

# NEWS

February 2010

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

## Plan to attend this year's 75th annual meeting

**T**his is a special year for McLeod Cooperative Power. We are celebrating 75 years of serving our electric members.

This year's annual meeting will be a little different. We are hoping many members are able to attend this special event.

On Tuesday, April 6, we will serve a light meal for members in attendance between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Hutchinson Event Center. Entertainment will be provided between 4:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

We are mailing out a note in the electric bills in March, asking members to let us know approximately how many from their family will attend or if they cannot make it. This will be a great help

for us in determining how many people we need to prepare food for. Your help in completing the card or e-mailing us with an approximate # of persons if you plan to attend, will be very helpful.

Mark your calendars for April 6th. We hope you can join us for this special event.

Presorted Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #60  
HUTCHINSON, MN  
55350

### Power cost adjustment lower than in 2009

**T**he new power cost adjustment (PCA) for 2010 for farm, residential, small commercial, and most industrial accounts will be + \$0.0143. The **cost decrease** is due to better than expected sales/revenue in 2009. This is a decrease of \$0.0031 per kWh from last year's rate. General Service energy will have an adder of \$.0143 per kWh. The load management PCA is 50% of the regular PCA, adding \$0.0072 per kWh to off-peak kWh purchases.

Members will still save about 50% off the General Service rate when participating in off-peak programs.

**Rates for 2010 with the PCA will be:**

General Service summer months  
10.53 cents per kWh

General Service other months  
9.53 cents per kWh

Off-peak (Dual Fuel and storage)  
5.02 cents per kWh

These rates will remain in effect until the Cooperative completes its rate study in a few months. At that time rates could be adjusted as needed.

## 75 years of rich history

*We sometimes fail to realize how much we have come to depend upon electricity. Ben Fischer, who served as the first general manager of our Cooperative from 1939-1966, published the following article in the Co-op newsletter many years after the Cooperative was established. He reflected back upon their excitement when members first got electricity.*

by former General Manager Ben Fischer as he recalls 1939 with "The Festive Season".

**T**hanksgiving is over, and it will soon be Christmas. Christmas to all of us has varied meanings, with the exception that it has a religious aspect. I would like to go back to the fall of 1939. We had let a contract to construct 117 miles of line from which we were to serve 397 members. Much had been accomplished during that period, and many of our people had wired their buildings, all in readiness to receive the advantages of electricity in their homes for the first time. Everyone was anxious to obtain electricity

and particularly before Christmas. We just couldn't let these folks down, so the day before Christmas, a Sunday, we set forth to energize the farms that were ready — some eighty of them.

Hap Clayton and Fred Tillman worked as a team, took half of the number; Slim Meyer and myself (your manager) took the remainder. We started at the break of dawn, working primarily in Penn and New Auburn Townships. Many of the members during the morning were at church. We

*Continued on page 2*

# 75 years

Continued from page 1

placed the necessary fuses and then energized the farmstead, checking as best we could to see that everything was alright. If possible we let the yard light burn, so that the member upon returning knew he had electricity.

We didn't stop for lunch, there just wasn't time. Will never forget, don't know the place, but somewhere in Penn Township we drove onto the farm yard about 3:00 p.m.

There were a number of cars about the house. No one noticed our approach. We inserted the necessary fuses and energized the distribution system. When we were about to leave, a screaming mass of people came running out of the house, as though the very devil was after them. They had purchased a radio which was plugged in and turned on at full volume. Naturally, the radio program came blaring at them. They just didn't know what had happened. They were relieved and very happy when they saw us and realized what had taken place.

The last place we visited was in New Auburn Township. Darkness was upon us. We again drove up to the yard pole. I let Slim do the work and entered the barn where I saw a faint light. There I saw the husband and wife milking by hand with the aid of a dim kerosene lantern. I introduced myself and asked, "Your buildings are wired for electricity, aren't they?" They answered, "Yes." Then I said, "Why

## more than just water is slipping through your fingers

Your home wastes more water than you might realize and that's costing you money. There is something you can do to take control of your water usage and energy costs.

FOR JUST \$10

Get your Energy Saving Water Kit from McLeod Cooperative Power between January 1 - March 31, 2010. Order your kit at [mnbrighterideas.com](http://mnbrighterideas.com) and use promo code: MCP159 or fill out and mail the order form below.

What's inside your \$10 Energy Saving Water Kit  
(\$40 retail value)

- The Earth™ Massage Showerhead
- Kitchen Swivel Aerator
- Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators
- Hot Water Temperature Card
- Plumber's Tape

In order to receive this Energy Saving Water Kit at the special discount price, you must be a cooperative member and you must use electricity to heat your water.

YES / NO I'm a member of McLeod Cooperative Power  
YES / NO I heat my water with electricity.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ALT PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Place your completed order form and a \$10 check or money order, payable to Niagara Conservation Corp., in an envelope and mail to:  
**Niagara Conservation Corp.**  
Attn: Great River Energy Kit Offer  
Post Office Box 501  
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927  
**Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.**

don't you use it?" Their reply was. "We don't have electricity." I said, "You soon will have." There was disbelief and silence. The barn in a few minutes was lit up and another family had lights on Christmas Eve.

"We came home tired and completely bushed, but happy. We felt we did a good deed in bringing the first realization of electricity into

these many homes and a great Christmas present it was.

Upon arriving home, we barely had time to take a bath, change clothes, then join our families in church and unite with them in Christmas services."

<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	<b>McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS</b>											
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">District 1 Oria Brinkmeier, <i>Lester Prairie</i></td> <td style="width: 50%;">District 6 Lester Ranzau, <i>Glencoe</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>District 2 Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer <i>Brownton</i></td> <td>District 7 Bill Polchow, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer <i>Silver Lake</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>District 3 Roger Karstens, <i>Hutchinson</i></td> <td>District 8 Doug Kirtz, Vice-President <i>Hector</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>District 4 Curtis Rossow, <i>Buffalo Lake</i></td> <td>District 9 Gerald Roepke, President <i>New Germany</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>District 5 Allan Duesterhoeft, <i>Hutchinson</i></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	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>		<p>The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is published monthly by McLeod Cooperative Power Association PO Box 70 1231 Ford Ave. Glencoe, MN 55336</p> <p>General Manager: Kris Ingenthron Editor: Sue Pawelk</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><i>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.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office Hours:</b> Monday - Friday 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Phone: 320-864-3148</b> <b>1-800-494-6272</b> <b>24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685</b> <b>Fax: 320-864-4850</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Web site: <a href="http://www.mcleodcoop.com">www.mcleodcoop.com</a></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166</p>
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## Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 12

Cooperative members residing in Districts 7, 8, or 9 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2010 director election in their district. To have another name on the ballot in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the Cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 12, 2010.

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

**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.

## Members may sign up for Wellspring Wind Energy

Have you ever thought about supporting renewable energy? The Cooperative is now able to offer participation in the Wellspring Renewable Energy Program to our members at a cost of only 51 cents per 100 kWh block.

We are currently allowing members who want to support renewable energy to sign up for blocks of wind energy on the Wellspring renewable program. Participation in Wellspring is voluntary. It gives members who want to support green power the opportunity to do so with a small monthly premium. It gives members who want to see more renewable resources used to generate electricity the opportunity to partner with the Cooperative to realize that goal. Wind is not a cheaper way to generate electricity than with coal, especially considering the high cost of wind turbine construction and the inability of wind to blow constantly. However, during the life of a turbine, wind energy will provide affordable electricity on days when the wind does blow and will reduce

the consumption of non-renewable resources such as coal, oil and natural gas. Technology improvements in turbine design have allowed for more efficient production of electricity and a lower cost per kWh produced.

Members may now sign up to purchase wind energy in blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month. The cost to members is a \$.51 /block premium per month, which is in addition to their regular electric energy charges. A member with two blocks pays an additional \$1.02 per month. A member with 10 blocks pays an additional \$5.10 per month. Members may sign up for Wellspring energy equal to or less than the number of kWh they purchase from the Cooperative each month.

Members may sign up by completing the form and returning it to the Cooperative. You commit to participate in the program for a minimum of 12 months. Members are signed up on a first-come, first serve basis.

**I want to purchase Wellspring Renewable Energy. Please sign me up for \_\_\_\_\_ blocks of 100 kWh. I understand that I will be billed \$.51 per 100 kWh block each month. I agree to participate for at least one year.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Return the form to: McLeod Cooperative Power, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336.  
You may return it with your electric bill also or fax it to 320-864-4850.

## Explanation of Election Process

This is the time of year that we focus on planning for the meeting as well as the director election process. I believe it is important for you, our members, to understand how this process works and how you can participate in electing a person to represent your district on the MCPA Board of Directors.

The members of McLeod Cooperative Power have, over the years, adopted a democratic and fair process for electing members to the Board of Directors. This procedure is detailed in the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. It provides for two names on the ballot, so a director never runs unopposed. It also affords members the opportunity to play a part in the process by volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee, possibly running for a board seat, and voting to elect candidates from their district.

The Articles and By-Laws allow for each director to be elected by residents of his or her district. This means candidates are elected by their neighbors, usually members living in their township or surrounding townships. Directors are not elected at-large, by all the voters from the whole Co-op. This process has served the Cooperative very well.

Members may volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee for their district. If three members do not volunteer for the Nominating Committee, then the director from that district must find district members to fill the remaining seats on the committee. The Nominating Committee has the task of selecting two names to appear on the ballot. It is their job to find two qualified candidates even if no one expresses interest to serve. They may choose the incumbent director if running for re-election, any members who express an interest in serving as a director or other members from the district who agree to be a candidate.

Any person who desires to have their name on the ballot, but who was not been selected by the Nominating Committee, can obtain the signatures of 20 MCPA members and submit it to the Cooperative Secretary at least 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. This is how a member may apply by Nomination By Petition to be a candidate. So using this method, we sometimes have had three or more candidates competing for one seat in a district election.

Director candidates cannot be close relatives of current directors or employees. This protects anyone from having an unfair advantage. Each candidate must be a member in good standing and possess leadership qualities.

All active members in voting districts are mailed a ballot before the Annual Meeting. Members may cast their ballot by mail, return it to the Co-op in person or bring it to the Annual Meeting. Votes are counted by the Nominating Committee under the supervision of the Co-op's legal counsel.



# Short Circuits: Old Wiring Could Be Hazardous

Residential electrical wiring changed during the 20th century as new appliances appeared on the scene and electricity evolved from a luxury to a mainstay. More appliances at home led to safety improvements and an increased number of room outlets, leaving older home wiring to play catch-up.

Although most older home electrical systems have been upgraded over the years, safety shortcomings may still exist. Since a third of American homes were built more than 50 years ago, home buyers and folks living in older homes should be aware of how wiring changed during the last century.

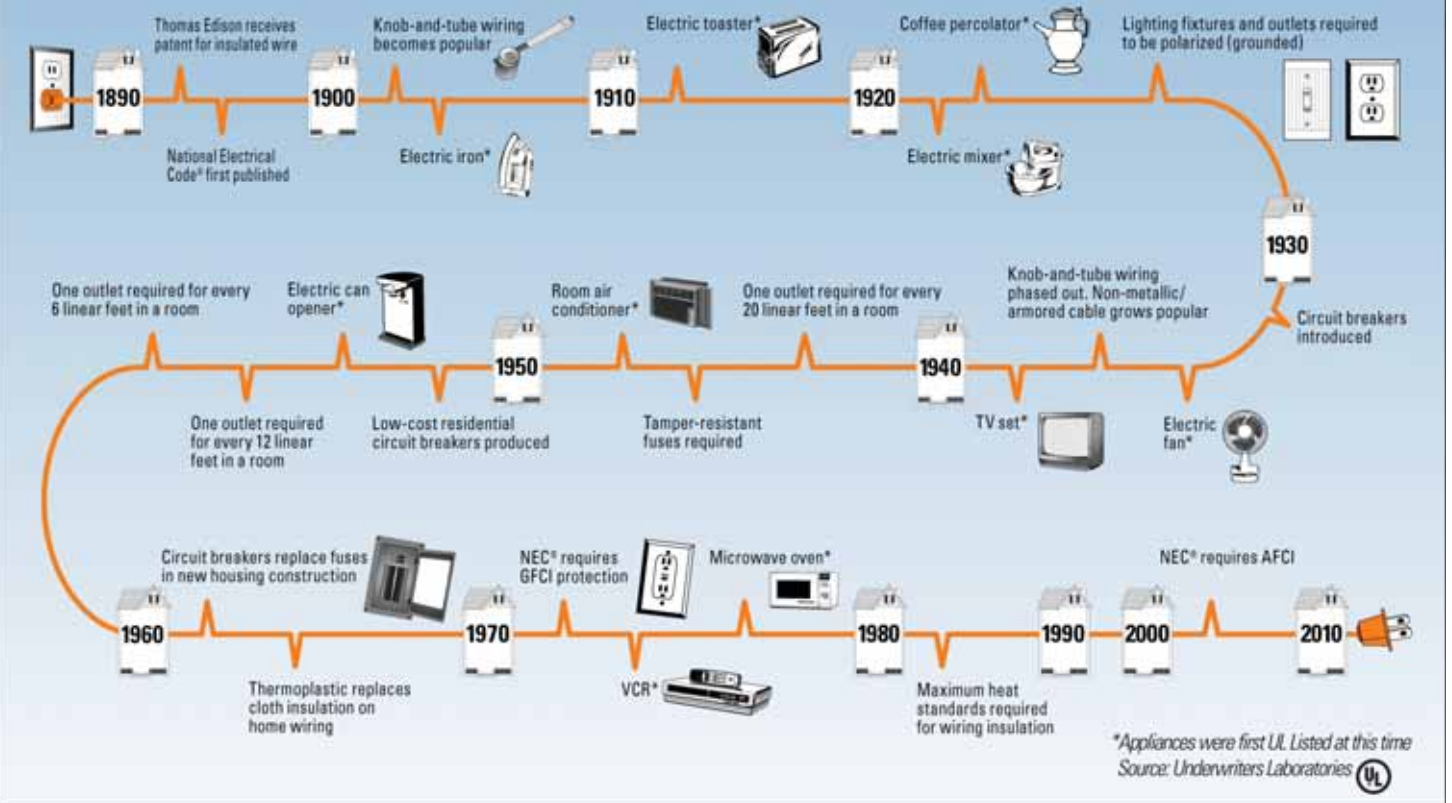
Electric capacity is a major concern with older wiring systems. Homeowners in the 1930s didn't use a lot of electrical appliances, except for a refrigerator, a few lights, and a radio. An explosion of appliance purchases followed in the late 1940s and early '50s. But the arrival of air conditioning during the 1960s soon rendered many mid-century home electrical systems obsolete. More recently, residences built as little as 20 years ago might be insufficient for handling entertainment systems and personal computers.

Each year, household wiring and lighting cause an estimated average of 32,000 home fires. On average, these fires result in 950 injuries, 220 deaths, and nearly \$674 million in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

"Residential electrical systems are seldom inspected after they are installed and tend to be destroyed in house fires," explains John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., (UL), an independent product safety testing and certification organization based in Chicago, Ill. "Homeowners should not assume all is well simply because fuses aren't blowing, circuit breakers tripping, or they're not receiving shocks or smelling burnt plastic. Inside the walls, wire insulation could be cracking and

## A Not-So-Shocking History of Home Wiring

The evolution of residential wiring systems through the 20th century is evolving with the appearance of electrical appliances. More appliances in the home have led to improvements in safety and an increase in the number of outlets per room. Many older homes have refurbished electrical systems, but the date that the system was installed may indicate the shortcomings of that particular wiring.



crumbling, especially if wires are drawing more current than they were designed to handle. The wood frame above plaster ceilings could also become charred by light bulbs that are too close to the ceiling or higher in wattage than the light fixture's rating."

Flickering or dimming lights could mean loose connections, overloaded circuits, improper wiring, or arcing and sparking inside walls. If your receptacles or plugs are hot to the touch — you can't keep your hand on them for more than five seconds — you may have an overload," Drengenberg advises.

Another issue associated with older home wiring systems is the number of receptacles in each room. Today's electrical code requires outlets be placed every 12 feet of running wall space, about one per wall in the average 10-by-12-foot room. Houses built before 1956 were required to have outlets placed every 20 feet, while homes built before 1935 weren't required to have wall outlets at all.

Proper grounding, meanwhile, prevents painful or even deadly electrical shocks when electricity flows through an improper path. Every home electrical system should have some type of grounding.

Newer homes are wired with cables that include a ground wire. The ground wire allows for use of three-pronged receptacles needed to power certain appliances, particularly ones with metal shells, such as refrigerators and washing machines. Many wiring systems installed in the 1950s and



"Anytime you receive a shock from an electrical appliance, outlet, or wall switch in your home, it's a warning that you should talk with a qualified electrician," Drengenberg cautions. "If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips right after you replace or reset it, you have trouble somewhere.

When too much current gets drawn, wires heat up, baking and eventually weakening the insulation. Wires with damaged, decayed, or brittle insulation can lead to shocks and fires.

*continued on next page*

earlier used non-metallic wiring, which lacked a ground wire. Homes from this era boast only two-pronged outlets, unsuitable for many modern conveniences. Simply replacing two-pronged receptacles with three-pronged receptacles violates the National Electrical Safety Code if no ground path exists.

In some cases, older homes may feature newer wiring systems. But the era when the wiring was upgraded impacts electrical limitations. Before buying a home have a licensed electrician inspect the system to be safe. Visit [www.inspectorseek.com](http://www.inspectorseek.com) for referrals.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

## Space heaters can dramatically increase your electric bill

If you were to plug an electric space heater in one room of your home for an hour a day, you probably wouldn't notice a lot of difference on your electric bill. A 1500-watt space heater would use about 45 kWh per month, or about \$4.50.\*

On the other hand, if you put that same space heater in a cold well house, shed or other unheated space and let it run 24-hours a day for the month, you would be billed for 1,080 kWh or \$108.00\* in electricity. That's quite a difference!

Every electric heating appliance or device operates the same way. For instance, a stock tank heater you would use for your cattle or horses will run much of the time when it is located out in the cold. A 1,000-watt heater will cost you 10\* cents per hour to operate. This may sound low, but if it is left to run continuously, you could use as much as 720 kWh, or

\$72.00\* per month to operate. Multiply this amount by the number of tank heaters in use, and you can see that this would result in a dramatic increase in your bill.

Other appliances, such as a heated dog bed, dog water bowls, heated bird baths, etc., will consume more energy than you may think during cold weather, and the colder the weather, the greater the cost.

To determine how much an electric heater will cost you to use, check the wattage on the appliance, multiply the wattage by the number of hours of use, divide that number by 1,000 to get kWhs, then multiply that number by your actual electric rate to get your estimated cost.

**Formula:** Watts x Hours used ÷ 1,000 = kWh  
kWhs x Electric Rate = Cost

\*An electric rate of 10¢ per kWh was used for ease of calculation.

## Earned Income Tax Credit Can Put Money in Your Pocket

You could be cheating yourself at tax time, even if you are not required to file a tax return. The IRS estimates one in four eligible taxpayers will overlook the Earned Income Tax Credit – or EITC – worth up to \$5,600 or more this year.

EITC is a refundable tax credit, meaning you can get money back even if you owe no federal income tax or had no tax withheld. And, if you owe tax, it can offset the amount you must pay.

Unlike other tax credits, EITC is based on several factors such as the source and amount of your income, or combined income if married, whether you have qualifying children and how many. Children are not required for eligibility, but they increase the amount of your credit. Through new legislation, families with three or more children can get even more money.

If you had less than \$48,000 in income from wages, self-employment or farming in 2009, see if you qualify. Find more information at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov),

keyword: EITC. Use IRS's online EITC Assistant to determine your eligibility and the amount of your credit, or use the worksheet in your tax instruction package.



No-cost help is available in many communities. Volunteer income tax assistance sites or IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers will compute your EITC and prepare your return at no charge. To

locate a volunteer site, call the IRS at 1-800-906-9887. Locate an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center in the blue pages of your telephone directory

Remember: if you are eligible, you must file a federal income tax return, even if you are not otherwise required to file, and you must specifically claim the credit to get it.

Per the IRS, rural and non-traditional families -- such as grandparents raising grandchildren -- childless workers, and Spanish-speaking taxpayers are among those who most frequently overlook the credit.

## INDUSTRY News

### Kandiyohi Power Co-op plans solar farm

West central Minnesota is home to all types of farms and soon it could also have a solar farm. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is spearheading an effort that could use power from photovoltaic panels to generate electricity for the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative and Willmar Municipal Utilities. The project is in its early phases, but is an exciting opportunity for the Cooperative located between Spicer and Willmar.

But solar power? In Minnesota? You bet, Minnesota gets a consistent amount of sun, even in winter. Two customers on the Kandiyohi system already use solar panels. One customer has a silicone-based panel that captures as much solar power on a clear winter day as it does on a clear summer day.

-Agri News

### Klobuchar announces over \$5 million for clean energy jobs training

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar announced that Minnesota will receive over \$5 million to support workforce development projects in renewable energy and green industries through the Department of Labor Energy Training Partnership grant program.

The program will provide training for manufacturing workers entering renewable energy industries. Funds will be distributed across the Twin Cities Metro Area, Iron Range, and the 38 Southern Minnesota counties, covering a total of 53 of Minnesota's 87 counties.

"Our emerging energy economy holds enormous potential for Minnesota," said Klobuchar. "These funds will train manufacturing workers and unemployed Minnesotans to fill the new jobs being created in the new energy economy."



## Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered



**S**tudents 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.

## Experience Washington D.C.

Time for high school juniors and seniors to apply

**H**igh school juniors and seniors have until March 5, 2010, to apply for the Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour competition. One local youth will win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. June 12-17, 2010, compliments of the Cooperative.

For over 40 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour by sending their high school students to experience first-hand the essence that is our republic. An information packet is available upon request to any high school junior or senior. Just call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272. You will have until March 5, 2010, to submit your application. Students must complete a questionnaire and application to qualify. Please encourage your child or grandchild to apply. They need only attend a high school in or reside in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or western Carver County.



## Big MAC Youth Leadership Conference

**M**innesota Association of Cooperatives is sponsoring an educational program for high school students in grades 10-12. This two-day conference is scheduled for March 15-16 in Roseville, Minnesota. The program provides an opportunity for youth to learn about the purpose, operation and value of cooperative business.

Interested students may contact the Cooperative for an application form. Call Sue at 1-800-494-6272 ext. 502 if you have questions. Deadline to sign up is February 22.

## This year's Coal Creek Tour is June 21-23



**R**eservations are now being accepted for this popular tour. It is both an educational and fun trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. Tour participants will visit Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, Garrison Dam, North Dakota Heritage Center and Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center (including Fort Mandan, a reconstructed and fully-furnished fort where Lewis & Clark spent a winter). Attendees will go on a drive-through tour of Blue Flint Ethanol which is constructed adjacent to Coal Creek Generating Plant, as well as a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area.

Cost for adults is \$150 per person. Students 10-18 years of age, who share a room with their parents or grandparents, are \$100 per person. This makes it an affordable mini-vacation. Motor coach transportation,

accommodations at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and most meals are included. The hotel offers an indoor pool, water slide, hot tub and exercise room. The hotel is located across the street from a shopping mall. So there is plenty to do during free time.

The group leaves the Cooperative about 8 a.m. on Monday, June 21 and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23. Members going on the tour need to be physically able to climb stairs and do a substantial amount of walking. The tour is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

If you have never been on this tour, we encourage you to sign up. If you have been on the tour before, we will accept your reservation; however, people who have never been to Coal Creek will be given preference. Call

the Cooperative at 800-494-6272 to make reservations with your VISA or Mastercard or return the completed form with your check.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the Coal Creek Tour, June 21-23, 2010.

Name and Age of Students:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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



## Marathon— Hot Water For Life.



For many people the demands of work and family leave little time for leisure. With busy lives, who has time to deal with a water heater that needs frequent attention and replacement? Today, when people look for reliability and durability—they choose Marathon water heaters.



## State of Minnesota to offer special appliance rebates for a very limited time

The State of Minnesota is planning to offer consumers an appliance rebate program using federal stimulus money. The state only has 5 million dollars available, so assuming 25,000 Minnesotans apply for a rebate, the fund would run out of money in less than 30 days. So consumers will need to read up on the program from the state and apply quickly to get in on the rebates.

This has been referred to as the **Trade-in and Save Appliance Program**. It will offer rebates of **\$200 for a new ENERGY STAR clothes washer, \$150 for an ENERGY STAR dishwasher, \$200 for an ENERGY STAR refrigerator and \$100 for an ENERGY STAR freezer.**

Recycling of the old appliance may be required. The rebates are expected to begin March 1, 2010. Purchase receipts need to be dated March 1 or after. The state is expected to use a coupon reservation process. A consumer would go online or call to make their reservation and they have a set number of days to complete the process of buying and showing proof of recycling, if required. Consumers will need to know what they plan to purchase, make their coupon reservation early, and then follow through with their purchase and submitting documentation to the state energy office during the specified time window. Go to [www.mnappliancerebate.com](http://www.mnappliancerebate.com) for details, as they are announced.

None of these rebates go through the Cooperative. Consumers will need to apply to the state for their reservation and follow the state's precise instructions. However, if you do purchase an ENERGY STAR appliance and receive one of these rebates, you are still eligible to apply to the Cooperative for one of our 2010 appliance rebates. Just remember to keep an extra copy of your sales receipt, and proof of recycling in the case of a refrigerator, to turn in to the Cooperative.

## Fridge Farewell Program to begin April 1

Great River Energy and McLeod Cooperative Power will offer a program to help you get that old (but still operating) refrigerator or freezer out of your basement or garage. The promotion will run April 1 through August 31, 2010.

Members will receive a \$35 rebate to recycle their spare working fridge or freezer. They will get free pickup and removal of the appliance and each member could save up to \$150 a year in energy use.



If you have an old but still working refrigerator or freezer that you would like to recycle, make sure to read the Cooperative's newsletter next month for details on how you can sign up to get your appliance picked up.

## Some changes in rebates for 2010



CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR



Getting customers to conserve more energy is an important part of Minnesota's mandated legislation requiring all utilities to reduce how many kilowatts they sell. One way to help us meet this requirement is to help our members install the most efficient heating and cooling systems available. Rebates for high-efficiency ground source and air source heat pumps will be offered in 2010 to encourage members to choose the optimum efficiency in heating and cooling. Higher rebates will also be offered for members installing storage space heating which uses low-cost nighttime energy and storage water heating using the high efficiency Marathon water heater.

Rebates for high-efficiency heat pumps and air conditioners will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the [hvaceducation.net](http://hvaceducation.net) web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com).



## 2010 Rebates

### Ground Source Heat Pumps (controlled or uncontrolled)

Residential .....	\$400/ton
Commercial .....	\$200/ton

### Air Source Heat Pump

13 SEER .....	\$330
14 SEER .....	\$480
15 SEER .....	\$580
16 SEER or higher .....	\$630

### Ductless Air Source Heat Pump \$300

### Central Air Conditioner

13 SEER .....	\$ 30
14 SEER .....	\$180
15 SEER .....	\$280
16 SEER or higher .....	\$330

### Storage Space Heating .....

\$40/kW

### ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioners or ductless mini's .....

\$ 35

**Storage Water Heating** with high — efficiency water heater\* - Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater  
**Uncontrolled electric going on Storage Water Program .....**

**Gas conversion or new construction .....**

**4 Hr. Peak Shave WH to Storage Water Program .....**

**ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit .....**

**ENERGY STAR Refrigerator or freezer (new construction only) .....**

**ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer ....**

**ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier .....**

**ENERGY STAR Dishwasher .....**



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

TO THE MEMBERS OF McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION:

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be held at the Hutchinson Event Center at 1005 Hwy. 15 S. Plaza 15, in the city of Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on April 6, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 7, 8 and 9. The polls for the election of directors will be opened at the meeting place at 4:00 p.m. and will be closed at 6:45 p.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
3. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 26th day of January, 2010.

Dale E. Peters, Secretary

## Visit us at the Crow River Builders Showcase Feb. 20

If you are planning to:

- Remodel your home
- Build a new home
- Purchase energy-efficient appliances
- Save money with off-peak heating, cooling or water heating
- Replace your water heater

Our knowledgeable staff will be available to help you with your energy-saving questions.

The Hutchinson Home & Garden Show runs Friday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 21. Our booth will be in the special Crow River Builders Showcase (also at the McLeod County Fairgrounds) but ONLY Saturday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Considering buying a rechargeable electric car?



New styles of electric cars with storage batteries have been around for several years. If you purchase one, see the Cooperative about the possibility of charging it at night with off-peak power. It is a bright idea.

## Special manufacturer rebates on Steffes room storage heaters

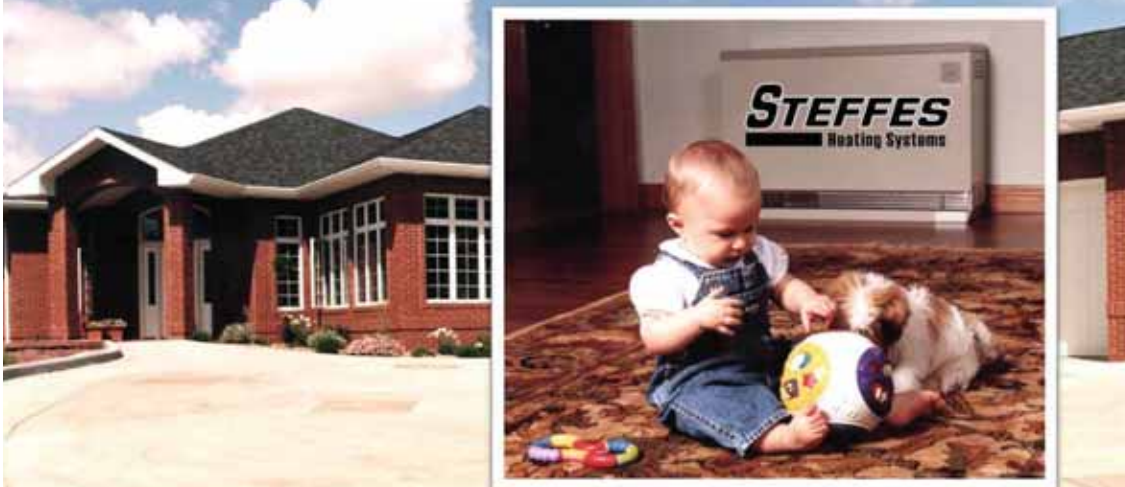
*Plus the Co-op's \$40 per kW rebate*

Until April 15, 2010, Steffes is offering a special rebate on each of their room storage heaters. The rebate is in addition to the Cooperative's \$40 per kW rebate. This is the perfect time to buy a storage heater as an additional Dual Fuel back-up, to warm a cold room or four-season porch. The units operate on the Co-op's off-peak storage program and qualify for the half-price electric rate.

Steffes Model	kW size	Steffes rebate	Co-op rebate
2102	3.0	\$40	\$120
2103	4.5	\$60	\$180
2104	6.0	\$80	\$240
2105	7.5	\$100	\$300
2106	9.0	\$120	\$360

Call the Cooperative office to discuss the proper size unit for your home and place an order at 800-494-6272.

## SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFER



## HUGE \$AVING\$ on Room Heating Units

This limited time promotion offers you savings on the equipment and allows you to improve your personal comfort and heating costs.



Excellent opportunity to add a Steffes heater into:

- ☆ a bedroom
- ☆ office area
- ☆ main living area
- ☆ an addition
- ☆ bathroom
- ☆ basement
- ☆ utility room
- ☆ or anywhere you desire low cost off-peak heat

For more information on how the Steffes Room Heating Systems can benefit you, go to [www.heatforlessnow.com](http://www.heatforlessnow.com).

Good only on purchases made between January 1 and April 15, 2010