

NEWS

May 2008

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Just a reminder...

On May 12, postage costs will be going up 1¢.

Be sure to use correct postage to make sure your payment is delivered to us.

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

OrDella Knish plans to retire after 40 years with MCPA



Members who have ever visited McLeod Cooperative Power's office have probably been greeted by receptionist OrDella Knish. OrDella has been an

employee of the Cooperative for 40 years. She recently announced plans to retire.

She started work at MCPA in April of 1968. Her duties were secretarial, general office and record keeping. She started her work in the engineering department, typing letters and doing new service requests. Later, she moved to the billing department to fill an opening in that area.

OrDella recalled for us how things have changed at the Co-op. In the old days, the employees used ledger cards instead of computers to keep track of what members owed. Members calculated their own bills. Each member was mailed a calendar with pockets. They received a billing card and envelope for each month and a rate schedule so they knew how to figure their bill. Members would record their

meter readings, figure their kWh usage and calculate their own bill. If they sent in the wrong amount, the billing clerks in the office would send them a note telling them how much to add to the next bill to correct it. Employees at one time used a posting machine before moving to computers.

OrDella's immediate plans are to spend time with family and have time to enjoy her crafts, gardening, and other projects. We wish OrDella the best in her retirement and thank her for many years of devoted service to our members.

Many of OrDella's responsibilities at the Cooperative will be taken on by Becky Schiroo of Glencoe. She has been a part-time employee in the DIRECTV Dept. for a few years.

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

Announcing the 2008 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 on page 3 of this newsletter. 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.

Don't confuse our pole tester with a copper thief

Pole Inspection Services of Apple Valley, Minnesota began testing poles in the Helen substation area in late April and will continue working in this area until mid-May. The Helen substation area includes accounts in Bergen, Rich Valley, Helen, Glencoe, and Hale Townships.

Pole Inspection Services has their name on their trucks, as well as McLeod Cooperative Power signs. Feel free to check with the Cooperative at any time if you question the authenticity of anyone working on cooperative facilities. Keeping an eye out for unauthorized persons or vehicles near MCPA poles and facilities is especially important these days.

Copper thefts are at an all-time high and thieves have been reportedly cutting off ground wires to Xcel Energy power poles in some areas of Minnesota. Cutting ground wires puts electric consumers and their property at risk because if a lightning strike were to occur the power would not follow the ground wire to the ground. It could instead follow the conductor back to a consumer's home.

The Cooperative asks any member who sees a suspicious person near power poles to please report it to the Cooperative or to the police.

Manager's Message —

by Kris Ingenthron, McLeod Cooperative Power Association General Manager



Lifeblood of America

Electricity is the lifeblood of the U.S. economy.

It powers our homes, offices, and factories. It provides communications, entertainment, and medical services. It powers computers, technology, and the Internet. It also runs various forms of transportation.

Clearly, electricity is crucial to our everyday lives and it is something we all take for granted. Today's society demands electricity to power nearly every new product that comes on the market. Fortunately, most of the time electricity is there for us when we flip the switch.

The greatest attribute of electricity is its ability to be generated from many different fuel sources. These include coal, nuclear energy, natural gas, oil, hydropower and several other renewable energy resources such as wind and solar. Renewable energy, like wind and solar power, holds great promise in providing electricity. But renewables have some limits.

Wind for example, which has the potential to meet 20 percent of our country's electricity needs, must overcome two main hurdles: the need for additional transmission lines and the fact that the wind only blows 30-40 percent of the time. Additionally, the wind does not usually blow during peak times of usage on hot, humid, summer days.

Federal climate change is inevitable; that is the consensus as our legislators continue to develop an energy policy. Beyond that there are no clear answers as to "when" or "what." In the meantime,

the state of Minnesota has been moving ahead quickly with their own climate change legislation. Their plans are ambitious in their desire to control greenhouse gases, but they lack specifics.

Responsible for providing reliable and affordable electricity, McLeod Cooperative Power Association is watching without much clarity what the cost of carbon will be, as well as what will happen to future coal fired generating plants. The uncertainty in fossil fuel plant development will continue to move forward in a perilous zone somewhere between difficult and impossible. The future for nuclear is just as unclear.

In March, the federal government suspended a major loan program for any new coal-fired power plants in rural communities. The Rural Utility Services (RUS) will not issue any loans in 2008 and probably none in 2009 as well. Securing materials for new nuclear plants will be tough and capital costs are skyrocketing. Putting a lid on CO2 and keeping our economy humming along is a challenge to say the least. In addition, we are faced with an aging workforce, aging infrastructure, and a whole new generation of people who want to live comfortably. Electric cooperatives are building the bridge to the future but it will most likely take more time and money than we think. When it

comes to energy, McLeod Cooperative Power Association recognizes that you, the consumer, ultimately pay for whatever decisions are made on climate change. We are committed to working with our elected officials on finding practical, long-term remedies to our energy needs and to continue providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

With the growing demand for electricity and pressure brewing in congress to address climate change, it is time for all of us to get involved. Your family, friends, and neighbors all need to begin asking our elected officials some

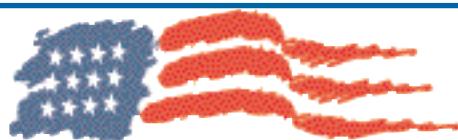


Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

tough questions. Without a sound, responsible, and sustainable energy policy, we risk returning to a time when electricity was a privilege not a necessity.

Electric cooperatives throughout the country have launched a grassroots campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America."

It is easy to start a conversation with our lawmakers. You can visit www.ourenergy.coop to contact your elected officials via email or by calling and writing to the legislators listed on page 3. Make your voice heard, our energy future depends on it.



The MCPA office will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

To report a power outage, you may contact us at 1-800-927-5685.

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MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is published monthly by McLeod Cooperative Power Association
PO Box 70
1231 Ford Ave.
Glencoe, MN 55336
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.

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Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation, and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?

What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?

Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

Go to www.ourenergy.coop and send a sample letter to your legislators asking these three questions:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Rep. Ron Shimanski (R) (Dist. 18A)

227 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155
Email: rep.ron.shimanski@house.mn
Tel. 651-296-1534

Rep. Terry Morrow (DFL) (Dist. 23A)

415 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155
Email: rep.terry.morrow@house.mn
TEL. 651-296-8634

Rep. Paul Kohls (R) (Dist. 34A)

313 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155
Email: rep.paul.kohls@house.mn
Tel. 651-296-4282

Rep. Laura Brod (R) (Dist. 25A)

321 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155
Email: rep.laura.brod@house.mn
Tel. 651-296-4229

Sen. Julianne Ortman (R) (Dist. 34)

125 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155
Email: sen.julianne.ortman@senate.mn
Tel. 651-296-4837

Sen. Gary Kubly (DFL) (Dist. 20)

301 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155
Email: sen.gary.kubly@senate.mn
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St Paul, MN 55155
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Washington, D.C. 20515
Email: collinpeter@house.gov
Tel. 202-225-1593

Sen. Norm Coleman

320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Email: coleman@senate.gov
Tel. 202-224-5641

Sen. Amy Klobucher

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Email: senator.klobucher@senate.gov
Tel. 202-224-3244

GRE moves into new energy efficient headquarters in Maple Grove

Great River Energy's new headquarters is one of the most energy efficient buildings in the Midwest, earning a platinum LEED certification. The building is noted for a 160-foot tall, 200 kilowatt wind turbine located on site that is visible from nearby Interstate 94. The turbine and a 72-kW solar array on the roof will provide up to 15 percent of the building's electricity. Excess electricity from the wind turbine is distributed onto the local electric grid.

Although energy efficient and sustainable construction can have higher up-front cost than standard technologies, it quickly pays for itself. The energy efficient aspects of the Great River Energy headquarters will pay for themselves in less than seven years as the company will save more than \$90,000 annually in electric costs.

Other noted facts about the building include:

- A low-energy HVAC system design featuring under-floor displacement ventilation and a geothermal heating and cooling system that utilizes the adjacent Arbor Lake. The system will result in a dramatic improvement in indoor air quality and workplace productivity.
- An on-site 200kW wind turbine that transforms wind energy into electricity. The 160-foot tall wind turbine is visible to motorists on Interstates 94.



- Photovoltaic solar panels mounted on the roof of the building will convert the sun's energy into electricity.
- Nearly 15 percent of the building's total electric use will come from renewable energy.
- Sustainable landscape features such as rain gardens, and native plantings reduce run-off and minimize irrigation.
- Rainwater will be used for on-site irrigation and the flushing of toilets, saving 1.6 million gallons of water annually.
- Dimming ballasts, daylight sensors and motion sensors are used throughout the building. The new headquarters will also harvest daylight through narrow office floor plates and multiple light-filled atriums. With reduced lighting requirements, there will be less heat generated from the lighting, reducing the need for air conditioning to cool the building. Artificial lighting is reduced by the use of high-efficiency fluorescent lighting.
- The building will use 40 percent less energy for lighting than similarly-sized buildings that use standard technology.
- Window's on the long north and south sides of the building maximize daylight harvesting, while windows on the east and west sides were kept at a minimum to reduce the harsh low-angle sunlight encountered in the morning and evening.
- The building's concrete structural frame contains nearly 50 percent fly ash, a by product created when coal is burned to generate electricity. Fly ash from Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station was used in both the structure as a replacement for cement, and in the carpet backing. Using fly ash in concrete decreases the amount of Portland cement required, reduces energy consumption and carbon emissions.
- Energy efficient elevators that use 60 percent less energy and require less space use a counterbalance mechanism and high-efficiency motors.
- Local construction materials were used when possible, including Mankato Kasota limestone and Lake Superior granite.
- Nearly 90 percent of construction waste was recycled.

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 _____

HVAC contractor puts air source heat pump in his new home

Brian Guggisberg's home is the second house that he and his wife Cindy have built. Contemporary with a traditional charm, their new home has none of the "regrets" that first-time home builders often discover after they've lived in the house for awhile.

"With the first house, there were just so many things we didn't know," Brian said. "Building the second house went much more smoothly because we knew what we wanted."

As a heating and cooling contractor and owner of Brian's Heating and Air, Brian has seen it all, which is good when you have decisions to make about type of heating and cooling system to put in your home.

"One of the best projects we did in this house is to utilize a dual fuel system for our in-floor heat system and air source heat pump."

Brian chose to install an air source heat pump, which is one of the most efficient systems, and the most cost efficient.

"When I discuss heating and cooling systems with my clients, there are many factors to take into account and not all situations are the same. For me, utilizing an air source heat pump was the best choice."

An air source heat pump is more economical up-front than some other systems and works at 180% efficiency.

"On a day like today (35° F), the air source heat pump can produce one million BTUs for under \$4. With a 92% efficient L.P. furnace, it would cost more than \$23."



Because an air source heat pump transfers heat, rather than creating it, the savings can be substantial, depending on your situation. A heat pump can adequately heat a home when the outside temperature is 20° or above.

"I installed a plenum heater to supplement the heat pump and allow it to operate down to between 0° and 5°."

In addition to providing heat, the heat pump is able to reverse its heat transfer system to pull heat from the home during the summer, so you don't have to purchase a separate central air conditioner.

"An air source heat pump gives you a return on your investment, where a traditional air conditioner doesn't," Brian said.

The Guggisberg home is on a dual fuel system, which means during times when electricity use is high, the primary electric heating system is automatically shut down while the secondary source (in his case, a high-efficiency L.P. furnace) kicks in temporarily.

"Any way you can get on dual fuel, it's a benefit, whether it's a retro-fit or new construction," Brian said.

Brian has some words of advice for anyone who must make a decision on heating and cooling their home:

"Everyone should educate themselves as to what the best heating system is for their situation. Ask questions, get projected operating costs. Talk to your contractor and Cooperative personnel. There are so many factors to consider to make sure you get the right system for your home."

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Spring Projects
remember to call before you dig

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

Planting a Tree or Shrub? Building a Deck?

Your rural electric Cooperative urges you to be careful. Many sites are on top of underground utility lines. Cutting an underground cable or pipeline can be very dangerous and costly, so call Gopher State One Call before you dig. It's the law!

Gopher State One Call is the clearinghouse to determine the location of all underground utility lines in Minnesota. You will ask specific questions, so please have the following information available when you call:

- Type of work to be done.
- Location of the work site, including township, range, section and quarter section coordinates. This is the property's legal description.
- Estimated time needed to complete work.
- **The property owner or excavating company is responsible for calling Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1166 at least 48 hours before work is to be done so that locators can mark their company's utilities. Calls are taken between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.**
- The property owner is responsible for hiring a locator and paying for locating costs if the underground wires are on the property owner's side of the electric meter, such as secondary wires running to a house or buildings.

Call 800-252-1166 before putting one shovel in the ground!

Thought, preparation and caution are crucial after a spring storm



Along with warmer weather, the advent of spring brings the potential for heavy rains, severe thunderstorms and tornados.

While the storm itself can be dangerous, so can the aftermath. Use these tips to stay safe:

- Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- Do not operate electric yard tools if it's raining or the ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least ten feet away from wet surfaces.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. Call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step in to a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.
- Never use a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! And if you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line. If you are in a car which has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. If you must leave your car jump free keeping both feet together and either shuffle or hop to safety.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

INDUSTRY

News

Minnesota is now No. 3 for wind power

Minnesota added 405 megawatts of wind power production last year to overtake Iowa as the nation's third-largest producer of wind energy, behind Texas and California. Minnesota had 1,299 megawatts of wind energy at the end of 2007, nosing out Iowa's 1,271 megawatts, according to the American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) annual ranking of wind power leaders released Wednesday. Texas and California remain far ahead, however, with 4,446 and 2,439 megawatts of wind power, respectively. The total U.S. wind power capacity is now about 16,800 megawatts, or enough to serve 4.5 million average households with electricity, the AWEA said.

Great River Energy of Elk River moved to the No. 1 spot among rural cooperatives using wind energy, with 218 megawatts, AWEA said. The Cooperative, which supplies rural electric co-ops in Minnesota, added 100 megawatts of power from a project in Mower County last year, spokeswoman Kandace Olsen said.

Pioneer Press

More stringent criteria for ENERGY STAR® Clothes washers and expanded CFL program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced more stringent criteria for clothes washers and expanded the categories of compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFL) under the ENERGY STAR® label. Based on first-year projected sales data, approximately 1.9 million ENERGY STAR®-qualified clothes washers will be sold, saving American families up to \$92.4 million annually on their water and utility bills. CFL products under the ENERGY STAR® label — which include new categories for CFLs that contain less mercury, new candelabra products, and more rigorous testing procedures — are expected to save Americans approximately \$30 billion in utility costs over the next five years. More stringent criteria, combined with a greater diversity of energy-saving product options, will allow Americans to more efficiently use energy in their homes, and aims to further the President's Advanced Energy Initiative, which seeks to fundamentally change the way this Nation uses power.

Press Release

Surge protection is inexpensive insurance

For those who use a computer often, check into a \$60+ power surge/battery back-up

unit. The battery back-up will preserve power for 10 minutes or more to allow you to save what you're working on and shut down your computer.

In the meantime, unplug devices that you aren't using. Items such as power tools, DVD players, toasters, etc. that aren't used throughout the day could be unplugged. Having your items plugged into a surge protector means easy one-button shut-off, which will also reduce monthly costs due to "phantom loads."

During a storm, it's a good idea to unplug everything not connected to a surge protector. A power surge usually lasts only 1/120th of a second, but the consequences can be costly.

Many people believe that power surges only happen during lightning storms. The truth is that smaller, less obvious power surges happen all the time, slowly eroding vulnerable equipment. The smaller the equipment, the less tolerant it is of voltage fluctuations. However, appliances and electronics of every size should be protected.

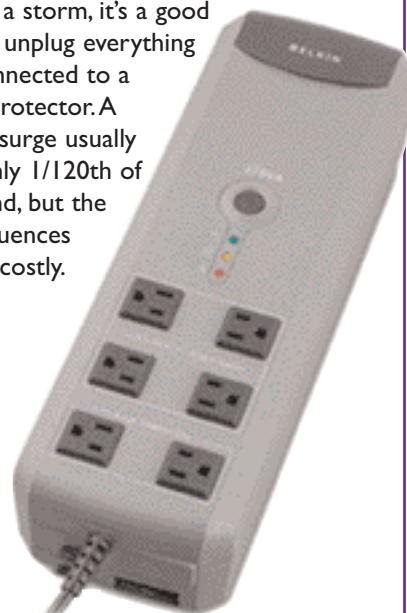
Not everyone can afford to replace a refrigerator, a computer, a television set, video game systems, microwave oven or other expensive unit. However, everyone can pay as little as \$10 for a power surge protector.

For roughly \$10 a piece, you can buy a minimum of surge protection. This type of protection will be good for one use and must be replaced after it has protected your equipment or appliance.

If you don't mind spending a bit more, you can purchase a surge protector with a replaceable fuse that can be used over again.



If you aren't protecting your expensive appliances and electronics from power surges, it's likely only a matter of time before you will have to pay to replace them.





Emergency pendants for mom or dad

You do not need to wait for a special occasion to give an emergency medical pendant from McLeod Cooperative Power. Although they make a perfect gift for the older person who already has everything, sometimes the need requires immediate action.

If you are ready to worry less about elderly parents or grandparents living alone, then this is the time for an emergency pendant. With just one push of a button, your loved ones can get immediate emergency help.

Emergency telephone and pendant systems cost under \$30 a month (plus an initial installation fee). These systems provide 24-hour monitoring by a professional dispatch center. The system will summon help for the subscriber whether they are in their home, garage, or yard. It is an excellent safety device for older persons living alone.

Call the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 to request an information brochure and pricing.



Appliance rebates

Members of McLeod Cooperative Power may receive a \$25 Energy Star rebate for purchase of a new dehumidifier, refrigerator, freezer, or clothes washer. Window air conditioners and mini-split systems that do several rooms are a \$35 rebate.



Members may also receive a rebate for each Energy Star central air conditioner or heat pump that has a SEER rating of 13 or higher and is installed on co-op lines by a contractor that is certified to do "quality installations." Contractors that have achieved the quality installation certification are listed on MCPA's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com on the Partners page. Just click on the qualified contractor title.

Call the energy experts at MCPA for details at 1-800-494-6272.

Rebates	Central Air Conditioners	Air Source Heat Pumps
SEER 13	\$30	\$30 - \$180
SEER 14	\$180	\$180 - \$330
SEER 15	\$280	\$280 - \$430
SEER 16 or higher	\$330	\$330 - \$480
Additional rebate of \$150 for any air source heat pump connected to the Dual Fuel and Cycled Cooling Programs.		

Saving electricity the old fashioned way

Consumers are being encouraged to conserve energy or live greener every time they turn around. Being more energy-conscious is a good thing to do to show you are a good steward of the resources of this planet earth. But when you get right down to it, most of the things that save energy will also save you money. Some simple lifestyle changes can reduce your electric bill, gas bill or other utility bill at a time when higher prices at the gas pump and grocery store are taking a bigger share of your hard-earned dollars. To make ends meet, consider some of these suggestions (at right): Do not dismiss any of the suggestions just because they may be a little inconvenient. If times really get tough, we may find ourselves going back to the old fashioned way of doing some things.

- The backyard clothesline — a fine way to dry clothes instead of using the electric or gas dryer. You may need to get up a little earlier in the morning if you have to hang clothes outside before going to work, but you will experience the wonderful smell of clean, fresh sheets and clothing that you might not have sniffed in years. Energy saved with an electric dryer is 4 kWh per load @ 37 cents a load. If you hang out six loads a week — that is \$8.88 a month saved.
- The basement clothesline or clothes rack — to dry your clothes in winter and add moisture to the air of your home. You will save the 37 cents a load on drying costs and it may decrease how much you have to run your humidifier.
- Awnings, shades and evening breezes — are all ways to keep your home cool in summer without using the energy guzzling air conditioner. By making use of things like awnings over windows, keeping shades pulled to keep the sun from heating up the house on hot summer days, and opening the windows to take advantage of cool summer breezes you can decrease your electricity use dramatically. A month of air conditioning a small to average-size home can easily run 300 kWh per month @ a cost of \$30.00 a month.
- Eliminate heat sources on hot summer days — this means shutting off unnecessary lights and appliances, cooking meals outdoors or in the microwave instead of cranking up the oven, keeping showers short, not filling the bathtub with hot water or doing other things to add heat or moisture to the house on the hottest summer days. When you add heat or moisture to the home you make it more uncomfortable and if you are using an air conditioner, you make it work much harder and run

longer to keep you comfortable. Every hour your air conditioner does not run saves you 50 cents.

- Suds savers — the tub that sits next to your washing machine was designed to reuse water for washing clothes. Many washers have a feature to pump the water into the tub and then back into the washer for the next load. Savings depends on the water temperature used.
- Front loading or ENERGY STAR clothes washer — they use a fraction of the energy and water to clean your clothes that a regular washing machine requires. That saves \$10-\$22 a month in hot water and washing machine energy.
- Family board game or card game night to replace TV watching — One night a week (or more) shut off the TV's and Play Stations and X-Boxes, and have the family together around the same table for cards or a board game. Reduce lighting and electronic appliance use in multiple rooms will save an average of 3.5 kWh per night or 32 cents. The family benefits will far outweigh the \$1.29 a month in energy savings.
- Forget lawn watering — although you may not have the lush green lawn, you will save money on electricity for watering, reduced time and gas spent on mowing your lawn so often, and you will conserve water (which is becoming a more scarce resource). Save an average of \$18 a month on lawn watering and probably more than that on fuel for your lawnmower.
- Low-flow showerheads and nonaerating faucets — they can cut the amount of water you use for bathing, showering, and at the sink in half. Also repair any leaky faucets immediately and do not

leave the water running continuously while shaving or brushing.

- Set your thermostat up several degrees in summer and down in winter — every degree will save energy. Your actual savings will vary depending on whether you heat with oil, gas, electricity, etc.
- Unplug appliances that are not in use — this includes electronic games like Play Station and X-Box units, rechargeable appliances that are fully charged like cordless vacuums, cell phones, ipods, cameras, power tools, flashlights, etc. Seldom-used televisions and electronics could also be unplugged. The savings can mount up when you start looking at how many devices are plugged in needlessly.
- Old refrigerators and freezers — any refrigerator or freezer that is not fully necessary should be unplugged and/or recycled. Unplugging a refrigerator in the garage that is just keeping pop or beer cold could reduce your bill \$6 to \$26 a month, depending upon the age and model. Unplug a freezer and reduce your bill \$5 to \$20 a month.
- Furnace fan on AUTO not ON — running a furnace fan continuously will cost you two and a half times more than operating it on the auto setting, where it just kicks on and off with the heating or cooling system. If you operate your furnace fan continuously and change the setting to auto on the thermostat, expect a savings of \$13 to \$35 a month.
- Plasma and other high-tech televisions — the bigger and fancier the screen, the more likely the addition will increase your electric bill. The energy savings from replacing all the incandescent light bulbs in your house with CFLs will be erased if you add one big-screen TV.

Final Month to sign up for Coal Creek Tour — June 10-12

Reservations are now being accepted for this popular tour. It is both an education and fun trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. Tour participants will visit Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, North Dakota Heritage Center, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center. Possible additions to this year's tour could be the new ethanol plant being constructed adjacent to the Coal Creek Generating Plant and a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area.

Cost for adults is \$150 per person. Cost for students 10-18 years of age who share a room with their parents or grandparents is \$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 Tuesday, June 10 and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. 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 to make reservations with your VISA or Mastercard or return the completed form with your check. Call 1-800-494-6272 ext. 521 to sign up.



Please reserve _____ places for the Coal Creek Tour, June 10-12, 2008

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.

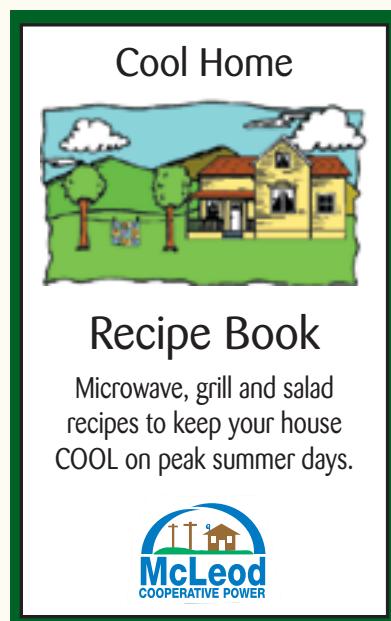
Free "Cool Home" recipe booklet for members

On the most extreme peak days of the summer, those few days when the temperature exceeds 95 degrees, it would be very helpful if Cooperative members could try to conserve energy during the critical noon to 8 p.m. peak hours. (In past years the critical peak time fell between 5-10 p.m. so this is a conservation time shift). During those hours the price to provide electricity can skyrocket. This increases costs for our power supplier, Great River Energy, and in turn, for McLeod Cooperative and our members.

This summer McLeod Cooperative Power is continuing its "Cool Home" project. We want to help you keep your house cool and comfortable on those super hot days, while reducing energy use.

The Cooperative will attempt to notify members that it is an extreme peak day and ask you to try to reduce energy use during specified hours that day. If you are not home, we will leave an automated phone message on your answering machine, reminding you that it is an extreme peak day. The plan is to call members who usually use 500 kWh per month or more. (You will be called at the phone # we have shown on the top

of your electric bill, so please make sure this is your correct home number). However, we appreciate the effort of any member who is willing to help conserve from noon to 8 p.m. on the days that exceed 95+ degrees.



We hope members will voluntarily:

- Do laundry earlier in the day or wait until after 8 p.m.
- Wait until after 8 p.m. to start the dishwasher.
- Go out for dinner, cook in the microwave or on the grill, instead of using the stove/oven.
- Turn off or unplug the dehumidifier until after 8 p.m.

The Cooperative will send to any member who is willing to give it a try, a free "Cool Home" recipe booklet. It is filled with brand new no-bake recipes — recipes to make dinner in the microwave, on the grill or cold salads. Or better yet, go out to eat! The booklet also includes tips for keeping your house cool and conserving energy on hot summer days. If you use your oven, stove, or crock pot to make a meal you are adding a lot of heat to your home. This makes your air conditioner work much harder and run longer. Especially on a 95+ degree day, the additional heat that a dishwasher, clothes dryer, stove or oven add to a house, make it less comfortable. Making a microwave meal will add less heat to the house and use significantly less energy.

The Cooperative invites any and all members, to call or drop us a note if you want a free recipe booklet. Call 320-864-3248 or 1-800-494-6272 during business hours, e-mail us a message from our website www.mcleodcoop.com or drop us a note with your bill. We greatly appreciate the volunteer efforts of our members helping to conserve energy on a few extreme evenings this summer. Thanks!

RENVILLE COUNTY COUNTYWIDE CLEAN-UP AND FLUORESCENT BULB COLLECTION

Renville County Highway Shop

Sacred Heart

Tues., June 3, 2008 — 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Renville County Highway Shop,

Fairfax

Wed., June 4, 2008 — 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Renville County Highway Shop

Buffalo Lake

Thurs., June 5, 2008 — 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility

32877 County Road 4, Olivia

June 3, 2008 — 8:00 am-6:00 pm

June 4, 2008 — 8:00 am-6:00 pm

June 5, 2008 — 8:00 am-6:00 pm

*For a list of items accepted
and fees contact:*

THE RENVILLE COUNTY LANDFILL
& HHWFACILITY
AT (320) 523-1144 OR
RENVILLE COUNTYWATER &
HHWMANAGEMENT AT (320) 523-3706



Announces:

Fluorescent Bulb RECYCLING PROGRAM

McLeod Cooperative Power makes bulb recycling as easy as a trip to your local hardware store. And, we'll even help pay the recycling fee.

Here's how it works:

- Take your used bulbs* and one coupon per bulb to a participating store. (See list below.)
- Each coupon gives you 50 cents off the recycling fee for each qualifying bulb you recycle.
- McLeod Power Cooperative will redeem up to 10 coupons per household from Cooperative customers.

Bulb recycling is good for the environment, and it's the law.

Used fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps require special care because they contain a small amount of mercury. Because it's important to limit the amount of mercury entering our environment, Minnesota law states that fluorescent bulbs cannot be disposed of with your household garbage.

Although fluorescent bulbs may require special care after they've burned out, they'll last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they use 75 percent less energy. With today's improving lighting technology, fluorescent bulbs give you the same warm quality of light as regular bulbs.

Return your bulbs with a coupon to any of these participating retailers:

- **Do It Best Hardware (Glencoe)**
- **Hite Ace Hardware (Glencoe)**
- **Hutchinson Ace Hardware (Hutchinson)**
- **Cokato Hardware (Cokato)**
- **Thomas Bros. (Arlington)**
- **Becker's Hardware Hank (Bird Island)**

* Circular fluorescent tubes, U-bend fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, high-intensity discharge lamps, fluorescent tubes up to eight feet in length.

<p>50¢ OFF FLUORESCENT BULB RECYCLING </p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> <p><small>Coupon expires 12/31/08. Limit one coupon per bulb. Coupon valid only when completed.</small></p>	<p>50¢ OFF FLUORESCENT BULB RECYCLING </p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> <p><small>Coupon expires 12/31/08. Limit one coupon per bulb. Coupon valid only when completed.</small></p>
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Your electric Cooperative partners with Mercury Technologies of Minnesota, Inc. in Pine City, and area retailers to provide a recycling program for fluorescent lamps.