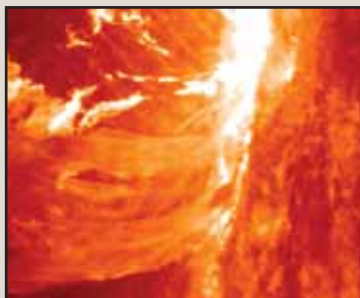


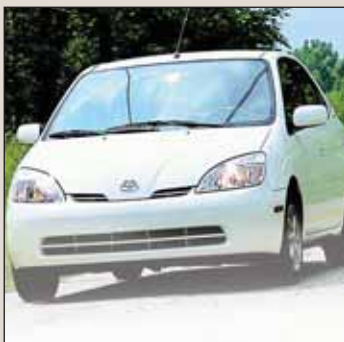
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Charge electric vehicles with off-peak rates **6**

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Call us when you have blinking lights or outage concerns

If you experience blinking lights or short power outages, the Cooperative encourages you to call the office and report the problem. Please record the date and time your lights blink or go out before calling in to report it. By reporting blinking light issues you give the Coop a heads up that there may be a problem on the line feeding your home or business. You may call toll free at 1-800-494-6272.

Cooperative employees can look at meter data to tell if blinks are occurring just at your location or to your neighbors also. If you and your

neighbors are all experiencing blinks at the same time, there is likely an equipment problem on the line for us to locate and repair. If the blinks are just at your location, we will check connections on our equipment and help you determine if it might be an electrical issue on your side of the meter. If it is, you will need to hire an electrician to fix the problem.

If your power has gone out and you want to know why, in many cases you can call the office during business hours and we can tell you if it was a transmission outage or line outage and

what caused the outage. Although sometimes a cause is not known.

The Cooperative is required to keep detailed records of each reported outage, its cause if known, duration of the outage and number of members affected. A summary of outages for the month of September is given on page 2 of this newsletter. Detailed reports on October and year-to-date outages were not available when this newsletter went to print.

Holiday Treats December 13



Plan to visit the Co-op office at 1231 Ford Avenue in Glencoe on Thursday, December 13 and join us for holiday cookies, cider and coffee. Holiday treats will be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members may also pick up their 2013 scenic calendar at that time.



2013 McLeod Cooperative Power Calendar

Scenic 2013 calendars will be available by Thanksgiving

This year's 2013 scenic Minnesota calendars will be available in the Co-op office by Thanksgiving. Please stop in and pick up a copy. First come, first serve, while supplies last.

Recycle holiday light strings



Although the Cooperative is not offering a discount coupon this year for LED holiday light strings, we are still serving as a collection site for you to dispose of your old light strings. A box from Adult Training and Habilitation (ATHC) will be available in the Co-op's office. We will collect old light strings and provide them to ATHC where all the components are recycled. ATHC provides jobs for disabled persons sorting and recycling light strings, old electrical cords, appliance and telephone cords. There is no charge to drop off your cords. Only battery chargers and adapters are not accepted.

Autopay saves you and the Co-op money every month

This is an especially good time for members to sign up for the Direct Payment (Autopay) Plan. **You can get away from writing a check, putting on a stamp, and mailing your payment to the Cooperative.** It is so simple to sign up. Once on the program, MCPA will automatically take care of the bank draft from your account. **You save time and money each month and so does the Cooperative.**

Here is how it works:

- You will receive your normal monthly bill around the 15th of each month, giving you 13 days to review the charges.
- Your bank account will not be charged until the 28th of the month (or the next business day if it falls on a weekend).

To get on the Direct Payment Plan, just fill out the Authorization for Direct Payment form and return it to the Cooperative along with a voided check. Please allow 3-4 weeks for your enrollment on the program.

Call 1-800-494-6272 today if you need assistance signing up.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize McLeod Cooperative Power Association and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution three business days before my account is charged.

Name of Financial Institution _____

Branch _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature of Member _____

Date _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Telephone # _____

Address (Please Print) _____

Bank Acct. # _____ Checking _____ Savings _____

PLEASE ATTACH A BLANK, VOIDED CHECK FROM YOUR DESIGNATED ACCOUNT FOR VERIFICATION.

Electric Acct. # _____

Location # _____

Manager's Message —

by Kris Ingenthron, General Manager

McLeod Cooperative Power Association



Pressures affecting our rates

As the construction season winds down, now is the time we focus our attention on preparing our budget for 2013. We begin our budget process in September. Each manager prepares a department budget and submits it to our accounting department who compiles a complete preliminary budget for the Board of Directors by the November meeting. The Directors review the budget for four weeks and give final approval at the December Meeting.

There are many outside pressures that affect our rates, such as wholesale power costs, material costs, equipment costs, fuel costs, declining sales, and so on. Wholesale power costs have the most dramatic effect on our budget. Sixty-five percent of our operating costs are for wholesale purchased power. Great River Energy, our wholesale power provider, has indicated power costs will rise on average 4 percent for each of the next three years.

One comment/question that we receive on a regular basis is; "As a member I understand that costs are continually going up and that causes electric rates to increase, but what are the employees and the Board of Directors doing to keep expenses down?"

We have always kept a close eye on our controllable expenses. Over the past few years we moved our health insurance plan from a PPO to a High Deductible HSA, and we have re-financed several of our long term loans to a lower interest rate saving \$750,000.00 over the term of the loan. We have not replaced some employees as they retire, absorbing their workload among active employees. As short-term cost saving measures, we have suspended our tree trimming/right-of-way clearing and our right-of-way spraying programs for the entire year. We have also suspended travel and meeting attendance for the remainder of 2012.

As employees of McLeod

Cooperative Power Association we are committed to providing you with the best possible service at the lowest cost possible. Your Board of Directors has also taken a proactive approach to cutting costs and will continue to look at every possible way we can reduce our expenses without affecting our service.

Moving into 2013 will once again be a challenge for all of us. We know that rate increases are not something that any of us like to face, so rest assured that all of us here at MCPA will try to do our best to hold costs down while continuing to provide you, our member, with safe, reliable electric service each and every day.

Cooperatively yours,

September Outage Summary

During September there were 50 outages reported on the Cooperative's system.

- The largest outage on September 30 affected 47 members southwest of Hutchinson. It was caused by a squirrel and the outage was restored in one hour and eleven minutes.
- The second largest outage was also southwest of Hutchinson on September 27, affecting 41 members, but it lasted only a few minutes as crews were working nearby when farm machinery hit a line.

- The third largest outage was near New Germany in the evening on September 26. Cause of the outage was not known. All 31 members were back on in a little over two hours. (Evening and weekend outages will typically take a little longer to restore than outages during working hours when crews are already out on the project).

Most outages affect only one or two members. They are frequently caused by small animals, trees in the line, equipment failure, or motor vehicle/machinery accidents. Larger outages affecting hundreds of members at a time are usually caused by transmission outages, storms, equipment failure to substation equipment, or accidents.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1

Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

District 2

Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer

Brownton

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.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: **320-864-3148**

1-800-494-6272

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

Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Even if it all went dark, the industry would be prepared



System Operator Cody Smith highlights a transmission line being placed in service. Highlights represent transmission lines and substations that have been returned to service. Green push pins represent open circuit breakers or switches. Red push pins represent closed circuit breakers or switches.

Yesterday there was an earthquake. Tornadoes destroyed portions of the electric transmission system. Storms tore through the Midwest. Facilities were sabotaged. Chaos. Then the entire system went black.

That was the premise of an intense training session that system operations employees from Great River Energy, wholesale power supplier to McLeod Cooperative Power, completed Oct. 9 and 10 with approximately 100 other utilities in the Midwest.

“The training is designed to ensure utilities are prepared to restore the bulk electric system in the event of a system-wide blackout,” said Steve Drechsler, Great River Energy system operations trainer.

Transmission utilities, including Great River Energy, have emergency operations plans in place for extreme situations such as this. In this scenario, the transmission system in 11 states and the Canadian

province of Manitoba went black. All affected utilities had to work together to piece the system back together, starting with their own facilities.

“We start with a black-start generation unit, which means it can be started without any external electricity,” said Drechsler. “Once we have that, we can get electricity to other units so they can be started and so on.”

Drechsler said utilities restore small pockets, or islands, of power. They make those islands bigger and bigger until they meet up with islands that other utilities are creating. The utilities combine their islands until eventually the entire system is back up and running.

System operators are required to complete this annual training to maintain certification from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).



The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish all of our members and their families a blessed Thanksgiving. Take this time to be grateful for the many blessings we each enjoy.

The MCPA office will be closed Thursday and Friday Nov. 22 & 23. Please use the 24-hour outage number to reach the Cooperative for outages, emergencies or other messages: 1-800-927-5685.

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.



Give safety for Christmas — the perfect gift for the elderly parent who has everything else

As winter settles in and the holidays approach, have you thought about your parents living at home by themselves during the long winter season? How about the neighbors or other family members who have a hard time getting around or have some medical problems and need someone to check on them often?

McLeod Cooperative Power can help. One of the many services we have to offer you is First Call. It is a 24-hour emergency response system which offers assistance by simply pushing a button.

Whenever the alert key on a special telephone or the button on a cordless pendant is pressed, the phone automatically dials a preprogrammed help number at the monitoring center. Once the connection is made, the speaker phone is automatically

activated to allow hands-free, two-way voice communication. The monitoring center then contacts pre-determined numbers, such as a family member, neighbor, or 911, to let them know that help is needed while still staying on the line with the individual who needs help.

The cordless emergency response pendant is ideal for those who live alone and for people with mobility problems. In a crisis or any situation requiring immediate action, pressing the button on the pendant will initiate the emergency help sequence. In addition, incoming calls can be answered from across the room by the cordless pendant.

For a low monthly cost, you may have this easy-to-use security telephone system in your home or that of a family member. Call 1-800-494-6272 for more information.



Heartland Security Services Goes Interactive

SECURITY AVAILABLE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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



Stay Secure. Stay Connected

WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

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

INTERACTIVE SERVICES

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

emPower™ ENERGY MANAGEMENT

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



VIDEO MONITORING

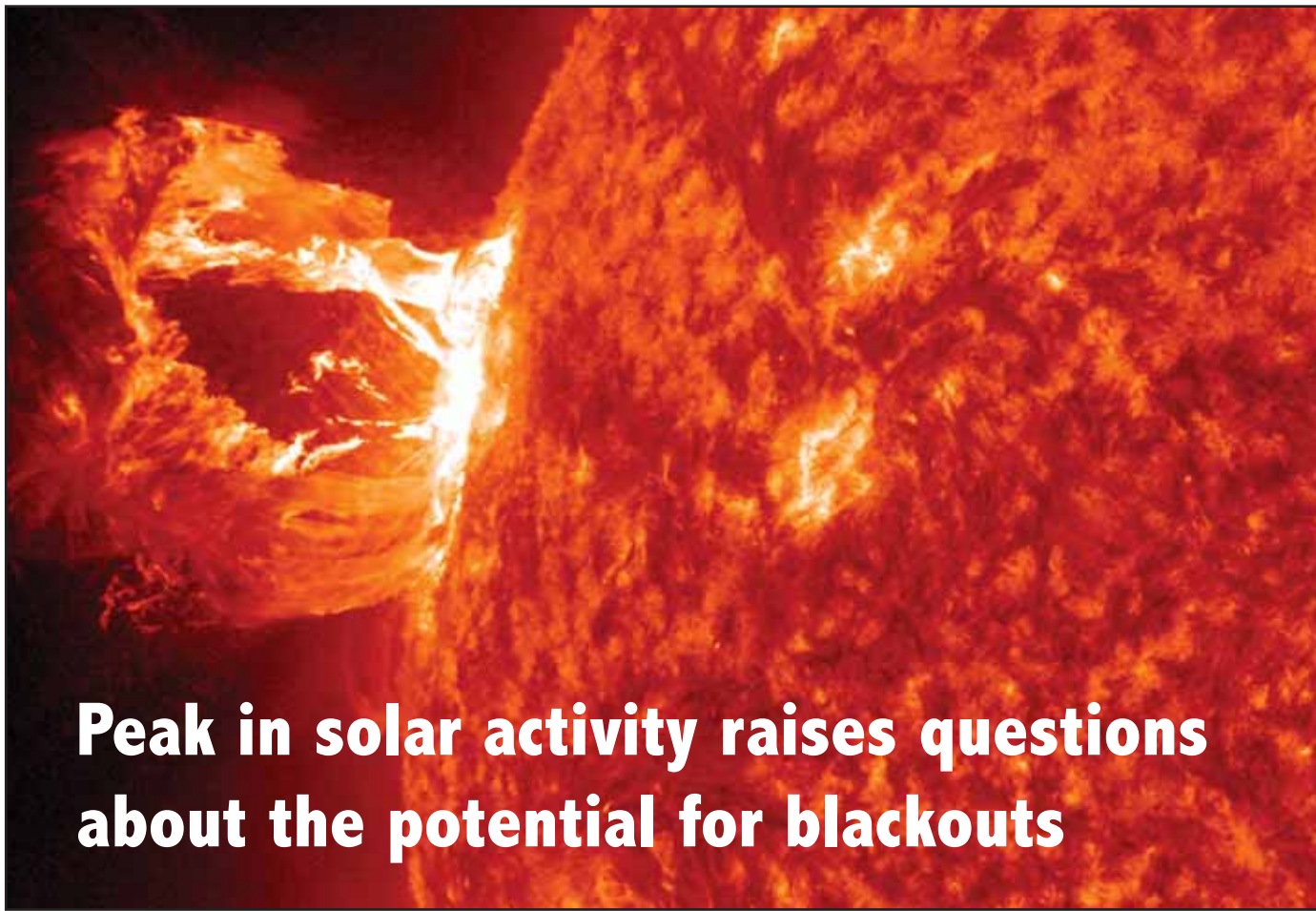
Heartland Security allows you to see what's going on from any web-enabled computer or mobile device through IP addressable cameras (this service requires a high-speed broadband Internet connection).

For more information on the Interactive Home Security Solutions, or to watch an interactive demonstration, visit www.heartlandss.com.



888-264-6380

www.heartlandss.com



Peak in solar activity raises questions about the potential for blackouts

Solar flare on April, 16, 2012. This image was taken by the Solar Dynamics Observatory. This visually spectacular explosion occurred on the sun's Northeastern limb and was not Earth directed.

With expectations for a peak in solar activity in 2013 and the airing of the new NBC television drama "Revolution," where the entire electric system is destroyed, questions have been trickling in about the potential for a massive blackout caused by a solar flare or geomagnetic disturbance.

According to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), it is possible that in the rare extreme, a large geomagnetic disturbance could have the potential to cause a significant, extended blackout.

"While this kind of situation is unlikely, the industry is preparing for heightened solar activity like we would for any other major event such as a hurricane or a tornado," said Dick Pursley, system operations manager for Great River Energy, a wholesale power provider to your Cooperative. "We are at the beginning of an 11-year cycle for solar peak activity. The peak year will likely be 2013," he said.

According to EPRI, a geomagnetic disturbance begins as a large solar flare on the surface of the sun. The resulting ejection of charged particles can create rapid changes in the configuration of the Earth's magnetic field called geomagnetic disturbances (GMDs). GMDs induce slowly varying electric fields at the Earth's surface and cause geomagnetically induced currents to flow on man-made conducting paths such as transmission lines.

"The main concern is that a significant GMD could cause a substantial increase in reactive power consumption leading to a loss of voltage stability on the transmission system. This could result in voltage collapse and a subsequent blackout," said Pursley. Again, while such an event is unlikely, Pursley said the industry has early warning systems and communication procedures in place to ready themselves for a GMD event and allow appropriate actions to be taken if necessary.

Great River Energy has formed an internal task team around the issue and is participating in larger industry efforts to ensure the safety and reliability of the electric system. This fall Great River Energy will install monitoring equipment on the eight converter transformers on the ends of its unique 400-kV direct-current transmission line, which delivers power from its Coal Creek Station power plant near Underwood, N.D., to Minnesota.

Electro-magnetic pulses (EMP) have also made headlines recently, although the electric utility industry has been studying the topic for decades and early warning systems are in place. EMP are man-made disruptions that can be caused by detonating nuclear weapons, or other weapons that would create a high-density electrical field.

Information on how to prepare for disasters that might affect electric service is available at ready.gov.

Credit: NASA/SDO/AIA.

INDUSTRY News

Nissan to produce a car that can park itself

It's a dream come true for anyone who has endured the mall parking lot: an electric car that parks itself. Nissan is working on it and expects it to be "fully viable" by 2015.

The automaker showed off its NSC-2015 during this month's CEATEC Japan 2012, that country's largest information technology and electronics showcase.

"With 90 percent of accidents caused by human error, we aimed to make a machine that could reduce error to as close to zero as possible and prevent an accident before it happens," said Toru Futami of Nissan's IT department.

During a convention demonstration, Nissan used a scenario that many people will be facing once the holiday shopping season gets in gear: driving to a packed mall and searching for a spot. An announcement told the audience that "the mall is crowded today and it will take 10 minutes to find a parking space."

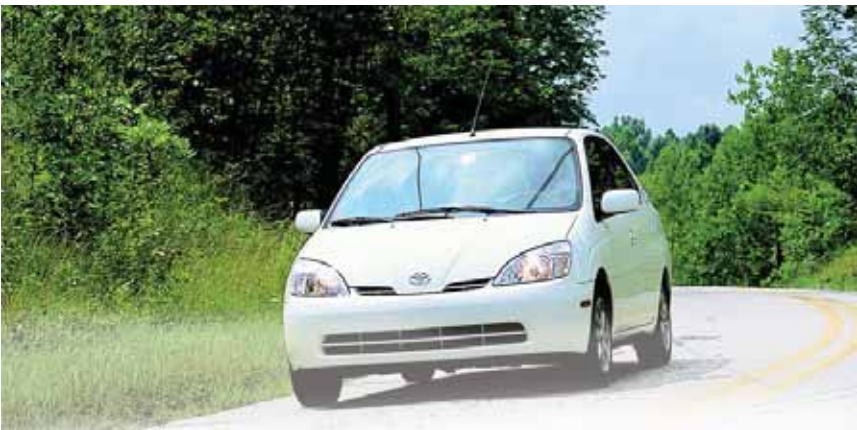
The driver then got out of the car, which proceeded to the parking area all by itself. On the way, it automatically paused at a pedestrian crossing, checked to make sure it was safe, and then continued.

The car then found an empty space and parked itself. The driver later used a smartphone app to summon the car, which detected his location and picked him up.

The NSC-2015 has a remote monitoring system that recognizes the surrounding environment. While it's expected to self-park only in lots designed for robotic cars, it has other features that can work anywhere.

Through the app, a driver can check on the car at any time. An all-around view camera can react to suspicious behavior and alert the driver by sending pictures to his smartphone. If necessary, the driver can use the phone to set off an alarm.

~Electric Co-op Today



Low or no interest on qualifying energy-efficiency upgrades available

Great River Energy program for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles

ChargeWise will charge batteries with off-peak electricity

A new program from Great River Energy and a number of its member distribution cooperatives will make it easier for people to transition from the gas pump to the plug-in.

Great River Energy's member distribution cooperatives will have ChargeWise outlets available for installation in consumers' garages to provide low-cost, off-peak energy for charging plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). The program has been in place for over two years. McLeod Cooperative Power believes it might become more popular in 2013 as Ford and other major auto manufacturers are introducing new PHEVs. The Chevrolet Volt, Nissan Leaf, and PHEV cars by Tesla, Toyota, Honda, and Mitsubishi have been on the market for awhile.

The ChargeWise outlets will charge PHEV batteries between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when demand for electricity is at its lowest and the price for wholesale electricity is also at its lowest. Charging the batteries during these hours also allows Great River Energy to "store" wind energy allowing PHEVs to receive a significant amount of power from renewable sources.

"It's cleaner, greener and cheaper than gasoline," said Gary Connett, Great River Energy's director of member services and demand side management. "As more wind energy is added to the electric grid, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles will get even greener."

McLeod Cooperative Power currently offers several programs designed to maximize the use of electricity that is generated overnight, including off-peak "storage" water and space heating. Members considering the purchase of a PHEV should consult with the Co-op's energy management specialists for recommendations on charging stations and wiring before making a purchase.

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.

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.

Member Eligibility

- Dwelling must be a residential, one-unit, owner-occupied property (system

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

Electric co-ops have retired \$9.5 billion to members since 1988.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

Loan Parameters

Equipment*	Total Loan Available	Term of Loan	Interest Rate
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%

Volunteers needed for nominating committee

To elect directors in Districts 7, 8, and 9 at the 2013 Annual meeting, we need members from those districts to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members participate in the election process by selecting director candidates and submitting their names to the Board for approval. They also assist with collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers are needed from the following townships:

District 7 includes: Hale, Rich Valley and Glencoe Townships in McLeod County and part of Stockholm Township in Wright County.

District 8 includes: Melville, Palmyra, Martinsburg, Bandon, Norfolk, Wellington, and Bird Island Townships in Renville County, and Grafton, Moltke, and Bismarck Townships in Sibley County.

District 9 includes: Hollywood, Camden, Watertown and Young America Townships in Carver County, and parts of Woodland and Franklin Townships in Wright County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power if you are willing to volunteer for the 2013 Nominating Committee no later than January 2, 2013. Committee meetings are scheduled for January 31 and February 14, 2013. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 9, 2013.

				Ellsworth	Collinwood		Victor	Woodland	Franklin
				3					
	East Lake Lillian			Acoma	Hutchinson	Hale	Winsted	Hollywood	Watertown
	4					7	1	9	
Kingman	Osceola	Brookfield	Boon Lake	Lynn	Hassan Valley	Rich Valley	Bergen	Camden	
Bird Island	Melville	Hector	Preston Lake	Collins	Sumter	Glencoe	Helen	Young America	
				5	2				
Norfolk	Palmyra	Martinsburg	Grafton	Round Grove	Penn	New Auburn	Green Isle		
	8								
	Bandon	Wellington	Moltke	Bismarck	Transit	Dryden	6	Arlington	

What makes a good director?

At McLeod Cooperative Power we believe that our Board of Directors comprises a pillar connection with our membership and the community at large. Besides meeting the legal requirements for Director nomination, we are seeking individuals who hold some important personal characteristics. We've summarized these attributes below.

Possess a sincere interest in preserving the strength of the Cooperative's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with its consumer-members. McLeod Cooperative Power has assets of about \$25 million, employs 32 full-time people and is responsible for providing quality electric service to more than 6,000 sites, as well as a variety of ancillary services. Our electric distribution system serves a diverse membership consisting of residences, farms, businesses and industries. While representing all members of the district, **Directors must work with each other to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the entire distribution system.**

Be willing and available to fully participate in the business activities of the Cooperative. Attendance is expected at all scheduled Board of Directors meetings. In addition, from time to time, Directors will be called upon to represent the Cooperative at other meetings and events where their presence is deemed to be beneficial to the Cooperative.

Remain accessible to the members whom they represent. Since the Directors are elected from and by the Cooperative's membership, it is important that they work to maintain open lines of communication with their constituents. They should also strive to be knowledgeable about trends and circumstances that may impact the people and communities of central Minnesota, and be capable of using basic computer skills to receive electronic communications and reports from the Co-op.

Be enthusiastic. During these times of accelerated change, we look for proactive, resourceful and inspired leadership.

Director qualifications per the Co-op Articles of Incorporation

Article 3, Section 2 of the McLeod Cooperative Power Association Articles of Incorporation states the following about director qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

A. is not a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving service at the member's primary residence or principal place of business in the district from which the Director is elected;

B. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was or during service on the Board of Directors is finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;

C. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative;

D. is or becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination shall have been, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;

E. is a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, whether by blood, or in law, of an employee of

the Cooperative;

F. is a person that is child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, by blood, or in law, of an incumbent Director that is not up for re-election at that time;

G. is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;

H. is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another Director; or

I. is absent without cause from three (3) or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors during any twelve (12) month period.

A member that is an authorized farm corporation, family farm corporation, regular corporation, partnership, limited liability partnership or other business entity may select an individual member residing on or actively operating such business entity to be eligible for election to the Board. A member that is not a natural person may select one of its officers to be eligible for election to the Board, provided that not more than two (2) such officers may serve on the Board at the same time.

MCPA Director Candidate Application

The undersigned, a member of McLeod Cooperative Power Association, hereby applies as a nominee for director of McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____ and requests that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election for director from said district to be held at the next Annual Meeting, April 9, 2013.

I certify that my account is current and I am a member in good standing with McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____.

I certify that I am a resident of District _____ and am receiving electric energy from McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

I certify that I am not in a competing business with McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

If elected director, I agree to attend as many meetings of the Board of Directors as possible and to abide by the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and Policies of McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

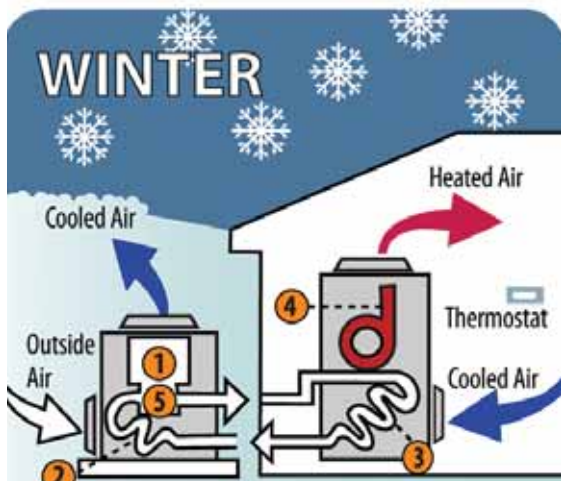
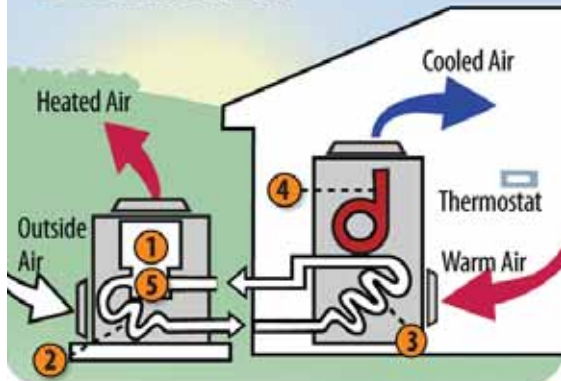
Date: _____

Signature: _____

How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent in moderate climates.

SUMMER



1 Compressor
Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.

2 Condenser
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.

3 Evaporator
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.

4 Air Handler
Fan blows air into a home's ducts.

5 Reversing Valve
Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA

Is Your Home Ready For Winter?

Autumn is a time of transition; as the days grow shorter, the leaves turn color and soon they begin to fall. With winter on the way, now is the time to make the changes necessary to get your home ready for winter. The following tips will help you minimize energy costs and keep your family comfortable all winter long.

Doors and Windows

- Replace worn weather stripping around all doors and windows.
- Caulk gaps in windows and door glass.
- If you do not have storm doors, consider installing them.
- Replace older, single-pane windows with new, high-performance models.

Insulation and Sealing

- Adequate attic insulation is essential in keeping your house warm and saving on winter heating bills. Add or replace attic insulation as necessary. See the U.S. Department of Energy's Insulation Fact Sheet for the recommended R-value of insulation for your area.
- Add foam insulation gaskets to electrical outlets and switches on external walls (remember to turn off the power first).
- Look for gaps or holes in attic soffit and knee walls, basement rim joists (where the foundation meets wood framing), as well as plumbing and wiring access. Seal by stuffing with insulation or expandable foam or caulk.

Heating System

- Have your heating system inspected by a certified professional before cold weather arrives.
- Clean vents and other heating system components.
- Replace your furnace filter now, and continue routine replacement throughout the heating season.
- Consider installing a programmable thermostat; it will help you save on energy costs by automatically lowering temperatures at night while you are sleeping, and when you are away from home.
- If your heating system is more than 15 years old,

consider replacing it with a new furnace or heat pump that is ENERGY STAR® certified.



Chimney and Fireplace

- Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned by a professional.
- Repair or replace a loose-fitting fireplace damper to prevent heat loss through the chimney, and make sure the damper is closed whenever the fireplace is not in use.
- Fireplace inserts, covers, glass doors, and flue sealers, also help to prevent heat loss through your fireplace chimney.

Outside Your Home

- Replace missing or damaged roof shingles.
- Clean the gutters and make sure downspouts point away from the house.
- Make sure the flashing around the chimney and vent pipes is sealed tightly.
- Trim tree limbs that touch or hang over your home. A home energy audit is a great way to find opportunities to lower your utility bill this winter and all year round. For more information, see Give Your Home an Energy Checkup.

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Source: www.eere.gov

When is Dual Fuel controlled and why?

Members with Dual Fuel systems will periodically have their electric heat controlled as weather conditions, prices in the wholesale energy market, and regional power supplies dictate. Electric heat on Dual Fuel can be controlled for up to 400 hours per year and up to 12 hours in one stretch without recharge, so you want to make sure your back-up heating system is automatic and able to heat your home on the coldest winter nights for extended periods. Although control most usually will occur between 4 and 10 p.m. on a week night, it can happen in the morning, afternoon or on a weekend.

For members with peak shave water heaters or Dual Fuel, control times are available daily by going to the Cooperative's web site. They are usually posted by noon on our home page. Or you may click on "Is today a Load Mgmt Control Day?" on our home page for more detailed information and historical control times.