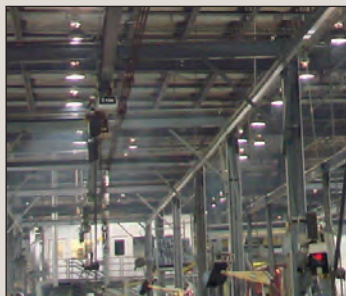


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Official publication of



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

## What is the fixed charge?

**M**any members who completed the Co-op's Satisfaction Survey questioned "What makes up the fixed charge?" and "Why is it so high?"

The fixed charge is a flat fee used to cover a portion of the cost to deliver and maintain reliable electric service to all members. The other portion of the cost to provide power is included in your energy charge (the monthly kilowatts used).

The monthly fixed charge (or facility charge) covers the cost to provide each member with electric service whether a member uses zero kilowatt-hours or several thousand. There is a cost to having power available whenever it is needed. The average service is provided with a transformer, service drop, pole, meter, and maintenance on all equipment that it takes to provide you with electric service. The costs of providing a monthly bill, newsletter, administration and customer services are also required for each service. These are the costs that are included in the fixed charge.

McLeod Cooperative Power is in the mid-range with the fixed charge at \$20 per month for single-phase farm and residential services. Some co-ops have a much higher fixed charge and some are a little less. Municipal and investor-owned utilities have much lower fixed charges because of their density; they serve many times more customers per mile of line.

## Power cost adjustment to change monthly

**T**he power cost adjustment (PCA) line item that you see on your bill each month will be changing from an annual calculation to a monthly calculation. Beginning with the bill you receive in June (for May energy use) it will have a PCA that is calculated monthly. It could be a debit or a credit PCA, depending upon the PCA we are assessed by our power supplier, Great River Energy. They have used the monthly PCA method for several years and most cooperatives have gone to the same monthly PCA for retail consumers. Our PCA goes up or down with the wholesale cost of power from Great River Energy. If they have greater fuel costs or mining expenses than what was budgeted, we can anticipate our PCA to increase. We usually expect lower PCAs in the fall and spring months.

For many years the Cooperative had been estimating at the beginning of

the year what the power cost adjustment had to be and then not changing it again until the following year. One time we had to adjust it in the middle of the year as it did not keep pace with the power cost adjustments we had incurred from our power supplier. The monthly method will help us more closely bill members the actual cost of power at the time the cost was incurred.

Included in the PCA is all the energy you purchase from the Cooperative for the previous month. If you have an unmetered rental security light, the PCA line of the bill will include the kilowatt-hours used by the light as well as the number of kilowatt-hours recorded by your electric meter. The Co-op pays the PCA on all kilowatt-hours purchased from Great River Energy, including those used by security lights and street lights.

## Winning names drawn

**The co-op drew one name from the many satisfaction surveys that were completed by members. The winner of the \$100 electric bill credit was Sheila Krienke of Stewart.**

**The winner of the flashlight door prize at the Co-op's booth for the Sibley County Senior Expo was Janette Kuphal of Gaylord.**

## Power line worker scholarship awarded

**Jay Reading** of Hutchinson has been selected to receive a \$500 scholarship. Jay attends Minnesota West Technical College in Jackson, MN in the power line worker program. He is a 2011 graduate of Hutchinson High School. He is the son of Dean and Cheresa Reading. They are MCPA members from Hutchinson Township. Congratulations Jay.





## Officers re-elected after Annual Meeting

**For the coming year, the board of directors re-elected**

**Gerald Roepke** of New Germany serving as the Cooperative's president,  
**Doug Kirtz** of Hector serving as vice-president,  
**Dale Peters** of Brownnton serving as secretary-treasurer, and  
**Bill Polchow** of Silver Lake serving as assistant secretary-treasurer.



**MCPA office will be closed  
 Mon., May 28 in  
 observance of Memorial Day.**

**Electric outage calls are answered 24  
 hours a day at 1-800-927-5685.**

## Manager's Message —

by Kris Ingenthron, General Manager  
 McLeod Cooperative Power Association



### Working to keep your Coop strong

**T**o begin, I would like to thank everyone who attended our 77th Annual Meeting on April 10, 2012. Because of you, the meeting was a huge success. The employees did an outstanding job and kudos to the staff for all of their planning and organizing of this annual event.

To those who were unable to attend, three incumbent directors; Doug Kirtz, (District 4), Allan Duesterhoeft, (District 5), and Lester Ranzau, (District 6), were re-elected for three year terms. These Directors represent the members in the districts they serve and I encourage you to contact them anytime you have questions/concerns about your Cooperative. We closed the books on 2011 with lower Kwh sales but our overall margins had an increase

over 2010. Financially, McLeod Cooperative Power Association is in good financial shape and we will continue doing our very best to be cost conscious, while providing you with exceptional customer service and reliable electricity.

We have compiled the results of our recent survey of the membership. Overall the comments were very positive, although we do have a few areas that we need to address, one comment that we saw over and over was "What is the fixed charge." See page one for an explanation of this charge.

Our Engineering and Operation Departments are gearing up for a very busy construction season. We have several projects to complete in advance of the CapX 2020 project in the southern part of our service

territory, we are in the process of building a new substation near Brownnton to serve the new UFC Grain Handling Facility, and we continue to complete projects on our four-year work plan.

In closing, I want to remind all of you to work safe, be conscious of overhead and underground power lines, and I encourage all of you to prepare a severe weather plan as we move into the summer storm season. Until next time!

Cooperatively yours,

## ENERGY STAR rebate program for 2012

**R**ebates 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

<b>Ductless Air Source Heat Pump</b> .....	\$300
<b>Central Air Conditioner</b>	
13 SEER .....	\$ 30
14 SEER .....	\$180
15 SEER .....	\$280
16 SEER or higher .....	\$330
<b>Storage Space Heating</b> .....	\$ 40/kW
<b>ECM Motor</b> .....	\$100
<b>Uncontrolled electric water heater</b> going on the Storage Water Heating with high efficiency water heater* .....	\$200
<b>New construction or gas conversion to Storage Water Heating*</b> .....	\$100
<b>Peak shave to Storage Water Heating*</b> .....	\$100
<b>Heat pump water heater - new construction</b> .....	\$100
<b>Heat pump water heater replacing non-controlled electric</b> .....	\$200
<b>ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit</b> .....	\$75
<b>ENERGY STAR Freezer with recycling of old unit</b> .....	\$75

\*(Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### District 1

Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

#### District 2

Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Brownnton**

#### 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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**1-800-494-6272**

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

**Fax: 320-864-4850**

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

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

## Can cows be LED to give more milk?

LED bulbs are already known for milking more light out of less electricity. But can they even get cows to give more milk?

This seemingly outlandish idea is getting serious attention. A study overseen by Oklahoma State University found that cows at one of the dairy farms in that state squeezed out 6 percent more milk when LED lights were used compared with cows under fluorescent lights.

### One theory: LED lights reduce stress, making for more contented and productive cows.

The results astounded the study's authors and those backing the research, including the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. They were expecting further insights into the lights' energy savings and how they performed overall, including their durability on a working farm. Milk production was being tracked because of concerns the LED lights could harm the animals by, for instance, interfering with their feeding. A drop in milk production would signal a problem. Instead, the average cow delivered an extra half gallon of milk per day.

"I was totally blindsided and shocked," said Brian Sloboda, a program manager for the cooperative association. "I still find it hard to believe, but I've seen the numbers."

LED technology, which stands for light-emitting diode, uses semiconductor chips to convert electricity and initially was used for indicator lights, including in the scoreboard at Kauffman Stadium. But the lights are increasingly in general use, and with the proper engineering and coatings can produce a white light comparable to incandescent or fluorescent lights. Compared with incandescent bulbs, they reduce electricity consumption by 85 percent. Even against fluorescent lights, which have been the main energy-efficient alternative for decades, an LED provides significant savings. LED lights also last longer and are dropping in price but are still expensive up-front. To match a \$3 fluorescent's output, for instance, you need an LED that costs about \$30. An LED will last about 50,000 hours compared with 35,000 hours for a fluorescent and 1,000 hours for an incandescent bulb, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Proving that LED lights can help increase milk production in dairy cows would transform the economics of LEDs. Recovering the cost of the lights through energy savings can take four or more years. But the payback for dairy farmers using LEDs could be slashed to a just a few months.

### But do LED lights really increase milk production?

Other researchers need to confirm the study before it is widely accepted, and some involved hesitate to discuss the study's provocative findings publicly. The owner of the Oklahoma dairy farm where the test took place is afraid he could "lose face" if it turns out that the LEDs didn't cause the boost in production. So he prefers to remain anonymous for now. But the study's authors believe what they found is promising and welcome the coming scrutiny.

The University of Missouri hopes to start a rigorous study later this year and has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture for some financial support. The university is also sponsoring a conference next month in St. Louis, where roughly 100 people from across the country will gather to discuss energy-efficient lights on the farm.

### Dairy cows and LEDs are on the agenda.

A large body of research already shows that light does make a difference in both human and animal behavior, ranging from how



body rhythms are affected by light to how light helps an animal find food. Students get better grades and employees are more productive in natural light. And baby pigs gain more weight when there is sufficient light for them to find and suck their mother's milk.

Chickens, which have excellent eyesight, are especially sensitive to light and can be easily riled. The University of Arkansas has been studying the relationship for nearly four years and believes LEDs are helping chickens gain slightly more weight. "Fluorescent lights, which are popular in poultry houses, can flicker, and that upsets chickens and causes them to spend calories. LEDs don't flicker, and that helps chickens relax," said Susan Watkins, a professor and poultry specialist at the school. "The birds are calmer," she said.

The Oklahoma dairy study involved tracking hundreds of cows who had ear tags or ankle bracelets that electronically transmitted their milk production. One group of cows was in the part of the barn lit with LEDs and an equal number in the part with the fluorescents.

"It was very clear there was an increase in milk production for the animals under the LEDs," said Ronald Kensinger, a professor of animal science at Oklahoma State at the time of the study. Kensinger has some theories about the LED boost. LEDs are directional, so more light could be focused on feeding troughs to encourage feeding. Less intense light directed at "loafing areas" in the barn allowed cows to relax.

"The reality is we just don't know, but it's possible that it's less stressful," said Kensinger, who is now head of the animal science department at Ohio State University.

Matthew Waldron, an assistant professor of animal science at the University of Missouri, is skeptical about the findings but would like to find out more. The school is waiting to see whether it will receive a government grant to study the effect of LED lights on dairy cows.

Waldron said a possible problem with the Oklahoma study is that fluorescents under-lit certain areas of the dairy barn while the LEDs provided adequate illumination, which other lights can do as well if they are set up properly. "My gut says that's what they saw in Oklahoma," he said, adding that using university facilities where things can be better controlled would result in a more rigorous follow-up study. Waldron said if MU gets funding its study could begin later this year.

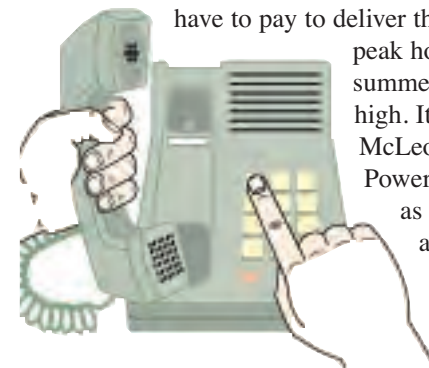
Sloboda said he welcomed MU's involvement and believes the school can deliver a definitive answer for what is now a serious question: Do LEDs cause cows to produce more milk? "Everyone can put his cards on the table," he said.

Article by Steve Everly, The Kansas City Star, courtesy of NRECA.

## Be ready for a phone call on an EXTREME PEAK DAY

If hot weather hits or the market price of electricity is very high, we could experience an EXTREME PEAK DAY. That is a day when the demand for energy is so high that we will ask our members to conserve energy. Whether you take action to conserve is totally voluntary. On such a day, the Cooperative will use an automated recording system to call your home and notify you that it is an EXTREME PEAK DAY. If you are home, please listen to the recorded message. It will provide the announcement that it is an EXTREME PEAK DAY. It will also tell you the hours of requested conservation and provide a list of ways you can conserve. If you are not home and you have an answering machine, we will leave you the same message. If you do not answer, the system will try to call you back later in the day.

By conserving energy for a few hours, you can help the Cooperative avoid expensive peak day demand and energy charges. This helps manage electric rates for all of our members. Our power supplier, Great River Energy, is able to supply us with plenty of energy to meet the power needs of all of our members, even on an EXTREME PEAK DAY. However, the price we may have to pay to deliver that energy during



peak hours of the hottest summer days may be very high. It is the goal of McLeod Cooperative Power to keep rates as low as possible. We greatly appreciate any effort our members can make to conserve on these days.

### On EXTREME PEAK DAYS we will ask you to:

- Do laundry early in the day or after 10 p.m.
- Wait until after 10 p.m. to start the dishwasher.
- Go out for dinner, cook in the microwave or on the grill, instead of using the stove or oven.
- Turn off or unplug the dehumidifier, computer equipment that is not being used, unnecessary lighting or rechargeable appliances until after 10 p.m.
- Turn your thermostat up a degree or two during the peak hours so your air conditioner run time is reduced.

Doing some or all of these conservation practices will keep your house cooler on hot summer days. Doing activities that add heat or humidity to your home on an extremely hot day requires your air conditioner to run longer and use more energy.



# Towmaster sees energy efficiency as money in their pockets

**A**s an employee-owned manufacturer of heavy-duty trailers and truck bodies as well as a complete line of trailer and truck parts, Towmaster has a reputation second to none for quality and durability. Pride isn't just in the marketing brochures; it's evident in the people on the manufacturing floor who are creating the products. Towmaster sells internationally as well as to all 50 states.

Like any company, employee-owned or not, the bottom line is crucial to the success of the organization. Any way to save money while still delivering quality products is a win-win. One of those money-saving strategies is to employ the latest technology to save energy and reduce their overhead.

"We take a look at every electric piece of equipment and see how we can be more efficient," said Towmaster Vice President David Lundin. "We feel that anything we can save is money in our pockets."

Toward that end, Towmaster management has invested in the following energy efficiency products, which also qualified for grants from the Cooperative:

## 1 Inversion Pulse Welders

These welders are designed to pulse electrical current at high frequencies. Although they operate basically the same as traditional welders and give the same great results, they use less electricity to create the arc needed. The estimated savings for the six retrofit welders Towmaster purchased can be used to offset the cost of the welders. The grant from the Cooperative also will reduce payback time.

## 2 Variable Speed Drives

A variable speed drive regulates the speed of the motor and, in turn, the speed of the pump or fan. It does this by controlling the energy that goes into the motor rather than running at full speed and then attempting to control the energy output. For example, running a motor at full speed



while throttling the output is like driving a car with one foot on the accelerator and the other on the brake; a part of the produced output immediately goes to waste. A variable speed drive can save a considerable amount of energy by controlling the energy at its source, only using as much as is necessary to run the motor with the required speed and torque.

Variable speed drives can dramatically reduce energy consumption in fan and pump systems. A pump or fan running at half speed consumes only one-eighth of the energy of one running at full speed. Towmaster installed VSDs in their paint sprayers. Variable speed drives also qualify for an energy grant from the Cooperative. By adding the Cooperative's grant to the up-front cost, the excellent payback time is further reduced.

## 3 Lighting

Towmaster applied for a grant for installation of new construction lighting for an addition. They installed 26 4-ft. Fluorescent T8 lamps with electrical ballasts, 126 pulse start metal halide fixtures and six ceramic metal halide fixtures. Since lighting can account for quite a high percentage of overhead costs in a business, using energy-efficient lighting can result in substantial savings that will continue year after year.



## 4 Vending Machine Miser

Vending Miser is an energy efficiency tool for vending machines. It saves money and power by turning off lighting and managing compressor cooling cycles when they are not needed. There is little or no difference in temperature of the items in the vending machine, but the savings are noticeable. Most savings occur during nights and weekends.

## 5 Generator

Towmaster has an agreement with the Co-op that allows the Co-op to control the company's electric use during times of peak energy demand when wholesale energy prices are high. During those times, Towmaster's energy is supplied through the use of a generator. In exchange, Towmaster is charged a low gen-set electric rate, resulting in substantial savings over the regular electric rate.

### Applying for a grant

If you are a commercial, industrial, retail or agricultural member of the Co-op, your energy efficiency project may well qualify for an energy grant through the Cooperative. An application listing the equipment purchased, equipment specs, energy savings anticipated and expected cost and payback is generally required. The Cooperative will work with you to complete the application process. The grant will help to offset the initial cost and shorten the payback time. The savings will continue year after year. Energy efficiency and conservation is always good for the bottom line.

"The more money we save, the more goes back to our [140] employee-owners," said Lundin. "A penny saved is a penny earned."



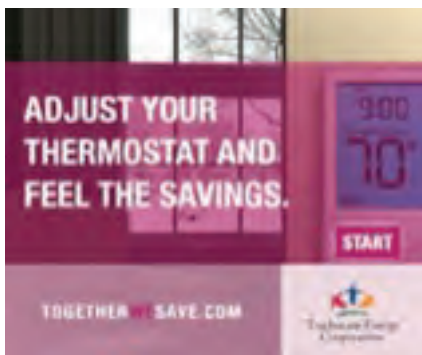
# Cool Off Electric Bills with TogetherWeSave.com

Scorching temperatures and high electric bills don't need to arrive hand-in-hand this summer. At your Cooperative, we are committed to providing you with information you need to save energy, and keep electric bills affordable.

One of the most powerful tools is TogetherWeSave.com. This website offers nine applications focusing on different actions that, once completed, show an actual savings calculation.

For example, in the "Lower Your Water Heater Temperature" application, you can virtually adjust the temperature setting on the water heater dial to see a projection of how much money you could save by doing just that.

Take the Virtual Home Tour on TogetherWeSave.com to find even more ways to cut costs. You will "walk" through a home's family room, kitchen, laundry room, bedroom, basement, and attic. Each area reveals at least two actions you can take to improve your home's energy



efficiency. As you move through the room and complete the suggested changes you will see a running tally of potential energy dollar savings.

The website also provides access to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives TV Web Portal where you can view short energy efficiency videos. You can even connect with other energy-conscious members by sharing your story about what you are doing to be more efficient.

It's remarkable that Co-op members just like you from across the country have already visited TogetherWeSave.com and collectively saved an estimated \$40 million by making small energy-related changes at home.

We want to help you reach your energy-saving goals. So go ahead: flip a switch, lower the blinds, raise the temperature on your thermostat, and visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little changes can cool off your electric bill.

## INDUSTRY News

### GRE hits a milestone: No landfilling!

Great River Energy (GRE) achieved a milestone in October 2011 for the first time in the history of the garbage-to-electricity project in Elk River: It didn't send any garbage to the Elk River Landfill.

Garbage from Sherburne County and surrounding counties has been processed into fuel since the project went online in 1989. Currently about 250,000 tons of garbage a year from Sherburne, Anoka and Hennepin counties are trucked to the processing plant. There it is sorted, recyclable materials are pulled out, and the garbage is processed into a fluffy fuel known as refuse-derived fuel or RDF. That RDF is then trucked to the Great River Energy power plant, where it is burned to generate electricity. The power plant produces 33 megawatts of electricity — enough to provide power to about 25,000 homes.

For the first 20 years of the project, about 83 percent of the garbage that came into the processing plant was turned into RDF. Four percent was recycled (primarily steel and aluminum) and 12 percent ended up being landfilled. It included a dense residue that was left after processing as well as bulky items like mattresses and pallets.

But all that began changing after GRE purchased the processing plant in April 2010. GRE began implementing changes to reduce the amount of garbage that was landfilled and increase the amount of RDF produced and recyclable metals sold. As a result of the changes, now 94 percent of the garbage becomes RDF.

~Elk River Star News

### Co-ops working to meet new air regs

Between the years of 1978 and 1987, coal was the dominant fuel source for new generation because the Power plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 prohibited the use of natural gas. Coal was encouraged because it was plentiful and cheap. Who knew that 25 years later it would fall out of favor with the regulators? These coal-fired plants are still in our fleet and they are capable of producing power for many more years—but not without major expenditures on emission-control equipment.

New environmental regulations are setting emissions standards that may not be achievable for some coal-fired plants. For some, it will require very large investments. The technology and equipment to meet the proposed standards are very expensive and the proposed timeline for installing them is also very short—and that upsets the traditional pattern of investment over the 50 years of a coal plant's life span. As these unusually large investments are made to the existing fleet of coal-fired plants, consumers can expect their electric bills to go up—"how much" will depend on the final rules.

~Electric Co-op Today

**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.

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

TRAVELERS Common Ground Alliance

**Heartland Security**

**YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY**

**Special Offer!**  
Sign up for a monitored system by May 31st 2012 and receive \$100 off!  
(offer not valid with other specials.)

Heartland systems fitted with special sensors can help detect smoke, water and temperature changes within your home. Heartland systems automatically notify the authorities in the event of an emergency and can be customized to fit a multitude of applications, including livestock, surveillance, medical, business and more.

**The Power To Protect**

Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association

McLeod COOPERATIVE POWER

[www.heartlandss.com](http://www.heartlandss.com) 888.264.6380





## Tune up your cooling unit and receive a \$25 credit

### Announcing the 2012 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 below. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Low or no interest on qualifying energy-efficiency upgrades available

*Have you been planning energy-efficient upgrades in your home, but need help with financing? McLeod Co-op Power may be able to help!*

Our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, has partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) to offer electric cooperative members low or zero percent interest loans for qualifying energy-efficient equipment upgrades. The goal of the program is to provide a simple, affordable financing opportunity for homeowners to increase the energy efficiency of their home.

### What Equipment Qualifies?

The program features zero percent and 2.99 percent interest loans for up to \$7,500 and \$25,000, respectively, for the following energy-efficient equipment projects\*:

- Ground source heat pumps that meet or exceed ENERGY STAR® Tier 1 energy efficiency requirements
- ENERGY STAR® qualified air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless)
- Electric thermal storage (ETS) space heating systems capable of providing up to 100 percent of the home's heating requirements by using stored heat produced from electricity during a nightly, off-peak period
- ENERGY STAR® qualified heat pump water heaters
- ETS water heating systems with an energy factor (EF) of 0.90 or greater and a storage capacity of at least 80 gallons
- System restrictions and additional qualifications apply. Please contact your Co-op member services department for the full details on the qualified improvements listed above.

### Member Eligibility

- Dwelling must be a residential, one-unit, owner-occupied property (system restrictions and additional qualifications may apply)
- Member must be in good financial standing with McLeod Co-op Power
- Loans must be secured via a mortgage against the property not to exceed \$25,000 or up to 100 percent of the property value
- No family income limits apply

### Simple Loan Process!

- Loan Documents:
  - Visit [www.mnbrighterideas.com/](http://www.mnbrighterideas.com/) or
  - Call a dedicated toll-free number (855)-335-5835 and CEE will mail you an application.
- Return them by mail, fax or email to the address provided in the loan application package.
- Following approval of the loan, a check is mailed to the member, who then has 6 months after the loan closing to complete the installation.
- All loans are subject to random inspection to insure the work was completed.

Important Notes: CEE contracts with Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) to service their loans. The loan is by CRF and is a contract between CRF and the co-op member. Members will receive statements directly from CRF. McLeod Co-op Power is not, in any way, responsible for any loan being denied, the execution of the loan, or the payments that are due to CRF.

The current loan terms and conditions stated, including interest rates, do not constitute a commitment to lend or an offer to enter into an agreement, and such an offer may only be made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 47.206(3) and (4). For more information, please visit [www.mnbrighterideas.com](http://www.mnbrighterideas.com) or call (855)-335-5835.

### Loan Parameters

<u>Equipment*</u>	<u>Total Loan Available</u>	<u>Term of Loan</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Ground Source Heat Pump	Up to \$25,000	Up to 120 Months (10 Years)	2.99 %
Air Source Heat Pump	Up to \$7,500	Up to 60 Months (5 years)	0.00%
ETS Water Heater	Up to \$7,500	Up to 60 Months (5 years)	0.00%
ETS Space Heater	Up to \$7,500	Up to 60 Months (5 years)	0.00%
Heat Pump Water Heater	Up to \$7,500	Up to 60 Months (5 years)	0.00%

## A few seats remain for the Coal Creek Tour

Only a few seats remain for the August 20-22 Coal Creek Tour. Contact Katie at the Co-op if you want to reserve a seat. This year's trip includes the Pitchfork Fondue and Musical at Medora.



## BUYER beware

### OF SALESPeOPLE PITCHING "ENERGY SAVINGS" FROM RADIANT BARRIERS

The Minnesota Department of Commerce recently issued a consumer alert encouraging Minnesota homeowners to think twice before installing radiant barriers in their attics.

The Department's Division of Energy Resources (DER) has received reports of salespeople pitching radiant barrier products in flyers and at free dinners throughout Minnesota. The Commerce Department wants all local consumers to know that radiant barriers are not an effective means to reduce heating or cooling loads in Minnesota homes.

"Many Minnesota consumers have been duped into installing radiant barriers based on false promises of substantial energy savings," said Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman. "We strongly urge all consumers to be cautious, ask questions, and explore other reputable means to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient."

Radiant barriers consist of a reflective film, usually aluminum, installed over the top of attic insulation in existing homes. They are sold as an energy saving product, with claims of significant reductions in both heating and cooling costs. However, their potential benefit is primarily in reducing air-conditioning cooling loads in warm or hot climates — particularly in southern states. A report compiled by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy, shows that the benefits of radiant barriers decrease

significantly in northern climates. In southern cities like Miami, Florida or Austin, Texas, radiant barriers could reduce a household's utility bill by as much as \$150 per year using average residential electricity prices. But in colder climate states such as Minnesota, where annual air-conditioning loads are considerably less, savings drop to only \$10 to \$40 a year. "The price to install a radiant barrier can be as much as \$2,000 or more," Commissioner Rothman said. "But if the average household saves only \$20 per year, it would take 100 years to pay back your investment."

It's also important to note that radiant barrier products have negligible benefit in reducing heating costs. It is unlikely that most Minnesota consumers would realize any measurable energy savings from radiant barriers in attics. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce agree that, in Minnesota, implementing air sealing and adding conventional attic insulation is a cheaper and more effective means for saving energy than installing a radiant barrier. In fact, as attic insulation levels increase, the potential benefits from a radiant barrier decrease. For more information on insulation and other energy efficient measures to improve your home, contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce at 800-657-3710 or 651-296-5175 or visit [www.energy.mn.gov](http://www.energy.mn.gov). The website offers free downloadable home energy guides, including the "Home Envelope" guide that includes information on air sealing, insulation, and home energy audits.

VIA SAT

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

**exede**<sup>SM</sup>  
by ViaSat

**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 bandwidth you need each month.

### High Speed internet for any one, any where!

Speed	12 Mbps download 3 Mbps upload	12 Mbps download 3 Mbps upload
Customer	Light Internet Users 10 GB/month	Moderate Internet Users 15 GB/month
Price	\$49.99 per mo.	\$79.99 per mo.

All plans require 24-month commitment. One time set-up fee of \$149.99 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.



# 2012 Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Program



McLeod Cooperative Power makes bulb recycling easy and we'll even help pay the fee.

## Here's how it works:

- Free recycling of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) with coupon. Simply bring your used CFL and FREE recycling coupon to a participating retailer.

- **Do It Best Hardware (Glencoe)**
- **Hite Hardware (Glencoe)**
- **Hutchinson Ace Hardware (Hutchinson)**
- **Thomes Bros. (Arlington)**
- **Beckler's Hardware Hank (Bird Island)**
- **Waconia ACE Farm & Home**

## Stores accepting CFL's only

- **Angvall Hdwe. & Mercantile (Lester Prairie)**
  - **The Hardware Center (Gaylord)**
  - **Home Solutions (Norwood Young America)**
  - **Hometown Hardware (Buffalo Lake)**
  - **Hector Hardware Hank (Hector)**
  - **Gibbon Lumber & Hardware (Gibbon)**
- 50 cents off of the recycling fee for qualifying non-CFL lamps.\* Bring your used lamp and a 50 CENTS off coupon to a participating retailer.
  - You must be an MCPA residential or small business member to participate.
  - Limit 10 coupons per household.

\* Circular fluorescent tubes, U-bend fluorescent tubes, high-intensity discharge lamps, fluorescent tubes up to eight feet in length.

While fluorescent lamps are environmentally preferred over incandescents, they do contain a small amount of mercury and if improperly disposed of can be harmful to the environment. It is illegal to place them in the trash.



PO Box 70, 1231 Ford Ave.  
Glencoe, MN 55336  
www.mcleodcoop.com  
320-864-3148, 1-800-494-6272

## Free CFL Recycling



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Coupon expires 12/31/2012. Limit one coupon per lamp. Coupon valid only when completed. Must be MCPA residential or small business member to qualify.

## Free CFL Recycling



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## 50¢ off Fluorescent Bulb recycling



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
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