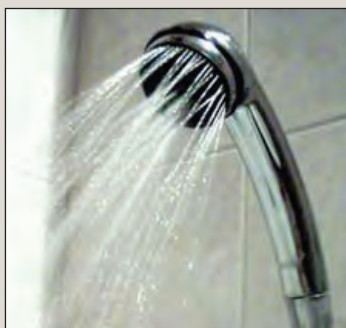


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Official publication of



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

## Please open and respond to survey from Great River Energy

**M**cLeod Co-op Power and Great River Energy (GRE) are conducting a survey that will help us better serve your future needs. Through a random selection process, approximately 900 McLeod Cooperative Power members will receive a survey by mail in early June. One McLeod Co-op Power member who completes and returns the survey will win a \$200 electric bill credit. We will do a random drawing from the completed surveys received.

It is important to both McLeod Co-op and GRE that you take a few minutes to complete the survey and provide us with helpful information. We do this survey once every four years to track appliance usage patterns.

This information is used to help determine our long-range electricity needs and what types and ages of appliances exist within our service area. We appreciate your willingness to take this survey and thank you in advance for your participation.

## Minnesota Legislative Update

**T**he Minnesota Legislature wrapped up its session in May with some expensive solar mandates getting approved for Investor Owned Utilities. Fortunately, cooperatives and municipal utilities (which are consumer owned) were exempted from the increased renewable energy standard and 1.33% sales tax on energy to be used for solar subsidies. If cooperatives had not been exempted from the solar mandate and if the proposed changes to net metering limits had changed, the cost of electricity would have increased significantly for our Cooperative members.

We would like to thank most of the state senators and representatives from our service area who did a good job of voting to protect rural residents from these increased costs. We also want to thank all of our members who called or e-mailed or wrote letters to legislators sharing opposition to the expensive solar mandates, subsidies, and proposed net metering changes. Your efforts were very helpful.

For our service area, there will be basically no change from the current 40 kW net metering limit. The Co-op is required to interconnect with small power producers (under 40 kW) and purchase their excess generation at our retail rate. This costs more than purchasing power from our own generation sources, but it is a lot less expensive than what the bills going through the legislature this session could have imposed on us.

## School safety programs partner with Dairy Queen

**MCPA presented electrical safety programs in May in area schools.** The Cooperative promotes electric safety training to help educate youngsters to be safe when using electricity and to know how to avoid dangerous situations. Students who participate in the class will receive a voucher from Dairy Queen for a free Blizzard. This is the third year Dairy Queen has partnered with Co-ops state-wide to promote electrical safety and energy efficiency.

Schools and groups that accepted our invitation to present safety training were third graders and fifth graders at Sibley East School, Arlington campus. Students view a safety video, review safety rules and correct actions to take in dangerous situations. A Cooperative line worker also shows students the protective gear they wear and use, and answer questions about their job.



One hundred and seventeen fifth and third graders participated in electrical safety training at Sibley East Schools in Arlington in May.

## Only unmetered yard lights will be installed in the future

**M**any MCPA members have yard lights. Some are the metered variety where the energy used by the light is recorded on the electric meter. The other variety is the unmetered light where the energy used by the light does not go through the meter and the monthly rental fee includes average kWh used by a light. The monthly rental fee for an unmetered light is higher but it does include the energy the light uses.



In the future, McLeod Cooperative will only be installing the unmetered lights. The transition away from metered fixtures is due to the high cost of keeping the metered lights working

when they often utilize wires and connections owned by the member. The unmetered lights are powered by the Co-op owned transformer and conductors which are all located at the top of the pole, and are less costly for us to maintain.

Those members who currently have metered lights will be able to keep their lights until such a time that they may fail and need to be replaced. At that time, the Co-op will assist the member in determining if a replacement with an unmetered light will work. The Cooperative will work with each member individually when more than a simple repair or bulb change is required and a replacement or removal of the light are required.

## Why do compact refrigerators gulp energy?

Some mini-fridges, smaller than five cubic feet, use more energy than a 31.5 cubic foot French-door refrigerator. Hard to believe a small fridge could cost more to operate than a big fridge seven times its size, but there is a reason. Full size fridges have an external condenser and fan. Compact refrigerators typically use their exterior walls to dissipate heat. As a result, they tend to be very sensitive to room temperatures; the warmer the room, the more energy they use. Some models are more sensitive than others. All compact refrigerators will use more energy if they are inside a cabinet or other enclosure, or squeezed into a corner with stuff around them, because it could trap heat. Try to keep your compact refrigerator in the coolest spot possible.

Beginning in September of 2014, stricter energy standards go into effect which should improve the efficiency of all refrigerators. If you have to buy a mini-fridge before then, consider the Frigidaire FFPH44M4L(M) model. It is a 4.4 cubic foot model which costs about \$27 a year to operate. It uses about one-third the energy of other mini-fridge models and it is the only mini-fridge recommended by Consumer Reports, based on its efficiency and performance.



**The MCPA office will be closed  
Thursday, July 4**

**in observance of  
Independence Day.**

**Outages may be reported 24 hours a day to  
1-800-927-5685. Our office will be open Friday,  
July 5 with regular business hours.**

## Best Investment for your home: Convert your uncontrolled water heater to the Storage Program

The average family of four persons can reduce their electric bill \$35-40 a month when they join the Hot Water Storage Program. Twenty percent of Co-op members are already participating in the Storage Program and saving money every month. That is over 1,140 of your neighbors and fellow members that have figured out this is a great program. Members who participate pay the half-price electric rate for heating their water. If they cool their home with central air conditioning or a heat pump, their cooling can be cycled on the half-price rate also.

To participate, you need an 80 gallon or larger hot water heater. Two 50 gallon or larger water heaters can also be used but one 80 or 105 gallon tank works best. A high-efficiency, well-insulated water heater, like a Marathon brand, is best, but not required except to get the Co-op's rebate.

A \$300 rebate for uncontrolled electric water heating that converts to the Storage Water Heating Program with a high efficiency water heater (energy factor of .90 or higher) is available while rebate funds last. The Co-op provides a mixing valve to increase the gallons of hot water you can get out of your system daily and the Co-op provides the off-peak metering package and radio receiver. The customer has their own electrician wire the water heater and metering equipment to the service.

Once on the program, the water heater will be allowed to heat for 8 hours in the middle of the night (approximately 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily). The water heater will be off for 16 hours during the day. That is why members have an extra large water heater, sometimes with a mixing valve, to make sure they have plenty of hot water to use all day. The program comes with a satisfaction guarantee and the Co-op will work

with any family that grows over time. (We know that families with teenagers typically use more hot water than families with toddlers.) You have hot water 24 hours a day even though it is actually heated only in the nighttime, when there is a surplus of power available due to wind turbine generation and the low demand for electricity when everyone is sleeping.

McLeod Co-op Power stocks 85 and 105 gallon water heaters for the storage program. An 85 gallon is available for \$975 plus tax and a 105 gallon is \$1,025 plus tax. Free delivery is available for MCPA members.

If you need to replace an old water heater, we encourage you to choose Marathon brand, with a lifetime warranty against leaking. Do the Storage Program at the same time to dramatically reduce your electric bill. With the savings on the storage rate, most families will see payback in 2- 3 years. If you already have an 80 gallon or larger water heater, and you can join the program without having to purchase a new tank, your payback should be less than six months. If you have central air conditioning and opt to have that controlled on the off-peak program, you will save more than 50 percent on your cost of summer cooling. Let us help you drop your electric bill today!

Call the energy experts at McLeod Co-op Power today 1-800-494-6272. We can assist you in getting set up for Storage Water Heating. It is a big financial savings for members and every uncontrolled water heater that goes onto the Storage Program saves money for the Co-op.

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### MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

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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 shown.

#### 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

## How about your number?

Our automated system relies on your primary telephone number to automatically identify the outage location. That can be your home, cell, or whatever phone number you designate.

However, that phone number must match the one we have on file for you. Our system only recognizes the phone number that matches your electric account information. Calling to report an outage from a different number just takes a little longer and you may experience greater hold time in a big outage.

Look at the number on the upper right corner of your electric bill. Check to make sure the telephone number shown is the number you would most likely call in from to report your outage.

## Do you have the Cooperative's number?

Do you have the Cooperative phone number close to your phone? Do you have it on a magnet or chip clip on your refrigerator so you always know where to find it when the lights go out? Call the Co-op if you need a magnet for your fridge door or stop in to pick up a chip clip. We want you to have our outage number readily available.

## Heat Pump Swimming Pool Heaters Make a Splash

### Key Points

- Heat pump water heaters are highly efficient because they move heat rather than create it.
- Pool heaters are sized according to water surface area, as well as conditions around the pool.
- Heat pumps cost more than conventional units, but lower operating costs can provide a return on investment.

For facilities with swimming pools, such as hotels, motels, health clubs and schools, maintaining a comfortable water temperature is important, yet water heating is a significant energy user. Heat pump swimming pool heaters are a reliable and efficient alternative to conventional natural gas units.

### How they work

In many ways, heat pump water heaters are similar to conventional units. But unlike conventional water heaters, which use fuel to generate heat, heat pumps move heat from one place to another.

A pool pump constantly circulates the water to keep it clean and regulate the temperature. Water drawn from the pool passes through a filter to the pool heater. Major components of a heat pump pool heater include a fan, an evaporator, liquid refrigerant, a compressor and a condenser.

### Pool heater sizing

Pool heaters make up for heat loss from both radiated heat and evaporation, which must be replaced by cold water. Pool heaters are sized according to the surface area of the pool, the

difference between the desired pool temperature and the average air temperature, the actual humidity of the air and the velocity of the air above the surface. For outdoor pools, other factors such as wind exposure and cool night temperatures should be considered.

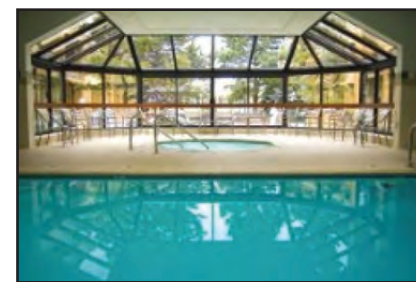
Heat pump pool heaters are rated by British thermal unit (Btu) output and horsepower (hp). Radiant losses are proportional to the temperature difference between water and air. For example, a 20 foot x 40 foot indoor pool with a four degree temperature difference would have a radiant heat loss of about 270,000 Btu per week. Assuming evaporative loss of 1 inch of water per week, the energy required to heat 500 gallons of makeup water would be around 155,000 Btu, for a total heat loss of 425,000 Btu per week. A 25,000 Btu per hour heat pump would only need to operate 17 hours per week to deliver that much heat. For an outdoor pool however, the radiant and evaporative losses would be much greater.

While these guidelines can provide you with a broad estimate, have a trained pool technician perform a sizing analysis to determine the correct heater size for your application.

### Efficiency and cost

Because heat pump swimming pool heaters use electricity to move heat rather than create it, they are highly efficient—typically much more than 100 percent efficient.

The energy efficiency of heat pump swimming pool heaters is measured by coefficient of



performance (COP); the higher the COP number, the more efficient. Although there is no single standard for determining heat pump pool heater efficiency, manufacturers typically measure the COP by testing a heat pump pool heater with an outdoor temperature of 80°F and pool temperature of 80°F. COPs for heating usually range from 4.0 to 6.0, which is equal to 400 to 600 percent efficiency. This means that for every unit of electricity it takes to run a pool heater, you get 4 to 6 units of heat out of the heat pump.

Heat pump pool heaters typically cost more than conventional units, but they have lower operating costs due to their higher efficiency. Overall savings, however, depend on a number of factors, such as pool size, heater efficiency, climate, energy prices and so on.

With proper maintenance, heat pump pool heaters typically last longer than conventional units, providing extra savings in repair and replacement costs. Consult with a pool heating professional to find out if a heat pump pool heater is right for your facility.

## Every Degree=Dollars

# \$SAVE!

Don't let summer heat burn your budget. When home, set your thermostat to 78°.

### Going out for the day?

By turning your thermostat up a few degrees when you're out of the house, you can cut your electric bill significantly. That's a savings of up to 1 percent for every degree you raise your thermometer (based on eight hours).

# 78°

Source: EnergySavers.gov

## Mini Split Heat Pumps: Ductless Heating and Cooling

Mini split heat pumps provide energy-efficient heating and cooling without ductwork. They are an increasingly popular, cost-effective replacement for baseboard electric heating and window air conditioners in older homes. These ductless systems are also a good choice for home additions where installing ductwork is expensive or not feasible, and to improve poorly heated or cooled rooms.

### How they work

Mini split systems have an outdoor unit comprised of a compressor and condenser, and an indoor air handler. A conduit, which contains a power cable, refrigerant tubing and a condensate drain connect the outdoor unit with the air handlers inside. Refrigerant flows constantly through the tubing. In winter, the refrigerant absorbs heat from the outside air and brings it inside as it evaporates into a gas. Heat is transferred from the refrigerant as it condenses back into a liquid. In summer, this process is reversed as the heat pump provides cooling by moving warm inside air outdoors.

Mini split models have as many as four indoor air-handling units connected to one outdoor unit. The number depends on how much heating and cooling is needed in each area of the home. Each air-handling unit comes with its own thermostat, providing individual control for specific rooms or zones.



### Benefits of mini split systems

For many homeowners, mini split heat pumps provide a number of important advantages over central air conditioning systems, as well as window or wall units:

- **Energy savings.** Mini splits have no ducts. Ductwork is responsible for up to 30 percent of heating and cooling losses in central air systems, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, especially if the ducts are in an unconditioned space.
- **Reliable heating and cooling.** Like other heat pumps, mini split systems can deliver energy-efficient heating and cooling. In colder climates, a backup heating system may be required.
- **Ease of installation.** Mini splits are easier to install than other types of space-conditioning systems. Typically, hookup between indoor and outdoor units only requires a small hole in the wall and connecting conduits are available in a variety of lengths.
- **Design flexibility.** Indoor air handlers can be suspended from the ceiling, mounted into a drop ceiling or hung on a wall. Floorstanding units are also available, and many models come with remote controls to make turning the system on and off more convenient.

Mini split systems typically cost more to install than other heating and cooling systems, although lower operating costs and financial incentives can help quicken your return on investment. See the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE) for incentives available in your area.

When installing a system, look for a contractor with experience handling mini split systems. Also, be sure to purchase a unit that is ENERGY STAR qualified for energy-efficient performance. Used for decades worldwide, mini split heat pumps are a proven technology that some U.S. homeowners may not be familiar with.

## Lower Humidity = Lower Electric Bill

By James Dulley  
NRECA

### Dear Jim:

Our old central air conditioner still works, but our house often seems too humid indoors. We set the thermostat lower, but it does not help a lot. How can we reduce the humidity and improve comfort?—

Michael T.

### Dear Michael:

High indoor humidity levels can make people uncomfortable. Damp, cool indoor air creates a muggy atmosphere that often feels much worse than warmer humid air from open windows.

Excessively humid indoor air also can drive up air-conditioning costs. As you mentioned, you sometimes set the thermostat lower to compensate for the high humidity and discomfort. Each degree you lower the thermostat setting increases your electric bill.

First, try to reduce the humidity you're already producing. The kitchen and bathrooms are the greatest contributors to high humidity levels. Make sure your stove's exhaust hood is ducted outside, not into the attic—recirculating stove hoods are ineffective at controlling

odor and moisture—and run the fan when cooking, especially while boiling water. Also consider using small countertop cooking appliances outdoors on a patio or deck.

As in the kitchen, run the bathroom vent fan whenever showering or bathing. Don't turn it off as soon as you are done because there is much residual moisture in the air. Some of the new, quiet bathroom vent fans have humidity level sensors to run long enough to exhaust the moisture, but not too long to waste electricity and conditioned indoor air. You can also try a simple countdown timer as the wall switch—set it for 30 minutes, and the fan turns itself off.

If you can get the indoor humidity level low enough, it often is possible for your family to get by with a much higher thermostat setting and ceiling fans.

The air movement from a fan increases evaporation and creates a "wind chill" effect for added comfort. Make sure the ceiling fan rotates to blow the air downward during summer and upward on low speed during winter.

Proper sizing of a central air-conditioning system is critical for low humidity and comfortably cool



Portable heat pump located in Dulley's home office. Notice the two ducts leading to the window adapter. Source: James Dulley

indoor air. An HVAC contractor generally sizes the cooling system properly for a new house. Over the years, you may have made energy efficiency improvements to your house such as more insulation and new windows or doors.

With these improvements, the cooling requirements for your house may have dropped from, for example, 3.5 tons (12,000 Btuh/ton) to 3.0 tons. A unit that's too large for the space will operate inefficiently and could even cause mold problems because of humidity. A licensed professional should size your central air-conditioning system using a

mathematical code or an automatic computer program.

If you plan to install a new high-efficiency air conditioner or heat pump and humidity is an issue for your family, consider a two-stage or variable-output model with a variable-speed blower motor. With the matching smart thermostat, these models are designed for efficiency and humidity control.

You can set both the desired temperature and humidity settings. The air conditioner will run as normal to cool the air to the desired temperature. Once that temperature is met, the blower speed slows down to provide more dehumidification and less cooling.

There may be certain rooms in your house where you find the humidity level to be more uncomfortable than others due to the activity level. A portable air conditioner, which can be moved from room to room and vents outdoors through a window, can provide spot cooling and dehumidification.

Don't forget to fix leaky gutters and downspouts. If rainwater leaks out and saturates the ground around your house, some of that moisture will eventually migrate indoors.

Send inquiries to James Dulley at [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com).

## Heartland Security Wins Another Award

Heartland Security wins 2012 Great Lakes Region Security Pro Dealer of the Year. For the second time in the past four years, Heartland Security was awarded dealer of the year by Interlogix Global Security Products.

Present to accept the award was Heartland's General Manager, Guy Adams, and Field Operations Manager, Rod Elbert. Adams said that his entire staff is the reason for the award.

"This achievement is only accomplished by having a great team focused on doing what is best for our customers and our company."

Grant Copple, Interlogix USA Sales Manager presented the award to Heartland Security for being "a strong company with a dedicated and hardworking manager and team. Heartland Security grew 28% in 2012 based on a strong video focus and an aggressive expansion strategy."

Guy Adams said "We are proud to be named Dealer of the Year again for 2012, and look forward to accomplishing great things for our customers as



Grant Copple, Interlogix USA Sales Manager; Rod Elbert, Heartland Security Field Ops Manager; Craig Szmania, UTC Vice President of Sales/Marketing Americas; Guy Adams, Heartland Security General Manager; Jurgen Timperman, UTC President for Security & Access.

advancing technologies allow us to offer new services and types of protection."

Heartland Security is owned locally by Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc. and McLeod Co-op Power, and remains focused on delivering world-class security, safety, and lifestyle products and services to residential and commercial customers.

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.  
Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.

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

TRAVELERS  
Common Ground Alliance

# GRE's ethanol investment pays off



Blue Flint Ethanol uses steam from Coal Creek Station (right) to produce ethanol from corn.

Although much of the ethanol industry had a challenging 2012, Great River Energy's (GRE's) investments have done well. Ethanol production is an important industry in the Upper Midwest, and several of GRE's member cooperatives serve the electrical requirements of these key members.

"Great River Energy originally got into the ethanol business as a way to add value to our core generation assets," said Sandra Broekema, GRE's manager of business development. In 2007, GRE helped build Blue Flint Ethanol, a 65 million gallon per year ethanol plant, adjacent to the Cooperative's Coal Creek Station power plant in central North Dakota. Steam from Coal Creek Station is used to power the ethanol plant.

Blue Flint Ethanol features a combined heat and power design (CHP) that avoided the initial capital investment and ongoing operating costs of a natural gas-fired boiler system. "Blue Flint Ethanol's CHP design and other operating strategies makes us a low-cost producer in today's ethanol market," according to Jeff Zueger, Blue Flint's chief operating officer.

Blue Flint Ethanol purchases steam from Coal Creek Station, resulting in additional revenue of approximately \$5 million a year for our company. Plus, the ethanol plant earns income on the sale of ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. "Although 2012 was a tough year for the industry, Blue Flint

Ethanol fared well," Broekema said. "[The year] 2013 is off to a good start, and the plant is showing a nice profit from the sale of these products."

"We are currently working on plans to replicate the success of Blue Flint at the site of Spiritwood Station near Jamestown, No. Dak.," said Greg Ridderbusch, GRE's vice president of business development and strategy. Spiritwood Station is a CHP plant that will generate electricity and process steam. The plant, which will be operational in late 2014, will also sell steam to an adjacent malting facility.

Great River Energy is taking an active development role in building Dakota Spirit AgEnergy, a 65-million gallon per year biorefinery that will purchase steam from Spiritwood Station, benefitting the power plant's overall operating economics.

Dakota Spirit AgEnergy would process corn to make ethanol, distillers grains and corn oil. The biorefinery's CHP design would take advantage of Spiritwood Station's steam, fire protection, water and other services, lowering the overall capital costs to construct the biorefinery and reducing operational costs.

Given success in current financing efforts, construction of Dakota Spirit AgEnergy is planning to start this summer with the goal of being online in late 2014.

## State Cooperatives meet with DC Legislative staffers on energy issues

Directors, managers, and key employees from electric cooperatives across Minnesota, totaling sixty-eight descended upon Washington, D.C. the first week in May for the NRECA Legislative Conference. Breakfast conversations and successful meetings were held with energy staffers who are the industry professionals charged to advise our decision makers.

Key issues discussed at their meetings were RUS funding, fly ash regulation, The Department of Energy's classification of large capacity water heaters, and EPA greenhouse gas regulation.



Minnesota Co-op people met with DC legislative staffers. Here they met with Adam Durand in the office of Senator Amy Klobuchar.

## INDUSTRY News

### Government faulted for inaction as birds killed by wind turbines

The New York Post (5/26, 498K) reports that, according to the Associated Press, "even as wind turbines kill an estimated 573,000 birds a year – including many bald and golden eagles – the Obama Administration refuses to lift a feather to enforce Federal laws protecting the birds."

The Post reports that since wind energy "is a preferred pet of the green movement, the government" created two sets of laws: one aimed at protecting birds from oil and electricity plants by imposing harsh penalties on them if they kill any species of birds and another one that does nothing to stop wind energy companies from doing the same.

The Post concludes by saying that "given the Solyndra mess, the failure of the promised 5 million environmentally friendly jobs to materialize and the double standards with wind farms, clearly there's only one protected species in Washington today: any industry calling itself green."

The New York Times (5/26, A17, Barringer, Subscription Publication, 1.68M) cited a specific case in which Terra-Gen Power, developers of a wind-energy project near the Mojave Desert, didn't face any criminal charges for killing California condors, which, in turn, reduced their numbers at a time when the species is continuing to struggle to climb back from the brink of extinction.

Kelly Fuller of the American Bird Conservancy wrote in a news release that "allowing the legal killing of one of the most imperiled birds in the United States threatens endangered species conservation efforts across the country."

### No. Dak. makes American Lung Assoc. honor roll

The American Lung Association's "State of the Air" Annual Report for 2013, released on April 24, gave eight North Dakota counties "A" grades for lack of ozone, also known as smog, and three counties "A" grades for lack of particulates, also known as dust.

The eight counties, which are chosen because of major population centers or proximity to national parks and grasslands, include Billings, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer and Oliver. The last two counties are home to five of the state's seven power plants and the nation's only lignite-to-natural-gas syngas plant.

In addition to the counties, Bismarck was among the top 25 cleanest cities for year-round particulate pollution. Bismarck and Fargo were among the top-ranked cleanest cities for ozone. "North Dakotans breathe some of the cleanest air in the United States, in part because of emissions control technologies at the state's seven coal-based power plants," said Steve Van Dyke, vice president - communications for the Lignite Energy Council. Utilities in North Dakota have invested \$2 billion in technology to protect the environment and spend \$70 million annually to operate it. In the last five years, three of the seven power plants have invested more than \$1 billion in emissions control technologies.

~Press release

## April Outage Summary

During the month of April the Cooperative had a total of 58 outages. The most outages were caused by ice and sleet. On April 18 and 19 there were 39 outages caused by ice, sleet or frost (no wind).

Our second largest cause of outages for the month was equipment failures. Throughout the month there were 13 outages caused by material or equipment failure, such as insulators, fuses, cut-outs, or line conductor failures or damage.

On Wednesday, April 10 at 12:24 a.m., wind caused an outage northeast of Gaylord. Thirty-eight customers were without power for one hour and 41 minutes. This was our third largest outage cause for April.

There was one outage on Thursday, April 11 at 9:28 a.m. which was caused by a motor vehicle or machinery. Eight customers east of Hutchinson were without power for a little over an hour.

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.

Restoration time on weekend and evening outages, when line crews are called out from home, usually take a little longer to get back on than outages when crews are already out working on the project.

### Rebate funds given out on first come first served basis

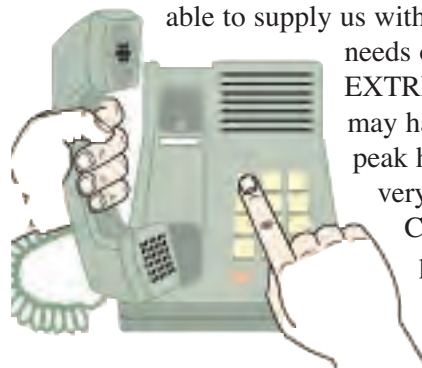
**R**ebates for load management, Energy Star appliances, and energy conservation grants will have limited funding for 2013. Rebates will be processed on a first come, first serve basis and when we run out of funding for 2013, rebates will cease. So do not delay if you are planning on making a purchase of an energy efficient heat pump, refrigerator or other eligible product and you are counting on a rebate. Make your purchase and turn in your rebate paperwork as soon as possible.

If you have questions on rebates for 2013 call the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Visit our website at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) to download rebate forms for ground source heat pumps and appliances. Forms for air source heat pump installations are completed by your certified installer. If you are having a contractor install an air source heat pump for you, please remind them to complete and submit their paperwork quickly so you get your rebate.

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

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

By conserving energy for a few hours, you can help the Cooperative avoid expensive peak day demand and energy charges. This helps manage electric rates for all of our members. Our power supplier, Great River Energy, is able to supply us with plenty of energy to meet the power needs of all of our members, even on an EXTREME PEAK DAY. However, the price we may have to pay to deliver that energy during peak hours of the hottest summer days may be very high. It is the goal of McLeod Cooperative Power to keep rates as low as possible. We greatly appreciate any effort our members can make to conserve on these days.



### Changes to ENERGY STAR rebate program for 2013

**R**ebates for high-efficiency heat pumps will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvaceducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com).

**\$2000 maximum rebate per member. All 2013 rebates are on a first-come, first-served basis, while funds last. Refrigerator/freezer units will require recycling of the old unit to qualify for rebates.**

#### 2013 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

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

\$ 40/kW

##### ECM Motor .....

\$100

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

with high efficiency water heater\* .....

\$300

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

\$300

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

\$300

##### 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)

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

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

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



## Make sure you get THE RIGHT TREE

It is important that you select the proper tree type and size if planting near power lines. It can also be important to select the right size and type of tree and plant it in the right location to benefit from winter sun and also to be shaded from the summer sun. The side of your house on which you plant trees or shrubs can affect your annual heating or cooling bill.

Stop in the office or call for a free copy of The Right Tree. It is a guide to help you select the right species, plant it in the right location and give it the proper care.

## Annual Meeting set for 2014

The next Annual Meeting of McLeod Cooperative Power Association has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2014. The morning meeting will be held at the Pla-Mor Ballroom in Glencoe.

After reviewing the cost of and attendance at the Annual Meeting the past several years, the board approved returning to a daytime meeting. Attendance at the business meeting has been better when we have had a daytime event and labor cost is much less for a daytime meeting. The board would also like to move the meeting around to various locations, so in 2014 we will be in Glencoe.

### Focus on Operation Round Up recipient:

## Lutheran Social Service - Senior Nutrition Program

Feeding nutritional meals to senior citizens is only part of the mission of the Senior Nutrition Program provided by Lutheran Social Service (LSS). In addition to nutritious meals, the dining sites offer opportunities for socialization, volunteering, education, and are links to other community services that promote independent living. The volunteers who deliver meals on wheels to the homebound are able to check on them and make sure they are doing okay.

In March, LSS Senior Nutrition Program for McLeod County was awarded a \$500 donation from McLeod Co-op Power's Operation RoundUp Trust. The funds were needed to replace old meal delivery bags. These are the insulated bags used to keep meals hot or cold when they are delivered to dining sites and homebound adults. Claudia Cederstrom, Administrator of the Senior Nutrition Program for LSS in this area, was responsible for applying for the Operation RoundUp funds.

In 2012, the LSS Senior Nutrition Program served 23,874 congregate dining meals and delivered 17,636 meals on wheels in McLeod County. That is over 41,500 total meals. Statewide, LSS of Minnesota served 503,778 congregate meals and delivered 600,886 meals on wheels to homebound older adults last year. Since the program started in 1972, eight billion meals have been served in the U.S. to older Americans.

In McLeod County, the LSS food preparation site at Evergreen Apartments in Hutchinson prepares meals that are served at Evergreen congregate dining but also at Park Towers in Hutchinson, in Glencoe, Stewart, Brownton, and Silver Lake. Meals are also prepared at St. Mary's Nursing Home in Winsted for distribution at congregate dining at Lindenwood and wheels on meals in the Winsted area. Besides the regular hot meals are frozen meals as needed to keep homebound seniors with food to get them



Bruce Rosenow delivers prepared meals to other dining sites and to individual homebound adults through Lutheran Social Service - Senior Nutrition Program. These are the type of insulated containers used for keeping foods hot that will be replaced with Operation RoundUp funds.

though winter storms or when volunteers cannot make deliveries.

LSS provides meals for a suggested donation of \$3.85 each but they do not turn away those who cannot afford to pay. Donations from individuals and groups make up about 31% of funding for this program. The rest comes from federal, state and other funding sources.

The Senior Nutrition program depends on many volunteers to deliver and serve meals. In 2012, over 131,383 volunteer hours were reported in Minnesota. New volunteers are always needed. You can contact your local senior nutrition site or log onto their web site at [www.lssmn.org/nutrition](http://www.lssmn.org/nutrition) and click on Volunteers.

This is one of the many wonderful community services that Operation RoundUp has been able to help fund through members rounding up their electric bills to the nearest dollar.

### Operation Round Up donation amount shows on your electric bill



Members helping members and members helping their community = Operation Round Up

Members giving a few cents by rounding up their electric bill can multiply to dollars for local charities that build up our whole community. If you participate in Operation Round Up, your monthly electric bill shows the donation amount for that month and year-to-date total and can be used as your charitable contribution receipt.

Members who sign up for Operation Round Up will have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. The difference between the billing amount and the nearest dollar goes to the Operation Round Up Trust. Members on the program donate from -0- to \$.99 a month, depending upon the amount of the electric bill. The average member donates \$6.00 a year to the program. Many worthwhile charities benefit from the proceeds of the trust each year.

If you do not already participate, please fill out the form and return it to the Co-op. We will get you set up as an Operation Round Up participant.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Phone system down May 20-21

Our apologies to any members who tried to call our office May 20 or 21 and could not reach us. Due to some computer issues, our switchboard was not working and incoming calls would not go through to us. Cooperative Response Center (CRC), our after-hours service, continued to take calls via our outage number and handle them for us.

We remind members that if you ever need to report an outage or reach our staff in an emergency, you can always call our outage number 1-800-927-5685. Calls are answered by CRC 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and they can contact Co-op employees when we are needed.



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

Announcing the 2013 air conditioning tune-up program.

Just schedule a tune-up of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (unit must be at least 5 years old and in working condition to qualify) and when your licensed professional HVAC contractor performs the service work, have them complete the rebate coupon below. Send the completed rebate form to the Cooperative with a copy of the contractor's invoice. His tune up must include the items on the coupon. After the Co-op receives your documentation, we will credit your electric bill \$25 within 4-6 weeks.



## Tomorrow. Brought to you by tonight.

Today's electricity is changing just as fast as the world it powers. That's why we're promoting technologies that use energy smarter. More efficiently. More effectively. So tomorrow has not only the power it needs, but the potential it deserves.

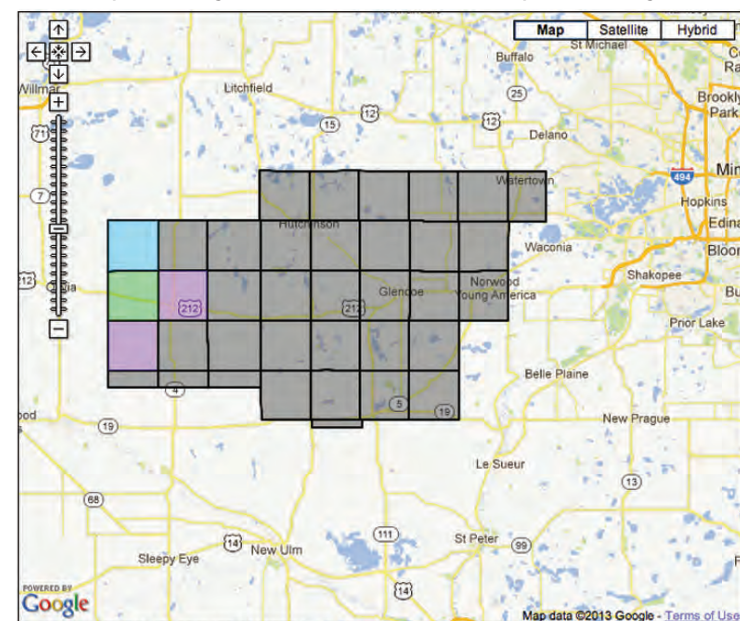


## Outage map available 24/7

You are away at work and storms move through the area where you live. Now you can look online at the Co-op's web site to see if there are outages in your township. If your power is out at home and you have a smart phone you can see how many members in your area are out or if it is just your home.

The Co-op's new outage map is available on the Cooperative's web site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). Just click on the Outage Map icon on the home page to

get to the map of MCPA's service area. If there is one outage or many outages in a township, that township will be highlighted on the map. To the right will be listed those townships with outages and how many members are affected. As outages are



Township	# Out	# Served	% Out
Palmyra	1	107	0.93%
Melville	45	105	42.86%
Osceola	9	91	9.89%
Hector	1	131	0.76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>6611</b>	<b>0.85%</b>

restored, the map numbers will be updated. The map shown here was from Wednesday, January 30, where ice and strong wind caused galloping power lines, blinking lights, and eventually some outages.

If you have any difficulty viewing the map, follow the instructions on the bottom of the map page.

**It is VERY important that you continue to call your outage in to the Cooperative at 1-800-927-5685 any time you lose power. We need to know this information from our members! Unless you call, we do not know that your power is out.**

### Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company doing Tune-Up \_\_\_\_\_  
 Technician's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### CHECK LIST

Brand Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Model # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tons/BTU Rating \_\_\_\_\_ SEER Rating \_\_\_\_\_

- Clean Outdoor Unit
- Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
- Check Blower Belt
- Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
- Compressor Amp Reading Check
- Blower & Oil
- Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
- Check Filter
- Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
- Blow Out Drain Line
- Visual Inspection of Cooling System

Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Technician Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

LEGEND: Number of Consumers Affected 0 1-10 11-50 51-100 101-500 500+  
 Internet Explorer users, please click the 'Show all content' button on the 'Only secure content is displayed.' message.  
 Chrome user, please click on the shield icon on the left side of the address box and select 'Load anyway'.  
 This will need to be done each time the page is loaded due to the use of Google Maps, which is not secured, being used on our secured webpage.