

NEWS

August 2012

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Thank you to members who conserved energy July 16

You may have received a phone call on Monday, July 16 asking you to conserve energy. 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 up and keep you cool on sweltering days.

High temps and humidity lead to using more electricity

This summer's record heat wave no doubt has air conditioners, heat pumps and fans humming non-stop. Humidifiers are running continuously to help keep homes free of mildew. Pumps have been working to water lawns, gardens and crops due to the lack of rain. It's safe to say everyone is using more electricity this summer than usual.

Year	Cooling Degree Days
Jan. to July 2012	807
Jan. to July of an average year	476

day's average is 80°F. Eighty minus 65 is 15 cooling degree days. Cooling degree days can be used to compare the current summer to past summers (see chart).

Standard humidifiers use between \$30 - \$45 of electricity per

month. Room air conditioners, depending on the size, can use \$26 - \$40 per month. Central air conditioners can vary as well adding \$50 - \$180 to an electric bill during a hot month. Add to this fans, well and water pumps and the list goes on. It is likely that some bills may double from a non-air conditioning month.

The reality is we are all using more electricity than normal due to this extended heat wave and high humidity. It's no secret that this will lead to higher electric bills. Hopefully we'll get a break in the coming weeks with cooler weather and much needed rain.

According to the National Weather Service data, we had 9 days of 90 degrees or higher in July 2011, compared to 14 days of 90 degrees or higher in July 2012. Another key indicator of the heat wave is "cooling degree days." A cooling degree day is a unit used to relate the day's temperature to the energy demands of air conditioning. Cooling degree days are calculated by subtracting 65 from a day's average temperature. For example, if the day's high is 90°F and the day's low is 70°F, the

Tough economic times call for tough decisions

At the July 24th meeting of the McLeod Cooperative Power Board of Directors, some tough financial decisions were made. Energy sales have been down due to the slumping economy in recent years and operating costs have continued to rise. To keep the Cooperative in sound financial standing, the Board of Directors initiated several cost cutting measures and approved a \$7.50 per month increase to the fixed charge for farm and residential single phase services that will go into effect this fall. Changes to other rate classes are being studied. The fixed charge increase from \$20.00 to \$27.50 will first appear on bills in mid-November (for October energy use).

For details on the fixed charge increase and cost cutting measures being implemented see the Manager's Message on page 2.

Members helping the community — Operation Round Up®



Members may sign up any month of the year to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar for Operation Round Up.

Not only is this an easy and tax-deductible way to support local projects, but it is very worthwhile and all the money is kept in our local communities. The maximum donation possible per month is 99 cents. Most donors average \$6 per year.

Yes, sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Account #: _____

Signature: _____

Office closed Labor Day



McLeod Cooperative Power's office will be closed Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

Emergency and outage dispatchers are on duty 24 hours a day and can be reached by calling 1-800-927-5685.

Manager's Message —

by Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
McLeod Cooperative Power Association



What is the monthly fixed charge

During the July 24, 2012 Board Meeting, your Board of Directors had to make some tough decisions regarding the future of your Cooperative. One decision they made was to increase the fixed charge \$7.50 per month. This was a hard but necessary decision.

Your electric bill has two main components: the fixed charge and the energy charge.

The fixed charge is a monthly cost that McLeod Cooperative Power Association collects from each member to help cover some of the costs of bringing electricity to your home, farm, or business. The costs associated with the fixed charge include our investment in substations, taxes, poles, wire, transformers, meters, etc. It also supports our fleet/equipment, facility expenses (lights, phone, heating, etc.), customer service functions, such as line maintenance, right-of-way clearing, billing expenses, monthly newsletters, and general administrative expenses such as accounting functions, financing expenses, collection of delinquent accounts, crew dispatching, and all information technology expenses.

Regardless of how often you turn on the light switch, these costs are part of the bill you pay to have electricity available whenever you need it. Whether one member uses 1 kWh of

electricity and another uses 1,000 kWhs, McLeod Cooperative Power still incurs the same cost to build, maintain, and deliver electricity to both members. These costs are unavoidable and must be recovered through some part of the rate. To be fair to all of our members, regardless of their usage, the fixed charge is used to recover a portion of these costs. The balance is collected through the energy charge portion of your bill.

After completing our most recent Rate and Cost of Service Study. The results indicated that MCPA should be charging a \$43.00/month fixed charge for the single phase farm & residential accounts to cover our costs. Obviously we do not want to administer such an increase at this time. We are, however, implementing an increase to the fixed charge. This increase will help defer some of the expenses we incur on a continuing basis.

Our lenders, CFC, RUS, and CoBank all require McLeod Cooperative Power to maintain minimum financial ratios. With continued sales at below-average levels, the increases in our wholesale power costs, and the expenses we incur to meet state and federal mandates that affect our overall operations, your Board of Directors had no choice but to increase revenues to cover our cost to do business.

As a member, you may ask, why is MCPA's fixed charge higher than our neighboring utilities?

The reason is our density (members per mile) is much lower. MCPA has a density of 3.5 members/mile; compare this to a neighboring utility where the average density is 30 customers/mile.

Example:
MCPA
3.5 members/mile X
\$27.50/month fixed
charge=\$96.25

Utility Z-
30 customers/mile X
\$10.00/month fixed
charge=\$300.00

As you can see, the difference in revenue collected is substantial.

I hope this brief explanation will help answer some of the questions you may have on what the fixed charge is and why your Board of Directors needed to implement an increase. If you have any billing questions, feel free to call the office during regular business hours.

Cooperatively yours,

Kris Ingenthron

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Editor: Sue Pawelk

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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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Great response from members

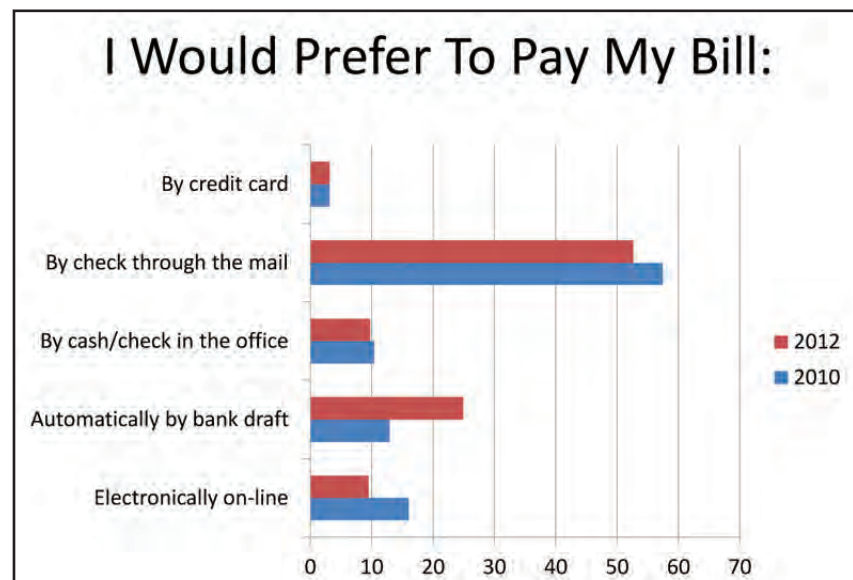
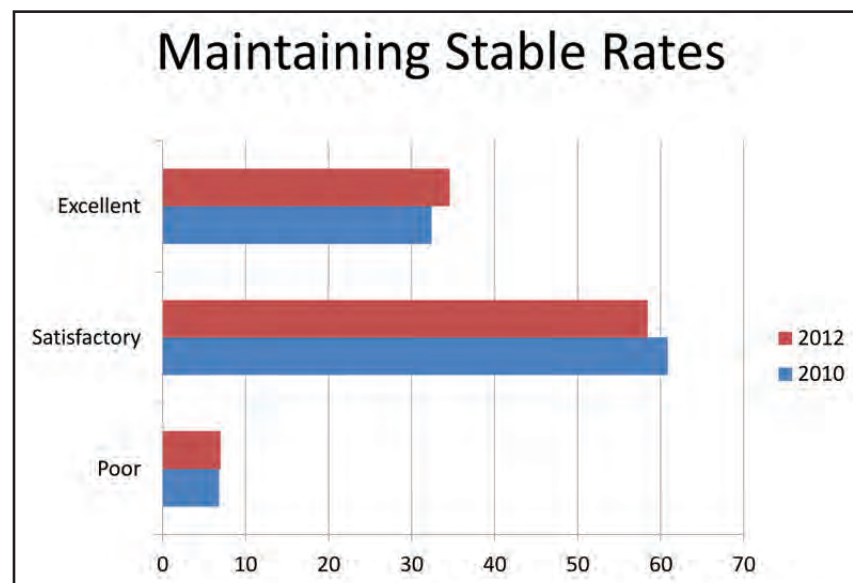
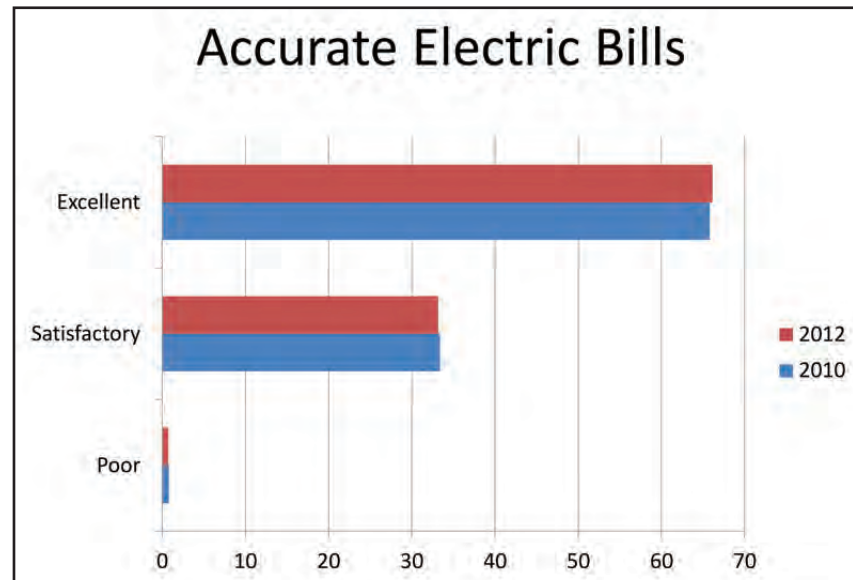
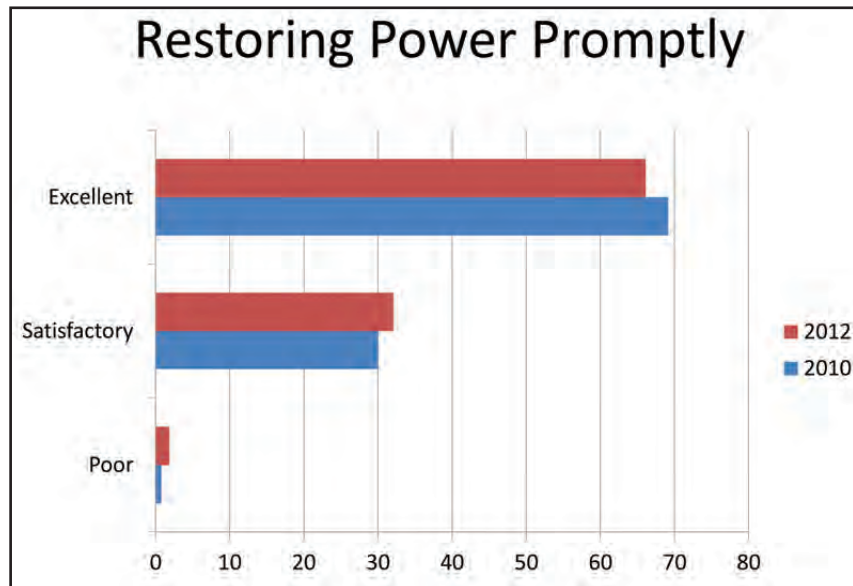
Back in March, the Cooperative sent a survey to each member in their electric bill. We received 1,887 surveys back from our members. That was a 33 percent return rate. Thank you to each member who took the time to share your opinions with us.

What did the satisfaction survey tell us?

Members rated how well they thought McLeod Co-op Power was doing in areas of electric service, customer service, board and management, and rates. Members also shared information on paying bills, internet service, and social media. Member's current opinions are important and help us know what members want. In addition, we are also able to compare member satisfaction ratings in each area to satisfaction ratings on surveys from recent years to see how member opinions have changed. It shows the Co-op where we need to improve.

The individual comments from members were very helpful. It told us that a lot of members did not understand capital credits and how they are paid out. Even more members did not understand what is included in the fixed charge. We were able to explain these topics in the May and June issues of the Co-op newsletter. If you missed it, our newsletters are available for viewing on the Co-op web site at www.mcleodcoop.com

Here are samples of some survey question responses.



At their best when the temperature rises

While most people were enjoying the Fourth of July with a day of leisure, employees across Great River Energy were keeping their eyes on the bulk electric system to ensure reliable service over the holiday week heat wave.

“We haven’t seen this type of prolonged heat in a long time,” said System Operations Manager Dick Pursley. “Overall, the system performed well. All of our units performed admirably, and MISO called on them daily.”

The system operations office is a bit busier when demand spikes. System operators interact frequently with MISO (the Midwest region’s grid operator) and plant operators while load management resources are regularly dispatched to alleviate demand.

“We pay attention to load, any outages that may come up, and keep MISO updated with our load management capabilities,” said Load Management Specialist Bob Knapp.

On June 27 and July 2 Great River Energy called on every program in its load management portfolio by cycling air conditioners, interrupting water heaters, irrigators and commercial loads — including those with and without backup generators.

Generation employees at the plant sites monitored and responded to plant alarms and stood ready to start up additional units when they were called upon. Transmission field employees were ready and available to respond to outages if they occurred.

Although the hottest temperatures surrounded the Fourth holiday, heightened electric demand started the last week of June and continued through much of early July. Great River Energy's peaking plants, which are only called to service during times of high electricity consumption, were called upon frequently.

The few outages that did occur were largely the result of storms in northern Minnesota, rather than system failure. Two instances of severe weather downed hundreds of trees and several miles of distribution lines in Lake County Power’s service area, leaving 14,000 co-op members without power. Crow Wing Power had about 5,000 customers affected by lines that were downed during the storm on July 2.

Barkers are “pulling” in a lot of business with a little help from exede

Walking into the shop where Daryl Barker, owner, and his dad, Fred Barker, repair trucks and tractors, the first thing you notice is that everything is in its place. The second thing you notice is the long wall shelf loaded with gold trophies.

“That’s only half the trophies,” said Fred.

The Barkers have been involved in tractor pulling since they were playing with toy tractors, and their success is well-known within 100 miles of county fairs and threshing shows. Successful tractor pulling involves a lot of things, including the tractor’s horsepower, traction, and other secrets that the Barkers can’t really put a finger on.

“Oh, I don’t know if there’s one secret,” said Fred. “But at the Kandiyohi tractor pull, one of our competitors told us to leave our “M” tractor at home.”

Modesty rules at Barker Tractor & Truck Repair near Manannah. However, one of the “musts” for successful tractor pulling is the ability to know how to get the most out of an engine, and these men have the experience and know-how to do just that.

For instance, Fred has a lifetime of experience working for companies like Arnold’s Implement, John Deere and International.

Daryl has been using a wrench almost since he could walk and has work experience at Haug Implement, Arnolds Implement and J-Craft. He started this business in 2006, and has built quite a loyal customer base.

“We don’t advertise, and we have to turn some jobs down because we are just so busy,” said Daryl. A look around the yard and you can see tractors and other equipment waiting their turn to get into the shop. The Barkers also have two service trucks that they use to go on-site to repair farm machinery and/or semi-trucks. All of this takes a lot of time, which is in short supply some days. That’s where their new exede high-speed



internet system helps.

“We used to have WildBlue high-speed internet through the Co-op, but it was just so slow,” said Daryl. “And if it started to rain, my WildBlue would cut out.”



Daryl’s “M” tractor pops a wheely while pulling a loaded trailer in a local tractor pull. There are many different classes of tractor pulling with different weights and course lengths.

Exede by viastat changed all that. With it’s new equipment and web acceleration technology, exede can rival DSL in speed. It excels over WildBlue in delivering reliable service during any type of weather.



Daryl and Fred Barker work hard to keep up with the repair work in Daryl’s shop near Manannah, especially for the tractors which will be heading to the fields soon. Although they never advertise, they have to turn away work.

“We’ve had some storms, and I haven’t had any problem with weather and the exede system,” Daryl said.

Daryl uses his computer system mostly for looking up and ordering parts.

“Sometimes it takes awhile to find parts for some of the older tractors and trucks,” said Daryl. “With the internet, I can connect with junk yards all over the country and purchase parts. Plus we get a slight

discount for ordering parts online, so I use the computer for all of my ordering.”

Daryl purchased the lowest bandwidth offered by exede, and it’s serving his needs just fine. For those who need more bandwidth, two other packages are available...all three packages have the same fast speed and reliability.

“Exede saves me a lot of time and headaches,” Daryl said.



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Retired 3M engineer proves dual fuel is the way to save

When Diane and Jim Anderson bought their first house located north of Hutchinson in 1970, the walk-out rambler was heated with a propane forced-air furnace. They heated their water with propane and had a standard central air conditioner. Since they added on a small addition, they heat about 3,100 square feet on two levels.

In the spring of 2010, Jim began researching alternatives since the equipment was getting older. The furnace had been replaced and was only 15 years old. However, the water heater was a good 25-years old and the central air unit was the original unit, dating back 40 years.

A careful, detail-oriented man who had worked at 3M for decades and retired as an engineer, Jim did a careful analysis of the HVAC options available. He read the Co-op's newsletters, listened to others he knew who were on dual fuel, and asked questions of Co-op personnel.

"I calculated the estimated savings at that point, compared to propane," Jim said. "Plus there were government tax credits for energy efficient equipment, and the Co-op gives a rebate."

After talking with McLeod Co-op's energy technician Shannon Jerabek, Jim and Diane chose to invest in the Co-op's dual fuel program with an energy-efficient air source heat pump/plenum heater and a new two-stage propane furnace as a back-up. The two-stage furnace runs at a low-fire level for most heating, but can kick up to high for very cold temps. A two-stage furnace adds to the efficiency and savings, also.

In a dual-fuel system, the primary source of heat is electricity. During times of peak electricity use, dual-fuel members allow the Co-op to shut down the electric heat for a few hours while the back-up heating source (in this case the propane furnace) comes on



automatically to maintain heating levels.

The air source heat pump works by pulling heat from the outside air and bringing it into the home. When the outside air temperatures dip below 20 degrees, the plenum heater adds a little "bump" to the heat to keep the home comfortably warm. The heat pump runs at about 180 percent efficiency, which means you get more heat than you pay for.

In addition, they purchased a new super-efficient Marathon water heater and went on the Co-op's storage water program. This program heats water during the night, when electricity use is low.

The thick envirofoam insulation keeps the water hot all day.

Both the dual fuel and storage water programs offer a much lower (about half) electric rate, while the super-efficient equipment gives more heat for the money. It's truly a win-win!

The Andersons didn't have to replace their central air conditioner with another one; the air source heat pump also keeps their home cool in the summer by transferring heat from the home outside. The savings by not having to purchase another central air unit was substantial.

"We enjoy the constant temperature in the house now,"

said Diane. "Before, when the propane furnace came on, it got hot in the house, especially by the register. Then the house got almost cold before the heat came on again. With the heat pump, the temperature is constant with no hot or cold spots."

"The differential is narrower," Jim said. "That means the heat kicks on sooner and off later, running at a cooler temperature so it is a more even heat."

Besides the comfort, the savings is really nice, too. Jim has kept detailed records of what their heating and cooling has cost them over the years.

"A four-year average of propane showed a cost of \$1,600 for heat and water," he said. "Since we added the new system, the winter of 2010-11, we spent \$950 for heat and water, and \$70 for propane to run the back-up furnace. The cost of hot water per month is about \$18."

With savings in the hundreds of dollars, it won't take the Andersons long to pay back their initial investment. The savings will continue year after year.

"I recommend this type of system," Jim said. "I told my neighbor about it and I believe he has installed the same system."

Contact your Cooperative with questions about energy efficiency, the dual fuel system or other energy efficient systems, and rebates. We'd be happy to help.

INDUSTRY News

SBG Energy Services LLC Announces Hot Water Supply Agreement

SBG Energy Services LLC (SBG) has announced an exclusive hot water supply agreement with Headwaters Resources Inc. (HRI) to supply hot water to the North Dakota oil industry for hydraulic fracturing. HRI, in turn, has executed an exclusive agreement with Great River Energy to acquire the hot water from Great River Energy's power plants near Stanton and Underwood, ND. All agreements are finalized, and the partners are awaiting permits from the State of North Dakota, which is anticipated in September 2012 – at which time delivery can begin. Allotments are now being offered to SBG customers.

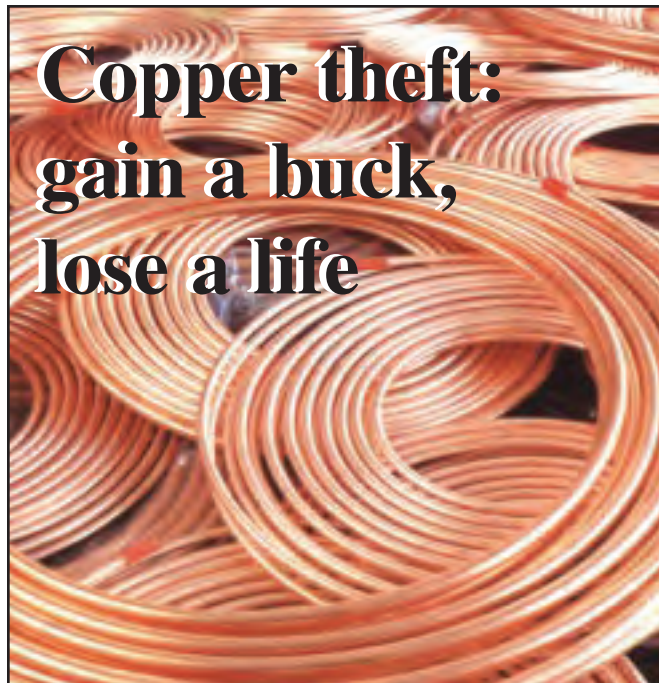
"We have developed a solution with HRI and Great River Energy to bring a new source of hot water to the oil industry in North Dakota," said Orley Sinkler, VP/COO of SBG Energy Services. "It is our desire to offer this to the industry at a reasonable cost, and to help preserve the existing fresh water resources, specifically aquifers, in the state. Our plan is consistent with SBG's mission of being a complete water solutions company for the North Dakota oil industry, with a focus on sustainability and green technologies."

The project will utilize hot water heated at Great River Energy's coal based power plants near Stanton and Underwood, North Dakota. With water loading stations capable of loading multiple trucks simultaneously, HRI will be able to load SBG's trucks with up to 3,000 bbls of hot water per hour, or 72,000 bbls per day. The system will have the capability of varying the temperature so that the water arrives at the customer site at the desired temperature. Even at 50 percent capacity, the two systems together could supply roughly 500 new wells per year with clean, hot water. Heated water, sand and other additives are used in the fracking process to create fractures in rock or shale to increase the output of an oil well.

"We believe we have a unique solution that will bring huge volumes of clean water to the well site at the right temperature," said Greg (Gus) Rud, VP/General Manager of Rud Transportation, SBG's trucking company. "Instead of spending money on natural gas or propane systems to heat the water, Great River Energy engineers have designed a system that is focused on meeting the quality, temperature and volume requirements of the oil industry."

-Press release

With savings in the hundreds of dollars, it won't take the Andersons long to pay back their initial investment.



Copper theft: gain a buck, lose a life

Theft of copper is nearing epidemic proportions. According to the U.S.

Department of Energy, theft of copper now costs the national economy around \$1 billion per year. This increase in criminal activity disrupts the flow of electricity and creates electrical hazards across the United States.

Additionally, when thieves cut locks or chain link fencing surrounding an electric substation, they expose inquisitive children and animals to a highly dangerous area.

Stealing material from an electric substation or utility pole can result not only in serious injuries and death, but extensive outages — consequences that impact innocent people. The minimum damage that can occur is an outage, which may affect hundreds of individuals.

Damage and loss of life resulting from copper theft are completely unnecessary and could happen anywhere. People must be aware of this kind of theft and that tampering with electric power facilities can result in extremely dangerous situations. Always alert your utility when you see or suspect suspicious activity. People who think stealing electric wire is a quick way to earn some easy money should think again. The value of metal is not worth losing a life.

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/ 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 six 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 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%

McLeod Cooperative Power employee completes farm energy auditor training program

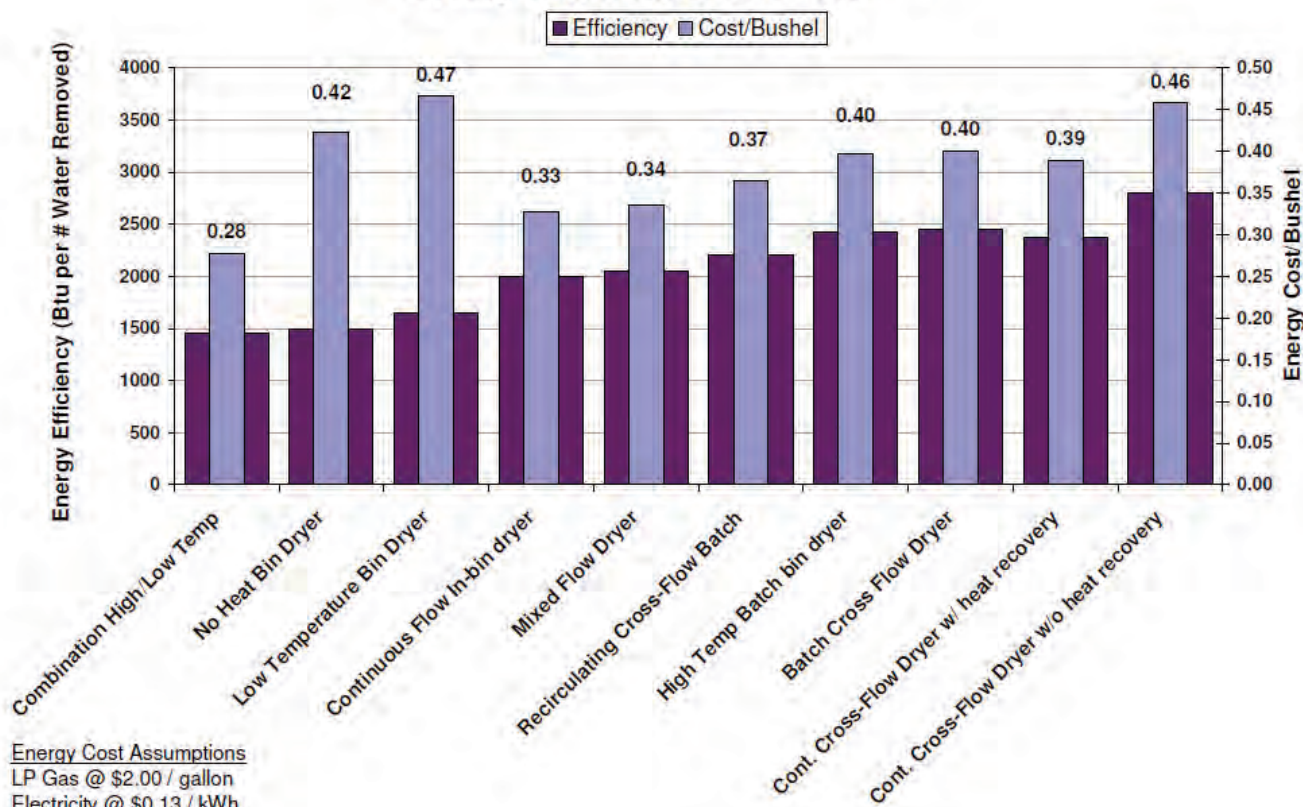


Shannon Jerabek, an energy management specialist for McLeod Co-op Power, recently completed a farm energy auditor course. Shannon and 19 other trainees were part of "The Minnesota Project" where they learned farm and small commercial auditing. The program was made possible by a grant from the U.S Department of Energy and the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Division of Energy Resources).

The class included on-line auditing courses and several site audits. Shannon also completed two "Grain Drying" system audits for two local farmers. The big benefit of this certification is that Cooperative members can now get local access to a certified audit that is required for a USDA grant application. In the past, local farmers often had to hire an out-of-state auditor to perform the audit.

Selecting the most economical grain drying system is a big task for many farmers. They need to know what the costs are and what the payback will be when they replace their existing grain drying or handling system with something that is supposed to be more efficient. The graph shown helps farmers visualize the efficiency and energy cost when drying corn with different types of equipment.

Energy Efficiency and Energy Cost Drying corn from 25% to 15%



Energy Cost Assumptions
LP Gas @ \$2.00 / gallon
Electricity @ \$0.13 / kWh

Checked your light lately?



"They got one of those new all-night yard lights from the REA." That was a common comment heard decades ago by people growing up in the country. People were referring to the year the electric cooperative installed yard lights for members. It was something new out in the country and looked like the street lights that were in town. Today, rural yard lighting is in demand and is an important feature around rural homes, farmyards and businesses.

Some members have their own lights but many people prefer to have lights owned by the Cooperative. If you own your light, you buy it, put it on your own building or pole, and maintain it or hire an electrician to do it for you.

If you rent a light from the Cooperative, you pay a monthly fee that is added to your bill. That is the only cost to you. We install the light and maintain it.

mercury vapor lights. But once a mercury vapor light is no longer repairable, it is changed to a more efficient high-pressure sodium light. Sodium light gives off an orange glow. Mercury vapor lights give off a bluish glow.

A metered light means the electricity to power the light goes through the meter and the member pays for the energy used. An unmetered light means

Yard Light Rental Fees per MonthMetered LightUnmetered Light

175 Watt Mercury Vapor\$2.40\$9.25

400 Watt Mercury Vapor\$2.70\$18.25

70 Watt High Pressure Sodium\$3.30\$6.25

150 Watt High Pressure Sodium\$3.60\$9.00

If we installed a light and it was hit by lightning and destroyed that same night, we would install a new light at no charge to you.

Only high-pressure sodium lights are used on new installations. Some members still have

light from the Cooperative should call us if that light goes on and off during the night, is on during the daylight hours, or goes dark all together. The Cooperative repairs rental lights at no cost to the member.

that the Co-op provides the power to the light and any energy costs are included in the monthly rental fee.

Any member with a rental



Save with MyMeter

MyMeter is an online tool which allows you to view and manage your energy use. The online tool is easy as 1-2-3! Register, log-in, start viewing and saving energy!



MyMeter is a free service offered through McLeod Cooperative Power that charts member's daily energy use. Members who sign up for the service can see what times of the day and what days of the week they use the most energy. MyMeter is made possible by the Automated Reading (AMR) system. These automated meters report current energy use data into a central database.

With MyMeter, you can log-in and view graphical representations of your electricity usage including monthly or daily data and how your usage changes over time. You can compare monthly usage to similar types of accounts, and you have the ability to set "markers" to note efficiency upgrades you make, such as replacing an older appliance with a new Energy Star® appliance, to see how that would affect your usage. You will even be able to take an Energy Challenge by setting an

individual conservation goal. MyMeter will give you access to tools and tips to help you accomplish your goal while also keeping track of your progress.

This web-based program will put individual energy usage data into graphs that members can check and compare consumption to prior monthly, daily, or hourly usage. This program will help members be in control of their usage. The markers will be great reminders of certain events, such as the kids coming home from college or a new appliance and make it easy to figure out if energy usage is going up or down at a glance.

Go to www.mcleodcoop.com and click on MyMeter on the homepage. To register to use MyMeter, have your account number handy for that initial login. Then you will be on your way to managing your energy use.



MyMeter provides a variety of uses for members

We have heard from MCPA members using MyMeter how convenient it is to log in to see how much their energy use had gone up from air conditioning this month and to get an idea how much their bill might increase. Members are using it to help them remember what they were using when the bill went up. Some members use it to see how much their energy use has gone down after unplugging an old refrigerator. And some other members just want to see how their usage compares to the same time last year. There are a variety of uses for MyMeter. Go to the Co-op web site at www.mcleodcoop.com and sign up today to check it out.

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 Program to 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.