

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

April 2010

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

McLeod Co-op Power Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association gathered for the 75th annual meeting of the Cooperative on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. A large turnout of members were in attendance at the Hutchinson Event Center to help celebrate this milestone. Entertainment was provided by Erin Wolter – Washington D.C. Youth Tour winner, the Creekside Jazz Trio, Comedian and magician Thomas Whitcomb, and the singing Cogley Sisters.

The business meeting was conducted from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. About 700 persons attended the meeting.

Three directors were elected for a three-year term each: Bill Polchow of Silver Lake, Keith Peterson of Hector, and Gerald Roepke of New Germany were elected to serve Districts, 7, 8, and 9, respectively.

Office Manager Randall Ahrndt updated the members on the Co-op's finances. Board President Gerald Roepke, General Manager Kris Ingenthron, and director Lester Ranzau each gave short presentations on the Co-op's rich history. A video featuring long-time members of the Cooperative conveyed the awesome experience of finally getting electricity in the early days of REA. Each member in attendance received a copy of the Cooperative's 75th anniversary history book as an attendance gift.

Culver's of Hutchinson catered the event, serving over 1,100 members and guests. Attendance prizes were also awarded. The grand prize was a high-definition TV. It was won by Felix Stifter of Silver Lake. The off-peak water heater was won by Yvonne Piker of Hutchinson.

Additional Photos on page 3



About 700 people attended the meeting.

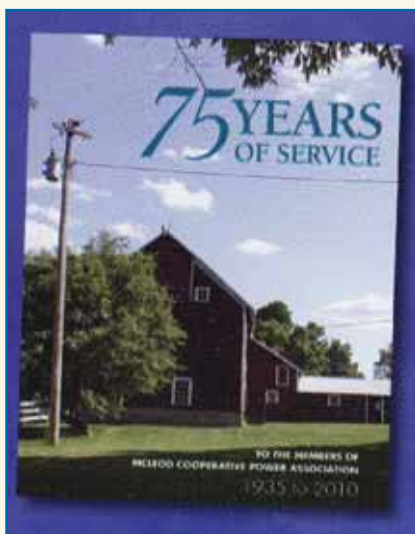


Elected Directors: Keith Peterson, Hector; Bill Polchow, Silver Lake; and Gerald Roepke, New Germany.



General Manager Kris Ingenthron

MCPA history books available to members



Members who were unable to attend the annual meeting may stop in the office and pick up a copy of "75 Years of Service," a 96-page hardcover history book tracing the growth of McLeod Cooperative Power Association through its 75 years. One book is available per member at no charge, while supplies last. For members unable to travel to the Glencoe office, we will mail you a book for \$5.00 to cover packaging and postage.

The book includes over 160 photos covering the Cooperative from 1935 to 2010, stories from the early members who remember the day the lights came on, and the chronological history and events that shaped McLeod Cooperative Power. This commemorative history book was this year's special attendance gift for members at the annual meeting. We are making it available to any

members who would like a copy (while supplies last). We hope our members enjoy reading it and keep it as a treasured keepsake.

Stop in the office to get your one copy, or return the form below with \$5.00 to have us mail you a copy.

Mail me a copy of "75 Years of Service"

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

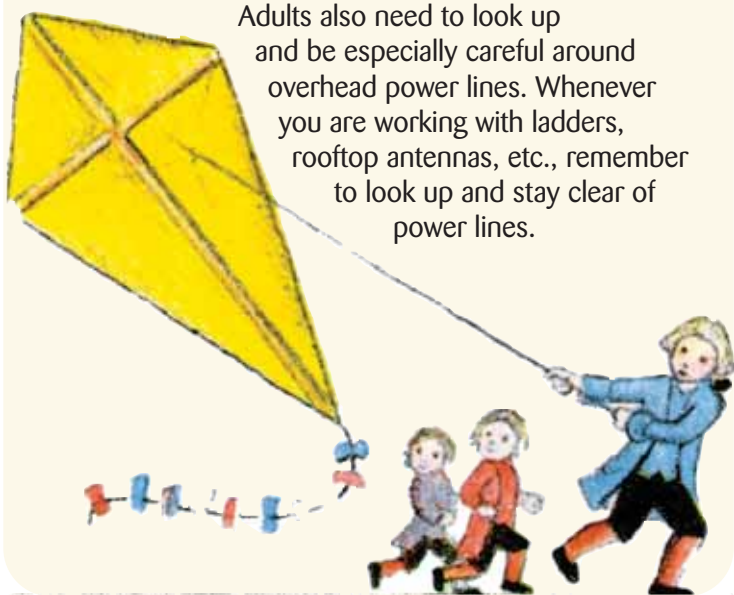
State: _____ Zip: _____

Please enclose \$5 per book
Return to: McLeod Cooperative Power Assn.,
1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70,
Glencoe, MN 55336.

Keep away from power lines!

Spring is here. Kids are outside and we need to remind them of a few safety rules.

- Do not fly kites near power lines.
- Do not climb on or play near green transformer boxes.
- Report any broken locks on or damage to green transformer boxes immediately.
- Do not climb in trees that are near or into power lines.



Household appliance rebates available when you purchase certain ENERGY STAR appliances

If you are purchasing a new appliance, make sure it is an ENERGY STAR rated model, guaranteeing that it meets a higher federal energy standard than an average appliance. Look for the blue and white ENERGY STAR logo. You also may go to www.energystar.gov website to check if the model you are purchasing meets 2010 standards and is not a 2008 or 2009 leftover ENERGY STAR model that might not qualify for a rebate.



McLeod Cooperative Power offers rebates for new ENERGY STAR appliances listed below. Units must be on the current ENERGY STAR product list to qualify. Pick up a rebate form at the Co-op office, call to have us mail one or just download one off of the Co-op's web site www.mcleodcoop.com.



Credits for the rebate amount will be applied to the member's electric bill the month following receipt of the rebate paperwork.

ENERGY STAR products that qualify are:

Refrigerator with recycling of old unit	\$75
Refrigerator or freezer (new construction only)	\$50
Clothes Washer	\$25
Dehumidifier	\$25
Dishwasher.....	\$25

Allocation notices on April bill statement

The amount of capital credits allocated to each member for 2009 is shown on the electric bill mailed in mid-April. It is based on margins allocated. MCPA allocations may be refunded to the member at some time in the future when capital credits for 2009 are retired.

The amount shown is not available to be deducted from the bill at this time. It is merely a notice of allocation. For many years the notice of allocation was mailed separately but due to high postage costs we are now economizing and listing it on your bill statement.

Product recall

Dimplex, the manufacturer of electric fireplaces, along with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, has announced the recall of 700,000 plug-in remote control receivers that were included with some electric fireplaces. This only affects consumers who ordered a plug-in

remote control kit with their fireplace. It only affects 120 volt plug in models. Any 3,000-watt fireplaces that are hard-wired to the electric panel are not affected.

If you purchased a plug-in remote control kit visit www.recall.dimplex.com or call 1-800-668-6663 ext. 344. The Co-op also has a copy of the recall poster with instructions in our lobby.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 Oria Brinkmeier, <i>Lester Prairie</i>	District 6 Lester Ranzau, Vice President <i>Glencoe</i>
District 2 Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer <i>Brownston</i>	District 7 Bill Polchow, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer <i>Silver Lake</i>
District 3 Roger Karstens, <i>Hutchinson</i>	District 8 Keith Peterson, <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.

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24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com
Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166



Coop employees greet members with 75 Years of Service commemorative books.



The Cogley Sisters entertained with old-time hits.



Creekside Jazz Trio, featuring Lon Roach, Dan Biederwolf, and Dave Sonsolla.



Board members listen while Board chair Gerald Roepke addressed the crowd.



Co-op employees Carol Barlau, Brad Hundt, and Craig Marti greeted guests.



Erin Wolters shared slides from her Washington DC Youth Tour.



Magician & Comedian Thomas Whitcomb.

MCPA members from St. John's Lutheran Church

(Mountville), rural Gaylord, volunteered to help serve the meal at the annual meeting. Our thanks to all of them for doing a great job and to OrDella Knish for organizing them to help.



Thank you to our contractors and vendors

Several of the Cooperative's contractors and vendors were gracious enough to donate prizes and gift cards for us to use as attendance prizes at our annual meeting. Our hearty thanks to:

- Marathon Water Heaters
- Heartland Security Services
- Highline Construction
- M & P Nexlevel
- Carr's Tree Service
- Pole Inspection Services
- Dueco
- Border States
- Great River Energy

Thank you members

The Cooperative greatly appreciated all of our members taking the time to fill out and return those RSVP cards for the annual meeting meal. It was a great help for us in planning how many meals to prepare and saved us from paying for more meals than necessary.

For those members who were able to attend the meeting, we welcome your comments — both positive and negative. If you want to share with us your thoughts on the meeting, meal, time of meeting, etc just drop us a note with your payment or give us a call. You may also e-mail us anytime at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com.

We are asking our members to contact our U.S. Senators and Representatives.

Please urge them to stop EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources under the Clean Air Act.

The Clean Air Act was originally passed in 1970, and amended in 1977 and 1990 and was not intended to regulate greenhouse gases. It has regulated common pollutants, including carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead and particulate soot to address smog and acid rain. The co-author of the Clean Air Act, John Dingell, D-Michigan, has said repeatedly that the legislation was never intended to include carbon dioxide. (Carbon dioxide is what we humans exhale every time we breathe.)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to regulate carbon. The EPA says it has such a power under the Clean Air Act and recently a U.S. Supreme Court decision affirmed its authority to regulate carbon as a public health concern.

It is up to us and our legislators to act to stop the EPA from trying to regulate carbon. The cost of carbon regulation is guaranteed to increase your electric bill. Cooperatives in the Midwest will be hardest hit. The regulation or taxation of carbon will affect every aspect of our nation's economy.

Please contact your legislator listed below. Ask them to limit any legislation that would increase electric bills or fuel bills for consumers and businesses that are already struggling during difficult economic times. Ask them to have Congress form legislation to address carbon issues – not the EPA.

Senator Amy Klobuchar's Minnesota Office
Ph: 612-727-5220

Senator Al Franken
Ph: 202-224-5641

John Kline's Minnesota Office
Ph: 952-808-1213

Michelle Bachman's Minnesota Office
651-731-5400

Collin Peterson's Minnesota Office
Ph: 320-269-8888

Or send an e-mail by going to www.ourenergy.coop. It will allow you to send an e-mail to all your legislators at the same time.



Plant for energy savings

A well-landscaped yard can be more than just pleasing to the eye – it can also save energy. By thoughtfully landscaping the grounds around your home you can enjoy years of energy savings.


Energy efficient landscaping makes its biggest impact on the two most energy intensive tasks in your home: heating and cooling. By planting trees to shade your windows, you'll reduce cooling costs in the summer months by minimizing heat gain from the sun. When the seasons change and the leaves fall, sunlight will pass through and provide heat exactly when it's needed.

Trees also function as natural air conditioners through a process called evapotranspiration. As water is drawn from the ground to the leaves, water vapor is released which cools the surrounding air.

Best of all, energy savings from trees will only grow with time; a newly planted tree will begin shading windows in its first year and will reach roof height in five to 10 years. However, more energy savings can be found closer to the ground.

Planting shrubs, bushes and vines next to your house creates dead air spaces that insulate your home in both winter and summer. During the winter months, dense, low-lying shrubbery on the north and northeast sides of your home can serve as a windbreak and protect your home against wind chill.

While landscaping can be costly, you can recoup the costs with ongoing energy savings. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, landscaping for energy efficiency can provide enough energy savings to recoup the initial investment in less than eight years.

ACT NOW  **Our Energy, Our Future**
A Dialogue With America

to keep your electric bills affordable.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking steps to regulate greenhouse gases using a law never designed for that purpose.

Even the Clean Air Act author* predicts the results will be...

“...a glorious MESS.”
*U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.)

URGE your elected officials to co-sponsor legislation to prevent this from happening.

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

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.

811
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

TRAVELERS
Common Ground Alliance

Charting a path toward energy efficiency

As energy prices rise, consumers are becoming more educated about their energy use. As a result, more people are pursuing energy efficiency and conservation in their homes. But before you make a major investment in your home's efficiency, it's important to lay out a plan. The conservation pyramid (shown below, at left, etc.) lays out an intelligent course that will result in your home making the best use of energy.

Begin at the base of the pyramid to discover simple and inexpensive ways to become more efficient. As you move up the pyramid you'll gradually develop a home that operates at its highest efficiency. The more thoroughly you complete each step, the greater the reward will be with future improvements. It's important to keep your energy efficiency efforts in perspective. Very few people will complete all the efficiency improvements within the entire pyramid, so it might help to view it as a guide for continually measuring and monitoring your home's efficiency. Energy efficiency should be a part of the usual home improvement efforts, right alongside maintenance, siding, paint and décor.



Understanding

Like any major undertaking, it's important to do your research. Take a look at your last year's energy bills and identify times of year when energy use is particularly high. Then take it a step further and buy or borrow an electric usage monitor to measure the electricity used by each of your devices.

Low cost/no cost

These are the easiest changes, but can make a big difference on your energy bills; turn down the thermostat in the winter, keep doors shut, turn unused lights off and shut off the faucet when not in use.

Lighting

Rid your home of standard incandescent bulbs and halogen lamps. Use only compact fluorescent lamps; they use one-tenth of the electricity of standard bulbs.

Air sealing

Seal drafts with weather stripping, caulking or window film to keep the outside air out. Use foil tape (not duct tape) to seal your ductwork – especially areas such as joints, elbows and connections.

Appliances

Learn how much energy your appliances are using by visiting www.ENERGYSTAR.gov or installing an electric usage monitor for a few days. It may be cost-effective to invest in a newer, more efficient model.

Insulation and ventilation

Heating and cooling are expensive; don't let conditioned air escape. Use insulation with an R value of 45 or more in the ceiling and attic, and 20 or more in the walls.

Water heating

The Co-op's storage water program is a great way to conserve energy and save money with the low energy management electric rate. Contact your Co-op's energy management personnel to learn all the details.

Heating and cooling

Improve your efficiency by regularly replacing your furnace air filter, and research whether it's time for a more efficient furnace or air conditioner – or, better yet, a geothermal or air-source heat pump.

Windows

Old windows dramatically reduce the efficiency of heating and cooling equipment. New windows are a major investment, but result in a more efficient home.

Renewable energy

Whether or not to use renewable energy depends on your circumstances, including location. If you are interested in learning more about this option, contact your Cooperative for information.

INDUSTRY News

Gallup poll shows Americans less worried about global warming

The last two years have marked a general reversal in the trend of Americans' attitudes about global warming. Most Gallup measures up to 2008 had shown increasing concern over global warming on the part of the average American, in line with what one might have expected given the high level of publicity on the topic. But the public opinion tide turned in 2009, when several Gallup measures showed a slight retreat in public concern about global warming.

This year, the downturn is even more pronounced. Some of the shifts in Americans' views may reflect real-world events, including the publicity surrounding allegations of scientific fraud relating to global warming evidence and — perhaps in some parts of the country — a reflection of the record-breaking snow and cold temperatures of this past winter.

Additionally, evidence from last year showed that the issue of global warming was becoming heavily partisan in nature, and it may be that the continuing doubts about global warming put forth by conservatives and others are having an effect.

-Gallup

Urdahl seeks to stop federal ban on bulbs

State Rep. Dean Urdahl has a message for the federal government: Keep your laws off my light bulbs.

A handful of GOP lawmakers have launched a legislative crusade to let Minnesotans keep buying conventional light bulbs after the federal government orders lights-out on selling old bulbs in 2014. The backers have re-ignited a long-simmering debate about the environmental merits of energy-efficient bulbs while at the same time putting Minnesota, along with a growing list of other states, headlong into a states' rights showdown with Washington.

The real problem I have with this ban is it's another instance of government creeping even further into our lives," he said. "Our Founding Fathers would be dismayed if they knew Washington is reaching so far into our lives as to control the light bulbs we use."

~Star Tribune

The perfect Mother's or Father's Day gift



*Do you worry about...
your parents getting older?
mom or dad living alone?*

The First Alert emergency pendant from McLeod Co-op Power may be just the thing they need to help you worry less while they live on their own. One press of the button will call the 24-hour medical dispatch center, which will send a family member, neighbor or police over to help. The pendant allows them to work outside in the garden or go to the mailbox, and still summon help if they need it. Emergency pendants are reasonably priced and make a perfect Mother's Day or Father's Day gift.

The pendant allows them to work outside in the garden or go to the mailbox, and still summon help if they need it. Emergency pendants are reasonably priced and make a perfect Mother's Day or Father's Day gift.

Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-MCPA for more information.



Tune up your cooling unit and receive a \$25 credit

Announcing the 2010 air conditioning tune-up program.

Just schedule a tune-up of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (unit must be at least 5 years old and in working condition to qualify) and when your licensed professional HVAC contractor performs the service work, have them complete the rebate coupon at right. Send the completed rebate form to the Cooperative with a copy of the contractor's invoice. His tune up must include the items on the coupon. After the Co-op receives your documentation, we will credit your electric bill \$25 within 4-6 weeks.

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Owner _____
Acct. # _____
Address _____
Location # _____
Phone # _____
Company doing Tune-Up _____
Technician's Name _____
Company Phone # _____

CHECK LIST

Brand Name _____
Model # _____
Serial # _____
Tons/BTU Rating _____ SEER Rating _____

- Clean Outdoor Unit
- Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
- Check Blower Belt
- Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
- Compressor Amp Reading Check
- Blower & Oil
- Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
- Check Filter
- Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
- Blow Out Drain Line
- Visual Inspection of Cooling System

Recommendations _____

Technician Signature _____
Date _____

Rebate amounts for ENERGY STAR® cooling units

Consumers purchasing new air conditioners or air source heat pumps (ASHP) will need to buy a high-efficiency unit AND make sure it is installed by a registered contractor to receive a rebate from the Co-op.



The amount of the rebate is determined by the efficiency of the unit.

SEER	ENERGY STAR Air Conditioner	ENERGY STAR Air Source Heat Pump
13	\$30	\$330
14	\$180	\$480
15	\$280	\$580
16+	\$330	\$630

To receive the rebate, your installing contracting firm must also be registered with the HVAC Reduction service. Most utilities in the state of Minnesota are requiring contractors to successfully complete a test to verify that they know how to properly complete a high efficiency installation. If they do not pass the test, they will receive training before being retested. Utilities want to provide consumers with some assurance that the contractor installing their system knows how to properly install a cooling unit to meet its design SEER rating and that the contractor agrees to do installations according to these standards.

Rebates will only be paid to consumers if their installing contractor is listed on the HVAC Reduction site. You can link there from McLeod Co-op Power's web site or go there directly at http://hvacreduction.net/gre/public_search.cfm

If you do not have internet access, you can also check with the energy experts at McLeod Co-op Power, to find out what local contractors have been certified as registered contractors under this program.

Coal Creek Tour June 21-23 — Sign Up Soon!



View from roof of Coal Creek Station.



Experience the fresh, clean air of North Dakota. Take in its scenery, agricultural and energy production.



Tour Falkirk Mine and get a close up look at the coal mining equipment and draglines.



Garrison Dam is back on the tour itinerary. This is a hydro dam on the Missouri River.



Fort Mandan is where Lewis and Clark spent the winter before their journey west. We visit the fort and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

Reservations 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.*

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 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. This program is not for replacement of your primary kitchen refrigerator! It is designed to get rid of a second or third refrigerator or freezer and remove that energy use from the grid. The unit must be between 10 and 27 cubic feet and must be 15 years or older. It must be owned by the customer and picked up at the residential address listed on your bill. The unit must be plugged in and operating for the recycler to take it.

Call 1-877-838-1139, provide your name, address and your McLeod Cooperative Power account #. You can then arrange with them for an appointment to pick up your old refrigerator or freezer. Several weeks after the unit is picked up you will receive your \$35 recycling check in the mail from the Fridge Farewell Program. This program is being administered by ARCA, an appliance recycling company. You cannot schedule a pick up by calling the Cooperative.



This recycling offer may not be combined with any Cooperative appliance rebate or qualify as the refrigerator recycling component for any new appliance rebate.

Send your fridge to a better place

Get \$35 for recycling your spare fridge

Take part in the Fridge Farewell program and you'll get \$35 back, plus save up to \$150 a year in home energy costs. It's no hassle: a professional contractor will haul away your old fridge or freezer from your home or garage for proper recycling.

Participation Requirements

- You must be a residential electric customer of McLeod Cooperative.
- The fridge or freezer must be owned by the customer and be picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account.
- The fridge or freezer must be an operating, secondary unit that has been functioning in the home a minimum of two months to qualify.
- No primary units will be recycled and there is a limit of two appliances per household.
- Ammonia-based refrigerators are not eligible.
- The fridge or freezer must be between 10 and 27 cubic feet, 15 years or older.
 - Most refrigerators and freezers have a manufacturer's sticker on the back or on the bottom portion of the ledge by the door and the date is usually included in the numbers written on the sticker.
- The fridge or freezer must be located in a single-dwelling home, a townhouse or a duplex, triplex or four-plex building.

Promotion runs from April 1 through August 31, 2010. Call 1-877-838-1139 or visit mnbrighterideas.com to schedule your pickup.

2010 Fridge Farewell
mnbrighterideas.com

Members may begin donating to Operation Round Up® any time of the year



Members helping members and members helping their community = Operation Round Up

The few cents that our members give by rounding up their electric bill can multiply to dollars for local charities that build up our whole community. It is easy to sign up, painless to participate in, and a great opportunity for your small donations to make a big difference.

Members who sign up for Operation Round Up will have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. The difference between the billing amount and the nearest dollar goes to the Operation Round Up Trust. Members on the program donate from -0- to \$.99 a month, depending on the amount of their electric bill. The average member donates \$6.00 a year to the program. Many worthwhile charities benefit from the proceeds of the trust each year. If you do not already participate, please fill out the form and return it to the Co-op. We will get you set up as an Operation Round Up participant.

Yes, sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Account #: _____

Signature: _____

Operation Round Up donates \$2,500 to local projects



The Trust received 15 completed applications.

Projects receiving funding for \$500 were:

- 1) Elim Rehab & Nursing Home
- 2) Heartland Community Action
- 3) McLeod County 4-H
- 4) McLeod County Historical Society
- 5) Tim Orth Memorial Foundation

The Operation Round Up board is made up of five area residents which volunteer their time to oversee the funds and select recipients each year. Our thanks to these dedicated folks: Virgil Stender of Young America, Elizabeth Schwarze of Lester Prairie, Curt Burns of Stewart, Mike Ruskamp of Hector, and our newest board member Cheryl Beilke of Hutchinson.

We encourage any members that are not already rounding up their electric bill to the nearest dollar for Operation Round Up to please sign up. The more members that participate, the more local projects and agencies we can help. Fill out the form above and return to the Co-op.

Rachel Posusta is 2010 Washington D.C. Youth Tour winner



Rachel Posusta, a junior at Glencoe-Silver Lake High School, will be representing McLeod Cooperative Power in June on the 2010 Washington D.C. Youth Tour. Rachel is the daughter of Roger and Sandy Posusta of Silver Lake. She competed with several other students who submitted entries in the youth tour competition.

Why electricity remains a good value

Electricity is used every day. Often we don't think about it. We trust the electricity will be there to power our alarm clocks so we can wake up on time, brew our first cup of coffee, and have a warm shower before heading out the door. Often though, the value of electricity is taken for granted.

The national cost of electricity today, when adjusted for inflation, is less than it was in 1980. Very few commodities have remained such a good value. Compared to other consumer products and services, electricity is a bargain.

Consumers are using more electric power than they were ten years ago. Members are using more electronic devices than they were two or three decades ago. Take personal computers for example. The first PC became available to the general public in the 1970s, and by 1998 there were more than 300 million in operation. Ten years later, in 2008, PCs numbered 1 billion. Experts predict that the number of PCs will reach 2 billion by 2014. To keep up with this trend, electric utilities have needed to spend millions of dollars to build more electrical infrastructure so electricity can remain reliable and plentiful to those who use it. These investments in the electrical system ultimately end up on member's bills.

Whether you consider yourself a bargain hunter or not, you are taking advantage of one of the best deals around every time you plug in an electrical device. For every \$1 you spend on electricity, here's how long you're able to operate common household electronics*:

- Refrigerator:**1 week
- Ceiling fan:**30 days
- Lamp:**6 months
- Cell Phone:**18 months
- Air Conditioner:**24 hours
- 32 inch LCD TV:**88 hours

26 gallons of gas for the truck at \$2.79/gallon (\$72.54) = 15 days of electric service

(Calculation based on the average MCPA residential electric member using 1,503 kWh per month at current general service rate plus power cost adjustment.)

*Sources: ENERGY STAR, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Natural Resource Defense Council, manufacturer's information.