construction during the blower door test. The test involves sealing the home's door and turning on a fan, which pulls air out of the home and measures the difference in air pressure between inside and outside. A low number means the house is tightly built.

Dan Lundin of Ideal Lumber contacted Steve Nivaud and pitched the idea. Since there are a few more hoops to jump through to build an Energy Star home, Lundin wanted to make sure the Nivauds agreed with the process. The Nivauds jumped at the idea. It fit with their philosophy and gave them extra insurance that the home was built as energy efficiently as possible.

"With an Energy Star home there are more inspections and paperwork to comply with," said Lundin. "First you have to get the blueprint approved. Then there's a separate inspection of the insulation, which must meet a certain R-Value that is generally above building code. Finally there's a blower-door test to measure how tight the home is."

Other considerations that must be met for an Energy Star home include the installation of energy efficient heating and cooling systems,

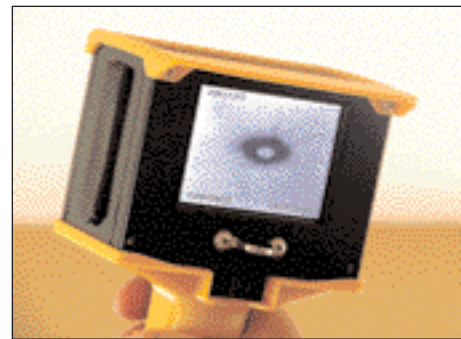
the use of all Energy Star approved appliances, the number of windows has to fall under the maximum cumulative number of inches. Windows must also be Energy Star rated.

"The Nivauds spent another \$600 for blown-in insulation to reach a higher R-Value than fiberglass batts," Lundin said. "That added cost will be paid back quickly with the added energy efficiency."

Subcontractor Grotto Construction of Grove City was responsible for making sure the house was tightly built, a job they took seriously. This was their first Energy Star home, also, and they knew that the final inspection and blower door test required by Energy Star would put their reputation as a quality builder to the test.

The blower door test and final inspection was scheduled for September 10. Pat O'Malley of Building Knowledge, Minneapolis, administered the test. O'Malley has certified hundreds of homes in the Twin Cities as Energy Star homes.

Energy Star home emphasis is put on air tightness to cut heating and cooling costs. The blower door test is able to measure this by sealing the home and pulling air from the home through a fan. The difference in pressure from the outside to the inside is measured in cubic feet per minute (CFM) of air being replaced through cracks and crevices in the home. A digital pressure gauge feeds info to a laptop. The more pressure, or CFM, the greater the cumulative leak size. The lower the score the better. If contractors do a good job of sealing the bottom and top plates and line where foundation meets the framed house, the score will be lower.



This infrared scan shows the amount of air that can infiltrate in and out of the area surrounding recessed can lights. O'Malley recommends track lighting as a good alternative.

"The detail used to seal the rim area is important," O'Malley said. "It really shows up quickly if you don't pay attention to detail. Some poorly-built homes can have a cumulative infiltration the size of a small window all year long. That's going to have a major impact on heating and cooling costs as well as comfort. Fewer drafts means a more even temperature."



The Nivaud's 2,400 square foot home is a certified Energy Star home. It met all Energy Star requirements, including Energy Star rated windows, high R-value insulation, tight construction, Energy Star appliances and efficient heating/cooling systems.

The Nivaud home had a 534 CFM rate, which for the size of the house, translates to about 55 square inches cumulative of openings throughout the home where air may infiltrate. Although that still seems significant, it's all relative. "That number is fantastic," O'Malley said. "We have strict building codes here in Minnesota. Other parts of the country struggle to get close to this number."

Things you can do to reduce that number include reducing the number of can lights. "I suggest using track lighting instead," O'Malley said. "You can also use sealed recessed lights, or build an air-tight box around the electrical box. Another area to look at is caulking around windows, and making sure your windows have an NFRC rating.

In existing homes, O'Malley recommends a complete weatherization that includes installing new weatherstripping around doors, caulking all areas that have a potential to leak air (spray foam easily seals rim joints where the foundation and house meet) and adding insulation.

"All these steps pay for themselves through lower heating and cooling bills," he said. "I also suggest having an all-electric house, so you don't have any combustion vents going out of the home, which can leak.

For the benefit of those involved with the home, O'Malley did an infrared scan and smoke pencil test to visually show air leaking around a ceiling can light.

Homes seeking Energy Star certification must have energy-efficient heating. The Nivauds worked with Toenjes to select a dual fuel system that featured a super efficient air source heat pump that cools the home and provides supplemental high-efficiency heating, and an off-peak Steffes furnace that provides the majority of the heat. The Nivauds also chose a Marathon high-insulated water heater and joined Meeker's off-peak storage water program so they could take advantage of the low energy management electric rate.



Chantal, Steve, Sarah & Nick Nivaud

"Building an Energy Star home is all about reducing greenhouse gases and reducing energy bills," O'Malley said. Although the additional inspection and blower door tests, as well as the added insulation cost an additional \$1,600, lower energy bills will pay this back quickly.



Toenjes worked with the Nivauds on their energy management system. The Nivaud's use an energy-efficient air source heat pump to provide supplemental heat and to cool their home, with an off-peak Steffes furnace as the primary heating unit. They heat their water in a Marathon ultra-insulated water heater on Meeker's off-peak storage water program.

"I feel more secure having had someone else come and check the home over and say, 'yep, that's the way it is supposed to be built,'" Nivaud said. "You know you're getting the house you want. It's a good feeling."



Pat O'Malley demonstrates an infrared scan of the can lights on the ceiling to the crew of Grotto Construction and Chris Toenjes of Meeker Co-op. Can lighting is one area where energy leaks often occur.

"We're always looking for ways to help our members save energy and money," Toenjes said. "If any of our members are interested in an Energy Star home, call the Cooperative for more information."

To contact contractors that can help with building an energy efficient home or to test the energy efficiency of the home you now own, visit the Minnesota Building Performance Association at www.mbp.a.us for a list of contractors to call directly, or contact the Center for Energy and Environment, www.mncee.org or 612-335-5858.

Have a bright, beautiful LED Christmas!

LEDs are one of the easiest ways homeowners can cut back on energy costs during the holidays. Not only are LED bulbs energy efficient, they're also safer and more vibrant than traditional incandescent bulbs."

What are LED bulbs?

While LED bulbs have been around for some time, they have become increasingly popular for outdoor and indoor holiday lighting. Because LED bulbs are durable, energy-efficient and cool running, they are a great option for holiday lighting. A traditional bulb used for holiday lighting uses approximately 6 watts per bulb. An LED bulb uses just .08 watts. When it comes to cost savings, LED bulbs

are the ultimate for efficiency.

The life span of LED bulbs is significantly greater than typical incandescent bulbs and greater than compact fluorescent bulbs – up to 100,000 hours. This is partially due to the fact that LED bulbs generate much less heat. The lower heat output also makes for safer tree trimming and home decorating during the holiday season.



Many people prefer the bright, vibrant look of these lights over incandescent bulbs. One of the most spectacular displays of LED lighting is the Times Square ball that descends on New Year's Eve.

INDUSTRY

News

Funding available for green home improvements

Minnesotans who want to improve the energy efficiency of their homes can apply for new state funding. The micro-energy and conservation home improvement loans are intended to help save on energy costs, grow so-called "green-collar jobs" and improve the environment.

State Housing Commissioner, Tim Marx, said homeowners can replace a furnace, boiler, water heater or make other improvements. "Insulation, new windows, solar thermal, solar electric and wind turbine generators, as well as other things that might help them generate some electricity as well as conserve electricity for their own use," Marx said.

Marx recommends getting an energy audit from a utility company to determine the most cost-effective home improvements.

\$10 million in low-interest loans are available and the maximum amount per applicant is \$35,000. The maximum household income for eligible applicants is \$93,000.

-Minnesota Public Radio

Wind turbines may come to central Minnesota

Minnesota is likely to see more wind farms in the future, partly due to a recent law requiring 25 percent of Minnesota's energy to come from renewable sources by 2025. Central Minnesota isn't typically mentioned among Minnesota's windy spots. Most of its large wind farms are in the southeastern as well as southwestern parts of the state. But one expert says those areas are becoming saturated with wind turbines, so utilities are looking elsewhere, including central Minnesota.

Central Minnesota's wind might not blow as strongly as in southern Minnesota, but it's sufficient for a large-scale project. "While western Minnesota has plenty of wind, it doesn't have as much "load," or potential customers, as St. Cloud and the Twin Cities," said Michael Reese, renewable energy director at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris. "The closer to those customers you can produce the power, the better. The site also needs to be close to transmission lines that can carry power to customers."

The governors of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin have agreed to work together to develop a regional transmission system for renewable energy.

Rochester Post Bulletin



Heartland Security

Protecting what you value most

- Protect your home and family against:
- Break in
 - Fire
 - Flood
 - Power outage
 - Storm damage
 - Roof damage
 - Carbon monoxide

Medical alarm pendants are available for people with health problems or for senior citizens.

- Monitor services for small and large commercial operations:
- Access control systems
 - Digital video surveillance
 - Commercial fire systems



Heartland Security

As a Cooperative Member-owner you can purchase a security system and receive a 10% discount, PLUS an additional \$100 Off the purchase system price.

Compare with other offers



www.heartlandsecurity.com

McLeod COOPERATIVE POWER

Meeker Cooperative
Light and Power Association

What has changed with Dual Fuel?

Members keep asking what has changed with Dual Fuel? Is there still a Dual Fuel Program? The answer is yes, there is still a program. It just has a few minor changes.

Our power supplier, who controls when off-peak loads need to be shed, is telling us that the number of hours of Dual Fuel control will likely increase this winter. We may see electric heating loads shut off this winter for 150-200 hours total. Last year was about 120 hours. However, the program allows for up to 400 hours per season of control, and it has been that way for decades. We just have never needed to control heating that much. Although Dual Fuel control usually is needed between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on weeknights, it can happen any time or any day as prices for electricity and availability of power dictate.

The Cooperative's off-peak rate has increased in recent years to 4.3 cents per kWh plus a power cost adjustment of \$.00605, making the off-peak rate 4.95 cents per kWh. This is about half the regular general service rate.

We anticipate an incremental increase in the power cost adjustment for 2009, depending upon future rates from our power supplier. So, members can anticipate that the off-peak rate may increase slightly, especially if the cost of power and the general service rate increase. This is because there is no longer cheap baseload power available for Dual Fuel. Our power supplier often needs to purchase power on the market to supply our members with Dual Fuel kilowatts, so off-peak rates have had to increase accordingly.

The most significant change to Dual Fuel is that we can no longer allow electric heating systems to be added to the Dual Fuel rate for shops, out buildings, or any building that is not a conditioned living space. Garage heaters and shops with electric heat on Dual Fuel prior to 2008 were grandfathered into the program but no new loads are allowed. Suggested alternatives for new shops and garages are electric storage heat, which only uses energy in the middle of the night, or geothermal systems on the regular rate.

Load control this fall and winter

To help members plan ahead, we are sharing the planned hours for load control December through February.

Interruptible water heaters (peak shave water heaters) will be controlled between the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. each Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) in December, January and February. The four-hour heaters will begin reheating at 9 p.m. and eight-hour heaters will come back on at 10 p.m.

Dual Fuel will be controlled whenever necessary. It is estimated 150-200 hours of control this season. Although it can occur any time as needed, it most frequently is on weeknights between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. or on the very coldest nights.

Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2009-10 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, 2009.

Electrical careers videos available on Co-op web site

Anyone wanting to learn more about a career in the electric energy field is welcome to visit the McLeod Cooperative Power web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. We have a link to four 5-minute videos on the following careers:

- Powerline worker
- Power generation technician
- Wind energy technician
- System design engineer

These "Get Energized" videos were produced by the Minnesota Energy Workforce Consortium. It is a great way for students to get a peek into electrical careers and what these positions involve. Various technical schools and colleges in Minnesota offer training for these careers.

Just go to www.mcleodcoop.com. Click on "About Us" and select "Career Opportunities." There is a link there to get you to the four videos.

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).

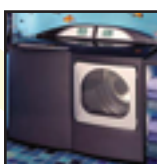
Remember the rebate deadlines



McLeod Cooperative Power has several Energy Star rebates available. You need to pay attention to the dates these rebates are available and when rebate forms/receipts must be submitted by.



Special \$150 rebate on Energy Star refrigerators (with old unit being recycled): Refrigerator must be purchased no later than November 30, 2008 from one of the Co-op's participating local appliance dealers. Rebate form and original sales receipt must be delivered to McLeod Cooperative by December 10, 2008.



Special \$100 Energy Star clothes washer rebate: Washing machine must be purchased no later than November 30, 2008 from one of the Co-op's participating local appliance dealers. Rebate form and original sales receipt must be delivered to McLeod Cooperative Power by December 10, 2008.

Standard Rebates:

- \$25 Energy Star appliance rebates for clothes washers and dehumidifiers
- \$50 for refrigerators and freezers (recycling not required)
- \$35 for room air conditioners.

These appliances must be purchased by November 1, 2008.

All rebate forms and original receipts must be submitted to the Co-op no later than December 1, 2008.

Energy Star Air Source Heat Pumps and Air Conditioners:

To qualify for 2008 rebates, your new Energy Star cooling unit must be installed by a "quality contractor" and they must have your installation paperwork to the Cooperative no later than Dec. 15, 2008.



CFL rebate program ends Nov. 30th

\$2 instant rebate

Local ACE Hardware stores in Hutchinson and Glencoe are participating in the "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign. They have partnered with GE bulbs and Minnesota utilities, to offer an instant \$2 rebate on CFL bulbs purchased through November 30 (or while supplies last).

Consumers complete one rebate form and can purchase their bulbs at the \$2 off price instantly. A limit on the number of bulbs at this low price may apply. Check the store display for details.

CFLs are a way to reduce energy.

The most common CFLs range in wattage from 15 watts to 26 watts. They would replace 60 watt to 100 watt bulbs. CFLs use a fraction of the energy of an incandescent bulb and still give off 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 important that CFLs be turned in for recycling at a participating store that sells fluorescent lamps or with your county hazardous waste agency.

Give safety for Christmas – the perfect gift for the elderly parent who has everything else

As winter settles in and the holidays approach, have you thought about your parents living at home by themselves during the long winter season? How about the neighbors or other family members who have a hard time getting around or have some medical problems and need someone to check on them often?

McLeod Cooperative Power can help. One of the many services we have to offer you is the MainStreet Messenger. The MainStreet Messenger is a 24-hour emergency response system which offers assistance by simply pushing a button.

Whenever the alert key on a special telephone or the button on a cordless pendant is pressed, the phone automatically dials a preprogrammed help number at the monitoring center.

Once the connection is made, the speaker phone is automatically activated to allow hands-free, two-way voice communication. The monitoring center then contacts pre-determined numbers, such as family member, neighbor, or 911, to let them know that help is needed while still staying on the line with the individual who needs help.

The cordless emergency response pendant is ideal for those who live alone and for people with mobility problems. In a crisis or any situation requiring immediate action, pressing the button on the pendant will initiate the emergency help sequence. In addition, incoming calls can be answered from across the room by the cordless pendant.

For a low monthly cost, you may have this easy-to-use security telephone system in your home or that of a family member. Call 1-800-494-6272 for more information.



MCPA Director Candidate Application

The undersigned, a member of McLeod Cooperative Power Association, hereby applies as a nominee for director of McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____ and requests that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election for director from said district to be held at the next annual meeting, April 15, 2009.

I certify that my account is current and I am a member in good standing with McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____.

I certify that I am a resident of District _____ and am receiving electric energy from McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

I certify that I am not in a competing business with McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

If elected director, I agree to attend as many meetings of the Board of Directors as possible and to abide by the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and Policies of McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

What makes a good director?

At McLeod Cooperative Power we believe that our Board of Directors comprises a pillar connection with our membership and the community at large. Besides meeting the legal requirements for Director nomination, we are seeking individuals who hold some important personal characteristics. We've summarized these attributes below.

Possess a sincere interest in preserving the strength of the Cooperative's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with its consumer-members. McLeod Cooperative Power has assets of about \$25 million, employs 33 people and is responsible for providing quality electric service to more than 6,000 sites, as well as a variety of ancillary services. Our electric distribution system serves a diverse membership consisting of residences, farms, businesses and industries. While representing all members of the district, **Directors must work with each other to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the entire distribution system.**

Be willing and available to fully participate in the business activities of the Cooperative. Attendance is expected at all scheduled Board of Directors meetings. In addition, from time to time, Directors will be called upon to represent the Cooperative at other meetings and events where their presence is deemed to be beneficial to the Cooperative.

Remain accessible to the members whom they represent. Since the Directors are elected from and by the Cooperative's membership, it is important that they work to **maintain open lines of communication with their constituents. They should also strive to be knowledgeable about trends and circumstances that may impact the people and communities of central Minnesota.**

Be enthusiastic. During these times of accelerated change, we look for proactive, resourceful and inspired leadership.

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 includes: 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 Co-op Power.

District 5 includes: Lynn, Collins, and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.

District 6 includes: New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, Dryden and Transit Townships in Sibley County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power if you are willing to volunteer for the 2009 Nominating Committee. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 15, 2009.