

Inside this issue...



Member wins refrigerator at State Fair

3



Holiday Light recycling program

6



Holiday Treats
Dec. 18, 21,
22 & 23

8

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Volunteers needed for nominating committee

In order to elect directors in Districts 7, 8, and 9 at the 2010 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 7 includes: Hale, Rich Valley and Glencoe Townships in McLeod County and part of Stockholm Township in Wright County.

District 8 includes: Melville, Palmyra, Martinsburg, Bandon, Norfolk, Wellington, and Bird Island Townships in Renville County, and Grafton, Moltke, and Bismarck Townships in Sibley County.

District 9 includes: Hollywood, Camden, Watertown and Young America Townships in Carver County, and parts of Woodland and Franklin Townships in Wright County.

Call McLeod Co-op Power no later than December 29, 2009, if you are willing to serve on the 2010 Nominating Committee. Committee meetings are scheduled for February 4 and February 18, 2010. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 6, 2010.



Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #60
HUTCHINSON, MN
55330

McLeod Cooperative
1231 Ford Ave. Glencoe, MN 55336
Phone: 1-800-494-6272

Calendars available now

Scenic 2010 "Living Green" calendars are available in the Glencoe office while supplies last. This year's calendars feature beautiful outdoor photos as well as helpful conservation messages.

Two more stores participating in \$3 rebate for LED Christmas light strings

Turn in your old lights and get up to \$15 off new LED light strings instantly! Now this special offer is also available at Winsted True Value Hardware and Home Solutions in Norwood Young America.

These two stores, along with ACE Hardware stores in Glencoe and Hutchinson, will honor \$3 rebate coupons through December 15, 2009.

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 \$3 per string of lights. The rebate offer is available only to McLeod Cooperative Power members November 1 through December 15, 2009, or while light supplies last. Each member may use the coupon in the Co-op's October or November newsletter to get the \$3 per string rebate on up to five strings of LED holiday lights, for a maximum rebate of \$15 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 light 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, Winsted True Value Hardware, and Home Solutions in Norwood Young America.
3. Purchase one to five strings of LED Christmas lights that have at least 50 bulbs per string.
4. Present your completed coupon at the checkout with your old strings to get \$3 off each string you are purchasing, up to a maximum rebate of \$15 per member.



a brighter idea

LED Holiday Lighting Promotion
Nov. 1 - Dec. 15, 2009

Or while supplies last

\$3 instant rebate per strand of LED Holiday Lights

purchased at these participating stores:

- Hite Ace Hardware, Glencoe
- Ace Hardware, Hutchinson
- Winsted True Value Hardware
- Home Solutions, Norwood Young America

Any LED brand of 50 or more bulbs per strand eligible for rebate.

Member name: _____

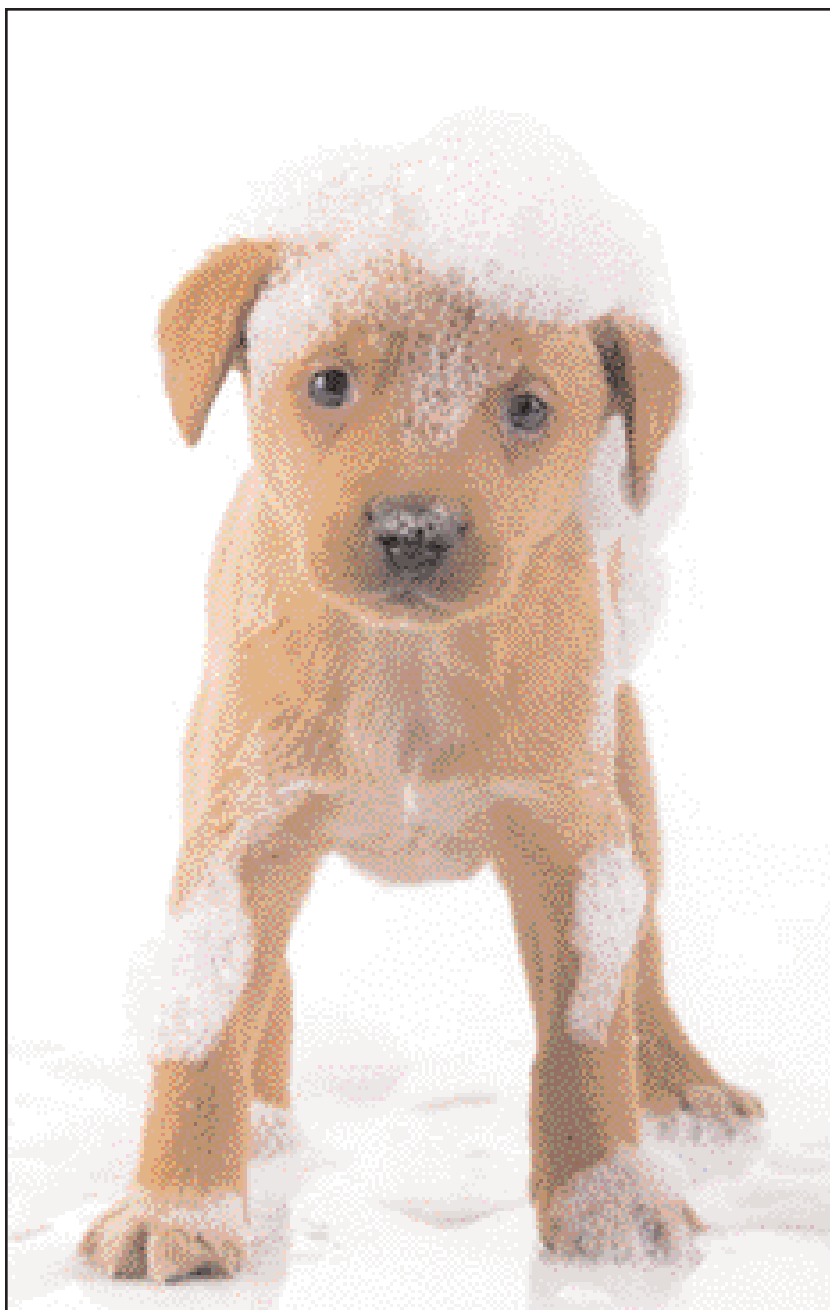
Address: _____

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 \$15 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).



**This Hot Water Moment
Is Brought To You By:**

When people look for reliability and durability — they choose Marathon water heaters.




Fill Your Fridge Sweepstakes


\$100 Fill Your Fridge winner

El Donna Harbarth of rural Hutchinson was a \$100 gift certificate winner in Great River Energy's Fill Your Fridge sweepstakes. Members of GRE cooperatives could go to the mnbrighterideas.com web site to take a short energy quiz and register for the \$500 grand prize and \$100 first place winner food gift certificates in August and September.



mnbrighterideas.com

MCPA member wins ENERGY STAR refrigerator at state fair



MCPA member Deborah Sorlie of rural Hutchinson was the winner of an ENERGY STAR refrigerator given away at the Minnesota State Fair. She had registered for the drawing in the Eco Building booth of our power supplier Great River Energy. Only one winner was chosen and Deborah was the lucky winner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 Oria Brinkmeier, <i>Lester Prairie</i>	District 6 Lester Ranzau, <i>Glencoe</i>
District 2 Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer <i>Brownton</i>	District 7 Bill Polchow, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer <i>Silver Lake</i>
District 3 Roger Karstens, <i>Hutchinson</i>	District 8 Doug Kirtz, Vice-President <i>Hector</i>
District 4 Curtis Rossow, <i>Buffalo Lake</i>	District 9 Gerald Roepke, President <i>New Germany</i>
District 5 Allan Duesterhoeft, <i>Hutchinson</i>	

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.

Phone: 320-864-3148
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

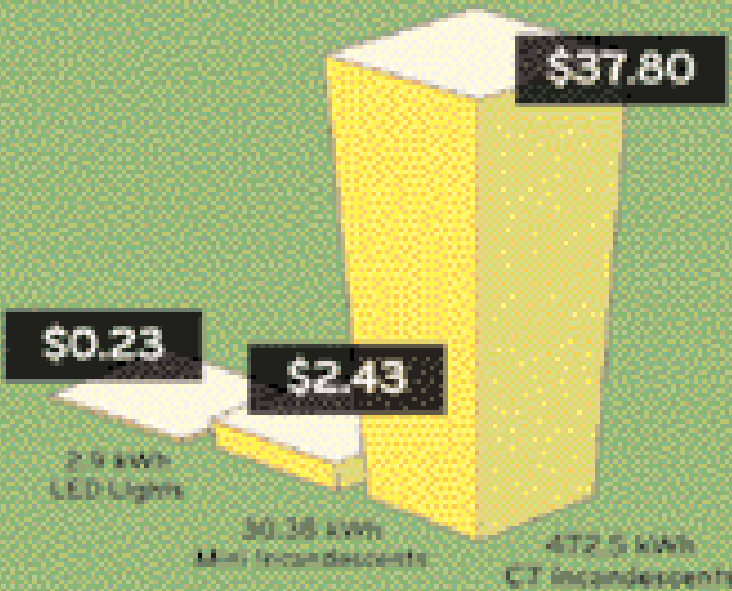
The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish all of our members and their families a blessed Thanksgiving. Take this time to be grateful for the many blessings we each enjoy.

The MCPA office will be closed Thursday and Friday Nov. 26 & 27. Please use the 24-hour outage number to reach the Cooperative for outages, emergencies or other messages: 1-800-927-5685.



.....
a brighter idea

Holiday Lighting Cost Comparison



Based on 300 bulbs, 5 hours per day for 45 days, using an average residential rate of 8¢ per kilowatt hour.

Electric heating sales tax exemption

Homeowners who use electricity as their primary residential space heat (50% or more) are exempt from sales tax for the heating months. If electricity is your primary heat source and you have only one meter for both general use and electric heat, your total bill is exempt from Minnesota sales tax on November through April usage. If you have an off-peak meter for electric heat, only the electricity going through that meter is exempt.

If you meet the requirements and currently have an exemption certificate on file in your Cooperative's office, you will not be billed the tax for November through April use. If you are unsure of your tax status or would like us to mail you an exemption certificate to complete, call us at 1-800-494-6272 or 320-864-3148.

Members receiving a tax credit for electric heating when electric heat is not their primary source of heat are in violation of the sales tax law, so please contact the cooperative if you change from electric heat to some other primary heating source.

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 2010 may apply for funds at this time. Applications are accepted through March 1, 2010, 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.



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 _____



Dennis and Dolores Tirevold of Cosmos save a lot of money each month with an air source heat pump and dual fuel program.



This dual fuel display shows one popular option — an air source heat pump, plenum heater and back-up fossil fuel furnace. This is the type of system the Tirevolds used. For more information on this or other energy management systems, contact the Energy Management Technicians at your Cooperative.

Tirevolds saved nearly \$2,000 their first year with dual fuel

Most people these days are looking for real ways to save money on their energy bills. Dennis and Dolores Tirevold of Cosmos believe they found a way to cut their energy costs and pay back their investment in short order — dual fuel.

A retired American Family Insurance agent, Dennis retired in 2005. Shortly after, he and Dolores, who worked as his secretary for 25 years, began looking for a home with acreage that would accommodate their horses. They found a home near Cosmos with plenty of space for their animals and a warm, comfortable home.

The Tirevolds moved into their new home in 2005. Although it was a nice home, they wanted a little more space, and decided to expand

the kitchen and add on a heated garage. It wasn't long before they realized the antiquated furnace and air conditioner weren't going to be enough for the additional square footage.

"We talked to several contractors and to the Co-op people and finally decided to install an air source heat pump and a new propane furnace and plenum heater."

The Tirevolds were told that their old propane furnace most likely functioned at less than 65 percent efficiency, which was wasting a lot of energy and money. A new high-efficiency air source heat pump both heats and cools a home at efficiencies up to 200 percent, which means it creates twice as much energy as it takes to run.

Then the Tirevolds enrolled in the Cooperative's dual fuel program. This program allows the homeowner to use clean, efficient electric heat as their primary source of heat; in this case, the air source heat pump. When outside temperatures dip below 20 degrees,

the heat pump cannot supply all of the heat for the home, so the electric plenum heater engages to heat the air flowing through the plenum and into the ductwork.

During times of peak electricity use, the primary electric heat is automatically turned off to reduce the electric system peak, and the propane furnace kicks in to provide heat during the four-hour control. People who use the dual fuel system and have an adequate back-up system, like a propane furnace, don't usually notice the automatic switching back and forth. However, because they participate in the dual fuel program, they are given a special electric rate, which is one-half the regular electric rate. This low dual fuel rate, combined with the added efficiencies, can save a lot of money each and every year.

"The last 12 months of using our old 1965 propane furnace, we spent \$2,968.50 on propane," Dennis said. "The first 12 months of our new dual fuel heating system, we spent \$1,046.02. That's a savings of \$1,922.48 in one year."

The Tirevolds weren't surprised that they could save money over their inefficient furnace, but they were thrilled to discover how much they saved.

"Our initial cost came out to about \$9,000 for the equipment and labor, but we saved about \$1,000 through contractor and Co-op rebates," Dennis said. "With what we are saving in energy costs, we will have our investment paid off in less than five years."

With the fluctuating price of propane, Dennis is glad they made the switch to electric.

"During the coldest months of the year, we'd have to fill our 500-gallon tank with 400 gallons of propane about every month," he said. "That was a lot of money each month to pay for heat. In 2007, the highest monthly bill for heat was \$607. With the new system, the highest bill we've had is \$145."

Have questions about your WildBlue High-Speed Internet system?

Technical Support is a valuable resource, 24/7

If you should ever experience problems with your WildBlue high-speed internet system, or have questions about its use, how to get the most from your system, etc., please Feel free to call the following WildBlue technical support staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

McLeod Co-op: 888-326-5203
Meeker Co-op: 888-817-2079

Some of the issues they can help you with include:

- Connection problems
- Speed issues
- Setting up additional email accounts

- Email filtering for viruses, spam
- Setting up a wireless router

If there are problems that tech support cannot solve over the phone, they will forward the information to your Cooperative and someone will be dispatched to your home to investigate the issue.

Protect your septic system from freezing



All it takes is one cold snap and a lack of snow cover to put the freeze on your drainfield or mound septic system. A frozen septic system is not only inconvenient and problematic, it can be expensive.

If you suspect your system is having problems (slow drains, liquid surfacing in the yard), you should take immediate action with the help of a septic system professional to remedy the problem before winter sets in. If your system is currently working fine, now is the time to take steps to reduce your chances of a frozen system.

Fall is a good time to prepare your septic system for winter cold. Following these steps can go a long way to preventing a real headache when the winter winds howl:

- 1 Add a layer of mulch (straw, leaves, hay or other loose material) 8-12 inches deep over the pipes, tank and soil treatment system for extra insulation. This is especially important during a milder winter when snowfall may be less. Added insulation is particularly important if you've had a new system installed and vegetative cover hasn't been established.

Letting grass grow longer in the late fall also helps add insulation and hold snow in place.

- 2 Keep off the snow. Snow serves as an insulating blanket over the septic tank and soil treatment area by reducing the loss of heat from the sewage and the geo-thermal heat from the soil. However, compacted snow doesn't insulate as well. Automobile, snowmobile, ATV, livestock and human foot traffic over the sewer pipes, tank and drainfield should be avoided. This type of traffic not only compacts the snow but also sends the frost deeper into the ground.

- 3 Keep the lid on. Open and uncapped riser or inspection pipes and manholes allow cold air into the system. All risers, inspection pipes and manholes should have covers, and possibly additional rigid foam insulation.

- 4 Check for proper alignment. Pipes that don't have proper fall (change of elevation) or pipes that settle or sag after installation can cause sewage to collect and freeze in low spots. Make sure all sewage drains out of the pipes.

- 5 Plan for extended leaves. When homes or cabins are unoccupied for long periods of time, sewage isn't entering the system in sufficient amounts to maintain temperature above freezing. Perhaps someone could visit occasionally and use sufficient quantities of water to keep the system operating. Better yet, pump out your tank before leaving.

Remember, preventing freeze-up is easier and less expensive than thawing out or repairing a frozen septic system.

INDUSTRY

News

Chu announces up to \$55 million for carbon capture technology at coal plants

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu has announced that \$55 million will be made available to develop advanced technologies that can capture carbon dioxide from flue gases at existing power plants so that the greenhouse gas may be sequestered or put to beneficial use.

Coal is one of the nation's most abundant energy resources – supplying nearly 50 percent of domestic electricity. Secretary Chu sent a letter this week to world energy ministers and other scientific leaders calling for an aggressive global effort to advance carbon capture and sequestration technology to the point where widespread, affordable deployment can begin in 8 to 10 years. The funding will support the development of technologies that can remove 90 percent of the CO₂ in a flue gas stream at no more than a 35 percent increase in the cost of electricity.

~Energy Central News

Stimulus money will buy wind turbine for U of M research in Rosemount

Federal stimulus funds will be used to install a wind turbine at the University of Minnesota's Rosemount research facility and create Web-based graduate and undergraduate course programs on wind power and technology.

Finance and Commerce reports that the funding was announced last week by U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu, who said Minnesota is one of three universities to receive a combined \$24 million to study wind energy technology and research, development and educational opportunities.

The other universities are the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, and the University of Maine, which will conduct advanced rotor and drive-train mechanical control testing and testing offshore wind turbine prototypes.

The planned Minnesota wind turbine will be used to study mechanical power transmission and electric generator systems.

~MinnPost

Consumers Beware

High-Cost Electric Heaters are no bargain

It's that time of year when marketers of "magic" electric heaters start their mailings to unsuspecting consumers. These high-priced heaters do have attractive wood exteriors and digital displays, but they do not deliver any more warmth than standard electric heaters. The only main difference — they cost \$300 to \$400 more for the same amount of heat.

It wouldn't be so bad if this was the only problem, but most claim their heaters can cut home energy bills up to 50%. They fail to explain that a consumer must exclude heat to all other rooms in the home to accomplish this. When these marketers start talking about the "exclusive heating technology" in their products, those of us in the energy business start looking for ways to equip our customers with the real facts.

Beware of phone calls from fraudsters posing to be from the co-op

Consumers from around the U.S. have reported receiving telephone calls from fraudsters posing to be from their utility or cooperative. They ask the consumer to provide credit card or other financial account information and personally identifiable information over the phone. There are two ways they do this scam. One is they may say that the consumer owes on his/her account and will have power shut off unless payment information is provided immediately. The other scam appears aimed more specifically at senior citizens. The caller claims the consumer can receive federal stimulus dollars to pay their utility bills or some sort of a bill credit but the consumer must provide their Social Security number and utility account number. McLeod Cooperative Power will not call you to ask for credit card or financial information. Members only provide this information to the Co-op when the member

initiates the call and requests to make a transaction. When the Cooperative requires your Social Security number to comply with Red Flag Rules, you provide it to us by mail or you initiate the call to our office to respond to our request.

Notices for disconnection of electrical services are mailed or left at the residence by a Co-op employee. We may call to remind members they are scheduled for disconnection if a payment is not made but we do not call to request credit card or financial information. Members, however, may call the Co-op and request to make a credit card payment, which will require sharing of the card information. Any personal or financial information is carefully safeguarded by the Cooperative according to Red Flag Rules.

Please call the Cooperative if you have any questions on our policies or procedures.

Safety with census takers

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way. They are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant information. However, Census workers will not ask for your Social Security number, credit card or banking information or passwords. Only a scam artist posing as a Census taker would ask for this information.

The Census Bureau does not conduct the census via e-mail or internet. The Census questions will be taken in person by a census worker. Your participation in the Census is required by law. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

How do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice: A U.S. Census worker will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Consumers should ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. These people will probably be strangers, and you should never invite anyone you do not know into your home. You do not need to invite a Census worker that you do not know into your home. Speaking to them outside is fine. Be cooperative but be cautious, so you do not become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

If you receive an e-mail or find a web site that you suspect is falsely representing the Census Bureau, forward the e-mail or web site address to the Census Bureau at itso.fraud.reporting@census.gov.

Faulty wind turbines cause money woes to consumers

WCCO TV reported in September about issues a couple from Stearns County had with a wind turbine manufacturer. For the fully installed price of \$74,000, the couple had signed a contract for a 20-kilowatt wind turbine from Farm Boy Energy, a company based in Des Moines, Iowa. They were supposed to be getting enough kilowatts to power their house and sell the excess electricity back to the electric company, but there was a problem with the gearing mechanism that was supposed to prevent the turbine from spinning too rapidly in strong winds. Worse yet, when the turbine did operate for a time, it overheated a control panel, causing some components to melt.

Still without any wind power, but saddled with more than \$50,000 in debt, the couple has no choice but to make their monthly bank payments. They took out a loan to help pay for the cost of the project, leaving them with a \$600 monthly payment. The couple now calls it their \$50,000 lawn ornament.

The couple isn't alone. Farm Boy sold wind turbines to at least 14 other Minnesota landowners, including a McLeod Co-op Power member, who were also hoping to lower their electric bills. Their stories are hauntingly familiar: poor or incomplete installations, missing parts and lengthy delays. Their investments range from between \$50,000 to more than \$100,000. This was money they spent for work that was never completed. Locally constructed turbines often don't meet electrical and UL listing requirements or meet standards for safe operation.

We share a word of warning to consumers considering the purchase of a turbine: always check out the performance record of your turbine manufacturer, and require multiple references. Also, do not pay money down until you have documents in writing assuring you that the turbine, whether new or used, is guaranteed to operate and that the turbine and ALL of its components are approved by U.L. (Underwriter's Laboratories). Do your homework and be aware of compatibility to the local electrical grid where you plan to interconnect and make sure the company will stand behind any operational defects.

Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2010-11 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, 2010.

Holiday light recycling program



Announcing a holiday light recycling program that will give local residents a place to get rid of their holiday light strings, where their components will be recycled. Best of all, the recycling service is providing jobs to local disabled persons via Adult Training and Habilitation Center (ATHC), located in Winsted and Hutchinson. Co-op members and the general public may drop their light strings into recycling boxes located at McLeod Co-op Power, ACE Hardware stores in Glencoe and Hutchinson, Winsted True Value Hardware and a variety of other locations where ATHC have set up collection boxes. There is no charge to drop off light strings. Old electrical, appliance and telephone cords are also accepted. Only battery chargers and adapters are not accepted.

All the old holiday light strings brought in by members when they participate in the \$3 rebate for new LED holiday light strings will be recycled through this program.

Electrical career videos available on Co-op web site

Anyone who would like 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. These videos are 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 the careers featured in the videos.

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.



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 6, 2010.

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.



Holiday Treats December 18, 21, 22 & 23

McLeod Cooperative will be offering cider, coffee and cookies for any members stopping in to pay a bill or do business with us **Friday, December 18, Monday, December 21, Tuesday, December 22 and Wednesday, December 23.** It is just our way of sharing the holiday warmth with our members.

2010 scenic calendars will be available now and throughout the month of December, while supplies last.

COATS *for* KIDS was successful

Thank you to anyone who dropped off a coat, mittens or hat at the Co-op's collection box for Coats for Kids. The McLeod County drive was able to collect over 1,800 coats and distribute over 1,240 coats, plus many mittens, hats, scarves, etc. to families in need. The remainder of the coats collected will be distributed in the local area by Common Cup and the county social service agencies.



Load management control for the winter planned

Members with Dual Fuel systems will periodically have their electric heat controlled as weather conditions, prices in the wholesale energy market, and regional power supplies dictate. Electric heat on Dual Fuel can be controlled for up to 400 hours per year and up to 12 hours in one stretch without recharge, so you want to make sure your back-up heating system is automatic and able to heat your home on the coldest winter nights for extended periods. Although control most usually will occur between 4 and 10 p.m. on a week night, it can happen in the morning and it can happen on a weekend.

For members with peak shave water heaters, the control plan will be determined weekly for December and January. Each week the Co-op will post on our web site (www.mcleodcoop.com) the planned water heater control for that week. Members without internet access may call our office to get that information.

Dual Fuel control times are available daily by going to the Cooperative's web site. Click on "Is today a Load Mgmt Control Day?" on our home page.