McLeod Cooperative Power

NEWS

March 2011

Inside this issue...

Official publication of

McLeod COOPERATIVE POWER

www.mcleodcoop.com

Annual Meeting Highlights

You are invited to the **76th Annual Meeting of McLeod Cooperative Power** on **Tuesday, April 12 at the Hutchinson Event Center.**

Features of this year's meeting include entertainment beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Sibley County comedians "Wilhelmina & Thisnelda." The business meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. This year's theme is "Preparedness" and the grand prize will be a portable generator. Other attendance prizes and a lunch served for members will follow the close of the meeting. Booths featuring DIRECTV, WildBlue high-speed internet, MyMeter, Heartland Security Services, Load Management programs and First Alert pendants will be available for you to visit. See the full schedule on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Mark your calendar for April 12.
See you there!

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Transformer is changed out at Brookfield Substation

Between February 23rd and 28th there was quite a bit of activity going on at the Brookfield Substation in Renville County. The Cooperative was moving out four 833 kva single-phase transformers and replacing them with one 2,500 kva three-phase transformer that the Co-op was not using. The single-phase transformers, which have been in use for many decades at the Brookfield Sub, are being sold to a cooperative in northern Minnesota. There was an urgency to get this project done before road restrictions go on this spring. The February 21 snow storm added to the clean up required before the change-out could be made.

Member accounts served by the Brookfield Substation were back-fed from the Hector and Preston Lake Substations for five days. A crane was required to lift the old transformers out of the sub and onto a waiting semi. The new transformer was put into place but required a few days to settle, be tested, and energized so the internal oils were warmed up.

On Monday, February 28, loads were switched back to the Brookfield Substation, putting the new transformer to work.

Ballots and registration tickets to be mailed March 22

Members residing in Districts 1, 2, & 3 will receive a ballot for the director election in their district. They will be mailed on March 22. Members in voting districts will also receive a director candidate profile sheet, notice of annual meeting, and a registration/lunch ticket. If you choose to return your ballot by mail please do not include any payments in your voting envelope. Ballots returned by mail must be received on or before April 11, 2011.

Members in non-voting districts will have their registration/lunch ticket postcards also mailed March 22.

Members of this year's Nominating Committee were, seated l to r: Charles Mathews, Leo Weber, and Francis Burch, standing l to r: Gary Graham, Corrine Schlueter, Merle Eggersgluess, Roger Draeger, Allan Reiner, and Joe Griebe.

Candidates vie for director seats

The Nominating Committee met February 3 and February 17 to select the final candidates for director elections in Districts 1, 2, and 3. The Nominating Committee is required to select two candidates to be on the ballot for each district. Additional candidates are only added to the ballot when a member presents a petition to the Cooperative that is signed by at least 20 members from their district.

The persons selected by the Nominating Committee for this year's election are:

District 1: Oria Brinkmeier and Larry Michaletz
District 2: Dale Peters and Ronald Jungclaus
District 3: Roger Karstens and Cheryl Beilke

See director candidate profiles on page 8.

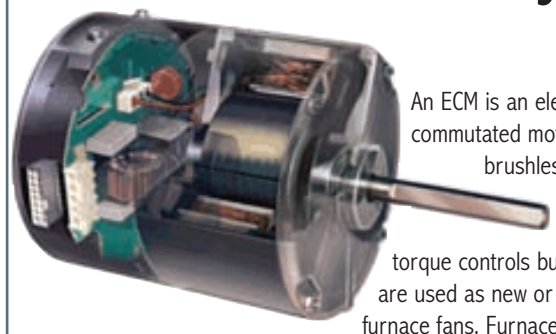
Please follow instructions when completing your ballot

If you reside in Districts 1, 2, or 3 and receive a director election ballot, please follow the instructions on the ballot and envelopes.

After voting, seal your ballot in the small envelope. Then place it in the larger return envelope. Your name on a return address sticker will be in the upper left corner . **Do not black out your name or your ballot cannot be counted.** The Cooperative must track and record the names of members who have returned ballots, making sure only one per voting member is received. Your name must be visible on the return address sticker.

Only the Nominating Committee is authorized to open the inside envelope containing the ballot. They open and count the ballots the day of the Annual Meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 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.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association News

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1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

General Manager: Kris Ingenthron
Editor: Sue Pawelk

The McLeod Coop Power News is the official member publication of McLeod Coop Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk at the address above.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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1-800-494-6272
24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Once closed for safety in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the Garrison Dam was recently reopened to Co-op tours. This is such an interesting hydro dam. Getting a peek inside is well worth the trip. Sign up today if you want to see it.

Let's fill that bus and see what is going on in North Dakota

Reservations are now being accepted for this popular tour. It is both an educational and fun trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. Tour participants will visit Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, Garrison Dam, North Dakota Heritage Center and Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center (including Fort Mandan, a reconstructed and fully-furnished fort where Lewis & Clark spent a winter). Attendees will go on a drive-through tour of Blue Flint Ethanol which is constructed adjacent to Coal Creek Generating Plant, as well as a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area.

Cost for adults is $150 per person. Students 10-18 years of age, who share a room with their parents or grandparents, are $100 per person. This makes it an affordable mini-vacation. Motor coach transportation, accommodations at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and most meals are included. The hotel offers an indoor pool, water slide, hot tub and exercise room. The hotel is located across the street from a shopping mall so there is plenty to do during free time.

The group leaves the Cooperative about 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 7, and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 9. Members going on the tour need to be physically able to climb stairs and do a substantial amount of walking. The tour is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

If you have never been on this tour, we encourage you to sign up. If you have been on the tour before, we will accept your reservation; however, people who have never been to Coal Creek will be given preference. Call the Cooperative at 800-494-6272 to make reservations with your VISA or Mastercard or return the completed form with your check.

Please reserve _____ places for the
Coal Creek Tour, June 7 - 9, 2011.

Name and Age of Students: _____

_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Amount Enclosed: $ _____

Return to: *McLeod Cooperative Power Assn., 1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336.*

Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered

Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2011-12 school term may apply for a $500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award up to four $500 scholarships for local students.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County or are a resident of one of those four counties, and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply.

Applications and informative career brochures are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 15, 2011.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association
ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE
Hutchinson Event Center — April 12,2011

Registration Begins at Hutchinson Event Center ..... 8:30 a.m.
Entertainment
Comedians Wilhelmina & Thisnelda ..... 9:30 a.m.
Meeting Called to Order ..... 10:00 a.m.
Invocation ..... Keith Peterson, Director
Pledge of Allegiance ..... All
Welcome ..... Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
Establish a Quorum ..... Dale E. Peters, Sec./Treas.
Reading of Notice of Meeting ..... Dale E. Peters, Sec./Treas.
Approval of Minutes of 2010 Annual Meeting ..... Dale E. Peters, Sec./Treas.
Introduction of Director Candidates Districts 1, 2, and 3 ..... Gerald Roepke President
Introduction of Directors, District 4-9 ..... Gerald Roepke President
Financial Report ..... Randall Ahrndt, Office Manager
Closing of Ballots ..... Gerald Roepke President
Guest Speaker ..... Gary Connett, Great River Energy
President's Report ..... Gerald Roepke President
Manager's Report ..... Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
Washington D.C. Youth Tour Report ..... Rachel Posusta
Announcement of Operation Round Up® Recipients ..... Operation Round Up® Trust Board
Introduction of Nominating Committee ..... Gerald Roepke President
Election Report ..... Nominating Committee Chairman
Unfinished Business ..... Gerald Roepke President
New Business ..... Gerald Roepke President
Adjournment
Table Prayer ..... Lester Ranzau, Director

Drawing for Attendance Prizes and Grand Prize – Portable Generator
Lunch to follow meeting – Catered by Chef Craig

McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70,
Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

‘REEP’ the Perks of Geo-Thermal!

The residential energy efficient property (REEP) tax credit slashes 30 percent of the cost of alternative energy-producing systems, including geothermal heating-and-cooling systems, solar energy systems and small wind turbines.

There is no lifetime cap for this home energy efficiency tax credit, and it expires in 2016. The tax credit covers equipment and professional installation.

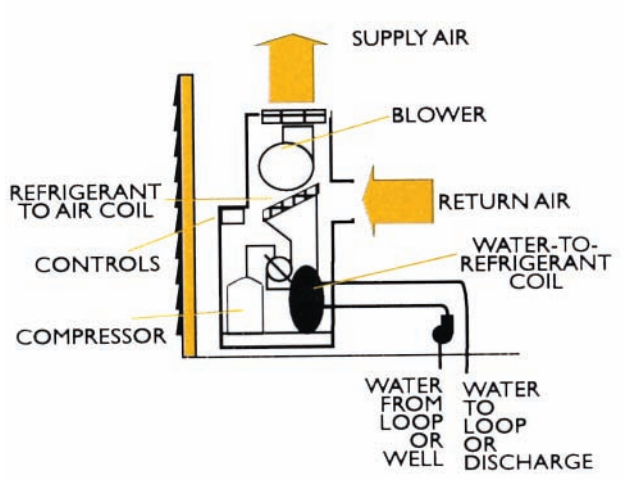
Consumers who purchase a geothermal (or ground-source heat pump) system for a home will get a 30 percent credit with no cap as long as the system qualifies for the high-efficiency Energy Star designation.

Energy-efficient equipment always gets the most bang for the buck when old furnaces and air conditioners need replacement. The tax credit makes geothermal an option worth serious consideration. Without the tax credit or other incentive, a geothermal system for a 2,000-square-foot home typically starts around $15,000 — well above a conventional high-efficiency heating-and-cooling system which usually costs around $8,000.

Benefits of a geo-thermal system

A geo-thermal or ground source heat pump system doesn’t use energy to produce heat. There is no combustion, no concern about fire or fumes, and the system operates at energy efficiencies up to 400 percent.

Similar to the way a refrigerator works, a condenser pulls heat from the inside of a refrigerator and blows heat out the bottom. A heat pump does the same thing, transferring heat from the ground and blowing the heat into the home.



Geothermal (ground source heat pump) system

In the summer, the procedure is reversed and the home’s heat is transferred back to the ground, keeping the home cool for the fraction of the cost of traditional central air conditioning.

Geothermal savings and pay-back

A geothermal system can save hundreds of dollars a year in electricity. However, without the tax credit, it could take 10 to 14 years to recover up-front costs — longer than homeowners usually stay in a house. Consumers can cut the pay-back time in half thanks to the 30 percent tax credit. Your cooperative also offers substantial rebates for installation of geothermal systems, further cutting the pay-back time. Call the Co-op for details.

This system uses circular loops to expose heat-collecting liquid to the ground’s heat, which is then transferred into the home.

Another system uses a straight loop. Contractors have their preferences. Your cooperative is a good source of information and contractor lists.

Heating and cooling are the largest household energy expenses, typically accounting for more than half of energy used. Geothermal systems quietly provide reduced-cost space conditioning. As the most energy-efficient heating and cooling systems available, geothermal systems harness the renewable energy of the sun by using the earth as a heat exchanger. A geothermal system is the most efficient way to heat and cool.

For federal tax credit application and eligibility information, visit www.energystar.gov and click on “tax credits for energy efficiency.” Visit your state’s energy office website to learn if additional incentives are available.

Source: John Bruce; Energy Star

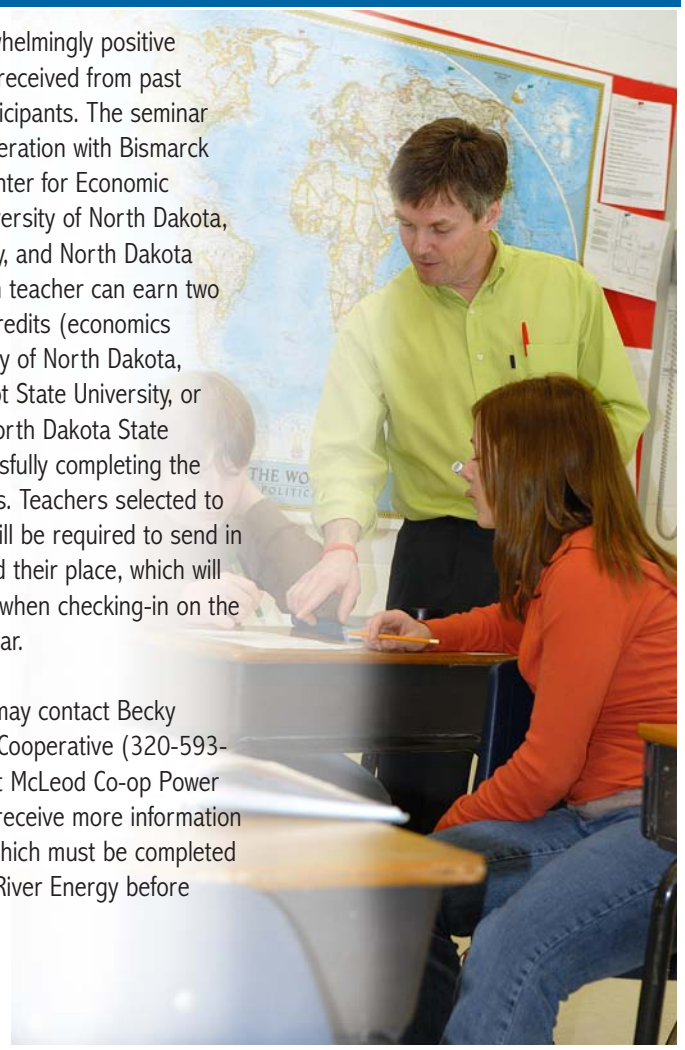
Back by popular demand

The Lignite Energy Council of Bismarck, North Dakota is sponsoring a teacher seminar titled *2011 Lignite Teachers Education Seminar: Energy, Economics & Environment* at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the campus of Bismarck State College, Bismarck, ND, on June 20-23, 2011.

This seminar is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to consumers, farmers and businesses in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana. The seminar includes discussions on how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy, and the economic impact of the industry on the region. It also includes a tour of a lignite mine, a lignite-based power plant, the Great Plains Synfuels Plant (which converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable by-products), and the Headwaters' Visitor's Center at Fort Mandan which was constructed with the use of coal combustion by-products.

The Lignite Energy Council is offering the seminar for the 26th year in 2011, primarily because of the overwhelmingly positive response that it has received from past teacher seminar participants. The seminar is being held in cooperation with Bismarck State College, the Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota, Minot State University, and North Dakota State University. Each teacher can earn two semester graduate credits (economics through the University of North Dakota, science through Minot State University, or education through North Dakota State University) by successfully completing the seminar requirements. Teachers selected to attend the seminar will be required to send in a $60 deposit to hold their place, which will be returned to them when checking-in on the first day of the seminar.

Interested teachers may contact Becky Sorenson at Meeker Cooperative (320-593-4113) or Katie Ide at McLeod Co-op Power (320-864-3148) to receive more information and an application, which must be completed and mailed to Great River Energy before April 15.



INDUSTRY News

Montevideo store's natural gas bill: $0

Just as the heating season got underway in earnest, Bill Pauling spotted a guy looking over the natural gas meter at his downtown Montevideo, Minn., grocery store with a quizzical look on his face. "I couldn't figure out what the guy was doing," said Pauling, owner of Bill's Supermarket. The guy was Xcel Energy's meter reader. He couldn't figure out why the store's meter showed zero gas usage for the prior month. He was there to see why.

There are entire months during the heating season when his 13,000-square-foot store is heated only with a heat exchange system. It captures "waste" heat that was otherwise vented outside from the store's refrigeration and cooling equipment. "We just capture BTUs that we would have normally thrown out the door," said the store owner. The waste heat from the electrical equipment is now the primary source of heat for the store. Natural gas is a backup, needed only when outside temperatures fall to 5 degrees or lower, he said.

Eight years ago he invested in new refrigeration equipment for the store's frozen and perishable goods. Pauling was also able to cut his electrical usage significantly by replacing the old system with more energy-efficient compressors, and fewer of them. Then he spent another $50,000 to install the heat exchange system. As promised, he expects the system should pay for itself in about 10 years. He said his heating costs have dropped by anywhere from $3,000 to $6,000 a year. Pauling has made energy conservation a priority. He's added energy-efficient lamps, and when he needed a new roof, he installed a white membrane roof that reflects sunlight and reduces his summer cooling needs.

~West Central Tribune

Electric generation up in 2010

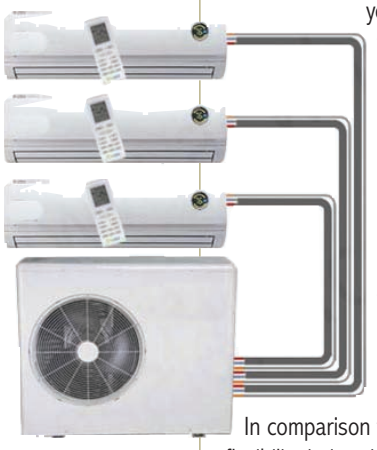
Net power generation increased 4.3 percent in 2010 as compared to 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Information Administration (EIA). Natural gas-fired generation showed the largest increase, growing by 6.6 percent over 2009. Coal-fired generation increased 5.4 percent and nuclear generation increased by 1 percent. Natural gas made up almost 24 percent of the fuel mix in 2010; coal-fired generation made up 45 percent.

Conventional hydropower was the only generation source to take a dip during 2010, and was down 6 percent compared to the previous year. Below average rainfall in the Southeast was the main factor—reduced generation in Alabama alone accounted for 60 percent of the national decline, according to DOE data. Residential sales of electricity were up 6.3 percent, from 1.36 trillion kwh to 1.45 trillion kwh.

~Cooperative Finance Corporation

Ductless, Mini-Split Heat Pumps

Ductless, mini-split-system heat pumps make good retrofit add-ons to houses with "non-ducted" heating systems, such as hydronic (hot water heat), radiant panels, and space heaters (wood, kerosene, propane). They can also be a good choice for room additions, where extending or installing distribution ductwork is not feasible.



Like standard air-source heat pumps, mini splits have two main components: an outdoor compressor/condenser, and an indoor air-handling unit. A conduit, which houses the power cable, refrigerant tubing, suction tubing, and a condensate drain, links the outdoor and indoor units.

Advantages

The main advantages of mini splits are their small size and flexibility for zoning or heating and cooling individual rooms. Many models can have as many as four indoor air handling units (for four zones or rooms) connected to one outdoor unit. The number depends on how much heating or cooling is required for the building or each zone (which in turn is affected by how well the building is insulated). Since each of the zones will have its own thermostat, you only need to condition that place when someone is there. This will save energy and money.

Ductless mini-split systems are also often easier to install than other types of space conditioning systems. For example, the hook-up between the outdoor and indoor units generally requires only a three-inch hole through a wall for the conduit. Most manufacturers of this type of system can provide a variety of lengths of connecting conduits. If necessary, you can locate the outdoor unit as far away as 50 feet from the indoor evaporator. This makes it possible to cool rooms on the front side of a building house with the compressor in a more advantageous or inconspicuous place on the outside of the building.

Since mini splits have no ducts, they avoid the energy losses associated with ductwork of central forced air systems. Duct losses can account for more than 30% of energy consumption for space conditioning, especially if the ducts are in an unconditioned space such as an attic.

In comparison to other add-on systems, mini splits offer more flexibility in interior design options. The indoor air handlers can be suspended from a ceiling, mounted flush into a drop ceiling, or hung on a wall. Floor-standing models are also available. Most indoor units have profiles of about seven inches deep and usually come with sleek, high tech-looking jackets. Many also offer a remote control to make it easier to turn the system on and off when it's positioned high on a wall or suspended from a ceiling.

Split-systems also can help to keep your home safer since there is only a small hole in the wall. Through-the-wall and window mounted room air-conditioners can provide an easy entrance for intruders.

These units qualify for a $300 rebate from McLeod Co-op Power, if they are an ENERGY STAR rated unit. Their design does not currently allow for operation on the off-peak Cycled Cooling program but they are still a great option for any home without duct work, as you can have high efficiency cooling in one to four rooms. They could also be an option for a home that just wants cooling in a certain area of the home.

Disadvantages

The primary disadvantage of mini splits is their cost. Such systems cost about $1,500–$2,000 per ton (12,000 Btu per hour) of cooling capacity. This is about 30% more than central systems (not including ductwork) and may cost twice as much as window units of similar capacity.

The installer must also correctly size each indoor unit and judge the best location for its installation. Oversized or incorrectly located air-handlers often result in short-cycling, which wastes energy and does not provide proper temperature or humidity control. Too large a system is also more expensive to buy and operate.

Some people may not like the appearance of the indoor part of the system. While less obtrusive than a window room air conditioner, they seldom have the built-in look of a central system. There must also be a place to drain condensate water near the outdoor unit.

Qualified installers and service people for mini splits may not be easy to find. In addition, most conventional heating and cooling contractors have large investments in tools and training for sheet metal duct systems. They need to use (and charge for) these to earn a return on their investment, so they may not recommend ductless systems except where a ducted system would be difficult for them to install.

Check the phone number at the top of your bill

When you receive your next electric bill, please take a moment to review the telephone number in the upper right hand corner. Make sure it is your home number. If you only use a cell phone, make sure it is your current and correct number. Having the correct phone number when you call in to report an outage definitely speeds up the process. If there are a lot of outages, and you go into the automated reporting system, it will go quickly if you are calling from the phone number we have in our data base.

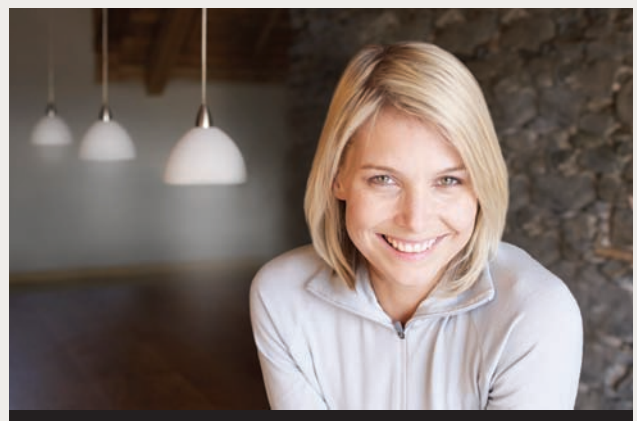
Better Rules for Broken Bulbs

As energy-savvy consumers know, equipping five of a home's most frequently-used light fixtures with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) can save a family $70 a year in lighting cost. But what should you do when a CFL breaks?

CFLs are made of glass tubing containing about 4 milligrams of mercury. Although this isn't much — classic thermometers contain 500 milligrams of mercury — consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks, since mercury vapors may pose health risks. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPS) recently updated the guidelines for cleaning a broken CFL.

"We want to provide consumers with the most important information they need to know on how to clean up a bulb without overwhelming them with detail," stresses Richard Yost, an EPA spokesperson.

The revised guidelines break the process into three steps: what to do before cleanup, during cleanup, and after cleanup. More in-depth guidelines are available at www.epa.gov/cflcleanup.



BE AN
ENERGENIUS

With recent advancements such as dimmer switch compatibility and new shape, size and color options, CFLs have become even smarter, so flip the switch to intelligent lighting.

Quick guide to cleaning up a broken CFL

The most important steps to reduce exposure to mercury vapor from a broken compact fluorescent bulb are:

Before Clean Up

- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or a door to the outdoors environment.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.
- Collect materials (stiff paper/cardboard, sticky tape, damp paper towels/wet wipes) needed to clean up a broken bulb.

During Clean Up

- Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder.
- Place clean up materials in a sealable container (plastic bag or glass jar).

After Clean Up

- Promptly place all bulb debris and clean up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or clean up materials indoors.
- Not all recycling centers may accept broken CFLs and some states may have prohibitions on disposal of debris. Check with your local and/or state household hazardous waste authority for disposal requirements in your area.
- For several hours, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating or cooling fan shut off.

For more detailed guidance on cleaning up and safely disposing of a broken CFL, please visit: **www.epa.gov/cflcleanup.**

Bear in mind this clean-up process does not have to be used with broken LED (light emitting diode) bulbs or incandescent bulbs.

Tune up your cooling unit and receive a $25 credit

Announcing the 2011 air conditioning tune-up program.

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

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

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

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

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

Recommendations _____
_____
_____

Technician Signature _____
Date _____

Profiles of director candidates for District 1, 2 & 3

The Nominating Committee is required to select two names in each district to appear on the ballot. Below are the names they have selected for Districts 1, 2 and 3.

District 1 includes:

Winsted, Bergen and Helen Townships in McLeod County and Victor Township in Wright County

Oria Brinkmeier

Oria is the incumbent director in District 1. He grew up on a farm in Winsted Township. Upon retiring from teaching in 1990, Oria and his wife, Myrna, moved back to the family farm between Winsted and Lester Prairie. For the past 20 years he has been running the 160-acre farm; growing corn, beans and alfalfa, and raising beef cattle. He enjoys growing his crops and reading. Oria is a graduate of Lester Prairie High School and Concordia College. After serving in the U.S. Army, Oria also attended the University of Minnesota. For most of his life Oria was a teacher. He taught junior high and high school and was later a college instructor. He is currently a member of a group of volunteers that teach the AARP Driver's Safety Program for motorists over 55.

Oria has three grown children who live out-of-state. His wife Myrna passed away in 2004. Having fewer family obligations, he devotes his time to being a serious board member. He is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie and is a church board member there.

Oria would like to see the Cooperative keep its business locally based. He believes a small electric co-op must be very frugal in spending its resources and must keep abreast of conditions in a quickly changing industry. Oria thinks his contribution to the board has been to use thoughtful analysis and common sense when helping make decisions.

Larry Michaletz

Larry was born and raised in Bergen Township. He is a graduate of Glencoe High School. Since 1976 he and his wife, Catherine, have lived in Winsted Township. The Michaletz's have two daughters: Emily, who lives near Glencoe and Molly, a sophomore in high school. They own a grain farm. Larry was a full-time farmer before retiring and renting out his land.

Larry has grassroots legislative experience at both the state and federal level, gained when he served on several executive boards. He recently finished serving as a director for the state board of Minnesota Soybean Grower's Association. He was one of the founders of the McLeod County Corn Growers Association. He served as Chairman of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee and was a supervisor on the Winsted Township Board. He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Mayer and previously served as an elder there. With some of these board responsibilities behind him, Larry now has the time and the knowledge to serve on the McLeod Co-op Power board. In his spare time, he is a car racing enthusiast.

Larry believes we need to watch legislative actions and remain active in contacting legislators when bills could impact the Co-op. Larry is interested in sustaining the viability of our cooperative. He also said, "I think we have to continue to look for new ways to produce energy that are sustainable."

District 2 includes:

Hassen Valley, Sumter and Penn Townships in McLeod County

Ronald Jungclaus

Ronald grew up on a family farm in Glencoe Township. Today, he resides on a hobby farm in Sumter Township, where he has lived since 1975. He is a graduate of Glencoe High School. After serving in the U.S. Army for two years, where he was stationed in Berlin, Germany, he returned home and attended St. Cloud State University.

Ronald retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2005. He had worked as a County Executive Director of the McLeod County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. He does a monthly radio show on KDUZ on agricultural issues with Joe Neubauer (The Ron & Joe Show). He also works part-time as a crop insurance adjuster.

In his spare time Ronald hunts and fishes. He has one daughter who lives in Lake City, MN and he is soon to be a grandpa.

Ronald spent 30 years working with all of the farmers at FSA. The FSA has a farmer-elected county committee, much like a co-op board, that served in an advisory capacity. Working with this group and dealing with budget cuts and a variety of issues, has prepared Ronald to be a director. If elected, he believes he would have common sense and good judgment that would make him an effective director.

Dale E. Peters

Dale is the incumbent director of District 2 and currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the board. Dale has been a lifetime resident of Sumter Township, except for the time he served in the U.S. Navy. The Peters are active members of St. John's Church in Hassen Valley Township. Dale is a member of the American Legion Post #95 of Glencoe, the Elks Lodge of Hutchinson, and a life member of the Brownton Rod & Gun Club.

Dale and Lea Ette have two sons. John is a Product Manager with John Deere in Waterloo, IA and James is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise in Gaylord, MN. Dale was a cash crop farmer raising and selling certified seed. He has also held employment at Cash Wise Foods, Hutchinson Technology, Inc., and Wal-Mart. Dale and Lea Ette are both retired and reside on the family farm.

Dale feels we have a very dedicated board working for the best interests of all of our consumers. Important issues facing the board are dealing effectively in a climate of increased government mandates and regulations.

His areas of focus are continuing to provide reliable and cost-effective service. Also, be assured that MCPA has excellent staff and employees for your support. Dale would be proud to continue serving as a director and represent consumer's concerns.

District 3 includes:

Acoma and Hutchinson Townships in McLeod County and Ellsworth and Collinwood Townships in Meeker County

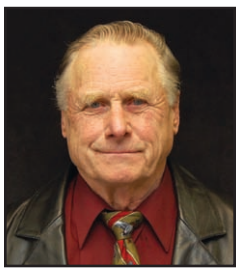
Cheryl Beilke

Cheryl is a candidate in District 3. She and her husband Roger have lived in Hutchinson Township for 30 years. They have two children — Erin, who works for Cargill in Elk River, and Matt, who works for Ohly Americas, Inc. in Hutchinson, MN. Cheryl's husband Roger is retired from Ag Systems in Hutchinson. Cheryl retired from 3M in 2009 after 40+ years of service in positions of production, supervision, training, and leadership.

Cheryl grew up as a "farming kid," graduating from High School in St. James, MN; continuing her education at St. Cloud State University, St. Thomas, and Crown College. She enjoys reading and traveling in her spare time.

Cheryl currently serves as Chairperson of the Adult Training and Habilitation Board (ATHC), secretary of the board of Ed Plus, Inc (which focuses on children in Costa Rica and supplying them with items needed to go to school), secretary of the Agribusiness Committee of the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce/CVB and secretary of the Caregiving Ministry Committee at Our Savior's Lutheran Church where she also serves on the finance committee. She volunteers with Meals on Wheels, and at Burns Manor. Cheryl is a parent rep. on the District 423 Staff Development Committee. She serves as an election judge in Hutchinson Township. She is a past chairperson (2002) of the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce/CVB, past Board of Education member and past president for Our Savior's Lutheran Christian Day School, served as secretary on the Council of Our Savior's Lutheran Church for several years. Cheryl is a graduate of the Blandin Community Leadership Program and was honored as Hutchinson's Woman of the Year in 2000.

Cheryl describes herself as a "big picture" thinker who makes data driven decisions. When asked why she would like to be a director, Cheryl replied, "It is good to have diversity on boards, both in gender and generations. It would be nice to have representation for all the female landowners and members on the Co-op's board also." Cheryl is a proponent of renewables within financial capabilities.



Roger Karstens

Roger is the incumbent director of District 3. He was the first MCPA director to earn the title of a certified director. "Over the years I have initiated innovative ideas, including creating a scholarship program to recruit lineworkers," said Roger. "I am a dedicated and experienced spokesman presenting your concerns and questions to the board."

Roger was employed at 3M for 34 years, retiring in 1990. He and his wife, Shirley, have four married children — Chris, Dirk, Connie, and Ryan, along with nine grandchildren. He has been involved in 4-H and FFA through the years. Roger enjoys hunting, fishing, showing sheep and is an avid sports fan. He's a military veteran and is an American Legion member. He served nine years on the McLeod County Planning Advisory Commission. He is on the board of Crow River Mutual Insurance Co. He served as president of the Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association and was a regional director of the American Sheep Industry.

Roger stated, "I believe that with my experience and background in several organizations, I am well qualified to serve as your director. Legislative actions, along with increases in material costs, are producing higher electric rates. As your director I will work on your behalf to limit these increases. Being involved personally with several legislators is important as they need to better understand how their vote on certain issues will affect McLeod Co-op Power and the rate our member-owners will pay for electricity," said Roger. He thanks members for their support in the past and asks for their support now.