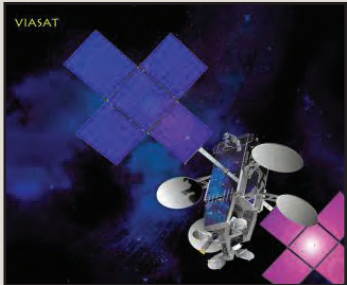


# NEWS

February 2012

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Official publication of



[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)

## Satisfaction survey will be in bill you receive in March

*You could win a \$100 electric bill credit if you return yours.*

**T**he Cooperative would really like to know how satisfied you are with your electric service. Every few years we send a satisfaction survey to our members to request your opinion. We want your feedback.

All MCPA members will receive a survey in their electric bill in mid-March. Please fill out the survey form. Seal it and put it in the mail. It is a postage-paid mailer and will go right to the company tabulating the surveys for us.



If you put your name and phone number in the space provided and return your survey by April 15, you will be entered in the \$100 prize drawing.

This survey provides important information to the Cooperative. It shows us how satisfied you are with your rates and service compared to previous years. It shows us where improvement may be needed. It gives you an opportunity to tell us what additional services you would like to see us offer. It helps us meet your needs better. So please take a few moments and complete your survey in March.

## Plan to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting



### All members welcome! Bring the kids!

**T**he Cooperative's Annual Meeting is planned for **Tuesday, April 10, at the Hutchinson Event Center**. A meal of shredded beef sandwiches and the fixings will be served from 4-6 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. There will be attendance prizes and prize drawings for the kids as well as adults. Check out some of the new technologies available from the Cooperative, visit our display booths, and stay for the meeting. Mark your calendars for April 10th.

## Power cost adjustment in 2012

**T**he new power cost adjustment (PCA) for 2012 for farm, residential, small commercial, and most industrial accounts will be + \$0.0084.

General service energy will have an adder of \$.0084 per kWh. The load management PCA is 50% of the regular PCA, adding \$0.0042 per kWh to off-peak kWh purchases. Members will save 50% or more off the general service rate when participating in off-peak programs.

### Rates for 2012 with the PCA will be:

General Service summer months  
12.49 cents per kWh

General Service other months  
11.49 cents per kWh

Off-peak (Dual Fuel and Storage)  
5.44 cents per kWh

McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION  
 GLENCOE, MINNESOTA  
 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

TO THE MEMBERS OF McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION:

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be held at the Hutchinson Event Center at 1005 Hwy. 15 S. Plaza 15, in the city of Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on April 10, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 4, 5, and 6. The polls for the election of directors will be opened at the meeting place at 4:00 p.m. and will be closed at 6:45 p.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
3. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 31st day of January, 2012.

Dale E. Peters, Secretary

## Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 16

Cooperative members residing in Districts 4, 5, or 6 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2012 director election in their district. To have another name, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, on the ballot, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the Cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 16, 2012.

The Cooperative secretary shall post at the Cooperative office the names of additional nominations and also persons selected by the nominating committee.

**District 4** includes: Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Brookfield, Hector, Osceola, and a portion of Kingman Township, all in Renville County, and a portion of East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County, served by McLeod Cooperative Power.

**District 5** includes: Lynn, Collins and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.

**District 6** includes: New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, Dryden and Transit Townships in Sibley County.

## The Value of Electricity

*A dollar's worth can get you:*

**36**   
 (intense) hours of gaming

**48**   
 hours of watching TV

**72**   
 freshly-ironed shirts

**72**   
 hours of laptop Internet access

**100**   
 hot pots of coffee

**375**   
 pieces of toast (nicely browned)

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy;  
 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**District 1**  
 Oria Brinkmeier, *Lester Prairie*

**District 2**  
 Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer  
*Brownston*

**District 3**  
 Roger Karstens, *Hutchinson*

**District 4**  
 Doug Kirtz, Vice President  
*Hector*

**District 5**  
 Allan Duesterhoeft, *Hutchinson*

**District 6**  
 Lester Ranzau  
*Glencoe*

**District 7**  
 Bill Polchow, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
*Silver Lake*

**District 8**  
 Keith Peterson, *Hector*

**District 9**  
 Gerald Roepke, President  
*New Germany*

### McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

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General Manager: Kris Ingenthron  
 Editor: Sue Pawelk

*The McLeod Cooperative 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.*

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**Fax: 320-864-4850**

**Web site: [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)**  
 Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

## The next generation of broadband via satellite, and it's FAST



### ViaSat-1, the highest capacity satellite in the world, powers the next generation of satellite broadband.

Exede broadband service brings together the highest capacity satellite in the world, state-of-the-art equipment and breakthrough web acceleration technology. Our new satellite, ViaSat-1, represents the most significant capacity leap in the history of satellite technology. We've also built a brand new, state-of-the-art network here on the ground. The equipment in your home is all new, too, including a brand new modem with built-in web acceleration technology. All of this is optimized to bring you super fast speed and high quality streaming.

All of our new plans have the same great speed. Just choose how much you need each month.

Speed	12 Mbps download 3 Mbps upload	12 Mbps download 3 Mbps upload	12 Mbps download 3 Mbps upload
Customer	Light Internet Users 7.5 GB/month	Moderate Internet Users 15 GB/month	Heavy Internet Users 25 GB/month
Price	\$49.99 per mo.	\$79.99 per mo.	\$129.99 per mo.

All plans require 24 month commitment. One time set-up fee of approximately \$140 and \$6.95/month protection plan. Speeds are "up to" and not guaranteed. Actual speed will vary.

No matter which Exede plan you choose, it comes with the fastest speed available in your area. Now you can choose the plan that's right for you based on how much you use the

Internet. Here's how it works: Everything you do online involves the transfer of data. Some online activities, like streaming video and downloading movies or software, require a lot

of data, while other activities like email and web browsing use much less. The more you do online, the larger your data plan should be. Think what you could do with the new, super fast broadband service from Exede.

#### Exceptional speed allows you to:

- Share more photos remarkably fast
- Video chat with less jitter
- Send and receive files quickly
- Download and stream music
- Experience exceptionally fast web browsing and email

#### Our breakthrough web acceleration technology makes your web browsing faster.

To make your web browsing even snappier, we've included our exclusive web acceleration technology in every Exede modem. It's designed to be intelligent, combining multiple Internet requests and fetching content faster than your browser to speed up the loading of web pages. The result is a superior browsing experience.

## Explanation of Election Process

This is the time of year that we focus on planning for the Annual Meeting as well as the director election process. I believe it is important for you, our members, to understand how this process works and how you can participate in electing a person to represent your district on the MCPA Board of Directors.

The members of McLeod Cooperative Power have, over the years, adopted a democratic and fair process for electing members to the Board of Directors. This procedure is detailed in the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. It provides for two names on the ballot, so a director never runs unopposed. It also affords members the opportunity to play a part in the process by volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee, possibly running for a board seat, and voting to elect candidates from their district.

The Articles and By-Laws allow for each director to be elected by residents of his or her district. This means candidates are elected by their neighbors, usually members living in their township or surrounding townships. Directors are not elected at-large by all the voters from the whole Co-op. This process has served the Cooperative very well.

Members may volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee for their district. If three members do not volunteer for the Nominating Committee, then the director from that district must find district

members to fill the remaining seats on the committee. The Nominating Committee has the task of selecting two names to appear on the ballot. It is their job to find two qualified candidates even if no one expresses interest to serve. They may choose the incumbent director if running for re-election, any members who express an interest in serving as a director or other members from the district who agree to be a candidate.

Any person who desires to have their name on the ballot, but who was not been selected by the Nominating Committee, can obtain the signatures of 20 MCPA members and submit it to the Cooperative Secretary at least 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. This is how a member may apply by Nomination By Petition to be a candidate. So using this method, we sometimes have had three or more candidates competing for one seat in a district election.

Director candidates cannot be close relatives of current directors or employees. This protects anyone from having an unfair advantage. Each candidate must be a member in good standing and possess leadership qualities.

All active members in voting districts are mailed a ballot before the Annual Meeting. Members may cast their ballot by mail, return it to the Co-op in person or bring it to the Annual Meeting. Votes are counted by the Nominating Committee under the supervision of the Co-op's legal counsel.

## Does someone you love live alone?



Family members are often concerned about the personal safety of their loved ones, especially those who live alone. This uneasiness is compounded if the loved one is elderly, has medical concerns or lives a distance away from other family members. Yet we recognize that it is also important for our loved ones to maintain their sense of independence. McLeod Cooperative Power offers a

solution to this delicate situation. It is the First Alert Personal Emergency and Monitoring System.

#### Easy to Operate

System installation is easy. The equipment is simple to operate and the monthly monitoring fee is inexpensive. The system features a high-quality advanced telephone with a speakerphone and emergency response pendant or wristband. In case of an emergency, help is summoned through a simple touch of the pendant/wristband that is worn at all times. The speakerphone is immediately activated and contact is made with a 24-hour response center.

#### Professional Response

Professional dispatchers staff the response center. Since the automated computer system has already been programmed with the necessary subscriber

information such as address, family contacts and medical history, the dispatcher will be able to immediately contact the appropriate authorities.

#### Preserves Mobility

A particularly nice feature is that this sophisticated speakerphone and pendant/wristband alert allows mobility throughout the home and the nearby yard. The speaker-phone is so powerful that it even allows conversation from across the room.

#### A Quality Phone, plus more!

The speakerphone is a quality device that can be used for everyday conversation, just as a normal telephone. The number keys are especially large and are backlit, making dialing easy for arthritic hands or someone with reduced vision.

#### Peace of Mind is Affordable

Contact McLeod Cooperative Power to have a personal emergency response system installed anywhere within McLeod, Sibley, Carver or Renville Counties. Subscribers do not need to receive electric service from the Cooperative in order to participate in this program. Installation of the rental phone monitoring system is \$49 and the monthly monitoring fee is \$30.00.



# Heartland Security Services Goes Interactive

SECURITY AVAILABLE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

*No matter where you are, Heartland Security keeps you close to home. View system status, monitor activity, watch live video, arm or disarm your system, set up user codes and even control your lights and thermostats — all from easy-to-use web and mobile interfaces.*



## Stay Secure. Stay Connected

### WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

Heartland Security uses a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) cellular network to maintain a dedicated and secure connection to your security system — no wires, no hassles. With this wireless technology, your system is always in communication with the response center.

### INTERACTIVE SERVICES

You can now have instant access to what's happening when you're not at home. Set up real-time text and e-mail alerts. Keep track of activity on entry doors, windows, medicine cabinets, safes, drawers and more. Free mobile apps are also available for your BlackBerry, iPhone, Android or other mobile devices, making it easy to protect what matters most!

### emPower™ ENERGY MANAGEMENT

emPower gives you remote control and intelligent automation of lights, appliances and thermostats. From your smartphone or laptop, you have the ability to make smart energy decisions when you are not at home.



### VIDEO MONITORING

Heartland Security allows you to see what's going on from any web-enabled computer or mobile device through IP addressable cameras (this service requires a high-speed broadband Internet connection).

For more information on the Interactive Home Security Solutions, or to watch an interactive demonstration, visit [www.heartlandss.com](http://www.heartlandss.com).



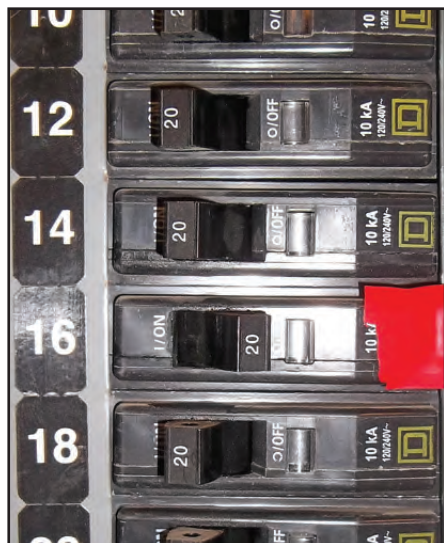
## Power outage? Check these items before calling the Cooperative

It's a sinking, helpless feeling when you realize you have no electricity. Suddenly you're without so many of the everyday conveniences that we take for granted... maybe even heat.

It's a natural reaction to call the Co-op and get power restored as quickly as possible. However, it's to your advantage to stop and check a few things first, before calling to report an outage. The Cooperative's responsibility for power outages ends at the meter. We will repair and maintain the distribution lines, transformer (green box in your yard), poles, and line that connects to your meter, which is either located on your house or other building, or on a stand-alone pole. If we dispatch a truck and crew to repair an outage and we discover that the problem doesn't involve distribution lines, meter or transformer, but rather is inside your home, you will incur a service charge from the Co-op and still will not have power restored.

When you notice that your power is out, first call your neighbors to see if they have power. If they do have power, it's a good chance that the issue is isolated to your location. Next, please follow these steps:

**1** Check your breakers in your home's electrical panel. Check to make sure that all of the circuits that should be on, are on. If not, flip the switches that are "OFF" and recheck to see if power has been restored. If



**Check your breaker panel for breakers that have flipped to the "off" position.**

all the circuits are on and there still isn't power, then...

**2** If you have a fuse box, check to see that all the fuses are good or replace a blown fuse. If all the fuses are fine, then...

**3** Inspect the meter. If there is power to the meter, you should be able to see a red light, located through a cut-out section of the meter either on the left side or on the bottom of the meter (see photo). If you see a red light, then there is power to the meter and the problem exists in your home wiring. At this point, it will be necessary to call your local electrician. If you have a digital meter, you should see a digital number in the display area indicating that the meter has power. If there is no digital display or red light, then it's time to call the Cooperative. You can call your Cooperative 24/7 to report an

outage. PLEASE have your location or account number when you call to expedite the process. Line crews are always on call to assist members as quickly as possible. After hours, your call will be routed to trained dispatchers at the Cooperative Resource Center (CRC) where they will assist you.

**WARNING: DO NOT** try to open a meter to repair a problem yourself. There is a seal on the meter and it is illegal to tamper with that seal in any way. It is also a safety issue. If



**If there is power to the meter, you will see a red light inside the meter, either on the bottom or on the left side, and digital meters will have a numbered display.**

we find that the seal has been cut, removed or otherwise tampered with, you will have to pay a fine and a meter resealing charge.

We hope that all our members will make it through the winter without an outage of any kind. However, incidents beyond our control can happen. We hope that this information will help you know when to call your electrician and when to call your Co-op to avoid unnecessary frustration and cost.

## INDUSTRY

### News

## Nuclear leaves smaller environmental footprint than biofuels, wind power

Under the headline, "Small Is Beautiful-So Go Nuclear," Robert Bryce, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, writes for the Wall Street Journal (1/19, Bryce, Subscription Publication, 2.08M) that in terms of energy production, the objective of decreasing the size of power generators into the smallest possible footprints makes the most sense, both from an economic as well as an environmental perspective. Unfortunately, Bryce suggests, some clean alternative sources like biofuels and wind power have huge footprints, wasting land and other resources. Bryce says nuclear power is by far the most effective generator of clean electricity with the smallest footprint.

~NRECA News Briefings

## LED prices are falling and so will household power consumption

Seven years ago Mike Brakey was spending an average of \$170 per month on power and far more during some months. Today Brakey's home uses about 500 kilowatt-hours per month and his monthly bill is often below \$40. One reason is the LED light bulb, the "light-emitting diode" that General Electric researchers invented 50 years ago, which is now the focus of intense competition among all of the major lighting manufacturers.

"There are two races going on," said Todd Manegold, the LED product manager for Philips Electric. "One is the race to equivalency. It's about delivering light bulbs that replicate or imitate what people are used to. Once you reach equivalency, the game is how to make it more affordable. We think we have gotten it more affordable."

Industry experts say that within a decade LEDs will eclipse conventional lighting such as halogen and compact fluorescent bulbs — and not because of any new government regulations, but rather because it will just make sense economically. The switch is already under way for commercial customers, especially in new construction, where newly designed fixtures incorporated LEDs. But there are an estimated 2.6 billion light bulb sockets in American homes, making them the big prize for the industry.

LED bulbs are still far more expensive than any other light you can buy, more expensive than old fashioned bulbs, than halogens and CFL bulbs. However, old-fashioned light bulbs put out 10 to 15 lumens per watt — or about 800 lumens for a 60-watt bulb; a CFL gives off 40 to 60 lumens per watt. "The technology is now at point, where LEDs can produce 100 to 150 lumens per watt. They are now the most efficient white light source." For most consumers, the price at which it will make sense to buy an LED that will last 20 years is somewhere between \$10 and \$20, Griffiths said.

~Cleveland Plain Dealer

## Ash donation supports Safe Routes to Schools program



Safe sidewalks are an important step toward safe routes to schools. A Great River Energy donation will make it possible for students in one North Dakota community to bike and walk to class more easily and safely.

A donation of ash produced at Great River Energy power plants will help the Safe Routes to Schools program improve the health and well-being of children by enabling and encouraging them to choose active ways to get to school. The project will use Great River Energy ash for the replacement of an existing sidewalk in Washburn, ND.

The new sidewalks will use bottom ash as a soil stabilizer to help build a

firm foundation for concrete, which will incorporate fly ash, another byproduct of coal-fueled electricity generation.

When fly ash is used as a replacement for a portion of cement in sidewalk construction, the concrete has been proven to be stronger and longer-lasting. Other community benefits include the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Approximately one ton of greenhouse gas emissions are prevented for every ton of fly ash used in place of cement.

Source: Great River News

## Experience Washington D.C.



High school juniors and seniors have until March 5, 2012, to apply for the Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour competition. One local youth will win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. June 16-21, 2012, from the Cooperative.

For more than 40 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour by sending their high school students to experience first hand the essence that is our republic. An information packet is available upon request to any high school junior or senior. Just call the Co-op at 800-494-6272. You will have until March 5, 2012, to submit your application. Students complete a questionnaire and application to qualify. Please encourage your child or grandchild to apply. They need only attend a high school in or reside in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or western Carver County.

## Coal Creek Tour to include Medora Musical & Pitchfork Fondue in 2012



The Coal Creek Tour is scheduled for August 20-22, 2012. Coal Creek



Generation Station, Falkirk Coal Mine and Garrison Dam are again on the itinerary, but added to the tour this year is a trip to Medora. Participants will spend a night in Medora, take in the Medora Musical and eat at the Pitchfork Fondue experience.

Cost will be \$300 per person double occupancy or \$400 per person single occupancy. If any members are interested, we are starting to take reservations. Call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272 and ask for Katie.

The Lignite Energy Council proudly announces:  
**2012 Lignite Teacher Education Seminar:**  
 Energy, Economics and Environment

**TEACHERS RECEIVE 2 GRADUATE CREDITS, PAID FOR BY THE LEC**

June 18 - 21, 2012  
 Bismarck State College  
 Bismarck, ND

Sponsored by:  
 The Lignite Energy Council  
 In cooperation with the Center for Economic Education of the University of North Dakota,  
 Minot State University, North Dakota State University and Bismarck State College

Dear Educators:

The Lignite Energy Council of Bismarck, North Dakota is sponsoring a teacher seminar titled 2012 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 18 - 21, 2012.

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 and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant (which converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable byproducts).

The Lignite Energy Council is offering the seminar for the 27th year in 2012, 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.

**Lignite Resource Serves Upper Midwest Region**

Utilities and cooperatives using lignite supply electricity to more than 2 million urban and rural consumers within the MAPP (Midwest Area Power Pool) region.

For more information log on to <http://www.lignite.com/teachers>

## An opportunity for area teachers...

This year's **Lignite Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics & Environment** is scheduled for June 18-21 at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the campus of Bismarck State College. As always, Great River Energy will sponsor up to ten teachers from its Minnesota distribution cooperatives.

Teachers who attend the four-day seminar and complete a lesson plan are eligible to receive two graduate credits in economics from University of North Dakota, two graduate credits in science from Minot State University, or two graduate credits in education from North Dakota State University. Besides lectures and classroom activities, seminar participants will tour a lignite mine, a power plant fueled by lignite and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on the third day of the seminar.

If you are a classroom teacher of any grade level, please consider applying before April 13, 2012. If you are selected to attend, you will be asked to submit a \$60 reservation fee (which will be refunded the first day of class). Brochures have been sent to most schools in the area and the brochure/application form is also available by calling McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272.

## Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered

Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2012-13 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 800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 16, 2012.



## Save money and use less energy with a new dishwasher

ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers use advanced technology to get your dishes clean while using less water and energy.

Do you have a dishwasher made before 1994? If so, you're paying an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to owning a new ENERGY STAR qualified model. Replace one of these old dishwashers with ENERGY STAR and save enough money to pay for dishwasher detergent all year.



### Save loads of water

A dishwasher built before 1994 wastes more than 10 gallons of water per cycle. A new, ENERGY STAR qualified dishwasher will save, on average, 1,300 gallons of water over its lifetime.

Many of the new dishwasher models offer a time-delayed start. So even if you load the dishwasher after supper, you can set it to start running in the middle of the night. You can buy energy in the middle of the night when there is an abundance of energy available from wind turbines and other generation sources but when demand for energy is at a minimum.

For members participating in the Hot Water Storage Program, running a dishwasher in the middle of the night is a great thing! You get super hot water to do dishes without taking one drop away from your daily supply of hot water to do everything else your family needs hot water for in the daytime.

## Changes to ENERGY STAR rebate program for 2012

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 hvaceducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com).

**There will be no rebates in 2012 for dishwashers, clothes washers, or dehumidifiers. Refrigerator/freezer units will require recycling of the old unit to qualify for rebates.**

### 2012 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 .....

#### Central Air Conditioner

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

#### Storage Space Heating .....

#### ECM Motor .....

#### Uncontrolled electric water heater going on the Storage Water Heating

with high efficiency water heater* .....	\$200
--	-------

#### New construction or gas conversion to Storage Water Heating\* .....

#### Peak shave to Storage Water Heating\* .....

#### Heat pump water heater - new construction .....

#### Heat pump water heater replacing non-controlled electric .....

#### ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit .....

#### ENERGY STAR Freezer with recycling of old unit .....

\*(Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater)

## Replace your old water heater with a new energy-saving Marathon



When you replace an old water heater (especially if it is leaking or having reliability issues) with a Marathon water heater, you start saving energy and money. Since the durable inner tank is encased in 2.5 inches of polyurethane foam insulation, there is almost zero heat loss through the walls of the tank. Your energy consumption will be cut as skin loss is minimized.

Marathon water heaters, which are manufactured by Rheem in Eagan, MN, also have a protective outer coat. The tank and insulation are enclosed within a durable, dent-resistant, molded-polyethylene outer jacket. The inner tank is corrosion resistant. The seamless, blow-molded polybutene inner tank is wrapped in multiple layers of filament-wound fiberglass, making it impervious to the rust and corrosion that can sharply curtail the operational lives of conventional water heaters tanks.

The 50, 85 and 105 gallon Marathon tanks sold by the Cooperative for residential use have a lifetime warranty against leaking for as long as you live in your home. If your tank fails, you get a new Marathon with no pro-rating deductions. No rust and no corrosion — ever! Marathon residential models have a six year warranty on elements and thermostats.

Getting the new, high-efficiency water heater is Step 1. The next step to gain some financial savings is to join the Hot Water Storage Program, where heating water is at half the regular electric rate. An average family of four can save \$35-\$40 a month if they are currently heating their water on the uncontrolled electric rate. By participating in the Storage Water Heating Program, where water is heated from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily, members can save hundreds of dollar a year. This is a popular program — over 1,140 of our accounts participate in Hot Water Storage.

The Co-op guarantees your satisfaction with the program if you size the water heater according to our recommendations. For most families, an 85 or 105 gallon water heater will work. The Co-op provides a mixing valve at no cost when you join the Water Storage strategy. It will increase the gallons you get from your tank per day.

Call the Energy Experts at McLeod Co-op Power to get details on Marathon water heaters and the storage program.

## Conserve energy with MyMeter



With the cold weather upon us, electricity usage will be on the rise. In addition to conserving energy by making changes to your home's lighting, thermostat and water temperature or replacing air leaks, using the MyMeter® tool from McLeod Co-op Power can save you money.

This free tool available to all Cooperative members tracks your daily and monthly electric usage, which can reduce any "sticker shock" that could appear when receiving your monthly bill. Other features in the MyMeter program will allow you to create customer energy-reducing goals and even notify you via text message or e-mail if you are getting too close to using a predetermined

amount of energy, which is set by you.

So, if you are looking for an additional way to help you save energy, and most importantly, money, register for MyMeter today at the McLeod Co-op Power web site [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). Click on the MyMeter name on the home page to register. It is also available in a version for your mobile device. If you need any more information or have additional questions, please visit [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) or call 1-800-494-6272. Hundreds of McLeod Co-op Power members have registered and logged in to MyMeter, giving themselves a better handle on their energy use before the bill arrives.



## Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



Community and civic groups, emergency responders and other non-profit organizations are welcome to apply to McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up Trust for donation assistance. The trust

is able to donate funds to worthy local projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or McLeod Counties.

Funding is from the generosity of electric cooperative members who round up their electric bills. Application forms are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2012.

## Cooperative Celebration

### 2012 designated "International Year of Cooperatives"

Electric cooperatives and other members of the co-op family take center stage globally in 2012, designated the International Year of Cooperatives. The theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates with co-ops in the electric, banking, food, retail, housing, and marketing arenas.

"We're surrounded by a diverse mix of cooperatives," states Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives and public power districts. "No matter what kind of co-op you belong to, two things are clear: we put people first, and we are innovators. By getting neighbors and communities to work together, co-op members build a better world."

#### What are Co-ops?

Cooperatives are a global network of independent, local businesses owned by those they serve.

"We share a common set of business principles and values like self-help and democracy," explains English. "Each co-op exists to meet the needs of its members."

According to the Washington, D.C.-based National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), more than 29,200 cooperatives nationally employ 2 million Americans. One in every four Americans is a co-op member, but the scope of the cooperative network doesn't stop at the border. "Co-ops are a major economic force in industrialized countries and provide a powerful business model for developing nations," notes Paul Hazen, NCBA president & CEO.

More than 1 billion co-op members exist worldwide, and co-ops generate 100 million jobs globally. Cooperatives strive for sustainable development of communities through member-driven policies, with co-op leaders elected by members.

"As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. That keeps the co-op's focus on you and how best to meet your needs," notes English.

The innovative practices of co-ops provide consumer-focused solutions that can adapt quickly to change. Unlike competitive, profit-driven businesses, co-ops cooperate with each other to fashion programs that improve service. For example, food co-ops introduced food nutrition labels long before they were federally required in 1994. Credit unions fought the predatory practices of payday lenders by introducing salary advance loans that double as savings accounts.



"You can find co-ops for all walks of life," says English. "When people unite with a common goal, the co-op business model comes into play."

#### Lighting the World

Electric cooperatives like McLeod Cooperative Power are leaders, delivering power and light to 42

million consumers in 47 states, covering more than 75 percent of the nation's landmass.

McLeod Co-op Power, founded by members of our community in 1935, serves 5,600 members in McLeod, Renville, Sibley, Carver Counties and small portions of three other counties in Minnesota.

Not only does 2012 mark a global celebration of the cooperative business model, it also marks the 50th anniversary of NRECA International Programs, a division of NRECA. The theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," shines in the work NRECA International Programs does every day.

#### MCPA employees featured on YouTube video

A short video, honoring the International Year of the Cooperative and featuring the employees of McLeod Co-op Power, is out on YouTube. To view the video clip, go to the Co-op web site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) and click on the link under Current News.

Working together, more than 300 U.S. electric cooperatives have delivered the benefits of safe and reliable electric service to more than 100 million people in 40-plus countries since November 1962. Building a better world takes experience, and no group has more experience in bringing low-cost power to remote areas than electric co-ops.

In the United States, co-ops helped electricity evolve from a luxury to an essential part daily life. Yet more than 2 billion people around the globe still live without power — 64 million in Latin America, 500 million in Africa, and more than 1 billion in Asia.

Learn more about how you can help electric co-ops build a better world at [www.NRECAFoundation.coop](http://www.NRECAFoundation.coop).