

NEWS

December 2009

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Satisfaction survey will be in your January bill



The Cooperative would really like to know how satisfied you are with your electric service.

Every few years we send a satisfaction survey to our members to request your opinion. We want your feedback. All MCPA members will receive a survey in their electric bill

in mid-January. Please fill out the survey form. Seal it and put it in the mail. It is a postage-paid mailer and will go right to the company tabulating the surveys for us. This survey provides important information to the Cooperative. It shows us how satisfied you are with your rates and service compared to previous years. It gives you an opportunity to tell us what additional services you would like to see us offer. It helps us meet your needs better. So, please take a few moments and complete your survey in January.

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Capital credits applied to December bills

Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) may notice lower electric bills in December.

A total of \$673,000 is being distributed this month in capital credit refunds. This amount includes all remaining capital credits from 1990 and 20% of operating margins allocated from 2008.

Capital credits are being applied to active electric accounts and will show as a line item credit on each bill that is supposed to receive a refund. Former members who no longer have an active electric account will be mailed their refund in the form of a check in December.



Calendars and cookies at the Co-op

McLeod Cooperative will be offering cold apple cider, coffee and cookies for any members stopping in to pay a bill or do business with us December 18, 21, 22, or 23. It is just our way of sharing the joy of the Christmas season with our members. 2010 scenic calendars will be available throughout the month of December, while supplies last. Stop in and get yours today.

The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Our offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, and Friday, January 1 so our employees may spend the holidays with their families. For outages or electrical emergencies call 1-800-927-5685. For holiday, weekend and evening DIRECTV service call 1-800-927-5414.

PURPA policy information available upon request

The Public Utilities Regulatory Act of 1978 states that McLeod Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers. McLeod Cooperative Power Association will provide information to all interested persons free of charge upon request. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Public Utilities Commission upon complaint. If any member has questions regarding PURPA policies, contact McLeod Cooperative Power Association, per Rule 7835.4600.

Manager's Message —

**by Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
McLeod Cooperative Power Association**



Tough Choices call for Strong Voices

In a 1951 play, French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre jotted down a line that seems tailor-made for the energy challenges facing our nation, and electric co-ops: "We are our choices." Indeed, who we are is reflected in how we choose to live and the decisions we make each and every day.

Our leaders in Congress are tackling tough energy choices this year; choices we, as a nation, should make together. Will we choose for electricity to remain affordable, or will we choose for it to be a luxury? Are we ready for brownouts if enough power is not available, or will we choose a diverse energy mix to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity in an environmentally responsible fashion? Will we choose to move forward or will we find ourselves, despite good intentions, moving backwards?

The climate change debate in Congress is coming down to the wire. Now, more than ever before, is the time to make sure your voice — and your choice — is heard. At McLeod Cooperative Power Association our choice is clear. We've always been committed to providing affordable, reliable energy in a responsible manner. This choice reflects who we are, and why we were founded by members like you in an effort to move our community forward into a brighter future.

Tough choices call for strong voices, and no voice is stronger than the combined force of 42 million electric cooperative consumers across the nation. Together we

can choose to speak up for affordability.

We can choose to invest in technology to lower energy costs, and we can pave the way for adding energy to the grid. Most importantly, we can choose to work together, calling on Congress to work with electric co-ops in a combined effort to address climate change responsibly with affordability in mind.

The choice is clear.

More than 370,000 electric co-op members have decided to join a national conversation, making their voices heard through the Our Energy, Our Future — grassroots awareness campaign. Make sure your voice — and your choice — counts. Visit www.ourenergy.coop and choose to be heard today.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is published monthly by
McLeod Cooperative Power Association
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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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Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

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.

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: _____

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.

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; for example, someone who will:

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.

Coralee Bauer is on a mission to save the most she can

Coralee Bauer of South Haven smiles when she's called an "energy champion," but that essentially is what she is.

A waitress at a local restaurant, Coralee never wants to pay for something she doesn't have to. So she is always looking for the most efficient way to save as much money as she can around the house.

Originally from Bloomington, Minn., Coralee and her husband bought a farm in South Haven in 1975. At that time, they heated the home with fuel oil and eventually switched to propane and supplemented with wood to help keep the cost of fuel down as much as possible.

In 2002, Coralee sold the farm to her son and built a new 1,400 square foot rambler with a full basement just across the field. In the interest of energy efficiency, the house was built with 6-inch walls. When it came to the heating and cooling system, Coralee knew she wanted something that would save energy and drastically cut the heating bills she was paying with fuel oil and propane.

"I used to use wood to save energy, but I just didn't



want to mess around with that anymore," she said. So she sought out Darrell Ward at the Cooperative for advice.

"He helped me to see that it made the most sense to install a dual fuel heating system, with an air source heat pump, a plenum heater and a propane furnace as a back-up."

A very popular money-saving option, an air source heat pump's technology pulls heat from the outside air and brings it into the home during the heating

season. In the summer, the process is reversed, pulling heat from the inside air and depositing it outside. Because heat is only transferred and not produced, an air source heat pump is up to 200 percent efficient; you receive twice the heat you pay for.

During periods of extreme cold, say below 20 degrees, Coralee uses an electric plenum heater to add supplemental heat to the air as it flows into her ductwork. Since it's electric, the plenum heater is both efficient and safe to use.

Electric Co-ops Fight for Fair Climate Change Policy

By Scott Gates

Electric cooperatives, with support from consumers across the country, are seizing opportunities to improve climate change legislation being considered by the U.S. Congress. Last June, the partnership bore fruit when the U.S. House of Representatives listened to co-op concerns and revised its climate change bill, H.R. 2454.

Among the revisions: future impacts on co-op consumers' electric bills were reduced by more than \$3 billion over the next 10 years, and possible federal financing will be available to co-ops for nuclear power plants.

"The bill still needs a lot of work, but it could have been much worse. By staying engaged in the process electric co-ops had a measurable impact," says Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

At the core of the climate change proposal lays a cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Under cap-and-trade, greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and other sources would be required to stay below a set limit—the cap. All emissions would then have to be accounted for by allowances issued by

the federal government, which could be swapped and sold—the trade.

Electric cooperatives and NRECA pushed for changes to the House bill with support from the Our Energy, Our Future™ campaign, which gives consumers a voice through its website at www.ourenergy.coop. The effort was enough to reshape H.R. 2454.

"As originally written, H.R. 2454 distributed allowances in an unbalanced and unfair way," argues English. "Without supporting the bill, co-ops were able to reduce the impacts on co-op consumers' electric bills where the inequity was the greatest."

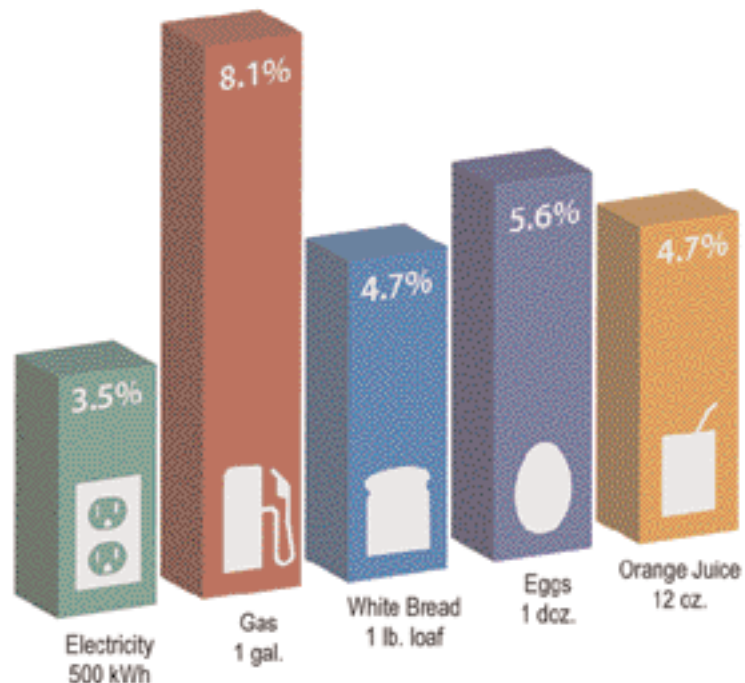
English stresses that the U.S. Senate must make climate change legislation fair, recognizing regional differences in how electricity is produced; it must be affordable for all Americans; and its goals must be achievable—when they take effect, the technology needed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions should be commercially viable at each step of the way

"Rest assured that if Congress loses sight of treating all co-ops fairly and fashioning affordable solutions to America's energy and climate change challenges, we will not hesitate to fight against a bad bill for co-ops."

Electricity Remains a Good Value

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. As demand for energy rises and fuel prices increase, your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe electricity at the lowest possible cost.

Average annual price increase over the past decade:



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; NRECA

Coralee wanted to receive the low energy management electric rate, so she signed up for the Co-op's energy management or "dual fuel" program, which further cut her electric bill. What that means is that during times of peak electricity use by members, Coralee allows the Co-op to temporarily control her electric heat and switch on a propane furnace to reduce the electric "load." This is also called an "off-peak" program, because it helps Co-ops to reduce the load during peaks. Energy purchases are more expensive during times of peak use, so reducing the peaks helps to keep wholesale electricity costs lower for everyone. Through the energy management program, Coralee receives an electric rate that is about half of the regular rate.

For comfort's sake, Coralee put in an electric boiler to run hot water heat through her basement floor.

"I think the added heat rising from the basement floor helps with our bills, since we are able to keep our thermostat set at 67 degrees," she said. The increased efficiency of electricity and the air source heat pump, coupled with the low electric rate, allows Coralee to save a lot of money on her heating and cooling.

During the winter months, her heat and water heater bills run an average of \$150 January through March.

A new HVAC system was just the beginning of her quest for energy efficiency! Her next step was to purchase a super-efficient, ultra-insulated Marathon

water heater. Her 105-gallon Marathon is 94 percent efficient and is able to hold heat so well, that it qualifies to be used for the Co-op's storage water program. Her water is heated throughout the night (off-peak) and controlled during the day, except on weekends and holidays. This also qualifies Coralee for the low energy management rate to heat her water. Since water heating can be a sizeable percentage of the electric bill, having such an efficient water heater and getting half-price electricity is a win-win situation.

Coralee's water heating bills run about \$16 per month.

Next, Coralee replaced many of the light bulbs in her home with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. In the average home, lighting accounts for about 20 percent of the electric bill, so the easiest way to start saving energy is to change to CFLs. They use about one-quarter of the energy and last up to 10

times longer without changing bulbs. They're also great in the summer, because they produce about 75 percent less heat.

Would she recommend her money-saving steps and heating system to others?

"Oh yes, and I have. After my son moved into our old farmhouse, he redid the heating system and put in the same system that I have. We've both been very happy with the changes."

Because heat is transferred and not produced, an air source heat pump is up to 200 percent efficient so you receive twice the heat you pay for.

INDUSTRY

News

Great River Energy has more wind power under contract than any Co-op in the country

This past summer, Great River Energy, a cooperative energy supplier, added the Elm Creek Wind Power Project located near Trimont, Minnesota, to its renewable energy portfolio. The 99 megawatt (MW) project has 66 wind turbines. With the addition of Elm Creek, Great River Energy has more than 315 MW of wind capacity under contract - the most of any cooperative in the country.

Elm Creek Wind Farm's wind turbines are as tall as a 27-story building. The project encompasses about 9,500 acres of land leased from 56 local landowners who continue to use the land for corn and soybean farming. Typically, wind farms take only 2 percent of the land out of agricultural use; the rest can continue to be used as before.

~GreatRiverNews Sept. 2009

Markey, Minnesota Republican introduce bill to boost renewable electricity tax credit

U.S. Rep. Betsy Markey, D-Colo. along with Rep. Erik Paulsen, R-Minn., introduced the Renewable Electricity Integration Tax Credit Act on Friday, which would provide a tax credit for utilities to integrate more wind and solar into their energy portfolios.

Currently, only wind developers benefit from the Production Tax Credit. The tax credit would take into account additional costs for ramping baseload plants up and down to accommodate intermittent wind and solar, adding quick-start natural gas generation to serve as a backup when wind and solar are not available, and investing in projects to store renewable electric power, according to a Markey press release.

The bill — HR 4149 — has been referred to the House on Ways and Means Committee.

~Energy Central News

WE NEED YOUR HELP.



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America

Senators are drafting climate change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome. Climate change legislation should be:

Fair.

Climate change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced.

Affordable.

Any climate change plan must keep electricity affordable for all Americans.

Achievable.

Climate change goals must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

▶ Go to www.ourenergy.coop to make your voice heard.

Lighting Up the Season

Comparing Energy Costs

Have you ever wondered what it cost you to light up your home with that colorful cascade of decorative twinkling lights every holiday season? A variety of lighting technologies are available. Newer products, such as light-emitting-diodes (LEDs), cost much less to operate than traditional lights, but they cost more to purchase initially.

The following information discusses the potential costs associated with a variety of bulbs and other holiday displays.

Traditional Lights

Traditional colored lights use about 10 watts per bulb. A 25-bulb string burning 150 hours a month (5 hours per day) would use 37.5 kWh a month. Multiply your kWh usage per string by the number of strings, and then multiply by your residential rate to determine what these lights are costing you. For example, a customer whose residential rate was 10 cents per kWh would pay \$37.50 a month

to operate 10 strings of these lights (37.5 kWh x 10¢/kWh x 10 strings).

C7 Bulbs

C7 screw-in bulbs (about 2" tall with a candelabra base) use about 5 watts per bulb, so ten 25-bulb strings will use half the amount listed above. C9 screw-in bulbs (about 3" tall with an intermediate base) use about 7 watts per bulb. A C9 bulb string of 25 lights uses 26.25 kWh per month. Ten sets would cost you \$26.25 per month in electricity.

Miniature Lights

The average miniature light uses 0.4 watts per bulb. One string of 100 miniature bulbs would only use 6 kWh per month. Ten sets of these lights operating at 10 cents per kWh would cost you \$6.00 per month. Icicle lights use the same amount of energy per miniature bulb, but a string of icicle lights with 100



bulbs will cover a much shorter distance than a straight string of miniature lights.

LED Lights

The new light-emitting diode (LED) lights use only 0.04 watts per bulb, or 1/10 the amount of miniature bulbs. Due to their solid-state construction, these bulbs are safer and more durable, because they are difficult to break and run "cold." Ten sets of 100 of these LED bulbs would cost you 60 cents per month to operate. The initial purchase price for LED bulbs can up to three times the amount of

the same string of miniature bulbs.

So, for a 3-month season, 5 hours per day, the total cost for one string of 100 LED lights

would be a little more than \$30 (\$30 purchase price plus 18 cents in operating costs) compared to about \$12 (\$10 purchase price plus \$1.80 in operating costs) for one string of 100 miniature lights. Note that some LED bulbs are replaceable and some are

not. Check the information on the package before purchasing.

Yard Inflatables

Yard inflatables are increasingly popular. They range from simple blow-up cartoon characters to 8-foot-tall globes with rotating figures, blowing "snow," and lights. Large globes consume about 150 watts per hour, while rotating carousels consume around 200 watts. For a 3-month season at 16 hours per day, the total cost of electricity could be \$22 to \$30 per inflatable.

Energy-Saving Strategies

These costs are merely estimates and are certainly not set in stone. There are things you can do to minimize the cost of holiday lighting while still enjoying a festive season. Using energy-efficient miniature or LED lights would be a good place to start. They use a lot less energy than traditional lighting technology. Make sure and turn lights off before you go to bed at night. An even better strategy would be to use an automatic timer to remove the burden of turning them on and off. Also, consider using fewer lights and more decorations that do not use energy — such as wreaths or flowers.

Consumers Beware

Before purchasing devices or products that a seller claims will save you money, reduce your energy use or lower your heating bill, we encourage you to do your homework. Educate yourself using sources other than the literature or web site from the person trying to sell you a product. Do the math. Make sure you have firm numbers to show what your savings payback will be. If you are looking to purchase a product or service designed to save you energy, check with the Minnesota Energy Information Center at 1-800-657-3710 or go to their web site at www.energy.mn.gov. The center has energy experts available to help you with any weatherization, heating, cooling, or energy conservation question. They have wonderful printed resources available for Minnesota consumers on almost every energy and weatherization topic imaginable.

Another good resource is to check out the record of the company selling the product with the Better Business Bureau. Check with your own local utility for information on the product or service you are considering. Some examples of products that are being promoted in our area that do not always meet the buyer's expectations include:

- An electronic device to optimize the power factor of the appliances in your home that claims to reduce

your electric bill by up to 25%. It is a small capacitor bank that is mounted next to your circuit breaker box. It corrects power factor but savings is minimal because residential customers don't pay power correction charges on their bill and do not have a significant motor load to correct. Power correction devices are designed to work on large DC power loads in industrial/commercial facilities, not residential applications. The US Department of Energy estimates the payback on one of these units to be 21 months to 16 years.

- A device that runs a spray mist of water over your air conditioner is a very questionable device. Although the sellers of the product say it will save you 30% on cooling costs, the Minnesota Energy Information Center questions whether there would be any energy savings at all, and the unit may void the manufacturer's warranty on the air conditioner unit.
- A magic water heater that uses the air around the water heater to heat the water instead of gas or electricity. Using air in the house heated by your furnace to heat water is very inefficient.
- A reflective energy-shield that seller's claim will lower your summer cooling bills when installed in the attic. This product may work in the southern states where

homes have minimal insulation and where the reflective barrier can be put against the rafters, but it is very ineffective in Minnesota because you need a minimum one inch air space between the shield and the insulation. Cost payback will be very long in a cold climate.

- Electric space heater with a fancy wood mantle and nice fire picture made by authentic craftsmen that sells for \$300-\$400 will have the same efficiency as a \$20 milk house heater of the same wattage. The only way this unit will save you money on heating is if you use it in the enclosed room that you are occupying and you turn down your primary heat thermostat for the rest of the house. Because of the initial up-front cost, the payback on this unit is very, very long, if there is any. It could actually increase your total energy bill.
- Small wind turbine systems can work as advertised to generate a portion of your electricity according to the Minnesota Energy Information Center if the components are new, durable, tested and UL certified, and if the site analysis shows 12 mph or greater annual average speeds (minimum 90 foot tower with no obstructions). Without meeting these minimum criteria, your savings payback will be long.

Energy-Saving Tips for Holiday Cooking



The meals you prepare during the holidays are an important part of the celebrations you share with family and friends. But the energy used for all the cooking, baking, and dish washing can really add up on your energy bills! These energy-saving tips will help you to reduce the amount of energy you use while preparing those traditional holiday meals.

Cooking and Baking Tips

- Pre-heat the oven to the exact temperature you need. For foods that cook for several hours, pre-heating is not necessary.
- When cooking and baking, limit the number of times the oven door is opened. Opening the door lowers the temperature by as much as 25 degrees F.
- If you use an electric oven, turn the oven off 15 minutes before the cooking time is complete. Food will continue cooking at the set temperature as long as the oven door is not opened.
- Because they retain heat so well, you can reduce the oven temperature by 25 degrees F if you use glass or ceramic baking dishes.
- Self-cleaning ovens work at a very high temperature when this feature is used. If your self-cleaning oven needs to be cleaned, do this immediately after cooking (while the oven is still hot) to take advantage of the residual heat.
- Bake several batches of cookies or more than one pie to conserve energy. Cooking on the range top uses less energy than cooking foods in the oven. The following tips will help you to save even more energy:
- Use the lowest heat setting possible.

- If you use an electric range top, be sure to match the size of the pan to the size of the heating element. Using a 6-inch pot on an 8-inch burner will waste 40% of the energy used!
- Keeping pots and pans covered prevents heat loss.
- Clean burners and reflectors provide better heating and help save energy.
- You can turn off the burner on your electric range a few minutes before cooking is complete — the heating elements will stay hot enough to continue cooking after the electricity is turned off.

More Energy-Saving Cooking Options

Slow cookers, electric skillets, and toaster ovens are great for heating leftovers, and use much less energy than conventional ovens and range tops. Microwave ovens also use 50% less energy than conventional ovens. To save energy, reheat food in the microwave instead of on the range top or in the oven.

Refrigerators and Freezers

Your home refrigerator accounts for as much as 15% of your home's total energy use. Make sure the seals on your refrigerator door are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a

piece of paper or a dollar bill positioned half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the paper or bill out easily, the latch may need adjustment, the seal may need replacing, or you might consider buying a new unit.

Keeping the refrigerator and freezer well-stocked helps maintain the set temperature and reduces energy loss when the door is opened. Removing as many items as possible, each time the door is opened, cuts down on the number of openings as well.

Dishwashing Tips

Dishwashers today clean heavily soiled dishes to a shine, eliminating the need for pre-rinsing. If you cannot bring yourself to load the dishwasher without pre-rinsing, be sure to use cold water. If your dishwasher has a booster heater, set the temperature of your hot water heater to 120 degrees F. To save even more energy, do the following:

- Fill the dishwasher according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Never turn the dishwasher on until you have a full load.
- Use the air-dry feature whenever possible.

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.



Give your family what they want for Christmas

If you are thinking high definition (HD) television at your house this Christmas, then make sure to include an HD receiver and HD programming services from DIRECTV. The Cooperative can help you with the purchase of an HD receiver or HD DVR receiver.

Or is your family longing for high speed internet? McLeod Cooperative Power can also help with WildBlue high-speed internet. Whether your house has one computer or several, one WildBlue satellite dish can deliver your data fast. If you live in the country where DSL services are not available, this may be your only high-speed option.



Gift certificates for DIRECTV, WildBlue, electricity or emergency medical programming are available at the Co-op. They make perfect stocking stuffers..

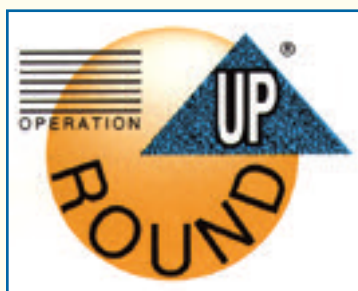
Please do not plug in electric space heaters during load control times

The load management program is a good thing to have around. The program helps keep electric rates low for all members and provides a half-priced heating rate for members who participate in the program.

The program could lose much of its value, however, if electric space heaters are used during high-demand times. During load management control times, our power supplier is able to reduce electric load on the regional power system and thereby avoid buying higher cost supplemental power from the wholesale market. This is how we are able to offer a reduced off-peak rate. Plugging in electric space heaters during the times our billing peaks are established totally defeats the load management concept. It drives up the cost of power for all McLeod Cooperative Power members. The practice of plugging in space heaters and creating a demand during peak load conditions will inevitably cause a rate increase to all of our members. Control times occur most frequently between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on weekday evenings, although they can happen anytime. The very cold nights in December, January, and February are often when our system peaks.

Members can go to the Cooperative's web site www.mcleodcoop.com at any time to check to see if load control is scheduled for that day. By the afternoon, specific control hours will be listed. Your help in reducing — not increasing — electric demand during control times will be greatly appreciated!

Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



Community and civic groups, emergency responders and other non-profit organizations are welcome to apply to McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up Trust for donation assistance. The trust is able to donate funds to worthy local projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or McLeod

Counties. Funding is from the generosity of electric cooperative members who round up their electric bills. Application forms are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 ext. 502. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2010.

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