

NEWS

July 2010

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Area youth receive scholarships

Two \$500 power line worker scholarships were awarded to area youth this spring. **Drew Lange** and **Nathan Kelzer** each received a scholarship to attend one of Minnesota’s power line schools this fall.

Drew is a 2010 graduate of Buffalo Lake-Hector High School and will be attending Minnesota West Technical College in Jackson this fall. He is the son of Randy & Shelly Lange of Stewart.



Nathan is a 2009 graduate of Waconia High School and will attend Minnesota State Community & Technical College in Wadena this fall. He is the son of Ron & Julie Kelzer of Mayer.

Each year MCPA makes available up to four \$500 scholarships for individuals accepted into power line worker programs in Minnesota to assist with tuition. For details on the scholarships or for a free line worker career brochure call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272.

The Realities of Wind

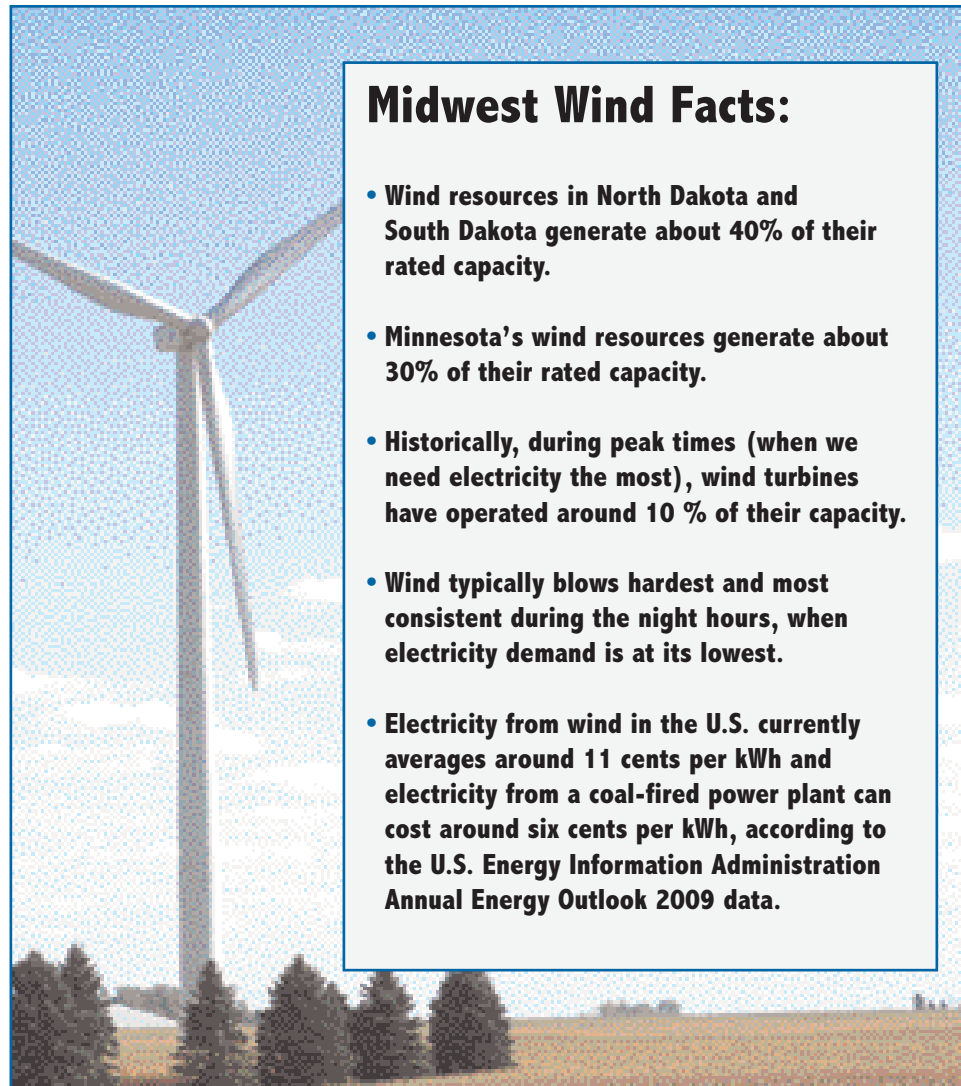
Wind power capacity in the United States has grown from about 2,000 megawatts (MW) in 1998 to nearly 25,000 MW today. With government-mandated renewable energy standards and carbon legislation on the horizon, this growth trend shows few signs of slowing.

The amount of wind energy generated today is a fraction of what is expected to be added in the years ahead, yet utilities are beginning to see the impact that these mandates have on providing reliable, affordable electricity.

Because wind's highest energy output most often coincides with off-peak hours and low electric demand, the value of wind energy tends to be significantly reduced. On average, wind generates more electricity during the spring and fall months when electric demand is lower, and between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7

a.m. when most people are asleep. Yet utilities generally face the same costs for generating wind energy at all times of the day. Meanwhile, lower-cost generating facilities are often shut down because of requirements to purchase wind power.

MCPA's power supplier, Great River Energy, is exploring new generation options and member programs that will shift load from the traditional peak times — morning and early evening — to the overnight hours. Possible options include new technologies to store energy such as large batteries or "pumped hydro". Challenges with these options are that they are expensive to build and lose some energy in the process of operating. There are no clear answers for how utilities should best incorporate wind energy into a generation portfolio. What is clear is that renewable energy requirements will present challenges and added costs for years to come.



Midwest Wind Facts:

- Wind resources in North Dakota and South Dakota generate about 40% of their rated capacity.
- Minnesota's wind resources generate about 30% of their rated capacity.
- Historically, during peak times (when we need electricity the most), wind turbines have operated around 10 % of their capacity.
- Wind typically blows hardest and most consistent during the night hours, when electricity demand is at its lowest.
- Electricity from wind in the U.S. currently averages around 11 cents per kWh and electricity from a coal-fired power plant can cost around six cents per kWh, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration Annual Energy Outlook 2009 data.

What exactly do I need to do before I dig in my yard?

It is very important that consumers understand how the Gopher State One Call system works. Whether you plan to dig post holes for a deck or flagpole, plant a tree, or trench in electric lines to a garage or outdoor appliance, you need to call Gopher State One Call 48 hours before you plan to dig (excluding weekends and holidays). The Gopher State One Call system is designed to notify utilities which might have underground facilities in the area that digging is planned. The utilities then mark any lines they have in the immediate area. If a utility has no buried lines in the area to be excavated, it does not need to visit the site.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to locate or hire someone to locate their own personal underground facilities such as underground electric wires between the meter and the house, the meter or house and other buildings, buried gas lines for propane tanks, lamps,

pool heaters, water lines, sewer lines, telephone lines, sprinkler systems, invisible fences, etc. The Cooperative does not locate buried wires that are the homeowner's responsibility. You should hire a licensed electrician or cable locating company to mark your personal lines. A list of private locators is available on the www.gopherstateonecall.org site.

First, you need to call Gopher State One Call two business days before you plan to start digging. Call either "811" or 1-800-252-1166.

Be prepared with the following information:

- Your name, home phone number and work/cell phone number;
- When you plan to begin work;
- How many days the digging may take;

- Type of work you will be doing;
- County and city/township where work will be done;
- Address and nearest cross streets or township range/section where work will be done;
- Where you will be digging on the property;
- Whether any digging will be done in road right-of-way.

Gopher State One Call will call any utilities with facilities in the area you plan to dig. They will not notify anyone regarding your personal buried facilities. That is the property owner's responsibility. Utilities will locate themselves or hire a locating company to find and mark their facilities with colored flags. No one should ever remove flags before work is completed. They are there to mark lines for the safety of all digging in the area.

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MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS THAT CAME BACK IN 2010

We are looking for current mailing addresses of the following former Co-op members who had capital credit checks returned to us by the post office in 2010. These were for 1990 revenue and a portion of 2008 revenue. Please notify our office if you have a current mailing address for anyone listed or you may have the consumer below contact us directly. Thank you for your help.

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& DOROTHY SCHROEDER
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JOHNSON, STEVEN P
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C/O LYLE KMETT
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RICE LAKE, WI
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MOLINE, JAMES
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MORTENSEN, MICHAEL
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HUTCHINSON, MN
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LOWELL, OR
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HUTCHINSON, MN
NELSON, FRANK
OSAKIS, MN
NEMITZ, KEVIN
STAPLES, MN
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WAVERLY, MN
NORTON, RAYMOND
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SHRIBER, MICHELLE M
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SICKMANN, DUANE
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WILLMAR, MN
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STIEVE, WENDY
NORWOOD, MN
STRADTMANN, JEFF
YOUNG AMERICA, MN
STRANDELL, JOHN & BARBARA
EXCELSIOR, MN

STURGES, TODD
STEWART, MN
SURETTE, DENISE
NEWTON CENTER, MA
SWANSON, BRUCE
WATERTOWN, MN
SWANSON, MIRIAM
HUTCHINSON, MN
TESCH, ROGER & SANDY
AMARILLO, TX
THOR, VERNON
C/O CHARLES THOR
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THORPE, WILLIAM
HUTCHINSON, MN
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NEVIS, MN
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BOONE, IA
WADE, BECKY
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WALSH, TIMOTHY
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WANDERSEE, RICHARD
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WANGERIN, CARRIE
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BELLE PLAINE, MN
WEHKING, HENRY H
C/O JOANN WEHKING
HECTOR, MN
WEINBERG, ROGER & DEB
KALISPELL, MT
WENDLANDT, MARION
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The Hoernemanns are happy to trade in their fuel oil for all-electric heat

Raymond and Ardelle Hoernemann have lived in their rural New Auburn home since 1964. At that time the two-story home was heated with a fuel oil furnace that was most likely installed in the late 50's. Besides heating the home, the furnace was also fitted with a boiler to heat the hot water they used.

Along the way, Raymond Hoernemann added a Swedish Inner Burner to the fuel oil furnace to increase efficiency. But at its best, it wasn't a great system.

"The fuel oil system was smelly, inefficient and expensive," said Raymond.

"When we purchased the home, fuel oil wasn't as expensive as it is today," Ardelle said. "But every time the furnace started up, it would kick out some soot."

"The basement was often dusty and dirty because of the fuel oil furnace," Raymond said. "And it was noisy. You could hear it every time it started up."

In 2008, 44 years after moving in, they decided to make a radical change away from fuel oil to increase their efficiency and reduce their heating bills. To get more information, the couple headed to the Co-op for advice.

"They suggested a Steffes off-peak storage heat furnace with an air source heat pump," Raymond said. "I liked the idea that it was heated with less expensive off-peak electricity. It's also a very efficient system."

An air source heat pump (ASHP) pulls heat from the outside air and transfers it into the home during the winter months (there is heat in the air even during the cold months of the year!). An ASHP doesn't create heat, it just transfers it. Therefore, the heat that is provided is on average 180-200 percent efficient. This kind of efficiency translates to low heating bills. However, during the very cold months where the temperature dips below 25 degrees, an ASHP is not able to pull in enough heat to supply all of the heating needs. That's where the Steffes furnace comes in.

A Steffes storage heat furnace contains specially-designed bricks inside the furnace that store heat during the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., when electricity is off-peak, and therefore less expensive. During the day, it supplements the heat provided by the ASHP as needed.

The result is an extremely efficient, low-cost electric system that reduces heating bills and more.

"I really like the fact that we don't use gas, either," said Raymond.



Raymond and Ardelle Hoernemann love their Steffes storage heat furnace system and Marathon water heater because they are able to stay warm for much less money.

"People tried to talk me into a gas furnace, but I like all-electric. You never know when a gas furnace might just blow up."

Even better, an ASHP doubles as an efficient central air conditioning unit, by transferring heat from the home to the outside air, where it dissipates. So there's no need to purchase a separate air conditioning system.

So how do costs compare?

"When we used fuel oil, we would fill our 300-gallon barrel about every four weeks," Raymond said. "Oil has come down some lately, but when we made the change in 2008, it was \$3 a gallon, so we were paying about \$900 a month for heat and hot water."

Today, their heating costs are much more reasonable. With the new heating system, the Hoernemanns spent \$750 to heat their home from December 1 through March 31. Comparing that to the \$900 per month average they used to spend with fuel oil, they now save more than \$2,800 a year on average.

At the time the Hoernemanns replaced their heating system, they had to purchase a new water heater.

"The Co-op said never to have a water heater attached to the furnace again," Raymond said. "So we took their advice and purchased a new 85-

gallon Marathon water heater and went on the storage water program."

Like a Steffes storage heat furnace, a storage water system using a Marathon or other high-efficiency water heater uses off-peak electricity generated between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to heat the water. Because the water heater is so well-insulated, it is able to keep that water hot all day without using any electricity during that time. The result is plenty of hot water at half the cost.

"Ardelle goes to work early and has to shower at 4:00 a.m.," Raymond said. "There were times when she would call out, 'I have no hot water!'"

"We always have hot water, now," Ardelle said, smiling.

Would the Hoernemanns recommend their heating system to others?

"Well, you know, we could have put in a cheaper system," Raymond said. "But it will more than pay for itself through lower heating prices. I like the fact that the system is so quiet, it's warm and there's no question about it, it's cheaper than fuel oil."



Raymond and Ardelle stand in front of their fireplace, the only gas appliance they use. They appreciate the cleanliness, quietness and efficiency of an all-electric heating system.

DryFining™ coal enhancement technology dedicated at Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station

Great River Energy dedicated its patented DryFining™ coal enhancement system at its generating plant, Coal Creek Station, June 3.

The system, developed by Great River Energy, uses waste heat to reduce the moisture level of low-rank coal, such as plentiful lignite, which has a moisture content of 38.5 percent. The coal drying component of DryFining reduces the moisture content to approximately 29 percent.

At Coal Creek Station, the DryFining system improves plant operations as the refined coal burns at 7,100 BTUs per pound, compared to 6,250 prior to processing. This reduces fuel input into the plant by about 14 percent by weight. Other benefits include:

- A 2-4 percent increase in overall power plant efficiency
- A reduction in stack emissions
 - ~ Sulfur dioxide and mercury more than 40%
 - ~ Nitrogen oxide more than 20 %
 - ~ Carbon dioxide by 4%

Coal in wide domestic and international use

More than 15 gigawatts (GW) of electricity is generated in the United States using lignite coal at 35 power plants. An additional 250 domestic units burn high-moisture Powder River Basin coal (100 GW capacity).

“The DryFining system came from the ingenuity of our employees who saw the challenge of high-moisture coal and developed a system that will benefit Great River Energy and our member cooperatives for decades,” said David Saggau, Great River Energy president and CEO. “The system helps coal plants run more efficiently, it helps reduce emissions like SO₂, NO_x and mercury. The system also helps position utilities to reduce



carbon emissions, taking us a step closer to clean coal technology.”

Great River Energy developed the technology in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Originally called the Lignite Fuel Enhancement System, DryFining was selected in round one of the DOE's Clean Coal Power Initiative in 2003. The initiative was focused on commercial-scale technology demonstrations to continue and expand the use of coal as a fuel source. The project at Coal Creek Station was administered by the DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and managed by the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The North Dakota Industrial Commission—through the Lignite Research Council—helped sponsor the initial DryFining technology research, including about \$650,000 in three grant rounds. A prototype operation was installed in 2006 and final construction was completed in 2009. Commercial operation began in December 2009.

The DryFining system will be licensed through a partnership with WorleyParsons to coal plants around the world. More than 800 power plants globally use coal to generate electricity, many of which rely on low-rank coal such as lignite. Countries with large amounts of lignite include Australia, New Zealand and Germany.

Source: Great River Energy

INDUSTRY

News

GRE purchases Elk River Resource Recovery facility

Maple Grove, Minn. -- On Wed., April 28, Great River Energy finalized the purchase of the Elk River Resource Recovery Facility, which processes the municipal solid waste (MSW) used to make refuse-derived fuel (RDF) for powering Great River Energy's Elk River Station power plant. Great River Energy previously owned 15 percent of the processing facility. The other 85 percent was owned by Resource Recovery Technologies (RRT).

The power plant is a 35 MW facility with the capacity to convert energy from as much as 1,000 tons of RDF each day. The acquisition of the processing facility, along with the continued operation of the power plant, helps Great River Energy meet the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard which requires the state's electric utilities to generate 25 percent of their power with renewable energy sources by the year 2025.

As part of the acquisition, Great River Energy also purchased from RRT the Becker ash landfill, which has received the ash from the Elk River Energy Recovery Station for the past 20 years and only contains ash from the plant. This 86-acre facility has sufficient space to receive the plant's ash for another 40 years.

Contracts with Anoka and Sherburne County waste haulers to deliver MSW to the Elk River Resource Processing Plant have been finalized and regulatory permits and licenses are in place.

~Press Release

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.

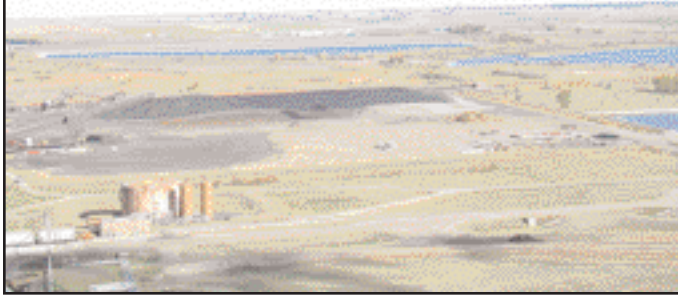
You can't put a price on security...

But you can save \$100 on a new Heartland Security system!

Sign up for a Heartland System by July 31 and receive \$100 off! (Note: this offer cannot be combined with other specials.)

Want to know for certain your home is safe when you're away? Wish to know the police or fire department can be on their way in the event of an emergency... automatically? A Heartland Security system can do all of these things and more! In addition, get \$100 off this type of priceless security between now and July 31. Heartland systems can also be customized to fit a multitude of applications, including livestock, surveillance, medical and more. Call 1-888-264-6380 or visit www.heartlandss.com for more information.

North Dakota's air quality makes the American Lung Association's honor roll



You can see for miles and miles in North Dakota due to the clean skies and good air quality. This is a photo from the roof of our Coal Creek Generating plant. In the distance you can see draglines mining coal.

The American Lung Association's "State of the Air" Annual Report for 2010, released on April 28, gave eight North Dakota counties "A" grades for lack of ozone, also known as smog, and three counties "A" grades for lack of particulates, also known as dust. Only Burleigh County got a grade lower than an "A", and it was a "B" for particulates.

The incident in Burleigh County that led to the "B" grade occurred on July 2, 2008, according to the North Dakota Department of Health. The particulate levels rose due to a Canadian forest fire episode. While the whole state was affected, the location of the fire and the meteorological conditions at the time of the fire carried the smoke plumes more directly toward the Bismarck air monitor.

The eight counties, which are chosen because of major population centers or proximity to national parks and grasslands, include Billings, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer and Oliver. The last two counties are home to five of the state's seven power plants and the nation's only lignite-to-natural-gas synfuels plant.

In addition to the counties, Fargo was one of two cities in the United States ranked among the cleanest in all three air pollution categories covered in the "State of the Air" report, and Bismarck received a top ranking for ozone and was ranked as 10th among cleanest cities for particulates.

"North Dakotans breathe some of the cleanest air in the United States, in part because of emissions control technologies at the state's seven coal-based power plants," said Steve Van Dyke, vice president - communications for the Lignite Energy Council.

Utilities in North Dakota have invested more than \$1 billion in technology to protect the environment and spend \$70 million annually to operate it. Four existing power plants are also investing another \$1 billion in new technologies to further reduce emissions.

"The lignite industry has been a good neighbor in North Dakota," Van Dyke said. "The mines and plants are responsible for more than 27,000 jobs in North Dakota, \$3 billion in total business activity, \$90 million annually in state taxes while providing clean, affordable energy to more than two million people in the Upper Midwest while ensuring that mines and plants are compatible with federal and state environmental standards."

The American Lung Association is not alone in its assessment of North Dakota's air quality. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has also designated North Dakota as one of only 12 states to meet all of the nation's strict federal ambient air quality standards.

Non-Discrimination Statement

McLeod Cooperative Power is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political belief, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Revised: 1/25/07



No wind tour until 2011

The next Cooperative wind farm tour will be in 2011. Our power supplier has gone to a tour schedule of every-other year.

Comparison of Present and New Rate Schedules

<u>Present Rates</u>				<u>New Rates as of Sept. 1, 2010</u>			
<u>Farm & General - Single Phase</u>				<u>Farm & General - Single Phase (2)</u>			
Monthly Charge	@	\$15.00	/month	Monthly Charge	@	\$20.00	/month
Energy Charge				Energy Charge			
Summer Months (Jun-Aug)	@	\$0.0910	/kWh	Summer Months (Jun-Aug)	@	\$0.1167	/kWh
Other Months	@	\$0.0810	/kWh	Other Months	@	\$0.1067	/kWh
PCA Charge	@	\$0.0143	/kWh	PCA Charge	@	\$0.0000	/kWh
<u>Interruptible and Storage Energy</u>				<u>Interruptible and Storage Energy (3)</u>			
Energy Charge	@	\$0.0430	/kWh	Energy Charge	@	\$0.0502	/kWh
PCA Charge	@	\$0.0072	/kWh	PCA Charge	@	\$0.0000	/kWh
<u>Farm & General - Three Phase</u>				<u>Farm & General - Three Phase (5)</u>			
Monthly Charge	@	\$30.00	/month	Monthly Charge	@	\$40.00	/month
Energy Charge				Energy Charge			
Summer Months (Jun-Aug)	@	\$0.0870	/kWh	Summer Months (Jun-Aug)	@	\$0.1117	/kWh
Other Months	@	\$0.0770	/kWh	Other Months	@	\$0.1017	/kWh
PCA Charge	@	\$0.0143	/kWh	PCA Charge	@	\$0.0000	/kWh
<u>Security Lights</u>				<u>Security Lights</u>			
Metered				Metered			
175 W MV	@	\$2.30	/month	175 W MV	@	\$2.40	/month
400 W MV	@	\$2.60	/month	400 W MV	@	\$2.70	/month
70 W HPS	@	\$3.20	/month	70 W HPS	@	\$3.30	/month
150 W HPS	@	\$3.50	/month	150 W HPS	@	\$3.60	/month
Unmetered				Unmetered			
175 W MV	@	\$9.00	/month	175 W MV	@	\$9.25	/month
400 W MV	@	\$17.70	/month	400 W MV	@	\$18.25	/month
70 W HPS	@	\$6.05	/month	70 W HPS	@	\$6.25	/month
150 W HPS	@	\$8.70	/month	150 W HPS	@	\$9.00	/month
<u>Street Lights</u>				<u>Street Lights</u>			
100 W HPS	@	\$18.45	/month	100 W HPS	@	\$19.00	/month
150 W HPS	@	\$19.85	/month	150 W HPS	@	\$20.45	/month
250 W HPS	@	\$22.05	/month	250 W HPS	@	\$22.70	/month
400 W HPS	@	\$25.50	/month	400 W HPS	@	\$26.25	/month
<u>Air Conditioner Control Credits</u>				<u>Air Conditioner Control Credits</u>			
Monthly Credit	@	(\$6.00)	/month	Monthly Credit	@	(\$8.00)	/month

No change to peak shave water heater credits.



Cooperative Manager Kris Ingenthron and his wife Collette handing out freeze pops in the Glencoe Days parade. Other employees volunteered their time to participate in the parade also and to drive a bucket truck.

Farmfest 2010 – August 3 - 5!



Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County MN

THE Largest Outdoor Agricultural Event in Minnesota!

- Connects 40,000+ attendees with over 550 local and leading companies in the farming industry.
- Features highly topical educational and political forums highlighting topics relevant to the issues that face today's farmers.
- Presents successful field demonstrations which feature the latest technological advancements in the farming industry.
- Offers programs and entertainment for the entire family.

As a trusted resource with 29 years of proven credibility, Farmfest connects industry leading manufacturers/providers with decision making producers. As your Minnesota Ag Connection, Farmfest consistently. Visit the Co-op booth #2301 in the Ag tent.

Farmfest strives to provide both the traditional programs that bring attendees back year after year while also offering new dynamic events and programs which are designed both to entertain and entice new attendees. Join us for the 29th Annual Farmfest, August 3-5, 2010 at the Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, Minnesota.

Farmfest Hours – Tues – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wed – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thurs – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission \$10 per person – 18 and under are FREE! FREE PARKING

Use this Farmfest Coupon to receive a FREE Compact Fluorescent light bulb, compliments of your Cooperative!

The power to make a difference is in your hands

Benefits of CFLs go beyond cooler bulbs. A 75-watt incandescent light bulb will burn out after about 40 days of continuous use, whereas a CFL can keep going for a full year; CFLs require two-thirds less energy than incandescent bulbs, which saves roughly \$30 in energy costs over the bulb's lifetime, according to ENERGY STAR.



We can help!

Your electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives, will be participating in Farmfest 2010. Bring this coupon to FarmFest (Booth #2301 in the Ag Tent) August 3-5, 2010, and we will give you a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb.

All we ask is that you install it.



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 below. 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 _____

Don't attach any devices to your electric meter

There are a variety of residential energy saving products on the market today. Some are designed to monitor your real time energy use and show it to you on a monitor in your home. They are designed so that if you check the monitor and it shows you are using a high level of electric energy, you can voluntarily shut off unnecessary appliances to reduce your energy use. They are good devices that can really help those who want to conserve energy. But here is the important thing to remember: If you do purchase one of these devices, please do not get the kind that mounts onto the Cooperative's electric meter in any fashion. There are other energy use monitors that can be installed completely within the home, in the breaker panel and with a monitor you can place on the counter. These devices monitor the same exact use but they do it connected to equipment the consumer owns, not on a meter that the Co-op owns and maintains. These are the best kinds to use as they do not interfere with the Co-op's access to its meter, they do not have issues transmitting data wirelessly into the house and they do not have batteries in the outdoor recording device that will go dead and need monthly replacement in cold weather.

The Cooperative can help direct you to some of the better whole-house monitoring products for this purpose. Please call us if you need more information about what type is recommended. Although the Co-op does not sell any metering devices, it does have appliance meters to loan to its members to monitor 120 volt appliance energy use. Members may check a testing device out for a few weeks, check usage on a variety of plug-in appliances in their home, and then return it to the Co-op. Just give us a call if you want to borrow one.



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.



Ten Energy-Saving Tips Guaranteed to Lower Your Energy Bill This Summer

Key Points

- Air-conditioning accounts for 16% of annual energy costs for the average home.
- Have your unit inspected annually by a qualified professional and install a programmable thermostat.
- Proper insulation and selective landscaping can save on energy costs all year long.

As the temperature rises, thoughts of those high summer cooling bills put many homeowners into a cold sweat. After all, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that summer air conditioning accounts for more than 16% of annual energy spending in the average home.

As summer approaches, there are some low-cost steps that you can take to help keep your home comfortable and to help lower your energy bills.

1 If you have not already done so, have your air-conditioner checked by a qualified professional. Servicing typically includes cleaning, a check on refrigerant levels, the compressor, hoses, and the thermostat.

2 Turn up your thermostat—set the thermostat at 78°F when you are at home and up to 85°F when you will be away. A programmable

thermostat is an excellent way to save energy and maintain home comfort year-around.

3 Make sure your thermostat is not located near lamps or electronic appliances. It can sense heat from these devices and make your air-conditioner run longer.

4 Replace air conditioner filters—dirty filters restrict air flow and cause your system to run longer, thus wasting energy. Replace your filter at least once per month.

5 Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.

6 On warm, sunny days, keep window coverings closed to prevent solar heat gain.

7 Use ceiling or room fans in occupied rooms. These will get air moving and help to reduce the temperature.

8 Have the windows in your home tinted. Tinting is effective at blocking the rays of the sun from reflecting through the glass of your windows and into your home.

9 Install a whole house fan. These devices circulate cool air throughout your house and exhaust hot air out of the attic.

10 If your air conditioning unit is older, consider replacing it with a newer, more efficient model. Make sure and purchase a product that is ENERGY STAR certified for energy-efficient performance.

Why Stop There?

While ten is a good number, it is no reason to stop saving on energy costs. There are a variety of other ways that you can save energy in the summer and all year long.

- Make sure that your home is properly insulated. This will reduce energy costs and keep you comfortable in summer and winter.
- Plant leafy shade trees around the South and West corners of your home. Trees will keep the hot sunlight away from your home in the summer to reduce cooling costs. Trees also lose their leaves for winter when you need that sunlight to help heat your home.

While summer presents a number of unique opportunities to make your home more energy efficient, it is important to remember that conservation is a year-round effort.

