

# NEWS

September 2010

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com



## CFL instant rebate begins October 1

If you want to purchase energy saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) that use less energy, you can purchase them for up to \$2 off per bulb with an instant rebate at the time of purchase. The bulbs and instant rebate at the checkout will be available at several local stores Oct. 1 through November 30 or while supplies last.

This Energy Star® CFL promotion will be offered locally by:

**Hite Ace Hardware – Glencoe**

**Hutchinson Ace Hardware – Hutchinson**

**Runnings Fleet & Farm – Hutchinson**

There is a limit of 12 bulbs per customer. Check the in-store display for exact bulbs available and pricing. Consumer completes one rebate form in the store to get instant rebate. Also see the ad on page 7 of this newsletter for details on how much energy you can save with CFL bulbs.

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



## Join Rachael Posusta on the Washington D.C. Youth Tour



In June, Rachael Posusta was McLeod Cooperative Power's representative on the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. Rachael and 35 other high school representatives from Minnesota travelled together as a group for the six-day adventure. It was a trip that gave Rachael a lot of new friendships and memories, as well as very tired feet.

Some of the trip highlights the first day included dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe and a night tour of the memorials. The second day, the group visited Arlington National Cemetery, where lay the remains of 200,000 American soldiers who fought wars from the Revolutionary to the present, including the grave of John F. Kennedy. They saw the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They also toured Robert E. Lee's house. The second day they also visited the

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## Thank you for your efforts during August heat waves

During August 2010 we experienced more days over 90 degrees than we have in the past several summers.

This was more of an average summer compared to the cooler summers of 2008 and 2009. When temperatures go up, so do market electricity prices. This necessitates more days of load control to reduce our Co-op's cost of energy. Members who participate in load management programs are well aware of the additional control. Thousands of MCPA members also received Extreme Peak Day phone notification messages asking them to conserve energy on the days when the cost of wholesale electricity was skyrocketing.

We would like to thank any and all members for whatever conservation efforts you were able to make on those very hot days. Your efforts were most helpful in reducing the demand for electricity when our costs were unusually high.

## Rate changes effective September 1

Changes to the energy rates went into effect September 1. The electric bill you receive in mid-October will be for energy use the month of September. This will be the first bill at the new rates. All members received a copy of the changes in their electric bills in July or by letter. A copy of the rate changes was also in the July MCPA NEWS.



## 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.



### Washington Tour continued

Newseum, an interactive museum of news with behind the scenes views of how and why news is made.

On Day 3, which was National Youth Day, they toured the national Cathedral, and Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington. They also went on a Potomac River cruise.

On the fourth day they attended the 9/11 tribute at the Pentagon and then headed to the Smithsonian Museums, where they toured the Smithsonian Castle, Hirshhorn Museum, National Air & Space Museum, National Museum of the American Indian, the National Gallery of Art and the National Museum of Natural History. Rachael's most moving experience was the tour of the Holocaust Museum. The group had a picnic at the Statue of Iwo Jima and ended the day at the Marines Sunset Parade, the Vietnam Memorial and a night tour of the monuments.

On Day 5 they toured our Nation's Capitol and met Senator Amy Klobuchar and had breakfast with Senator Al Franken. Rachael met Representatives Michele Bachmann, Tim Walz,



James Oberstar, and many others. An All-States dinner and dance ended the day. Hundreds of youth from across the U.S. participated in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour.

On the final day of the trip, the Minnesota group visited the Lincoln Memorial and the Korean War Memorial before heading to the airport for their flight home. The Cooperative would like to thank Rachael for sharing her photos and documenting her tour for us. We encourage any high school youth to consider applying for next year's Washington D.C. trip.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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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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Monday - Friday  
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**1-800-494-6272**

**24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685**

**Fax: 320-864-4850**

**Web site: [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)**

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

# Save money and energy with free MyMeter™ program on the Co-op web site



This web application is available to MCPA electric members who log onto the Co-op's web site [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) and register to use MyMeter™. Click on the MyMeter icon on our homepage. The program is designed to help members take control of their energy use and it can help you reduce your energy bills. MyMeter is a free web-based service that allows you to track and chart your daily energy use. Members can compare what they used this month to the same month last year. Families who participate in off-peak programs will see their off-peak usage separate from their general service usage (as shown on the graph). You can place

a marker on the date you make an energy change, like getting rid of an old refrigerator, and track how much energy that action is saving you. Members can compare their monthly or daily usage to the MCPA customer average. They can also set goals for their family to conserve.

You only log in once even if you have multiple electric accounts. Registering just takes a minute or two. It is fastest to have your electric bill in hand as you will need your name as it appears on your bill, your account #, and home phone number (or phone number showing on your bill). To register you do also need to have an e-mail address.

## Members may sign up for Wellspring Wind Energy

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Return the form to: McLeod Cooperative Power, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336.

You may return it with your electric bill also or fax it to 320-864-4850.

# Shopping for a new heating system?

## *The Good. The Better, The Best*

**M**any homeowners today are shopping for a home heating system because they understand investing in their home is one of the best financial decisions they can make.

Armed with the right information, you can select a home heating system that best suits your home, your budget, your level of desired comfort, and your investment portfolio. Some systems, such as off-peak storage heating, offer you the opportunity to save tremendous amounts of money, creating a great return on investment.

You don't shop for a home heating system like you shop for garage doors or dishwashers. There isn't a show room or a store front that you go to and compare. If you don't have a recommendation from a friend or relative, checking in with your Cooperative is the next best thing. They are very knowledgeable about the different heating systems, their advantages, disadvantages and average costs.



### To help you out, let's divide heating systems into three categories:

#### The Good

The majority of home heating systems are good. They heat your home and provide warmth and comfort on the days we need it the most – the dead of winter. Most people are familiar with baseboard electric heat, propane, natural gas or fuel forced air systems. These heating systems are good and are the most common heating systems found in homes today.

#### The Better

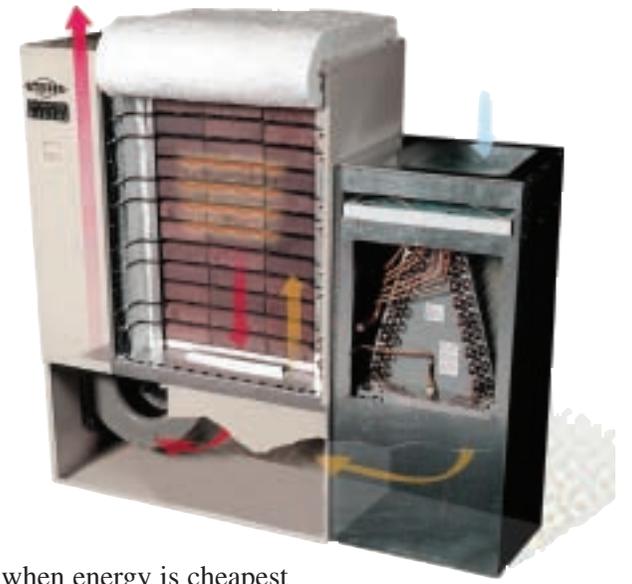
The better heating system allows you to save money while still fully satisfying your comfort requirements. Off-peak heating systems use low-cost energy which power companies provide during hours when there is less demand for energy.

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heating Systems are designed to utilize off peak electric rates offered by power companies, saving homeowners money every day. Most homeowners experience savings of 50% or even more on their heating bills.

#### The Best

What about a system that not only has the ability to use low cost off-peak energy and provide complete comfort, but also is very energy-efficient, has the ability to utilize power from renewable generation sources such as wind or solar and is smart grid/smart meter ready? A Steffes storage heat system has all of these abilities and can also provide a very quick return on your investment.

A Steffes-type storage heating system utilizes specially-designed ceramic bricks inside the furnace that stores heat generated during the night,



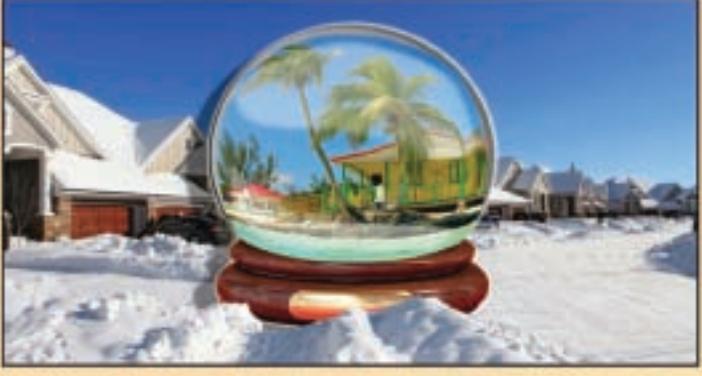
when energy is cheapest and wind energy is produced most readily. During the day, as the thermostat calls for heat, the bricks radiate inexpensive heat all day long until the process begins again during the night.

Storage heat units come as whole-house furnaces, as hydronic furnaces that can also provide in-floor heat, and as smaller room units that provide supplemental heat where needed. They also work as fantastic back-up heating furnaces when combined in a dual fuel heating system with a super-efficient air source heat pump.

It's important you take time to investigate the heating options available to you. A heating system is an important investment and you should expect your new system to provide you great comfort and low operating costs for many years. Choosing a system that will provide this along with a good return on investment and be capable of adapting to future energy needs is a must.

A good decision is a well-informed decision. Contact your Cooperative and ask questions about storage heat, dual fuel systems, in-floor electric heat or one of the other options available. As always, your Cooperative is looking out for you.

## Heartland Security



**Heartwarming home**



2009 DEALER OF THE YEAR FOR WESTERN U.S. SECURITY PRO

Make sure your home remains an oasis of warmth this winter, even if you're not there! Heartland Security Systems have the ability to monitor your furnace, alerting you if the unit fails. This can prevent your home from becoming an arctic tundra. It's especially good for snowbirds who may be away for months at a time.

If you think security systems are just to keep burglars out, think again. Heartland systems fitted with special sensors can help detect smoke, water and temperature changes within your home. They can also be customized to fit a multitude of applications, including livestock, surveillance, medical and more. Call 1-888-264-6380 with questions or visit [www.heartlandss.com](http://www.heartlandss.com) for more information.

Sign up for a Heartland System by September 30 and receive a free furnace failure sensor! (Note: this offer cannot be combined with other specials.)

## 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](http://call811.com) for more information.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



## It's time to make sure your dual fuel back-up system is adequate and ready to go

If you participate in the Cooperative's dual fuel (off-peak) program, you know that your electric heating can be "controlled" or turned off during periods of high (peak) electricity use, high wholesale power prices and/or transmission system emergencies. During those times, it's crucial that you have a back-up system that can be used to keep your home warm until the electric heat is restored. If you have no back-up source, or have an inadequate back-up source such as wood, you will be in for some cold temps. The same could be said for an improperly maintained back-up system that may work inefficiently, costing you more than it should yet giving you less heat.

Now is the perfect time to consider your options or perform routine maintenance so you're prepared for what old man winter will bring.

To properly function under the Co-op's dual fuel program, a back-up heating system is required, preferably an automatic one that will turn on even when you're not home to stoke the wood stove.



Chances are good that high market prices will mean increases in the number of control hours this winter and next. A good automatic back-up system will save you worry and effort, while keeping you plenty warm all winter long.

### Tips of the trade

1. If your back-up system is an oil or propane furnace, be sure to check fuel levels in your tank. Control periods can run up to 12 hours per period and you don't want to run out during that time.
2. Test the dual fuel system to make sure the back-up furnace turns on when the thermostat

calls for heat. If it doesn't, call your local HVAC contractor to inspect the system.

3. Clean or replace furnace filters and have an HVAC contractor tune up the system if needed, to make sure it runs efficiently. The cost of the maintenance may well be repaid in lower heating bills.

Now is the time to act, before it gets cold. If you'd like information on back-up systems, call the Cooperative and our energy management technicians will go over all your options with you. Then you can relax knowing you've done all you can to stay warm this winter.

## INDUSTRY News

### Wind energy obtains a boost

A Successful testing of a massive battery near Luverne, Minn., that can store energy produced by wind turbines has the potential to be a "huge leap forward" for the industry, some say. Xcel Energy has been testing the battery at the 11.5-megawatt MinWind wind farm west of Luverne since 2008.

The 80-ton sodium sulfur battery – about the size of two semi trailers stacked on top of each other – is the first of its type to be used for wind energy. It charges when the wind blows and can supply one megawatt of electricity to the grid when the turbines' blades are still. That's enough to supply 500 homes with power for seven hours.

Even with the promising test results, the industry still is years away from using the technology regularly because it's not affordable. The units cost Xcel and its partners \$4.5 million. A \$1 million grant from the Minnesota Renewable Development fund helped pay for the project. For now, Xcel has contracted with researchers at the University of Minnesota to begin testing the batteries to determine the most efficient way to distribute the stored electricity. Those tests have just begun.

~Sioux Falls Argus Leader

### Power plant waste to be used to clean up Gulf oil spill

The National Science Foundation awarded Sudipta Seal a \$67,000 grant that will help the professor turn waste material, commonly referred to as flyash, into a cleaning agent. Seal will modify the flyash so that it absorbs oil and can be delivered to a coal-burning facility and re-used. The flyash will be safe, preserve the oil's energy-generating capabilities and be reusable once the oil is burned off.

The flyash will be retrieved from the water in a low-cost mesh packaging material and then transported to a coal-burning power plant or other facility where the oil will fuel production processes. The flyash has also shown the ability to clump oil that has already washed up on shore, enabling it to be easily collected and, again, re-used.

Since the Deepwater Horizon spill began in April, NSF has funded 65 of the rapid response grants to researchers across the country addressing all aspects of the clean-up.

The grants are deployed in times of natural or accidental disasters to quickly engage the world's best scientists and engineers to help search for solutions.

~Physorg.com, University of Florida

**\$1.00 CAN POWER AN LCD TV FOR A MONTH**

**ELECTRICITY IS A BARGAIN** Today's dollar still has power. Especially when it comes to your home. Few things have resisted inflation like the price of electricity. We'll keep it up, so you can keep on going.

## 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

111 8th Street  
Gaylord, MN 55334  
(507) 237-4000

### MN Valley Action Council

110 6th Street  
Gaylord, MN 55334  
(507) 237-2981

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) 960-9700

### Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street  
Maple Lake, MN 55358  
(763) 963-6500

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

**T**he 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.

# Water Storage Program is the best way to save money and have plenty of hot water too!

**W**hen a family joins the Hot Water Storage Program, they begin to save money immediately, as they are paying 5 cents per kWh instead of 10-11 cents per kWh. For an average family of four persons that use 600 kWh for water heating each month, this means a savings of \$387 a year. It is like lowering your bill by \$32 a month! And if you have central air conditioning, that can also be controlled and added to your off-peak meter, for a 55% savings on all your summer cooling, just for letting the Co-op cycle your air conditioner on peak days.

When a family joins the Water Storage Program the Co-op helps them size the water heater to make sure they will have sufficient hot water to meet their daily needs. A family of 2-3 people can usually join the program with an 85 gallon hot water heater. A family of 4-6 persons will require a 105 gallon water heater or you could just add an 80 gallon alongside your existing 50 gallon to accomplish the same storage capacity. The Co-op

provides a mixing valve at no charge. This device will give you another 30-40 gallons of hot water a day from your tank.



The water heater operates from approximately 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. heating your family's daily supply of hot water. The elements then remain off for the

next 16 hours until they begin recharging overnight again. By heating water only at night when electricity is cheapest, you can save yourself some significant dollars each month. And you have plenty of hot water for laundry, baths and showers since the system is sized to meet your family's needs. Only if you have an over-sized or sunken bath tub may some extra storage capability have to be added.

If your current water heater is electric and not on a control program, the Co-op will pay you a \$300 rebate to join the Storage Water Heating Program using a high-efficiency water heater such as a Marathon. If you are building a new home or converting a gas water heater to electric storage using a high-efficiency electric model you will receive a \$150 rebate. Call McLeod Co-op for prices on Marathon water heaters or details on how you can get on the Storage Water Heating Program and reduce your bill each month.

**Special pricing for a limited time**  
Limit 12 bulbs per customer.

**savings with a twist**

Because CFLs use less power to create the same amount of light, use the chart below to determine the correct wattage for your needs.

**ENERGY STAR® qualified light bulbs:**

- Use up to 75 percent less energy
- Last up to 10 times longer
- Save an average of \$30 in energy costs over their lifetime
- Produce 75 percent less heat
- Help the environment by saving energy

Incandescent bulb	CFL equivalent	Lifetime savings
40 watt	9-11 watt	\$15-\$20
60 watt	13-17 watt	\$25-\$30
75 watt	18-20 watt	\$30-\$35
100 watt	23-26 watt	\$40-\$45
150 watt	32-42 watt	\$60-\$70

888.476.9548

**Marathon — Hot Water For Life.**

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

**Marathon WATER HEATERS**

*Fill Your Fridge Sweepstakes*

MCPA members may enter for a chance to win \$500 in free groceries. There will be a grand prize of \$500 in free groceries and one first place prize of \$100 in each participating Great River Energy member cooperative service area.

Visit [www.mnbrighterideas.com](http://www.mnbrighterideas.com) and complete a short quiz for instant entry. Entry rules are posted on the web site.

[mnbrighterideas.com](http://mnbrighterideas.com)



## What is an ECM and how can it save me money?

An ECM is an electronically commutated motor. It is a brushless motor with its own speed and torque controls built in. They are used as new or replacement furnace fans. Furnaces equipped with an ECM will have lower annual operating costs and are estimated to save consumers \$40 to \$300 per year, depending upon how the furnace fan is used.

Homeowners who operate their furnace fan continually have the greatest energy consumption and have the greatest potential savings.

An ECM allows the motor to adjust its speed to ensure the optimal airflow at all times. ECMs are also quieter and less expensive to operate than conventional fans. You save on both heating and cooling. With their adjustable speed design, furnaces with an ECM operate on as little as 80 watts of

electricity (less than a standard electric light bulb). The electrical draw can be up to ten times less than standard motors which run on high all the time.

McLeod Co-op Power offers a \$100 rebate to members who replace their furnace fan with an ECM. Both new furnace installations and fan retrofits qualify, as long as the new motor is an ECM. Talk to your HVAC contractor about an upgrade to an ECM. Call the Co-op for details on how to get the rebate.

# Finally

appliances you can feel good about



**Save on ENERGY STAR® rated appliances from September 1–October 31.**

Save energy, save water and save money. This special rebate offer is available at any retailer for the purchase of any ENERGY STAR refrigerator or clothes washer. Just ask your local cooperative for the rebate form to submit with your sales receipt.

**\$125 OFF** ENERGY STAR® REFRIGERATORS\* | **\$75 OFF** ENERGY STAR® CLOTHES WASHERS

**Make the right choice for a cleaner future with energy-saving appliances.**

Enter for your chance to win the **Fill Your Fridge Sweepstakes:**

[mnbrighterideas.com](http://mnbrighterideas.com)

\*with the recycling of your old refrigerator

ANOTHER BRIGHT IDEA FROM  
MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER

## WildBlue high speed internet offering FREE installation through October 31

Normally, consumers signing up for WildBlue high speed internet service pay a \$100 installation fee. WildBlue is waiving the installation fee for new customers now through October 31, 2010.

This is a great time to sign up if you live in an area where DSL is not available and you need something faster than dial-up service. WildBlue provides high speed internet service via a satellite dish. Service levels range from \$49.95 to \$79.95 per month and a two-year service commitment is required.

Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 to get signed up for WildBlue today.



## 2010 Appliance Promotion

PROMOTION DATES: SEPTEMBER 1–OCTOBER 31, 2010

PROMOTION DESCRIPTION	REDEMPTION PROCESS	PARTICIPATING STORES
	<b>COUPONS:</b> <b>\$125 OFF</b> ENERGY STAR® REFRIGERATORS* <b>\$75 OFF</b> ENERGY STAR® CLOTHES WASHERS <b>Things to note:</b> - Free Delivery—cooperative members pay the standard \$65 delivery fee (fees may vary) but are given the option of receiving the fee back in the form of a rebate with either a Sears Gift Card or MasterCard® debit card. - Sears is hosting a special Friends & Family Night on October 4 in Hutchinson, with exclusive savings for cooperative members in addition to the \$125/\$75 coupon savings. Visit <a href="http://mnbrighterideas.com">mnbrighterideas.com</a> for specific dates and store hours. - Instant savings at counter with your coupon. - This offer is in addition to all other Sears offers. * With the recycling of your old refrigerator.	All Minnesota Sears locations
<b>OTHER RETAILERS</b>	<b>SPECIAL REBATES:</b> <b>\$125 OFF</b> ENERGY STAR® REFRIGERATORS* <b>\$75 OFF</b> ENERGY STAR® CLOTHES WASHERS <b>Things to note:</b> - Rebate forms can be obtained from your local cooperative for appliance purchases made at other retailers. - Rebate is available when you recycle an old refrigerator. - Allow 6-8 weeks for rebate processing. - After October 31, 2010, appliance rebate amounts will revert to the standard amounts offered by cooperatives.	- Isakson's in Gibbon - Thomes Brothers in Arlington - Y-Not Maytag Appliance Center in Arlington - Home Source in Hutchinson - Menards in Hutchinson - Home Solutions in Glencoe - Home Solutions in Norwood Young America

**FILL YOUR FRIDGE SWEEPSTAKES**

As part of the Appliance Promotion, cooperative members can also enter a sweepstakes one grand prize of \$500 in free groceries and up to 28 \$100 energy credit prizes, one per participating cooperative). Details and participation information for the sweepstakes are available on [mnbrighterideas.com](http://mnbrighterideas.com).