

NEWS

September 2008

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\$2 Instant Rebate on CFL Bulbs

8

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

All electric resistance space heaters are created equal

Infrared heaters are no exception. They all use 3,413 BTU's per 1,000 watts of size. Each 1,500 watt heater will cost you approximately the same dollars per hour to operate.

We discourage our members from spending \$300-\$500 on any electric space heater that makes big claims about reducing their heating by 25% or 50% or more. In order to save this much energy, you have to reduce the temperature in the rest of the house dramatically to uncomfortable levels and just heat the area with the electric heater. A \$50 electric space heater will cost approximately the same per hour to operate as the expensive brand. Do not be fooled by unrealistic energy savings claims.



Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #60
HUTCHINSON, MN
55330

Replace and recycle your old refrigerator



Get a \$150 rebate

(for a limited time only)

This fall you will have the opportunity to receive a \$150 rebate when you purchase a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator and have the old refrigerator recycled. This larger rebate is available for a limited time and cannot be combined with the Cooperative's standard \$50 ENERGY STAR refrigerator rebate.

You have two convenient shopping options.

- Use the Best Buy coupon found on page 7 of this newsletter between October 14 and 30, 2008. Present the coupon from the newsletter when you make your purchase and receive the \$150.00 rebate instantly. You must recycle your old refrigerator through Best Buy's recycling process to qualify. This rebate lasts for only two weeks so you need to make your purchase during the last half of October. See coupon for other purchase requirements.
- Purchase your new ENERGY STAR refrigerator from one of the participating local appliance dealers, pay to have them recycle it for you, and get a rebate form for \$150.00 from McLeod Co-op Power. You have a six-week window with the local dealers to make your new ENERGY STAR refrigerator purchase: October 14 thru November 30, 2008. Send your rebate form and copy of your paid receipt to McLeod Cooperative Power before Dec. 15 and your rebate check will be mailed to you in a few weeks.

Participating ENERGY STAR appliance dealers:

- Home Source in Hutchinson
- Home Solutions in Glencoe and Norwood
- Thomes Brothers in Arlington
- Y-Not Maytag Appliance Center in Arlington

Larger rebates on ENERGY STAR clothes washers

Get a \$100 rebate

(for a limited time only)



This fall you will have the opportunity to receive a \$100 rebate when you purchase a new ENERGY STAR clothes washer. This larger rebate is available for a limited time and cannot be combined with the Cooperative's standard \$25 ENERGY STAR washer rebate.

You have two convenient shopping options.

- Use the Best Buy coupon found on page 7 of this newsletter between October 14 and 30, 2008. Present the coupon from the newsletter when you make your purchase and receive the \$100.00 rebate instantly. This rebate lasts for only two weeks so you need to make your purchase during the last half of October and see coupons for other requirements.
- Purchase your new ENERGY STAR clothes washer from one of the participating local appliance dealers and get a rebate form for \$100.00 from McLeod Co-op Power. You have a six-week window with the local dealers to make your new ENERGY STAR washer purchase: October 14 thru November 30, 2008. Send your rebate form and copy of your paid receipt to McLeod Cooperative Power before Dec. 15 and your rebate check will be mailed to you in a few weeks.

Coupons and more information about rebates on Page 7



Going south for the winter?

Please notify the Cooperative if you are heading south for the winter. Although the Turtle will send us your meter reading, we still need to know what payment arrangements you prefer. Options are:

- You can pay in advance.
- Have the post office forward your mail.
- You can sign up for auto pay and have the payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.
- You can call us with a credit card payment.

Just be sure to make arrangements before you leave by calling 1-800-494-6272.

Reward offered for information in copper theft

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power is offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the theft of copper wire from power poles near Paynesville. At last count, a total of 65 poles were stripped of copper wire sometime during the August 8-10 weekend. Meeker Cooperative estimates loss of material and labor to be a minimum of \$27,000, although damage is still being assessed. The Sheriff's office has been notified and is investigating the incident. Any information regarding this matter should be addressed to the Meeker County Sheriff, 326 N. Ramsey Ave., Litchfield, MN 55355, or by toll-free phone, 866-333-3366. Callers can also leave anonymous tips via the Meeker County Tip Line at 320-693-5411.

McLeod Cooperative Power encourages our members to please report anything unusual they observe near Cooperative power poles, substations, or other facilities. Any vehicle other than a yellow truck with McLeod Cooperative Power logo signs working on or near our equipment may be reported to the Co-op office at 1-800-494-6272 or to the local sheriff's office.

Manager's Message —

by Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
McLeod Cooperative Power Association



Your help needed to keep costs down

As summer slowly comes to an end and the local county fairs have once again come and gone, the summer rains and heat have brought the crops around and we are looking at another busy harvest season. School has begun and we encourage all of you to be cautious in your travels as more vehicles are on the road.

Over the past year the news has been filled with stories concerning the rising costs for products, goods and services. We see it at the fuel pump, the grocery store, and with just about everything we use today.

Increasing costs for materials, vehicles, fuel, and the operation of your electric cooperative has a direct impact on all of us. We have seen the cost of wire, material, and transformers increase 2 to 3 times over what they were just a few years back. All of this impacts our budgets and the cost for you as it relates to your electric rate. Installing one mile of underground cable has a price tag of \$60,000.00, when just a few years back the same project would have cost us approximately \$40,000.00. These general operating costs impact our electric rates and will be something we will be closely monitoring as we begin our budgeting process for 2009.

Our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, continues to plan for new wind, coal, biomass and natural gas generating resources to meet the growing demand of your Cooperative and the other 28 member

Cooperatives of GRE. The problem is that these new resources are projected to come in at a much higher cost than current facilities that have been in place since the early 80's. What this all boils down to is that rates will need to increase and using energy wisely will become critical for each and every one of us.

Although some people view energy conservation as compromising their lifestyle, it is really about adopting a different way of thinking and applying the latest technology. We encourage all of you to turn off lights, computers, and any other appliance when not in use. Purchase ENERGY STAR appliances when they need replacement. Continue to find ways to improve the efficiency of your home, farm, or business.

During these uncertain times, one thing that is certain is the importance of energy conservation. Our conservation programs will help us to meet Minnesota's goal to achieve energy savings equal to 1.5 percent of our gross annual retail energy sales each year, beginning in 2010.

McLeod Cooperative Power is looking out for you by providing safe, reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. But we will need your help in facing the challenges coming in the future.

During these uncertain times, one thing that is certain is the importance of energy conservation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 Oria Brinkmeier, <i>Lester Prairie</i>	District 6 Lester Ranzau, Vice-President, <i>Glencoe</i>
District 2 Dale Peters, <i>Brownnton</i>	District 7 Bill Polchow, <i>Silver Lake</i>
District 3 Roger Karstens, <i>Hutchinson</i>	District 8 Doug Kirtz, President, <i>Hector</i>
District 4 Curtis Rossow, <i>Buffalo Lake</i>	District 9 Gerald Roepke, <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
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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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24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850

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

MCPA line crew practices pole top rescue

MCPA linemen were tested on their proficiency at pole top rescue procedures on August 5. Our linemen do this review once a year, as well as rescue by manually lowering a bucket.

Pictured: Line foreman Grant Miller working to lower the rescue dummy from the pole.



Autopay saves you and the Co-op money every month

This is an especially good time for members to sign up for the Direct Payment Plan. You no longer need to read your meter. **You also can get away from writing a check, putting on a stamp, and mailing your payment to the Cooperative.** It is so simple to sign up. Once on the program, MCPA will automatically take care of the bank draft from your account. **You save time and money each month and so does the Cooperative.**

Here is how it works:

- You will receive your normal monthly bill around the 15th of each month, giving you 13 days to review the charges.
- Your bank account will not be charged until the 28th of the month (or the next business day if it falls on a weekend).

To get on the Direct Payment Plan, just fill out the Authorization for Direct Payment Form and return it to the Cooperative along with a voided check. In 3-4 weeks you will be on the program.

Call 1-800-494-6272 today if you need assistance signing up.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize McLeod Cooperative Power Association and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution three business days before my account is charged.

Name of Financial Institution _____

Branch _____

City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____

Signature of Member _____

Date _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Telephone # _____

Address (Please Print) _____

Bank Acct. # _____ Checking ____ Savings _____

PLEASE ATTACH A BLANK, VOIDED CHECK FROM YOUR DESIGNATED ACCOUNT FOR VERIFICATION.

Electric Acct. # _____

Location # _____

ENERGYwise

Generate clean, renewable electricity in your home or business and reduce your utility bills ... oh, by the way, you'll also get up to **\$4,000 in rebates** to help you do it!



Solar Energy — How does it work?

Many people are recognizing the environmental, economic, and societal benefits of renewable energy resources and the importance of utilizing alternative forms of electric generation. When sunlight shines onto solar panels, the light is transformed into DC electricity. That DC electricity is then converted to AC electricity that is used throughout your home or business. During the day, your solar photovoltaic (PV) system produces electricity that is consumed in your home. At night or in times of low sunlight, electricity is automatically provided by your cooperative. through the local distribution system to provide your home with the energy you need. If, at the end of the month, your solar system produces more electricity than you consume, it will generate a credit on your electric bill.

What is the McLeod Cooperative Solar Electric Rebate Program?

By installing a solar PV electric system, you can receive benefits through your electric cooperative in the form of a rebate. The rebate program offers cooperative members an incentive of \$2,000 per kW on new grid-connected PV solar electric systems up to a maximum of \$4,000 for a 2 kW system. As an added incentive, after July 1, 2008, systems installed by a North American Board of Certified Electrical Practitioners (NAB-CEP-certified) are eligible for \$2,250 per kW, or a maximum of \$4,500 per system.

How does the rebate work?

To be considered for a solar rebate you must meet the following criteria:

- Be participating in the Minnesota Solar Electric Rebate Program offered through the Minnesota office of Energy security (MN OES)
- Be a retail customer (residential, commercial, or industrial) of McLeod Coop Power

- Submit a copy of the completed MN OES Solar Electric Form to your electric cooperative. The rebate form must be received prior to construction to be eligible for the rebate
- Have received a rebate confirmation from the MN OES
- Allow representatives of Great River energy and your distribution cooperative access to your property for inspection of the site prior to, during, or after completion of the installation. Digital images may be taken or promotional purposes for use on the web or in printed materials
- Meet or exceed the guideline of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Inc. Standard 929, the National Electric Code Article 690, the National Electrical Safety Code, and your distribution cooperative's requirements
- Complete an Interconnection Agreement with your distribution cooperative
- Allow access to the main disconnect switch of your generation at all times to allow for the safe operation of your cooperative's distribution facilities

Let us be your go-to energy experts —
We can help you watch the savings grow!



Solar PV System

Success Story

Who: A Cooperative customer served by the Runestone Cooperative near Alexandria

What: Installed solar RPV panels on roof and inverter, switching and metering equipment in January, 2008

Size: 4.8 KW

Investment: Approximately \$35,000

Why did we want to do this?

- Pay for our electricity
- Heat the home
- Net Energy billing

What did we need to consider?

- AC and ductwork free
- Airflow optimized
- Air exchange
- Energy efficient appliances, lighting

What help did we get?

- From State of MN — \$9,600
- From Runestone Electric Association and Great River Energy — \$4,000

Results:

- 135 kWh's in January
- 116 kWh's in February
- 468 kWh's in March
- 560 kWh's in April
- 668 kWh's in May
- 555 kWh's in June
- A total of 2,502 kWh's
- Solar panels are generally expected to be about 19% efficient
 - If the sun would shine 24 hours a day, all month, with no clouds, it would produce 3,456 kWh's of electricity
 - Ours produced 668 kWh's in May
 - 19.33% efficient

ENERGYwise



Member Cooperatives

Agralite Electric Cooperative, Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, Inc., BENCO Electric, Brown County Rural Electrical Association, Connexus Energy, Cooperative Light and Power, Crow Wing Power, Dakota Electric Association, East Central Energy, Federated Rural Electric, Goodhue County Cooperative Electric, Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, Lake Country Power, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, McLeod Cooperative Power, Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association, Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, Nobles Cooperative Electric, North Itasca Electric Cooperative Inc., Redwood Electric Cooperative, Runestone Electric Association, South Central Electric Association, Stearns Electric Association, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

Milton Totusek of rural Silver Lake is a self-proclaimed conservationist.

He is always looking for ways to save energy, thereby saving money.

In 1961, when he and his wife Alice Carol built their 2,000 square foot home, they used an economical mix of fuel oil and wood for heat. Unfortunately, time has a way of changing things.

"I'm not physically able to do wood as much anymore," Milton said. "And I didn't want to pay the rising fuel oil prices anymore." Cost is something the Totuseks keep under control as much as possible. They use compact fluorescent lighting, an LED reading lamp and energy efficient appliances.

Avid travellers, the Totuseks have been to such places as Russia, China, Europe, Alaska and Hawaii. While gone, the couple always worried about whether the oil tank would run out and the pipes in their home would freeze. After discussing their options, the Totuseks decided they were ready to make a change to something that better fit their lifestyle.

The Totuseks called their Cooperative and asked Energy Management Technician Shannon Jerabek what he would recommend for a new heating system.

"The Totuseks told me they wanted to get away from using fossil fuels and go all-electric," Jerabek said. "So I recommended an air source heat pump with a Steffes central storage furnace as a back-up."

One of the most economical ways to heat and cool a home, the air source heat pump (ASHP) transfers heat from the outside air into the home in the winter months. In the summer, the ASHP reverses the transfer process, pulling heat from the inside of the home to the outside of the home. There's no need to purchase a separate air conditioning unit when you have a heat pump.

Since the ASHP doesn't use energy to heat or cool air, it can operate all year long at an average of around 180% efficiency when used in conjunction with an electric supplement, so you get a lot more heating and cooling for your dollar.

An ASHP can supply a home with enough heat down to about 25 degrees F. If the outside temperature falls below that, the Steffes automatically kicks in to provide supplemental heat to keep the home warm and cozy. Anytime the air



Alice Carol and Milton Totusek

temperature dips below 0 degrees, the Steffes furnace provides 100% of the home's heat.

A Steffes electric storage heat furnace uses electricity to heat specially designed bricks in a highly-insulated chamber within the furnace. This heat is generated during off-peak times (usually during the night) when electricity is cheapest due to low demand. This savings is passed onto the member through a low electric rate.

During the day, the bricks slowly give off their stored heat either through a forced air system or by heating water that circulates through an in-floor heat system.

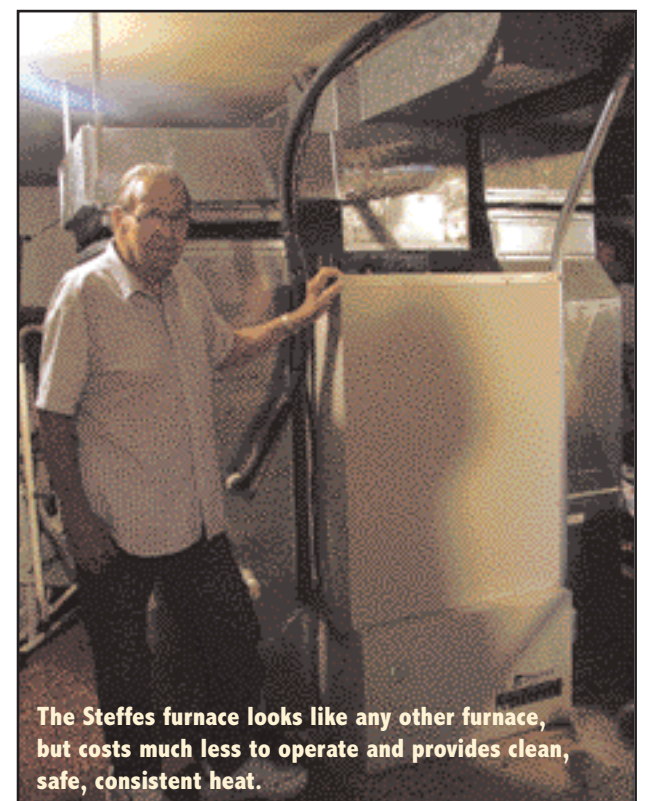
In the Totusek's system, a 13 SEER ASHP supplies their primary source of heat during the winter months. During severe weather, their thermostat will alert the 28.8 KW Steffes storage

forced air furnace when to supplement the heat from the heat pump.

Milton and Alice Carol can't say enough about the comfort and convenience of their new heating system.

"It's so clean and warm," Alice Carol said. "It's such a nice, constant heat. With oil, it always seemed to get cold before the furnace fired up. We never worry when we go away anymore. And our daughter doesn't have to worry about us hurting ourselves hauling wood downstairs or about the fumes from heating with oil or gas."

"We never worry when we go away anymore. And our daughter doesn't have to worry about us hurting ourselves hauling wood downstairs or about the fumes from heating with oil or gas."



The Steffes furnace looks like any other furnace, but costs much less to operate and provides clean, safe, consistent heat.

The Totuseks are also pleased with their electric bill; the off-peak bill amounts to about \$78 a month, which includes all their heating, cooling and water heating. Their general service rate which includes lighting and other appliances (including an extra large "whole cow" refrigerator and separate freezer) is around \$67 per month.

While the type of system the Totuseks have can cost more up-front, the savings eventually pay back that investment.

"With what the Totuseks are saving, they should see a payback in under seven years," Jerabek said.



Do you have a stray voltage problem?

If you notice any of the following, you may have a stray voltage problem with your cows:

- Reluctance of cows to enter barns, stanchions or milking parlor
- Nervousness during milking
- Reduced water/feed intake
- Uneven/incomplete milk out
- Increased mastitis and/or somatic cell count

What is stray voltage?

Stray voltage is a non-technical term for "neutral-to-earth" voltage. It occurs most frequently in barns, particularly in milking operations. Stray voltage causes electrical current to flow through an animal when it simultaneously touches two surfaces with different voltages. It doesn't kill the animal, but the shocks can lead to abnormal behavior. Dairy cows are 10 times more sensitive to electric current than are humans.

What causes stray voltage?

Common on-the-farm sources of stray voltage are:

- Worn insulation on wiring
- Loose wiring connections
- Unbalanced 120-Volt loads
- Improper installation of wiring
- Incorrect installation of electric fences or cow trainers
- Improper use of electrical grounds

Prevent stray voltage

High electrical usages, high humidity, silage acids, urine and manure can all play a part in damaging your farm's wiring and equipment, potentially causing stray voltage.

To help prevent stray voltage, make sure:

- electrical equipment and wiring is up-to-date and in good repair
- Your wiring is properly grounded
- Your 120-volt loads are properly balanced
- Motors used in dairy barns should operate at 240 volts, for better balance

- If 120-volt motors are used, they shouldn't be started or stopped during milking
- Neutral conductors are the right size
- You have good connections on the neutral or ground wire system
- Your trainers or fences are correctly grounded

It's important that any new wiring or equipment installations be done by a electrician that performs all work in accordance with Article 547 of the National Electric Code. Also, make sure that all electrical work is inspected as required by state law. The local extension office or agricultural engineering department at the University of Minnesota are good resources to use.

Improper grounding is a safety hazard. If you suspect that you have a grounding problem, have a licensed electrician inspect the wiring on your farm.

INDUSTRY

News

GM, 30 utilities join to study impact of next-generation rechargeable electric cars

General Motors Corp. has joined with more than 30 utility companies across the U.S. to help work out electricity issues that will crop up when it rolls out new electric vehicles in a little more than two years. The Detroit automaker said the partnership, which includes the Electric Vehicle Research Institute and large utilities such as Southern California Edison and Duke Energy Corp., will deal with issues from tax incentives for the vehicles to where and when they can be plugged in for recharging.

GM is working to bring the Chevrolet Volt rechargeable car to showrooms in late 2010. It's being designed to run on an electric motor powered by lithium-ion batteries. When fully charged, it will be able to go 40 miles on battery power. For longer trips, a small internal combustion engine will recharge the batteries to keep the Volt moving. "This vehicle is real. It's coming into production," said Britta Gross, a GM engineer who is helping to build the infrastructure for cars of the future. "We know that when the vehicle is in the showroom and ready for sale, it's got to work seamlessly with the infrastructure. It's the whole picture. We've got to make sure the infrastructure is ready."

-Associated Press

Utilities risk fines by not trimming trees near lines

A nationwide order to trim trees near power lines could decrease power outages that plunge whole states into darkness, energy industry experts say. Trees falling onto wires in storms or wires sagging in the heat into tree limbs are to blame for most of the major U.S. blackouts going back to 1996, according to the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC). The institute estimates that 90 percent of weather-related outages are caused by trees hitting power lines.

Mandatory tree trimming did not gain momentum until Aug. 14, 2003, when transmission lines owned by FirstEnergy in Ohio came into contact with tree limbs and triggered the shutdown of 21 power plants in three minutes in the eastern United States and Canada. The massive outage cut electricity to 50 million people, some of whom were without power for days. In 2005, Congress passed a bill requiring tree trimming, but it was not enforced until 2007 to give utilities time to comply. It was not until this summer that NERC began fining utilities that have not moved aggressively enough to comply. The first two fines, totaling \$255,000, were issued in June. NERC says the fines can go as high as \$1 million per day.

-USA Today

Think high gas prices are your worst energy nightmare?

Think again.



We have to find an answer to climate change. But we also need to find the right answer. The wrong answer could be devastating to Minnesota families, leaving us with electricity bills rising faster than gas prices.

With the wrong answer, 50,000 Minnesota workers could lose their jobs. The wrong answer could also cost Minnesota families up to \$4,500 a year. Is that the answer we want - making families choose between keeping their houses warm in the winter and cool in the summer versus saving money for their children's education?

With the right answer, we can protect the environment and keep electricity affordable for Minnesotans.

To do so, we need the right mix of traditional and renewable energy sources, conservation and investments in new technologies to produce low-cost electricity in cleaner and more efficient ways.

What can you do?

Take action now. Visit our website to find out more. Contact your state legislators. Tell them the right answer is to protect both Minnesota's environment and economic future.



Can we protect both our environment and our economy? We can. We have to.



PoweringOurFuture.com

Reprinted information from American Council on Capital Formation

Energy assistance providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker County areas

Heartland Community Action Agency
PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
Toll free: 1-800-992-1710
McLeod: 320-587-5244

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center
1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 587-9533
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

Renville County Energy Assistance Program
105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2202
(320) 523-1161 Emergency
24 hr phone

Sibley County area

Sibley County Social Services
400 Court Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000

MN Valley Action Council

464 Raintree Road
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-6822
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency
712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952) 496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action
130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(763) 963-6500
1-800-627-3529 (Toll free)

Cold Weather Rule helps Co-op members with utility bills during winter months

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 From Oct. 15 through April 15, a Cooperative cannot disconnect a customer if it would affect that person's primary heat source and if:

- You declare an inability to pay.
- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- Your account is current for the billing period immediately prior to Oct. 15, or if you have entered into a payment schedule and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather month, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.

- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.

- A list of local energy assistance providers.

- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.
- A re-connection plan is requested by an income eligible customer who agrees to pay the current bill and arrearages over the cold weather months by agreeable payment arrangements.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 Number of days after notification before disconnection. If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule and provide the names and addresses of human service agencies and local energy assistance providers that may be of assistance in paying electric bills.

Military Service Personnel Assistance

Utility Payment Arrangements for Military Service Personnel

When a household member has been ordered into active duty, for deployment, or for a change of duty station, some customers may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota law protects these military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their utility bills in full.

How to Apply

Contact McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 to obtain an application and make a payment plan, which you must keep to qualify for protection.

Payment Plans

- If your household income is below the state

median household income, pay ten percent of your household's gross monthly income toward gas/electric bill; or

- If you receive energy assistance, pay ten percent of your household's gross monthly income toward your gas/electric bill; or
- If your household income is above the state median income, make and keep a payment plan.

Right to Appeal

If you and McLeod Co-op Power cannot agree on a payment plan, you have the right to appeal to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. McLeod Co-op Power will not disconnect your service during the appeal process.

Valid 10/14/08 - 10/30/08 only in Best Buy® Stores

\$150 instant savings

on a new ENERGY STAR REFRIGERATOR at Best Buy®



Customer Best Buy employees are not eligible for this promotion. Additional rules from regular or sale prices. Offer good on all ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators, equally priced (MSRP) and above. Excludes Electronic major appliances. Offer Good on refrigerators, electric, steam and gas. See Selections in city store. Not good in combination with any other coupon. Valid only at Minnesota and South Dakota Best Buy stores in the U.S. Valid only direct or special-order items. Offer not valid on backorders. No in-store or in-warehouse. Coupon must be presented and scanned at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per household. In applicable area only. Cash value 1/100th of 1 cent. Coupon valid 10/14/08 - 10/30/08.

Cashier/Individual store coupon (P.O. Sales will produce) (holding only. Press "Print" With "VOID" on coupon and place on register coupon over the file.

Coupon Expires October 30, 2008

ENERGY STAR and the ENERGY STAR mark are registered U.S. marks.



Valid 10/14/08 - 10/30/08 only in Best Buy® Stores

\$100 instant savings

on a new ENERGY STAR CLOTHES WASHER at Best Buy®



Customer Best Buy employees are not eligible for this promotion. Additional rules from regular or sale prices. Offer good on all ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers, equally priced (MSRP) and above. Excludes Electronic major appliances. Offer Good on electric, steam and gas. See Selections in city store. Not good in combination with any other coupon. Valid only at Minnesota and South Dakota Best Buy stores in the U.S. Valid only direct or special-order items. Offer not valid on backorders. No in-store or in-warehouse. Coupon must be presented and scanned at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per household. In applicable area only. Cash value 1/100th of 1 cent. Coupon valid 10/14/08 - 10/30/08.

Cashier/Individual store coupon (P.O. Sales will produce) (holding only. Press "Print" With "VOID" on coupon and place on register coupon over the file.

Coupon Expires October 30, 2008

ENERGY STAR and the ENERGY STAR mark are registered U.S. marks.



Same rebates available close to home

Save gas and get the **SAME REBATE** with **LOCAL PARTICIPATING APPLIANCE DEALERS** and **MCLEOD CO-OP POWER.**

The same \$150 and \$100 are available at these local stores Oct. 14-Nov 30.

Participating ENERGY STAR appliance dealers:

- Home Source in Hutchinson
- Home Solutions in Glencoe and Norwood
- Thomes Brothers in Arlington
- Y-Not Maytag Appliance Center in Arlington



Energy Star Washers:

By choosing an ENERGY STAR qualified washing machine you can save up to 7,000 gallons of water a year and \$750 in operating costs over the lifetime of the machine. And, because ENERGY STAR washers use less energy you'll help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases caused by using fossil fuels.

ENERGY STAR Features and Models Clothes washers that meet ENERGY STAR criteria use energy saving technology to cut energy and water consumption by more than 40 percent compared to conventional washers. Look for these popular ENERGY STAR features:

- Front-loaders that tumble clothes through a small amount of water.
- Back-loading top-loaders that flip or spin clothes through a reduced stream of water.
- High-speed spin cycles that rely on efficient motors and extract more water so clothes need less time in the dryer.

Energy-saving Tip:

The average household does about 400 loads of laundry each year, consuming 15,500 gallons of water. Choosing an ENERGY STAR qualified washer can save you 7,000 gallons of water and reduce your annual utility bill by an average of \$750. So new clothes and dryers will use about the same amount of energy. ENERGY STAR does not label them. However, use these tips to save money, save energy and save the environment every laundry day.

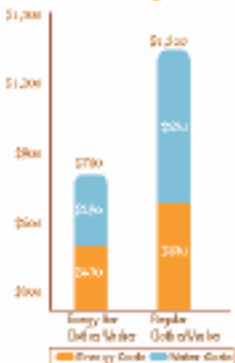
- Replace conventional top-loading washers with ENERGY STAR qualified models.
- Wash clothes in cold water to reduce the water-heating energy needed for hot cycles.
- Choose earth-friendly detergents without phosphates or other chemical stain pollutants.
- Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer to automatically shut off the machine when clothes are dry. You'll save energy as well as wear and tear on your clothes.
- Clean the lint filter after every load to improve air circulation and increase dryer efficiency.

enter to win
\$500
IN GROCERIES
to fill your fridge
with
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Be green with ENERGY STAR appliances.
Find out more about energy saving ideas at www.mcleodcoop.com



Residential Clothes Washers Used to Operate Costs



Energy Star Refrigerators:

How old is your refrigerator? If it was built before 1995, then a new, ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerator could use half as much energy. Get all the features you want and savings you'll love with high-efficiency refrigerators that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating.

ENERGY STAR Features and Models

ENERGY STAR refrigerators use high-efficiency compressors, improved insulation and more precise temperature and defrost mechanisms to consume at least 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. And, by choosing ENERGY STAR models you won't sacrifice features. Available options include:

- Automatic ice makers
- Through-the-door ice dispensers
- Side-by-side models
- Top or bottom freezer models

Energy-saving Tip:

Refrigerators are the single biggest energy-consuming kitchen appliance. Whether you have an old or new standard or ENERGY STAR refrigerator, these tips can help reduce the amount of energy it uses:

- Replace refrigerators bought before 1993 and recycle old ones.
- Keep refrigerators set between 35 and 38 degrees Fahrenheit and your freezer at 0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Minimize the amount of time the refrigerator door is open.
- Make sure door seals are tight. If necessary, contact the manufacturer for easy-to-replace replacements.
- Keep condenser coils clean. If possible, allow air to circulate around coils by leaving space between the wall or cabinets and the refrigerator.
- Redesign your refrigerator away from heat sources such as the oven, dishwasher or direct sunlight.

Year Refrigerator Model	Energy Star Model Coefficient	Annual Level of Electricity*
1992	28.0 kWh	\$16.00
1995	26.0 kWh	\$13.75
2000	21.0 kWh	\$11.75
2005	18.0 kWh	\$10.75
2008/ENERGY STAR Refrigerator	15.0 kWh	\$8.75

*Based on a refrigerator with a 10-cu-ft capacity and a 10-cu-ft freezer. Actual electricity usage may vary based on usage and other factors.

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Bring your new or gently used coats for school-age kids to McLeod Cooperative Power September 8 through October 6. We are helping collect coats for children and youth in need. The drop box located in our lobby is available Monday through Fridays 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Coats will be distributed to local youth at the Pla-Mor Ballroom in Glencoe and at the McLeod County Fairgrounds in Hutchinson October 16 from noon to 7 p.m. and October 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are in need of a coat request a form by calling Common Cup Ministry at 320-587-2213 or 320-864-5511. All coats not distributed these days will be given to needy families in rural Minnesota.

Coats for Kids is sponsored by Common Cup Ministry, McLeod County Social Services, Heartland Community Action and the Glencoe and Hutchinson Rotarians.

With CFLs saving is as easy as 1-2-3

1 REPLACE old incandescent light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). Be sure to match the right CFL to the right kind of fixture that will perform properly.

2 REDUCE energy costs by up to \$20 per bulb over its lifetime and use 75% less energy. CFLs last up to 10 times longer and generate 70% less heat than standard incandescent bulbs.

3 RECYCLE burned out or broken CFLs to prevent the release of mercury. The Cooperative and our power supplier are glad to provide you with FREE and CONVENIENT recycling at all Menards stores in the state of Minnesota. In addition to Menards, you can bring CFLs to your county's hazardous waste drop off for proper disposal. For more information on your recycling options visit: www.minnesota.earth911.org or www.pca.state.mn.us.



Local ACE Hardware stores in Glencoe and Hutchinson will be partnering with GE bulbs and Minnesota utilities on the "Change A Light, Change the World" campaign. These stores will offer compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) at a special price. Consumers can get a \$2 instant rebate right at the store Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, or while supplies last. Consumers complete one rebate form and can purchase their bulbs at the two dollar off price instantly. A limit on the number of bulbs at this low price may apply. Check rebate details on store display.

CFLs are a great way to reduce energy use. They are usually available in sizes from 15 watt to 26

watt that would replace 60 to 100 watt standard incandescent bulbs. Energy used by CFLs is a fraction of the energy used by incandescent bulbs with comparable lumens.

It is important to remember that CFLs must be disposed of properly as household hazardous waste. They **MUST NOT** be discarded in the trash. For environmental reasons, it is very important that CFLs be turned in for recycling at a participating store that sells fluorescent lamps or with your county hazardous waste agency. There may be a fee for recycling.