

Inside this issue...



Local teen recounts Washington DC trip

2



Cheapest source of heating and cooling

7



The importance of tree trimming

8

Official publication of



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July heat wave drives up energy use

During the week of July 17-20 the air conditioners were running non-stop. July had the fifth highest average temperature since records have been kept, according to the National Weather Service. Dehumidifiers were trying to keep the basement free of moisture. And your electric meter was probably spinning at quite a pace.

We all survived the hot, humid weather. But, you will have to remember back to that unusually hot week when you get your electric bill in August. It will include all those hot days with your air conditioner running full tilt. And bear in mind June through August energy costs you a penny more than the electricity you buy the other nine months of the year. So don't be surprised when the bill you receive in August (for July use) will be higher than usual.

Changes for members receiving DIRECTV services from the Co-op happening soon!

DIRECTV will begin to handle billing and payment services on August 15, 2011 for customers who had been receiving these services from McLeod Cooperative Power.

Some of the original customers have been receiving services from  **DIRECTV**® *rethink tv* McLeod Co-op Power for 17 years. "After the Co-op sold its programming franchise to DIRECTV in 2004, we knew DIRECTV would eventually want to take over these services," said DIRECTV Manager Bob Thomes. "However, we were pleased we could provide the local and personal billing services to our customers from 2004 until now."

Although the Co-op will not be able to assist customers with payment and billing matters or make programming changes in the future, it will still be available to provide:

- hardware services, such as selling and installing new DIRECTV equipment including receivers, HD equipment and DVRs
- field service calls for a fee
- remotes, surge suppressors, and satellite TV accessories

So please continue to call the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 for hardware issues and services. We will be here to help you with as many services as we possibly can.

Why is the Co-op's DirecTV business changing?

Cooperatives have always been at the forefront of bringing new technologies to rural America; DirecTV is a perfect example of that. In the early 1990's cable television was not common in rural areas. If you had it, you had a huge dish in your yard, and you paid a lot of money for it.

The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) changed this when 250 of their member co-ops raised more than \$100 million to make DirecTV a reality. Under the GM Hughes Corporation, electric cooperatives became the exclusive reseller of satellite cable television in rural areas throughout the launch of DirecTV.

McLeod Co-op Power was one of the first cooperatives to become a DirecTV reseller in June of 1994; and by the end of the year there were more than 100,000 customers nation-wide. In January 1999, NRTC members collectively reached the one million-subscriber mark. Ultimately, NRTC members served about 1.8 million DirecTV subscribers nationwide and McLeod Co-op Power accounted for more than 5,200 at the height of its success.

Over the past 17 years, McLeod Co-op Power members have seen great profits from reselling this service. So, why exit such a successful business venture? DirecTV has chosen to move their business model in a different direction, and they have decided that smaller resellers are not going to be part of that plan.

What does that mean to DirecTV customers that are currently getting their service through McLeod Co-op Power? You will not have an interruption in satellite programming service. However, beginning August 15, 2011, the Co-op will no longer be able to accept payments for DirecTV services. You will receive your bill

from and make your payments directly to DirecTV Corporation. The Cooperative will no longer be able to assist customers with billing or programming questions or make changes to existing accounts. The Cooperative will continue to be a DirecTV premier retailer. That means we will be able to sell new systems and hardware, provide installation and service calls for a fee, and sell accessories.

It was a good run, and we are proud to have been part of another great rural legacy. We thank all of our DirecTV customers that have remained loyal to us through the years and we hope you continue to receive quality service through the DirecTV Corporation.



Local teen selected for trip to nation's capital

Mandy Schlauderaff of Glencoe recently participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program in Washington, D.C. sponsored by McLeod Co-op Power. She spent six days in Washington, D.C. with 35 peers from the Minnesota.

Each year in June, an action-filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students met their elected representatives Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Franken, Congressmen Cravaack, Congressman Peterson, and Congressman Walz, saw historic sites, and met more than 1,500 students from across the country who participated in their state's Youth Tour program.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops namely McLeod Cooperative Power, the Minnesota Electric Association; their statewide co-op association, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), based in Arlington, Va., for 47 years.

Mandy said she had the experience of a lifetime meeting with peers from other states and NRECA staff during the Washington trip.

"The youth tour was so amazing," Mandy said. "It was really cool to meet my senator and representative, and learn about politics up-close. Plus, I made friends from nearly every

state and experienced history first-hand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American, and show that people my age do care about this country."

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for National Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympics Medalist and two-time world Champion Wheelchair Basketball champion. Schlappi shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

For more information on how you can participate in McLeod Co-op's Washington Youth Tour program, contact Katie at 1-800-494-6272. Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 40,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 42 million people in 47 states. For more information about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Program, please visit www.mrea.org and <http://www.youthtour.coop>.



Mandy Schlauderaff of Glencoe said she had the experience of a lifetime.

Office closed Labor Day



Cooperative offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 5.

In case of an emergency or to report an outage, call 1-800-927-5685.

Lighting and efficiency grants for farms and businesses

Farmers and business owners whose commercial operation is served by the Cooperative are eligible to apply for energy grants or lighting rebates when they upgrade to more efficient motors, fans, light fixtures, etc. Some financial assistance is also available for commercial energy audits. Call Shannon at the Cooperative if you are planning a new or retrofit project to see if what you are doing qualifies.

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MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

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All member story ideas and comments are welcome.
Send to Sue Pawelk at the address above.

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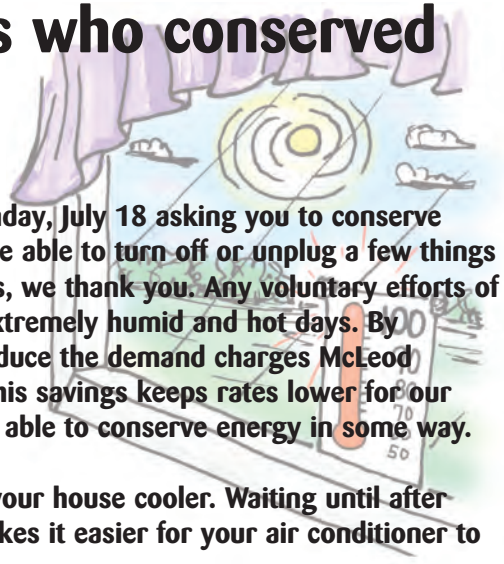
Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Thank you to members who conserved energy July 18-20

You may have received a phone call on Monday, July 18 asking you to conserve energy the next three evenings. If you were able to turn-off or unplug a few things - Great! If you postponed using appliances, we thank you. Any voluntary efforts of our members are greatly appreciated on those extremely humid and hot days. By reducing energy use over peak hours, it helps reduce the demand charges McLeod Cooperative Power pays to Great River Energy. This savings keeps rates lower for our members. So, again we thank everyone who was able to conserve energy in some way.

We also hope the energy suggestions help keep your house cooler. Waiting until after dark to use appliances that heat up the home makes it easier for your air conditioner to keep you cool on sweltering days.



Our energy use has changed dramatically

American households use energy much differently than they did 20 or 30 years ago. The U.S. Energy Information Administration completed its 13th Residential Energy Consumption Survey. The first one was done in 1978.

Homes are more energy efficient today. Residential energy use has decreased overall by 31%. This is due to more efficient appliances, higher efficiency heating and cooling equipment, and better insulated homes. Although most homes have become more efficient these gains have been offset by the growth in energy use for consumer electronics like personal computers, televisions, and related devices.

In 1978, personal computers were expensive and not found very often in the average home. Today, 76% of homes have at least one computer and 35% have two or more. According to U.S. Department of Energy estimates, the average personal computer and monitor use nearly

400 kWh of electricity per year. At ten cents per kWh, that is about \$40 in annual energy costs.

In the 1978 survey, most homes had only one TV. Today the average household has 2.5 televisions. Over 45% have at least one TV with a 37-inch or larger screen. Energy consumption of televisions has grown as TVs have gotten larger screens. Nearly 24 million homes have four or more TVs today.

DVD players and digital video recorders (DVRs) didn't even exist 15 years ago. Today 79% of homes have a DVD player and 43% have a DVR. DVRs were recently pin-pointed as being large energy users.

The share of households with central air conditioning nearly tripled from 23% in 1978 to 61% in 2011. Since 1978 the share of home energy used by small appliances and electronics has nearly doubled from 17% to 31%.

Minnesota's Extreme Heat Law

Minnesota Statute 216B.0975 requires that, "a utility may not involuntarily disconnect residential services in affected counties when an excessive heat watch, heat advisory, or excessive heat warning is in effect and has been issued by the National Weather Service."

McLeod Cooperative Power does not want to interrupt service to any member at any time, but in a cooperative, all members are affected by those whose electric bills remain unpaid. To ensure fair and equitable rates for all our members, those members with past-due accounts that neglect to contact the office to make mutually agreed payment arrangements or members who fail to keep agreed upon payment arrangements will have their electric service disconnected once the excessive heat advisory or warning has expired.

Pick up the phone before you pick up the shovel



It is very important that consumers understand how the Gopher State One Call system works. Whether you plan to dig in post holes for a deck or flagpole, plant a tree, or trench in electric lines to a garage or outdoor appliance, you need to call Gopher State One Call 48 hours before you plan to dig (excluding weekends and holidays).

The Gopher State One Call system is designed to notify utilities which might have underground facilities in the area where digging is planned. The utilities then mark any lines they have in the immediate area. It is the homeowner's responsibility to locate or hire someone to locate

their own personal underground facilities such as underground electric wires between the meter and the house, the meter or house and other buildings, buried gas lines for propane tanks, lamps, or pool heaters, water lines, sewer lines, telephone lines, sprinkler systems, invisible fences, etc. The Cooperative does not locate buried wires that are the homeowner's responsibility. You should hire a licensed electrician or cable locating company to mark your personal lines. A list of private locators is available on the www.gopherstateonecall.org site.









First, you need to call Gopher State one Call two business days before you plan to start digging. You call either "811" or 1-800-252-1166. Be prepared with the following information:

- Your name, home phone # and work/cell phone #.
- When do you plan to begin work?
- How many days will digging take?

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

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

Color Code Chart For Marking Underground Utility Lines

	WHITE —	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
	PINK —	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
	RED —	ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES
	YELLOW —	GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS
	ORANGE —	COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLE OR CONDUIT
	BLUE —	POTABLE WATER
	PURPLE —	RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION AND SLURRY LINES
	GREEN —	SEWER AND DRAIN LINES

Tips for staying safe around water



Safe Electricity offers the following tips to stay safe in or around swimming pools:

- Do not put any electrical appliances within five feet of a swimming pool.
- Any electrical outlets within twenty feet of a pool should be equipped with a GCFI, or Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.
- Pools and decks should be built at least 5 feet away from all underground electrical lines, and at least 25 feet away from overhead electrical lines.
- As always, never swim during a thunderstorm.
- Use battery operated, rather than electrical, appliances near swimming pools.
- If a swimmer is electrocuted or shocked, don't dive in yourself or you could be electrocuted as well. Turn off the power, and then use a fiberglass shepherd's hook to pull the victim out of the water.

When you leave the pool, don't change the radio station or touch any electrical appliances until you are dry. Never touch any electrical appliances when you

are wet or standing in water. If children wish to play with sprinklers or hoses, emphasize that they should be set up well away from any electrical outlets or appliances.

Electricity and water are dangerous around larger bodies of water as well. If you plan to go boating or fishing this summer, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards.

If your boat comes in contact with a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water – the water could be energized. Instead, stay in the boat and avoid touching anything metal until help arrives or until your boat is no longer in contact with the line.

Be sure dockside outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection and check cords that are plugged into them to make sure there is no broken casing or exposed wire.

Check for the location of power lines before fishing. Make sure you are casting the line away from power lines to avoid potential contact. Also be aware that anchors may snag underwater electrical or telephone cables.

Electrical equipment around swimming pools can pose a very real hazard. According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, deaths and serious shocks occur in and around swimming pools each year.

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



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

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

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

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



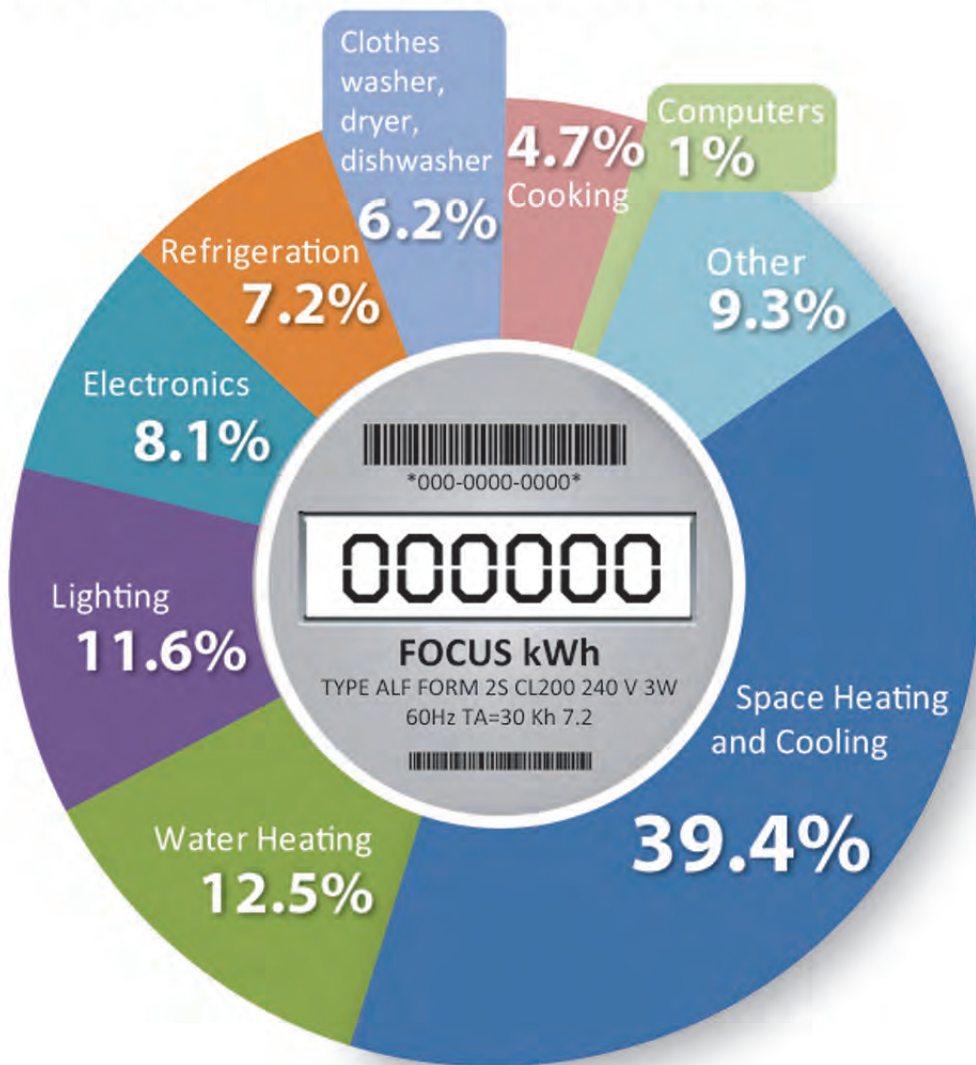
One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.



How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home. Updated February 2011.

When it comes to saving energy and money, every little bit helps. Even small changes can add up to big savings. See how at: www.togetherwesave.com

However, if you want to see where you can make the biggest changes, the graph at left shows you where the average family uses the most electricity in our homes. Even if your home isn't an all-electric home, your largest percentage of energy costs will still be spent in space heating and cooling. Lighting and water heating are also areas where changes can yield excellent results.

Contact your electric Cooperative to see all the ways you can make changes to reduce your electric bill. We are happy to help you use less, spend less, and enjoy the same level of comfort you've always had, if not more!

INDUSTRY News

Coal hauling costs on the rise across the nation

Freight railroads' bills for hauling coal to power plants jumped by almost 40 percent between 2001 and 2008, and more than doubled along some routes, according to a new Energy Information Administration report. For example, transportation costs from the Powder River Basin, the nation's most important source of low-emissions coal, have reached as much as 59 percent of affected utilities' total delivered costs, EIA said. That's important, the agency added, because coal-based electric generating units get nearly three-quarters of their coal by freight rail.

Overall, revenue per ton-mile for railroads increased a shade less than 40 percent, with most of the rise occurring between 2007 and 2008. The price tag associated with Powder River Basin shipments to Wisconsin utilities rose by 57 percent. Similarly, coal shipments from the Powder River Basin to points in Missouri increased nearly 43 percent, according to EIA.

~Electric Co-op Today

AAA to provide electric car help

For decades, AAA has been helping stranded drivers by jump-starting batteries and bringing gasoline. Now that electric cars are gaining a foothold in America's driveways, it is making changes to help folks who get stranded when their cars run out of juice. The auto club now has its first roadside assistance trucks equipped to provide a charge. Members will get 10 to 15 minutes of charge time. AAA said that will be adequate to drive the car up to 15 miles to a charging station. Starting later this summer, the initial fleet will hit the streets of metropolitan Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Ore., Knoxville, Tenn., and Tampa, Fla.

AAA, which has 52 million members, unveiled the first truck July 19 at an electric vehicle conference in Raleigh, N.C. That truck runs on a lithium-ion battery pack. The auto club said other trucks will use generators powered by alternative fuels and other power sources.

~Electric Co-op Today

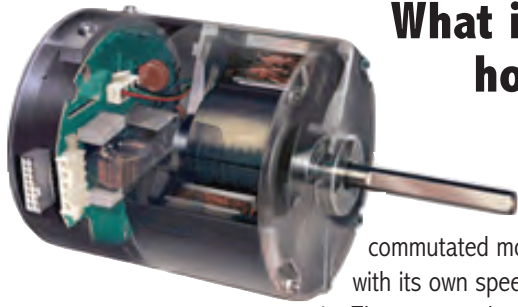
IF IT'S WET OUT TAKE IT INSIDE

IT'S ALL PART OF THE JOB

Electricity and water don't mix. We know it's best to get the job done, but if it's raining, has recently rained or is otherwise damp around where you intend to work, the best thing to do is just wait. It's not procrastinating, it's doing things right.

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

McLeod
COOPERATIVE POWER



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.

Wondering why your kilowatt usage has increased?

Don't be surprised, go online!



MyMeter is a free, online tool for McLeod Co-op Power members. View your daily energy use online. Set goals for reducing your energy use. Get an email or text message when your energy use hits a predetermined threshold. Find high use problems before you receive your monthly bill.



It's simple to view. Go to www.mcleodcoop.com and click on MyMeter on the homepage. Have your account number handy for that initial login and you will be on your way to managing your energy use.

DIRECTV payments must now be mailed directly to processing center

Payments for DIRECTV programming services cannot be accepted or processed by the Cooperative after August 15. Your DIRECTV bill will list a new payment address. Payments must be made payable to DIRECTV — not McLeod Co-op Power. Payments must be mailed to DIRECTV in the envelope provided with your bill. Your programming service will be unaffected, as long as you send your payment to DIRECTV.

If you currently use an online bill pay service, be sure to change the payee from McLeod Cooperative Power to DIRECTV. If an address is required, please use the remittance address at the bottom right of your DIRECTV statement. Customers who pay by recurring credit/debit card or EFT do not need to make any changes.

Please contact DIRECTV at 1-800-531-5000 or visit them at www.directv.com for all your future DIRECTV billing needs.

Your off-peak options

There are many ways our members can save money with off-peak. Some are very simple. Some of the most common ways to become more efficient are:

- Replace an older central air conditioner with a high-efficiency air source heat pump.

The heat pump will do the same high-efficiency cooling as an air conditioner but it will also provide your home's heating in spring, fall or mild winter days when outdoor temperatures are above 20 degrees. It will do this at a very high efficiency and can be operated on the half-price off-peak rate of 5 cents per kWh. This could reduce the amount of propane or fuel oil you use by 50%. Rebates are available for air source heat pumps installed by qualified contractors.

- If you add an electric plenum heater to the air source heat pump, you can run your system down to zero degrees outside temperature. Again, reducing even more oil or gas use and replacing it with heat pump/plenum heater use at higher efficiencies and lower cost.

- Replace your old water heater with a new Marathon super-insulated heater and operate it on the Storage Heating Program. The water is heated from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. You have hot water available anytime 24 hours a day. Water is stored to meet your daily needs. That is why you will need a large 85 or 105 gallon water heater.

However, on the Storage Program you heat all hot water at the off-peak rate. A family of four will save about \$30 per month on the program. That is \$360 a year!

- Replace your old furnace fan with an electrically-commutated motor (ECM). It will circulate air throughout your house at a higher efficiency and lower annual operating cost than your old furnace fan. The savings are especially big if you run your fan continuously.
- Ground Source Heat Pumps are one of the highest-efficiency ways to heat and cool your home. They can be operated on the regular electric rate without any backup system required or they can be on the off-peak rate if an automatic furnace/back-up system is in place. Rebates on ground source heat pumps are \$400 per ton for 2011.
- Central storage furnaces are a 100% off-peak electric heating option. No gas or oil back-up required. They come in forced air and hydronic combo models. The unit charges bricks with heat overnight and heats the home 24/7. Call the Co-op to get a price quote. Rebates are available for storage heating units.



Look to the earth for your cheapest source of heating and cooling

A Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) is probably the most efficient and the cheapest way to heat and cool your home. A GSHP system will operate at efficiencies of 300% to 600%, according to the US Department of Energy. This means it gives off three to six times more BTUs of heat than it uses to produce or transfer the heat. It does not burn any fuel source to produce heat. Instead it simply transfers the heat that is in the ground outside, into your home.

While it can be scorching hot or freezing cold outside, several feet below the earth's surface the ground remains at a relatively constant temperature. Ground temperatures can range from 45 to 75 degrees. Like a cave, this ground temperature is warmer than the air in the winter and cooler than the air in the summer. The GSHP takes advantage of this by exchanging heat with the earth through a ground heat exchanger. A food-grade glycol solution is circulated through pipes installed in the ground to collect the heat and disperse it where needed.

Heating and cooling costs with a GSHP are unbelievably low. The only drawback that keeps more people from installing them is the initial cost to purchase and put in the system. Cost is totally dependent upon whether you install a horizontal, vertical or slinky closed loop system or a pump'n dump open loop system. GSHP systems work with forced air heating systems or hydronic (in-floor) heating. It can also be a combo of forced air and in-floor heat.

A horizontal closed loop system is the most common type installed and is often less costly than other types. Small to average size homes

installing a horizontal loop GSHP can expect to pay around \$20,000. Polyethylene tubing rated for a geo system is buried in a trench 8 to 10 feet below ground. Each run of tubing is 400 feet long per one ton of heating/cooling. So an average house requiring five tons of heating and cooling would need 2,000 feet of pipe buried in the yard.

If your yard is not big enough to accommodate this much pipe, then you could consider the slinky version of a horizontal closed loop system. A slinky uses smaller tubing that comes in a big roll and it is looped and laid in a trench 3 feet wide by 100 feet long per ton. Horizontal systems work best in wet or moist areas of clay or black dirt.

If the ground is sandy and dry, or if you just don't have the space to trench in pipe for either horizontal system, then you may opt for a vertical system. It will be more costly because of the added expense of hiring a well drilling company to drill one closed loop well for each ton of heating and cooling needed, at an average cost of \$1,500 to \$2,200 per well. This does not require a large area on your lawn but it adds to the upfront cost of the project.

There are also options for running the closed loop field in a lake or body of water instead of in the earth. This is less common for residential applications.

Open loop or pump'n dump systems are more energy efficient but less environmentally friendly because of the waste of resources. They also require more maintenance and require special Department of Natural Resources approval. These systems may no longer be granted permits to be installed in the future.

Figuring the payback cost also varies if you

plan to operate your heat pump uncontrolled on the regular electric rate or operate it with an automatic backup furnace (oil, gas, or electric storage) on the Dual Fuel Program. Each consumer needs to calculate which method is most economical for them, based on an estimated 250 hours of Dual Fuel winter control time.

What surprises homeowners who install GSHP systems the most? The energy savings, how quietly the unit operates and the cooler, consistent heat put into the house, seem to be the biggest pluses GSHP owners comment about.

Desuperheaters are devices that can be installed as part of the heat pump system to provide domestic hot water. They deliver 130 degree water for domestic use. The desuperheaters are not recommended for use with off-peak storage water heating systems.



Our members who have ground source heat pumps have very good things to say about the system

The Co-op surveyed by telephone many members who heat and cool using a ground source heat pump (GSHP). We had a pretty positive response. Most members surveyed said they were pleased with the heating and cooling performance of the system. They were generally happy with the energy bill savings. It sounded like most GSHP installations require some adjustments and tweeking in the first month or two following installation, but after that maintenance requirements have been low. Only one member was dissatisfied with their savings and return on investment but they noted they have a unique situation of a business with doors opening and closing all day, which could affect energy use. Generally, members who had GSHPs for 1-5 years said they would choose a GSHP again if they had to do it over.

ENERGY STAR rebate program for 2011



Rebates for high-efficiency heat pumps and air conditioners will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvacreducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at www.mcleodcoop.com.

There will be no rebates in 2011 for dishwashers, clothes washers, or dehumidifiers. Refrigerator/freezer units will require recycling of the old unit to qualify for rebates.

2011 Rebates

Ground Source Heat Pumps (controlled or uncontrolled)	
Residential	\$400/ton
Commercial	\$400/ton
Air Source Heat Pump	
13 SEER	\$330
14 SEER	\$480
15 SEER	\$580
16 SEER or higher	\$630
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump	\$300

Central Air Conditioner

13 SEER	\$ 30
14 SEER	\$180
15 SEER	\$280
16 SEER or higher	\$330

Storage Space Heating\$ 40/kW

Uncontrolled electric water heater

going on the Storage Water Heating with high efficiency water heater*\$200

Storage Water Heating* (New constr.)\$100

4 hour peak shave to Storage Water Heating*\$100

Heat pump water heater (New constr.)\$100

Heat pump water heater replacing non-controlled electric\$200

ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit\$75

ENERGY STAR Freezer with recycling of old unit\$75

*(Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater)

Importance of tree trimming



Trees down on lines along driveways, in yards, and along rural roads were a common site following the July 1 storm.

We were strongly reminded following the July 1 storm just how important tree trimming is. Most of the outages were caused directly by trees or tree branches coming in contact with lines. If lines had been trimmed farther back, many members might not have been in the dark.

Although the Co-op has an aggressive tree trimming program, members are sometimes hesitant to let the tree crews trim off as much foliage and branches as really should be taken off. When the tree trimming crew comes to your area, let them trim trees back as far as possible. It is not always pretty but it will improve your chances of keeping the lights on.

We appreciate all of the members who have contacted us following the storm to tell us where branches and



Winds took down this transmission line and pole with the help of trees falling on the line north of Hector.

trees are in danger of contacting the power lines. Carr's Tree Service crews are continuing to work in our area cleaning up these threats and getting good clearances away from power lines wherever possible.

Neighbor has power, but you don't?

Call to report your outage again

The Cooperative would like to encourage members to call in a second time to report their outage if power has not come back on within 12-24 hours. **When repairs are made to a substation or feeder and power comes back on to many members, there may still be one or two accounts on that feeder with no power due to a tree down in their yard or a line down on their road. They are the only ones out and we have no way of knowing they are still out unless they call back.** So if your neighbors' lights come back on but yours do not, please call us again to notify us that you are still out. Call our outage line anytime 24 hours a day at 1-800-927-5685.

Our after-hours reporting system works very well to report your outage, however, we learned through the big July 1-4 weekend outage that it was beneficial when members who were still off called in again to report their outage 12-24 hours later. It helped us pin-point where there were still problems.

Recap of July Storms

Following the July 1 storm, McLeod Co-op Power had nearly half of its members without power. After power was restored to several substations that same night, an estimated 1,500 members were still in the dark. Power to these members was restored July 2-4 by McLeod Cooperative Power crews and mutual aid from neighboring utilities and construction contractor crews.

Great River Energy had to rebuild more than two miles of transmission line north of Hector and McLeod Cooperative had to install several miles of underground conductor to finish getting power restored to the last dozen members on July 8. McLeod also had to replace more than 50 poles on its system. Damage resulted from wind and trees falling on lines, and outages occurred in several

counties served by the Co-op. Most of the major damage was in Renville County and northern McLeod County. This was the longest and most extensive outage on McLeod's system in over 30 years.

A second wind storm Sunday night, July 10, also caused outages, although not as severe as the first storm. Members in Sibley, Renville and McLeod County were affected the most. A transmission line outage affected many members for a short time.

A third and smaller storm on Saturday morning, July 23, took down a few lines affecting members in the Biscay, Hutchinson, Lake Allie near Buffalo Lake and New Germany areas.

Beware of the free dinner to reduce your energy use by 40%

Traveling sales people are back in the area trying to sell some questionable devices and products that they claim will save consumers up to 40% on their energy bills. In the past, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, has reviewed many of the products they sell, and rated them as often not living up to their claims of energy savings. Some of the products, such as foil to put in your attic, may have a payback in warm southern climates, but not in Minnesota.

We strongly recommend that before you purchase any product from such a company or pay them any money that you call the Minnesota Energy Information Center at 1-800-657-3710 and ask them about the product they are trying to sell you and if it could actually attain the savings they are projecting. You do not want to pay too much for a product or buy something that will not live up to its claims. It never hurts to check the businesses rating with the Better Business Bureau also and check if they have any complaints on file.

Importance of a back-up generator

At the 2011 Annual Meeting we encouraged all members to "Be Prepared" for any event that could interrupt their electric supply, be it an ice storm, tornado, or other catastrophic failure event. This "Be Prepared" list included having a generator available if you might need one. Those members who had back-up generators to use following the July 1 storm were able to cope better through the outage hours.

Rural residents have to assess their personal needs and whether or not they need a generator. The Co-op encourages members to have a portable generator available to keep frozen meat cold, operate a sump pump and provide basic lighting.

For members with confinement livestock, members who have to pump water for livestock, or milk cows, a generator is not a convenient option. It should be part of your operation. Power is occasionally interrupted by Mother Nature or by some catastrophic event. The Co-op cannot guarantee continuous, uninterrupted power and in the case of large outages, cannot guarantee when your power will be restored. So please talk to your electrician about wiring in a back-up generator to meet your specific farm needs.