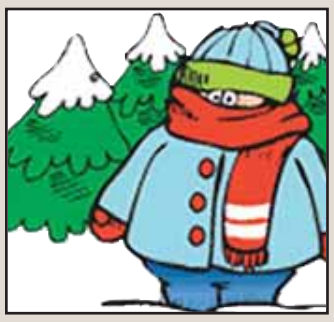
McLeod Cooperative Power

NEWS

September 2012

Inside this issue...



Official publication of

McLeod COOPERATIVE POWER

www.mcleodcoop.com

Q & A about the "Fixed Charge"

Beginning with the bills mailed in November (for October electricity use), the fixed charge for Rate 2 Single Phase Farm & Residential Service will increase from $20.00 to $27.50. This is an increase we wish we did not have to make, however, it needs to be raised to cover more of our actual fixed costs and to maintain an acceptable financial rating with our lenders.

Q What does the fixed charge cover?

A The fixed charge covers fixed costs. It provides members access to electricity whether they purchase electric energy every day or only occasionally. 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.

Q "I've been a member for a long time; shouldn't the monthly fixed cost have been recovered by now?"

A If you have been a member for a long time, there is a good chance that not all of your original equipment is still in place. The cooperative performs necessary maintenance to keep the system reliable. It replaces poles or wires when they break. It replaces transformers when they burn out. It tests meters. The fixed charge helps cover the ongoing maintenance to keep equipment working properly and to replace equipment when necessary.

Q "I use very little electricity since I am only there six months out of the year. I think the service charge is unfair. Why can't you charge me only half as much?"

A An electric distribution system is expensive to build and maintain. It would be unfair to have some members have access to our distribution system "just in case" they wanted to buy some power while all of our ownership costs are being paid by other members who are buying power on a continual basis. If we eliminated the service charge, those who use little or no electricity per month would be getting a free ride for paying for the system that is already in place. Their share would be picked up by the members that use the system each month. The bottom line is to remember that when you pay your electric bill, you pay for the cost of the delivery system in place and the actual amount of electricity delivered.

Q How is the amount of the monthly fixed charge determined?

A Every few years the Cooperative does a cost of service study to make certain our rates are fair and equitable to all rate classes. Our most recent rate study was done in 2010 by Power System Engineering, Inc., which specializes in rate studies for many of the utilities in Minnesota. It was found that if the Cooperative was to recover all the costs associated with this charge, the amount should be more than $42.50 per account per month. That means that currently we are charging members less than half of our actual fixed cost to keep your power available. Our current rate structure relies on the sale of electricity to cover the rest of our fixed costs. As you know, usage fluctuates and so does the ability to recover these costs.

When this rate study was done in 2010, the MCPA Board of Directors took a step to raise the fixed charge from $15.00 to $20.00, and get closer to that actual fixed cost. The board determined that in 2012 it is necessary to implement an increase from $20.00 to $27.50 for single phase farm and residential accounts.

The Cooperative's lenders all require McLeod Cooperative Power to maintain minimum financial ratios. The MCPA Board of Directors had no choice but to increase revenues to cover our cost to do business. The board is implementing cost-cutting measures internally, as well as increasing incoming revenue from the fixed charge to keep the Cooperative in good financial condition.

Ridgewater College scholarships funded from unclaimed capital credits

For the fall semester 2012, Ridgewater College Foundation awarded five scholarships to students. These educational scholarship funds are made available through the Cooperative's unclaimed capital credit fund. The State of Minnesota allows the Co-op to donate capital credit funds that have remained unclaimed for at least seven years to an educational institution for scholarships. After years of trying to find a member who has possibly moved away with no forwarding address, the fund eventually may be donated.

This year's recipients of $500 scholarships were: **Alicia Barchenger, Janelle LeMieur Griffith, Michelle Jarman, and Marissa Walter**, all of Hutchinson, and **Jessica Kalenberg** of Hector.

McLeod Cooperative Power launches economic development tool

Our power supplier, Great River Energy, has allowed its distribution cooperatives, like McLeod Co-op Power, to offer economic development information from our specific service area linked to their web site. You can also access this information by going to our Co-op's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com and clicking on the Economic Development link on our home page.

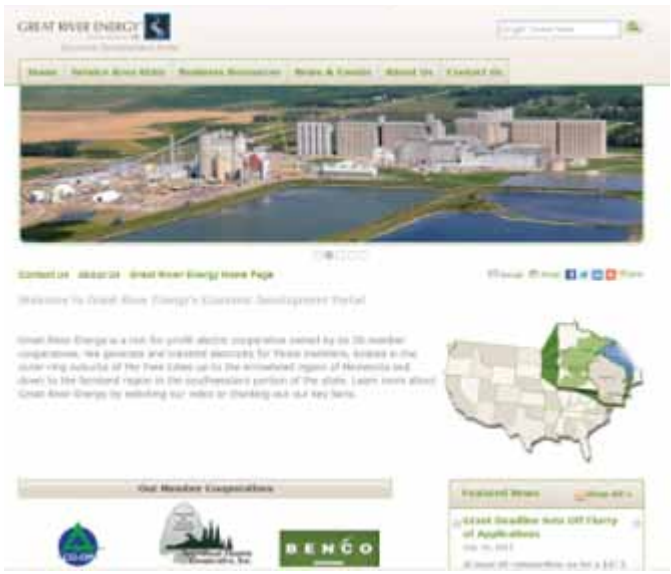
If you are a business looking to relocate somewhere in the state, you can check out the business incentives, economic development news, demographics, etc. for our Co-op's service area. You can check out local cities and EDA group information.

Minnesota electric cooperatives debut new economic development tool

Maple Grove, Minn.—July 10, 2012—

The 28 Minnesota electric cooperatives that are the member-owners of Great River Energy launched a new online economic development tool to help expand business activity in the state. The website includes site location tools, loan and financing program information, demographic and employment data, and other information to assist existing and prospective businesses.

The website is located at econdev.GreatRiverEnergy.com.



"Electric cooperatives have long served their business members by providing loan and financing programs that assist expansions or new locations in their service areas," said Tom Lambrecht, Great River Energy economic development director. "This tool provides a single place where a business can find program information, review potential sites for their facility and learn how electric cooperatives can be key to their success."

Each Great River Energy member cooperative will host a website that details information unique to their service area, such as:

- Loan and financing program details
- Local demographic information
- Available sites, industrial parks and associated infrastructure
- Utility information
- Locally available raw materials, such as livestock, crop agriculture, timber, and mining resources

All sites are under development and expected to be launched in the next several months.

The Great River Energy Economic Gateway site was designed by Golden Shovel Agency, which has developed similar sites for economic development authorities throughout the Midwest.
Aaron Brossoit, vice president of business development at Golden Shovel Agency, is pleased to be a part of developing tools cooperatives can use to expand economic activity among their membership.

"These electric cooperatives are leading the way by opening new communication channels for economic development," said Brossoit. "These websites will give Great River Energy and its member cooperatives an online presence that does justice to the impact they have on Minnesota."

Going south for the winter?

Please notify the Cooperative if you are heading south for the winter. Although the Turtle will send us your meter reading, we still need to know what payment arrangements you prefer.

Options are:

- You can pay in advance.
- Have the post office forward your mail.
- You can sign up for auto pay and have the payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.
- You can call us with a credit card payment.

Be sure to make arrangements before you leave by calling 1-800-494-6272.

McLeod Cooperative Power News

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Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Rural electric cooperatives connect with members at Farmfest

More than a dozen cooperatives from rural Minnesota shared a booth at Farmfest August 7-9 near Morton. The cooperatives were able to connect with their members, sharing information on electrical safety, energy conservation and efficient lighting. Members tried riding the energy bike to see how much juice they could generate. Members who brought a coupon from their Co-op newsletter could redeem it for an LED night light. Attendance was very good at the three-day ag show.

Senator Al Franken visits with the public and employees of MN Electric Cooperatives at the Co-op's Farmfest booth.

GRE employee helps bike rider see how much energy they can generate.

Natural gas prices are down, so why aren't electric rates falling?

A primary reason that retail electric rates are not following the trend in natural gas prices is because of expensive new environmental regulations from federal and state lawmakers and regulators. The escalation in government regulation in recent years is causing coal fired power plants to shut down before their useful life has reached an end and is adding substantial additional cost so other coal units will be forced to convert to natural gas. In addition, the electric utility industry is being forced to meet a long list of other high-priced (and some say unrealistic) new standards in very short order.

These government bodies also are forcing electric utilities to invest in renewable energy infrastructure that is duplicating costs, not driving them down. The Minnesota Rural Electric Association estimated annual residential utility bills to be between $50 and $100 higher per household due to Minnesota's renewable mandate. In 2011, the state's electric cooperatives lost more than $70 million because of the high cost of wind power, according to a recent Wall Street Journal article.

Our nation should be striving for an energy policy that balances needed environmental and renewable energy goals with sound economic objectives for the country and consumers. U.S. energy policy is presently missing this balance and that is a primary reason why retail electric rates are not following the trend of natural gas.

Meeting our state's energy requirements

Great River Energy (GRE), your cooperative's power supplier, owns and operates several facilities to provide us with renewable energy and help us satisfy the required state mandates for generating a portion of our power from renewable sources. By the year 2025, we will be required to have 25 percent of our electricity generated from renewable sources. GRE has sufficient resources to meet the renewable energy standard beyond 2020 at today's forecasted retail energy sales growth rates.

GRE purchases the output from six wind projects in Minnesota and one in North Dakota for more than 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. Other renewable energy sources that GRE obtains energy from include a waste-to-energy plant in Elk River and anaerobic digesters at Minnesota dairy farms.

Biomass, a renewable energy source, is biological material derived from living or recently living organisms, such as wood waste, (hydrogen) gas and alcohol fuels. In Minnesota, waste-to-energy power plants, such as Great River Energy's Refuse Derived Fuel plant in Elk River, are considered biomass. It turns 1,500 tons of municipal garbage every day into energy. Recyclable steel, aluminum and items that can't be burned are removed and recycled. The remaining waste is processed into refuse derived fuel (RDF) and it is delivered to the power plant. The RDF is then burned to generate the high pressure steam needed to power the plant's generators. The three generators at the Energy Recovery Station produce up to 29 MW of electricity from 1,000 tons of processed municipal solid waste called RDF.

In late 2011, the plant installed new equipment and implemented process improvements to capture more recyclable material and further reduce the already small amount of waste sent to landfills. Since then, all waste materials were recycled or processed into RFD. This recovery station is recognized as environmentally safe and beneficial to the residents of Minnesota by converting waste material into electrical energy.

To help meet stringent regulations, the plant uses an efficient combustion process designed to prevent the formation of dioxins. The power plant also uses special environmental equipment to treat the smoke and gases formed by incinerating the RDF. As a result, emissions from the Elk River station are low.

Over the course of a year, up to 400,000 tons of municipal solid waste is transformed into RDF. It is hauled to the recovery station where it is burned to generate enough electricity to power as many as 30,000 homes each year. By converting solid waste to RDF, GRE is able to generate electricity from a renewable source while minimizing the waste that goes to a landfill. This benefits both members and the environment.

GRE also purchases the energy output from anaerobic digesters located on dairy farms in Princeton and Morris, MN. The digesters capture methane gas and use it to run generator units that in turn produce renewable energy.

The anaerobic digesters are large, cement tanks outside a barn, mostly underground, which capture the waste from cows. Capturing cow manure greatly reduces odor from the dairy operation. When manure breaks down it creates a bio-gas which is primarily methane. The methane rises to the top of the tank and is captured. Methane is a greenhouse gas which, when released into the atmosphere, is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Once captured, the methane is typically destroyed through "flaring" (burned off through a flame that flares out the end of a pipe). The business earns off-sets or carbon reduction credits based on the amount of methane destroyed in the process, which is measured by a third party. Some dairy operations go one step further and destroy the methane by burning it in internal combustion engines, rather than simply flaring it. The combustion engines turn a generator which produces electricity. GRE receives a total of 5 MW of methane derived energy.

The electricity generated in this process is eligible under Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard, which requires GRE to produce 25 percent of its electricity using renewable resources by the year 2025.

Electrocution is always a farm risk ... especially during harvest

Electrocution is quick and deadly, and may be one of the most overlooked hazards on the farm.

Every year, approximately 60 farm workers in the United States are killed by electrocution. Portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines and other tall or cumbersome equipment easily can contact overhead power lines. The result may be electrocution of anyone on the equipment.

To eliminate your hazards of electrocution:

- Always lower a portable grain auger before you move it, even if only a few feet.
- Keep all objects at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Know where all overhead power lines are located on your property and inform all workers about them.
- Plan your route between fields, to bins and elevators, and on public roads so that you avoid low-hanging power lines. If someone else transports your large equipment, always specify a safe route and explain why certain routes must be taken.
- Be sure you and everyone else in your operation know what to do in an emergency.
- If equipment gets hung up on a power line, the operator should NOT get off the machinery unless in immediate danger. If the operator touches the ground and the equipment at the same time, he or she will become a channel for electricity.
- If you must leave the equipment, jump as far away from the machinery as possible and move shuffling your feet. Never get back on machinery that touches a power line until the utility company disconnects the line.
- Investigate the possibility of burying power lines in heavily-used areas on the farm, such as around grain bins.

Fact or Fable? Household Electronics Use More Energy When They Are Turned Off

This is both a fact and a fable.

The typical American household contains 24 electronic products, according to the Consumer Electronics Association. Many of these devices continue to draw power when they are turned off, or are not actively being used. This is commonly known as standby power. While electronics draw more power when they are turned on, certain devices, such as cable boxes and laptop computers, are typically in standby power mode for such long periods of time each day that it makes up the majority of their total energy use.

A study by the Consumer Electronics Association found that for electronics as a whole, 68% of total energy use takes place during active use. The "off" mode accounts for 24% of energy use, while the "idle" or "sleep" mode makes up the remaining 8%. Off mode means the device is turned off, but still plugged in, while equipment in idle mode is turned on, but not being used. (Roth 2007)

Energy use varies by device. The following table compares the active and standby power use of commonly used consumer electronics equipment:

Annual Energy Use of Electronics Devices By Power Mode

Device	Active	Idle	Off
Compact Audio, such as CD Player/Alarm Clocks	23%	15%	62%
DVD Player	12%	27%	61%
TV Set Top (Cable or Satellite) Box	32%	N/A	68%
Laptop Computer	82%	3%	15%

As the table indicates, the off mode accounts for more than 60% of the energy use of set-top boxes and audio video equipment, while active mode dominates energy consumption for laptop computers.

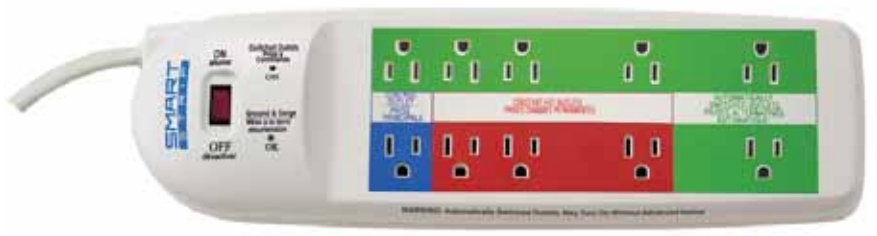
Why the difference?

Electronic devices vary in how they are used and in their power draw (how much energy they use at any given time). For example, set-top boxes and laptop computers are generally in active use about one-third of the time. However, laptops have a substantially higher power draw in active mode, while the power draw of a set-top box is about the same whether turned on or off. That is why two-thirds of set-top energy use takes place in off mode.

Reducing Standby Energy Losses

The average U.S. household spends $100 per year to power electronics and appliances while they are in standby power mode, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So what can you do to stop wasting your energy dollars?

- Unplug devices that are rarely used. An example would be a television and DVD player in the guest room.
- Unplug battery chargers for electronic devices when the batteries are fully charged.
- Use a power strip as a central shut-off point for a cluster of electronics products, such as a home office or entertainment console.



Plug your electronics into a smart strip which can be turned off completely in one easy step.

- Purchase ENERGY STAR qualified electronics that have low standby power and other power management features. When installing a Pay TV service, ask the supplier to provide an ENERGY STAR qualified set-top box.

If you'd like to see for yourself how much energy your appliances use when on and off, contact the Co-op to borrow a Kill-O-Watt Meter. This is an easy way to see for yourself how much you're appliances are costing you.

Source: Roth, Kurt W., et al. Energy Consumption by Consumer Electronics in U.S. Residences. Cambridge, MA. 2007; U.S. Department of Energy. ENERGY STAR At Home Tips.

Plug individual electronic devices into this easy-to-use Kill-O-Watt meter to see how much energy your appliances use in the "on" mode and the "off" mode. The results may surprise you.

INDUSTRY News

The problem with wind turbines

In today's world, we are always looking for new innovative ways to solve problems. We see a problem, and we start working on a solution. As a society, we need great ideas and people who can turn them into great inventions. Some ideas sound really great, but don't pan out in reality. Wind energy for generating regular electricity falls into this category.

Industrial wind turbines (IWTs) have been a hotly contested issue in my district. Here's why: Wind energy is a solution to a nonexistent problem. Windmills are extremely inefficient and costly.

Some people claim these windmills generate 1.5 megawatts per hour. This is assuming that the wind blows all day and night. That's just silly. In fact, they only make electricity about five hours out of 24 on good days.

How can these even be profitable? They aren't. Without electric users supporting them with higher rates and electric bills, direct tax subsidies, huge tax write-offs and mandates requiring them, they wouldn't exist. They are a very costly way to make electricity.

Wind energy may seem like a great idea in theory, because the wind is free! The problem is, wind energy isn't.

Editorial by Sen. Frank Lasee, EauClaire Journal

GM may have electric breakthrough

A small battery company backed by General Motors is working on breakthrough technology that could power an electric car 100 or even 200 miles on a single charge in the next two-to-four years, GM's CEO said Thursday. Speaking at an employee meeting, CEO Dan Akerson said the company, Newark, Calif.-based Envia Systems, has made a huge breakthrough in the amount of energy a lithium-ion battery can hold. GM is sure that the battery will be able to take a car 100 miles within a couple of years, he said. It could be double that with some luck, he said.

GM's current electric car, the Chevrolet Volt, goes about 35 miles on a charge and has a small gas motor that generates power to keep the car going after that. Envia said earlier this year that its next-generation rechargeable lithium-ion cell hit a record high for energy density. The company said the new battery could slash the price of electric vehicles by cutting the battery cost in half.

-Boston Globe

Energy assistance providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker County areas
Heartland Community Action Agency
PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
Toll free: 1-800-992-1710
McLeod: 320-587-5244

McLeod County area
McLeod County Social Service Center
1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area
Renville County Energy Assistance Program
105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2202
1-800-363-2533
(320) 523-1161 Emergency 24 hr phone

Sibley County area
Sibley County Public Health & Human Services
111 8th Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000

MN Valley Action Council
110 6th Street, P.O. Box 87
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-2981
464 Raintree Road
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-2433
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area
Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency
712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952) 960-9700

Wright County area
Wright County Community Action
130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500

Cold Weather Rule helps Co-op members with utility bills during winter months

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year if tge cystiner gas net teg requirements under item one below. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- You declare an inability to pay.
- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- Your account is current for the billing period immediately prior to Oct. 15, or if you have entered into a payment schedule and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.
- You have contacted MCPA and have set up a payment arrangement.

If all of these items are not satisfied the electricity may be shut off due to non-payment.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather month, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.
- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.
- Our members are important to McLeod Cooperative Power. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule. Names and contact numbers for energy assistance providers are listed on this page.

Military Service Personnel Assistance

Utility Payment Arrangements for Military Service Personnel

When a household member has been ordered into active duty, for deployment, or for a change of duty station, some customers may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota law protects these military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their utility bills in full.

How to Apply

Contact McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 to obtain an application and make a payment plan, which you must keep to qualify for protection.

Payment Plans

- If your household income is below the state median household income, pay ten percent of your households gross monthly income toward gas/electric bill; or
- If you receive energy assistance, pay ten percent of your household's gross monthly income toward your gas/electric bill; or
- If your household income is above the state median income, make and keep a payment plan.

Right to Appeal

If you and McLeod Co-op Power cannot agree on a payment plan, you have the right to appeal to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. McLeod Co-op Power will not disconnect your service during the appeal process.

Water Storage Program is the best way to save money and have plenty of hot water too!

When a family joins the Hot Water Storage Program, they begin to save money immediately, as they are paying 5 cents per kWh instead of 10-11 cents per kWh. An average family of four persons that uses 600 kWh for water heating each month will save $453 a year. It is like lowering your bill by almost $38 a month! And if you have central air conditioning, that can also be controlled and added to your off-peak meter, for a 55% savings on all your summer cooling, just for letting the Co-op cycle your air conditioner on peak days.

When a family joins the Water Storage Program, the Co-op helps them size the water heater to make sure they will have sufficient hot water to meet their daily needs. A family of 2-3 people can usually join the program with an 85 gallon hot water heater. A family of 4-6 persons will require a 105 gallon water heater or you could just add an 80 gallon alongside your existing 50 gallon to accomplish the same storage capacity. The Co-op provides a mixing valve at no charge. This device will give you another 30-40 gallons of hot water a day from your tank. The water heater operates from approximately 11 PM to 7 AM heating your family's daily supply of hot water. The elements then remain off for the next 16 hours until they begin recharging over-night again. By heating water only at night when electricity is cheapest, you can save yourself some significant dollars each month while you still enjoy plenty of hot water for laundry, baths and showers since the system is sized to meet your family's needs. Only if you have an over-sized or sunken bath tub may some extra storage capability have to be added.

If your current water heater is electric and not on a control program, the Co-op will pay you a $200 rebate to join the Storage Water Heating Program using a high-efficiency water heater such as a Marathon. If you are building a new home or converting a gas water heater to electric storage using a high-efficiency electric model you will receive a $100 rebate. Call McLeod Co-op for prices on marathon water heaters or details on how you can get on the Storage Water Heating Program and reduce your bill each month.

Updating your grain handling or drying equipment?

An energy grant may be available

Any farmer or commercial account that is updating grain handling or grain drying equipment, replacing old motors with premium efficiency motors, or installing more efficient electrical equipment, may be eligible for an energy grant from the Cooperative. Give our energy experts a call to see if your project will qualify for energy grant funds at 1-800-494-6272.

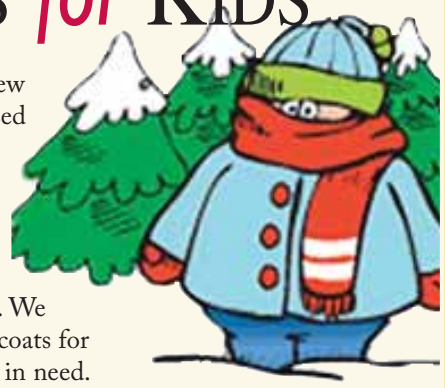
Car accidents and power lines

Every year thousands of cars end up striking power lines. These accidents are extremely dangerous, especially if you don't know how to react to them. If you are ever involved in an accident that includes downed power lines, follow these simple steps:

- Do not leave your vehicle; it's the safest place for you to be.
- Wait for emergency workers and local electric crews before exiting, as they will ensure the lines are completely de-energized.
- If a fire occurs, jump clear without touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time.
- If you come upon the scene of an accident involving downed power lines, avoid the area around the downed line entirely and do not touch the vehicle, as everything from trees to manhole covers can become energized.

No matter the situation, know that your local electric cooperative will work quickly to fix downed lines and restore power to all affected members.

Coats *for* Kids



Bring your new or gently used coats for school-age kids to McLeod Cooperative Power September 1 through October 1. We are helping collect coats for children and youth in need. The drop box located in our lobby is available Monday through Fridays 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Coats will be distributed to local youth Wednesday, October 17 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday October 18 (MEA school holiday) from 9 a.m. to noon at the National Guard Armory in Hutchinson. Coats will be available to families in need. It is open to anyone.

Coats for Kids is sponsored by Common Cup Ministry, McLeod County Social Services, Heartland Community Action and the Glencoe and Hutchinson Rotarians.

Members participate in Coal Creek Tour

Group of members on Coal Creek Tour 2012

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 hvacreducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at www.mcleodcoop.com.

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

2012 Rebates

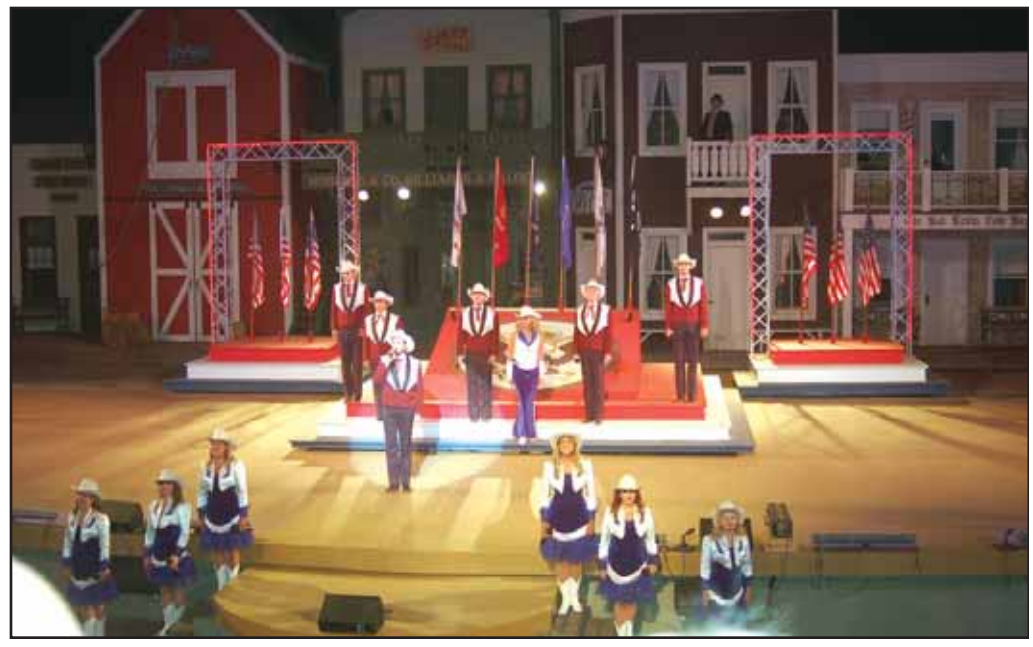
Ground Source Heat Pumps (controlled or uncontrolled)

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	$300
Central Air Conditioner	
13 SEER	$30
14 SEER	$180
15 SEER	$280
16 SEER or higher	$330
Storage Space Heating	$40/kW
ECM Motor	$100
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*	$100
Peak shave to Storage Water Heating*	$100
Heat pump water heater - new construction	$100
Heat pump water heater replacing non-controlled electric	$200
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit	$75
ENERGY STAR Freezer with recycling of old unit	$75

*(Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater)

A bus load full of MCPA members participated in this year's Coal Creek Tour. Members squeezed a tour of Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, the Medora Musical and Pitchfork Fondue all in one day. The three-day bus tour includes a lot of scenery as well as electrical energy education.

Dragline loading overburden from coal seam into truck at Falkirk Mine



Patriotic performance and Honoring the flag on horseback at Medora Musical