

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

January 2014

In this issue...



Washington DC sign up for junior and seniors...2



Coal Creek Tour July 28-30.....3

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Satisfaction survey will be in bill you receive in February

Please complete and return by March 14

The Cooperative would really like to know how satisfied you are with your electric service. Every few years we send a satisfaction survey to our members to request your opinion. We want your feedback. This is your chance to let us know how you feel about your cooperative.

All MCPA members will receive a survey in their electric bill in mid-February. Please fill out the survey form. Seal it and put it in the U.S. mail. It is a postage-paid mailer and will go right to the company tabulating the surveys for us.

If you put your name and phone number in the space provided and return your survey by March 14, you will be entered in the drawing for a \$100 electric bill credit.

This survey provides important information to the Cooperative. It shows us how satisfied you are with your rates and service compared to previous years. It shows us where improvement may be needed. It gives you an opportunity to tell us what additional services you would like to see us offer. It helps us meet your needs better. So, please take a few moments and complete your survey.

Classified ads on Page 6

As a benefit to McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) members, the Cooperative will now allow members to place free want ads in the monthly newsletter. See this month's ads on page 6 of this newsletter. Only MCPA members may submit ads. Ads may be for giveaway, for rent, for sale or wanted items. We hope this free service for our members brings extra value to you as a member of the Cooperative.

Rebate program for 2014

Ground Source Heat Pumps (controlled or uncontrolled)

Residential	\$400/ton
Commercial	\$400/ton

Air Source Heat Pump

14.5 SEER	\$480
15 SEER	\$580
16 SEER or higher	\$630

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump.....\$300

Storage Space Heating..... \$ 40/kW

ECM Motor

ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier..... \$ 25

Storage Water Heating*

ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit... \$ 75

ENERGY STAR Freezer with recycling of old unit

*Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater that is being installed on the Storage Program.

There is a \$2,000 maximum rebate per member. Rebates are always on a first come, first serve basis so please turn your paperwork in promptly. Rebate forms are available for download from the Co-op's web site. Air source heat pump rebate form should be completed by the installing contractor.

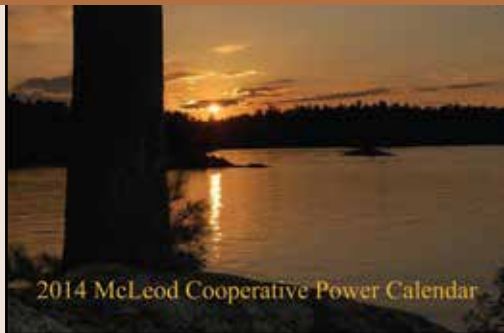
Rebates for high efficiency heat pumps will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvaceducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. There will be no rebates on central air conditioners in 2014. The Cooperative encourages any member replacing their air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

There will be no rebates in 2014 for dishwashers, clothes washers, or refrigerator/freezer units without recycling.

Co-op participates in local parades

McLeod Cooperative Power employees volunteered to participate in local holiday parades. They participated in the Arlington Arli-Dazzle parade on December 7 and the Glencoe Holly Days Parade on December 13. The unit was decorated with holiday lights and included The Grinch and his dog Max. The Holly Days parade in Glencoe provided prizes for the units entered and the cooperative took 2nd place.

Free 2014 calendars are available while supplies last



Members may stop in the Cooperative office and pick up a free 2014 scenic calendar, as long as our supply lasts.

High school juniors and seniors have until March 3, 2014 to apply for the Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour competition. One local youth will win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. June 14-19, 2014 from the Cooperative.

Just call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272 for an informational packet. Applications must be received by March 3, 2014. Students complete a questionnaire and application to qualify. They need only attend a high school in or reside in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or western Carver County.

Co-ops are good for business

Cooperatives make a difference in our communities. A recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota-Duluth detailed the positive impact our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, has on the economies of Minnesota and North Dakota. The study found that Great River Energy supports an average of 4,000 jobs each year. That's one job for every person in the city of Watertown, Minnesota.

Those jobs include the employees who generate and deliver electricity to us, the suppliers they use and the impact of those dollars circulating throughout the economy. Additionally, the company's operations, maintenance and construction activities in the two states provide \$3

billion in total economic impact over the study period from 2012 to 2014. We know that the impact of McLeod Cooperative Power on our community is also significant.

As electric cooperatives, we practice the cooperative principle of Concern for Community. Providing local jobs and using local companies for supplies and services helps uphold that principle while also delivering reliable, affordable electricity to our members.

Another cooperative principle is Economic Participation. We believe this principle requires us to do more than just collect your monthly electric bill. We think it's important to use local companies to provide supplies and

services. Studies like this demonstrate the economic impact of electric cooperatives.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives, including McLeod Cooperative Power, know we can positively impact the lives of our members by providing more than electric service. We provide a positive economic impact and support jobs throughout the region.

You can read more about the study at www.greatriverenergy.com/workwithus. If you have services you can provide, please contact Great River Energy at the same website. If you offer services you think our cooperative can use, I encourage you to contact us to let us know how we can work together.

PURPA policy information available upon request

The PURPA (Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act) of 1978 states that McLeod Cooperative Power Association is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers. McLeod Cooperative Power Association will provide information to all interested persons free of charge upon request. Any disputes over interconnection, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Public Utilities Commission upon complaint. If any member has questions regarding PURPA policies, contact McLeod Cooperative Power Association, per Rule 7835.4600.

Board of Directors

District 1
Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

District 2
Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer
Brownton

District 3
Roger Karstens, Vice President
Hutchinson

District 4
Doug Kirtz, **Hector**

District 5
Allan Duesterhoeft, **Hutchinson**

District 6
Lester Ranzau
Glencoe

District 7
Randy Hlavka
Silver Lake

District 8
Keith Peterson, President
Hector

District 9
Gerald Roepke, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
New Germany

McLeod Cooperative Power News

USPS 2220
Periodicals Postage Paid at Hutchinson, MN
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
McLeod Cooperative Power News
P O Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

The **McLeod Cooperative Power News** is published monthly for \$4.80 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members by McLeod Cooperative Power Association
1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

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 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

Spend your July vacation with McLeod Co-op Power



Join us for the Coal Creek Tour July 28-30, 2014. The Cooperative will be hosting a three-day tour via motor coach to central and western North Dakota. Tour stops will include Coal Creek Generating Station and Falkirk Mine and a night in Bismarck. The second night will be spent in Medora, taking in the Medora Musical and eating at the Pitchfork Fondue.



Call to make your reservations today. Double occupancy is \$400 per person or single occupancy \$500. Cost includes two night's hotel, most meals, motor coach transportation, and tickets to the musical/pitchfork fondue. Call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272 and ask for Katie.

Power Line Worker Scholarship Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2014-15 school term, may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award one \$500 scholarship for a local student.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County or are a resident of one of those four counties, and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply. Applications and informative career brochures are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 17, 2014.

Why do electric bills rise in the winter?

Over the holidays, you probably did more cooking, dishes and laundry. If you had house guests you probably ran more showers, baths, and did extra laundry. Then plug in the tree and holiday lights. Add in the kids trying out all their new electronic games and gadgets that plug in to an outlet.

Besides the holidays, winter in general has homes using more energy. The furnace fan runs, or if you have hot water heat, a circulating pump operates. A space heater may be used to warm chilly rooms of the house. Clothes dryers are used more and clothes hung out on the line less during the winter. More hours of darkness, November through February, mean lights are on more. People are in the house more, using computers and televisions and electronics additional hours during the colder months.

If you have animals, you may use heated water bowls, stock tank heaters, heated mats, heat lamps, heated bird baths — all to make life better for your favorite critters. When it gets really cold, you may plug in your car, truck, tractor, or skid loader with an engine heater. All of these take a lot of energy.

Using more energy in winter drives up electric bills. When your bill arrives in January, if it seems higher than in December, it probably is. That's because the Co-op applied capital credit refunds to member bills in December reducing the total dollar amount due.

If you have any questions about your energy use feel free to contact the Co-op. Our employees are available to help you assess changes in your energy use. They are also available to suggest load management programs and energy conservation programs that can lower your electric bill.

1.



ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course: ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy for an All-But-One approach that bans new coal plants.

2.



TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive—leading to higher bills down the line.

TOP 4 FACTS

ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3.



LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a 236-year domestic source of energy with a historically stable price.

4.



HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.

COOPERATIVE
ACTION NETWORK

ACTION.COOP

New home and dual fuel system saves \$450 a month on energy costs

When Wes and Becky Finger of rural Litchfield decided to build a house on 15 acres of land they received from family, they had some idea how much energy had been wasted by living in their older Eden Valley brick home, but were still surprised by how much was being wasted and the cost.

"We could feel the drafts when the wind blew," Becky said. "We had small children and we had to keep them warm, so the furnace ran all the time."

"When we moved into the house ten years ago, we were paying about \$1 per gallon for fuel oil," Wes said. "By the time we left, we were paying \$3 per gallon. That amounted to about \$400-\$500 per month during the four coldest months of the year."

The couple had been looking for a newer rambler to fit their family of four, which includes Peyton, 8 and Mason, 6, but couldn't find exactly what they were looking for. So they decided to design a house with all the features they were looking for.

"We put a lot of thought into what we wanted and I designed the home and acted as general contractor," Wes said. "We designed it with energy efficiency always in mind."

The 4,424 square foot rambler is stick-built, with a spray foam insulation.

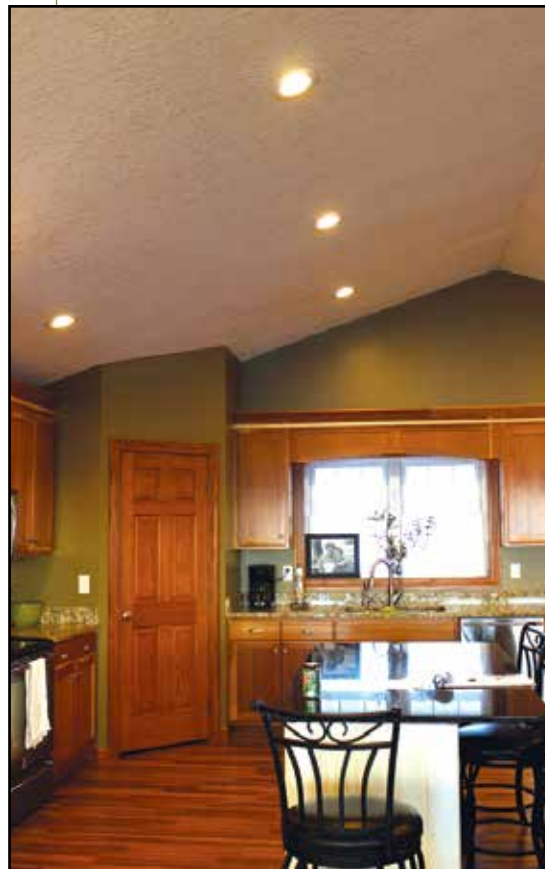
"I'm a huge fan of spray foam insulation," Wes said. "It's remarkable. It seals everything, so there are no drafts and no bugs; no spiders, no flies, no Asian beetles. The R-value may not be quite as high as blown-in insulation, but when you think of it, heat loss is mostly through radiant loss, and the spray insulation seals all the cracks and crevices."

The couple also chose high-efficiency Thermotech double-hung windows and bought LED lights for every receptacle in their home with the exception of the bedroom fans, which don't have

bulbs that fit. All of the LEDs are dimmable, even the can lights. Even though the up-front cost is higher, Wes said the savings in electricity costs make a difference.

An Off-Peak Home

Years ago, Wes helped his dad install an energy management or dual fuel heating system in his own home and it has worked well over the years. When it came to build their own home, the Fingers did their homework and worked with the Co-op to install a dual fuel system.



Dimmable LED can lights can save up to 75% on energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lights.

The workhorse of the system is an air source heat pump, which pulls heat from the outside air and brings it into the home. Since no heat is ever created, it can work at efficiencies up to 200 percent. It works best in temperatures of 20 degrees or higher, but even during the coldest months will provide high-efficiency supplemental heat. Even better, during the summer months it operates as a air conditioning system by drawing hot air from the



Peyton, Becky, Mason and Wes Finger

home and transferring it outside, so a separate central air unit is not necessary.

During the coldest months of the year, additional heat is provided by an electric plenum heater as needed. Both the plenum heater and air source heat pump have been put on an "off-peak" or energy management meter. When electrical demand on the Co-op's system reaches a peak, the Co-op will automatically control the electric heating load for a few hours to avoid paying additional peak demand charges for energy. When control happens, the Fingers have an automatic back-up propane furnace that kicks in for those few hours to heat the home.



The heating unit includes a plenum heater (top), the A-coils of the air source heat pump (mid-section) and the furnace (bottom section). The heat pump unit sits outside like a central air unit. Together, this system is highly energy efficient and qualifies for the low energy management rate when controlled.

Members on energy management help the Co-op save a great deal of money during peaks. So the Co-op rewards those members with a low energy management electric rate, which helps really shave the cost of energy.

Wes and Becky also installed a Marathon 105-gallon high-efficiency super-insulated water heater, which is also on energy management, so their water heating costs are low, too.

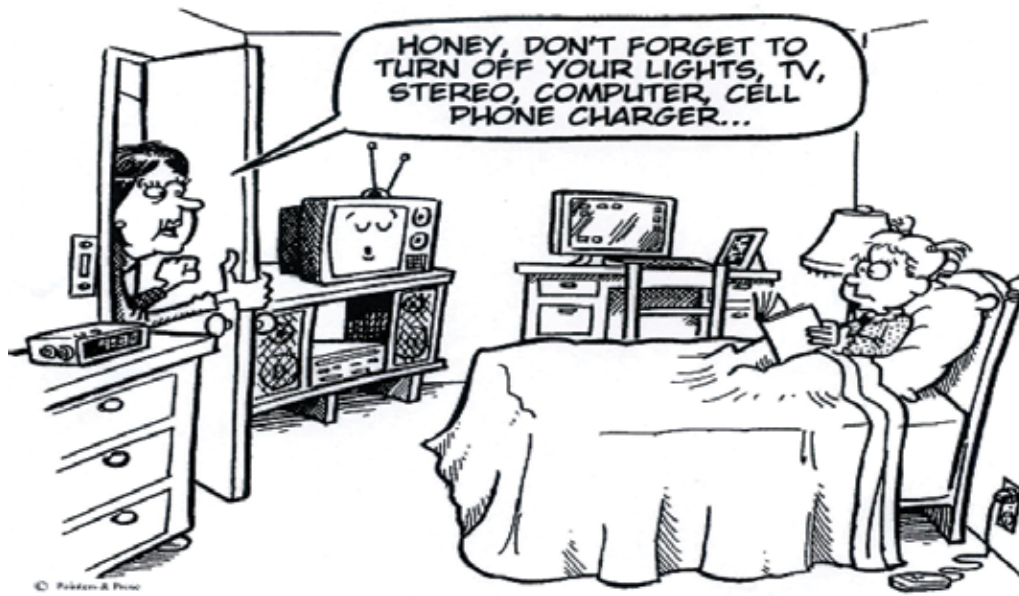
"When we lived in our old home, we were always running out of water, especially if we all four took a shower," Becky said. "Plus we were paying about \$100-\$130 a month just for hot water. Now we never run out of water. Peyton loves to take really long showers, and it's never a problem."

Running the numbers

The Fingers spent about \$2,200 a season to heat their older 1,650 square foot home in Eden Valley. Plus they paid another \$100-\$130 a month for light and other electric appliances, and an additional \$100 a month for water heating.

Last month, their entire electric bill, which includes heating, water heating and lights for their 4,424 square foot home totalled \$232. They save more than \$450 a month just in utilities, while more than doubling their living space.

"We were able to put that money toward a mortgage on this house," Becky said. "Plus, we got a deduction on our home's insurance of about \$300 a month for building a high-efficiency home. It helped to even out the additional cost of the new mortgage."



Taming Plug Loads

As children, most of us were told to turn off the TV when no one was in the room to keep from wasting energy. But with today's televisions, turning off the set doesn't save as much energy as you think. "Off" doesn't really mean off anymore.

Many gadgets use energy even when you are not using them. These devices are commonly referred to as "parasitic loads," "phantom loads," or "energy vampires"—consuming electricity even when switched off.

Most televisions slowly sip electricity while waiting for someone to press the "on" button. They use energy to remember channel lineups, language preferences, and the time. DVD players, DVRs, and cable or satellite boxes also use energy when we think they're turned off.

In an average home, 5 percent to 8 percent of electricity consumption stems from small devices that drain energy even when no one is using them. To put that in perspective, the average North American household consumes roughly 10,800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year. If you estimate that 6.5 percent of your total electricity consumption comes from phantom loads, the amount drained by these vampires equals about 700 kWh annually—or \$70 every year.

So how can you tell which devices are okay to leave plugged in and which need to have a wooden stake driven through their hearts? Find plug parasites and use smart strips.

Identify Plug Parasites

Microwave ovens and alarm clocks, which use relatively small amounts of standby power, are acceptable to leave plugged in. A digital video recorder (DVR) uses a fairly significant amount of power when turned off, but if you record programs frequently you will want to leave it plugged in. You don't have to worry about unplugging items with mechanical on/off switches, such as lamps, hair dryers, or small kitchen appliances like toasters or mixers; they don't draw any power when turned off.

How do you save energy on the other devices in your home? Try plugging household electronics like personal computers, monitors, printers, speakers, stereos, DVD and video game players, and cell phone chargers into power strips. Not only do power strips protect sensitive electronic components from power surges, you can quickly turn off several items at once. (Routers and modems also can be plugged into power strips, although they take longer to reactivate.)

Smart Strips = Easy Savings

Power strips, however, are often hidden behind entertainment centers or under desks and forgotten. A better solution may be found in "smart strips."

Most smart strips feature three outlet colors, each with a unique task. The blue outlet serves as a control plug, and is ideal for a heavily used device like a TV or computer. Anything plugged into red outlets stays on—electricity to these receptacles never cuts off, making them perfect for satellite boxes or other appliances that need constant power.

The remaining outlets, generally neutral or green in color, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue outlet, so turning off the TV or computer cuts power to them as well. Some smart power strips can be made even smarter with timers or occupancy sensors that determine when to cut power to various devices.

Smart strips are available online or at specialty electronic retailers and online. Payback generally can be achieved in under one year, depending on the type of equipment the strips control and how often they are used.

Maybe our parents asked us to turn the TV off because vampires, phantoms, and parasites haunted their electric bills. These days, smart strips can chase these load monsters away from your home—and your pocketbook.

Source: Brian Sloboda, Cooperative Research Network, a service of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Remember the 'war on coal'? Coal is losing — but only in the U.S.

How's that "war on coal" going? It all depends where you look. In the United States, coal power continues to face intense pressure from cheap natural gas and strict air-pollution rules. But in the rest of the world, coal use keeps soaring. Case in point: A recent study from the Union of Concerned Scientists found that 329 coal units in the United States are no longer competitive with natural gas or wind power and face possible retirement in the years ahead. They won't all get shut down, but they're facing heavy pressure.

That's a very large number: Back in 2011, there were 1,191 coal generation units operating in the United States. Since then, 288 have already either retired or are set to be retired. That means more than one-third of the remaining U.S. coal units are now at risk of closing, under pressure from alternative energy sources and pollution rules by the Obama administration. (Even so, coal is projected to remain a significant source of U.S. electricity in the decades to come.)

But those trends put the United States at stark odds with the rest of the world. A separate report out Monday from the International Energy Agency is that global coal demand is seemingly insatiable — driven by rising consumption in nations like China and India. The agency predicts coal use will keep growing at a 2.3 percent clip over the next five years.

~Washington Post

Big batteries needed to make fickle wind and solar power work

Giant batteries are coming to a power grid near you. In fact, they're already starting to appear on the grid in California. That's because California is planning to rely increasingly on power supplies that aren't necessarily available every minute of every day. The state plans to get one-third of its electricity from wind and solar energy by 2020. Utilities in the state are trying to figure out how they can cope with that uncertain power supply. Batteries aren't a panacea, but they could help.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. is already starting to figure out how to make the most of batteries with a test at its Vaca-Dixon substation, near the Northern California town of Vacaville. "Unfortunately there are no dancing bears, no mice running on wheels, so it's not that exciting," jokes PG&E's Dave Fribush, as he leads us to two gray cabinets the size of moving vans. Inside is enough battery power to store the amount of energy that two large wind turbines generate over the course of seven hours. It's only a small fraction of California's energy need, but it's part of a bigger experiment that the California Public Utilities Commission has launched. The commission has called for hundreds of batteries of this scale and other energy storage devices to be connected to the grid over the next seven years, with a potential price tag of \$5 billion.

Here's the catch. Nobody really knows how the batteries can best smooth out the irregular power supply from wind and solar power. "There are many possible different uses for a battery on an electric grid," says Todd Strauss, senior director for energy policy planning and analysis at PG&E. "And the question becomes, how does it get used in practice in those different ways? What are the relative costs of actually using a battery in those different ways?" Looking at the batteries looming over us, Strauss adds, "This is one attempt to try to get some sense of that."

~National Public Radio

Used poles are available at the Co-op

Due to several recent jobs where large numbers of old poles were removed, the Co-op now has a supply of used poles for sale. These are reject poles. They are unacceptable for use in building or structure construction. They may work for landscaping or fence posts. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to determine the suitability of the poles for a desired use.

Most poles are 35 feet long. Most have been treated with preservatives and other chemicals that are subject to control by the EPA and may be hazardous to people handling the poles. Poles are sold for \$1.00 plus tax and must be loaded/removed during regular business hours. Purchaser is required to sign a release form when purchasing poles. Contact the Cooperative if you are interested in purchasing any power poles the cooperative has removed from service.

Open house door prize winner

Winner at the Holiday Open House door prize drawing was **Steve Frauendienst of Hutchinson.** He won a \$25 credit on his electric bill. Congratulations!

MCPA News Ads — Free want ad service for members.

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed below or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by **January 30** to be included in the February issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

Please check ad category

- Giveaway
- For Rent
- For Sale
- Wanted

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- 7 1/2ft Snow blower w/quick hitch \$1,250. 320-327-2472
- 4' X 8' Mankato fish house, suitcase style \$80. 320-583-3888
- Littlest pet shop patchwork quilt & pillowcase 42 X 64 \$45. 320-864-4484
- Dog house 6' X 3 1/2' CEO type windows, porch \$100. 320-587-8065
- 1972 Arctic Cat Puma 440, extra hood \$900. 952-467-2103
- Duncan Phyfe drop leaf table. Three leaves, four chairs \$400. 320-864-4323

- 1974 Moto-ski snowmobile. Runs great. W/extra parts. 320-864-4243
- Wood twin headboards \$65 each, hardly used. 320-587-8232
- 2002 Subaru Outback LL Bean. 155,000. All options \$3500. 484-358-5220
- 2000 Oldsmobile 7 passenger van. Leather interior. Well maintained. 320-395-2873
- Side by side Whirlpool refrigerator, almond, \$200. 320-234-6121
- 8" Stainless steel insulated pipe, 3 sections \$75/piece. 320-587-4974

- 217 Park Ave NW, Silver Lake. 320-291-2926
- 2 - 100lb LP tanks w/ some gas \$75/each. 320-587-4974
- 40" Round oak coffee table. Excellent condition \$40. 320-587-0481

For Sale - Farm

- 24ft Allied bale elevator w/electric motor \$360. 952-467-2103
- Herford beef quarters. No drugs or hormones. 320-587-8711
- 1950's 44 Massey Harris w/loader. Runs good. 320-587-8386
- Barge box w/JD gear

& hoist. Good. \$300. 320-510-2976

- LB White heaters & piglet weigh scale & 6 ton bin & motor. 320-864-5095
- 6620 Combine corn-head & bean-head. Very good condition. Always shedded. 320-365-4174
- Bucket for loader \$100. 320-587-9207
- Steps for tractor \$25. 320-587-9207
- P.U. shock hitch \$20. 320-587-9207
- Tractor chains fits Farmall H \$100. 612-209-5372

Give Away

- Wood burning stove, shop, storage, heats large areas. 952-201-4709
- Cats, neutered male 4 yrs, spayed female 9 months, friendly. 952-467-2324

Wanted

- Consignment auctions wanted any quantity or size. 320-327-2622
- Needed someone to restring a wind chime. 320-864-6878
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi. 320-224-6593

For Rent

- Club House rentals. Trap shooting practice April 9. League April 16. 320-395-2258
- Branson vacation rental. One bedroom condo \$450 weekly. 320-779-0015

November Outage Summary

During November there were 227 outages reported on the Cooperative's system.

- The largest outage was weather related. From the evening of November 5 through the morning of November 6 the Co-op experienced 10 separate outages that affected 129 consumers in many different areas. It was caused by trees with ice and snow or trees coming down on lines.
- The second largest outage was on Saturday, November 2 about 6:21 p.m. It affected 78 members southwest of Brownton. Cause was unknown. The outage lasted two and a half hours.
- The third largest outage was southwest of Hutchinson November 1 about 2:30 in the afternoon. It lasted for one hour and affected 32 members. Cause was not known.

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.

Disclaimer — McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against MCPA as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold MCPA harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Investigating space heater advertisements

As soon as we switch from air conditioning to heating, the advertisements for portable electric heaters begin. Don't be misled by claims of saving a large percentage off your heating bill. The energy and cost savings are based on the idea that you turn down the temperature of your home's primary heating system and use the portable heater to spot heat the area you are occupying.

Portable electric heaters range in price from around \$20 to \$300. Heaters that have the same wattage will produce the same amount of heat. How the heaters distribute the heat may differ. The

difference between a \$20 and \$300 portable electric heater of the same wattage and same design (radiant, convection or fan-forced) would be in appearance only.

Cooperative members should keep in mind that all portable electric heaters are 100 percent efficient, and watt for watt they all provide the same heat output and cost the same to operate. When purchasing a portable electric heater the most important consideration is the number of watts it draws. The higher the watts, the more heat it will deliver and more it will cost to operate.



How to calculate the cost of running a portable electric heater:

First convert watts to kilowatts.

$$\frac{\text{watts}}{1,000} = \text{killowatts}$$

Next calculate the operating cost:

$$\text{killowatt} \times \text{hours of operation} \times \$0.1065 = \text{cost of operation}$$

Putting electric heat in a garage or shop?



Talk to the Co-op first to make sure your design qualifies for the off-peak rate

If you are planning to add electric heat to your garage or shop, please call the Co-op early in the designing process and definitely before you pour the floor! For many years the Dual Fuel rate has only been allowed for conditioned living spaces with full back-up. Garages and shops can still get on the lower off-peak rate but it must be on a stored heat strategy. This applies to both attached and detached garages.

The Storage Heat Program electrically heats up bricks, the ground below the cement slab, or some other storage medium from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and is then off for 16 hours during the day

time, even though it heats the slab and area above 24 hours a day. A storage heat system requires more insulation, increased size heating units or tubing, and a larger heat sink is needed. So the half-price off-peak electric rate is available, but you must plan to operate it as a storage system.

The good news is that the Co-op has some significant rebates of \$40 per kW available for storage installations. And a properly sized storage system requires no fossil fuel back-up. So you only need one heat source and it is always at the lowest cost off-peak rate.

Call the energy experts at McLeod Co-op Power to find out the details at 1-800-494-6272.

Marathon— Hot Water For Life.



For many people the demands of work and family leave little time for leisure. With busy lives, who has time to deal with a water heater that needs frequent attention and replacement? Today, when people look for reliability and durability—they choose Marathon water heaters.



Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 14

Cooperative members residing in Districts 1, 2, or 3 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2014 director election in their district. To have another name, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, on the ballot, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 14, 2014.

The Cooperative secretary shall post at the Cooperative office the names of additional nominations and also persons selected by the nominating committee.

District 1 includes: Winsted, Helen and Bergen Townships in McLeod County, and Victor Township in Wright County.

District 2 includes: Hassen Valley, Sumter, and Penn Townships in McLeod County.

District 3 includes: Acoma and Hutchinson Townships in McLeod County and Ellsworth and Collinwood Townships in Meeker County.

Director applications must be returned by January 17

Just a reminder to any member from Districts 1, 2 or 3 interested in running for the board of directors in 2014, that a director application should be completed and returned to the office by January 17. The Nominating Committee for these three districts will meet in late January.

Annual Meeting is April 8

Mark your calendars for the Co-op's Annual Meeting. It is planned to be a morning meeting this year on Tuesday, April 8, at the Pla-Mor Ballroom in Glencoe. Please note the change in meeting location.

Be alert for crews working west of Lester Prairie

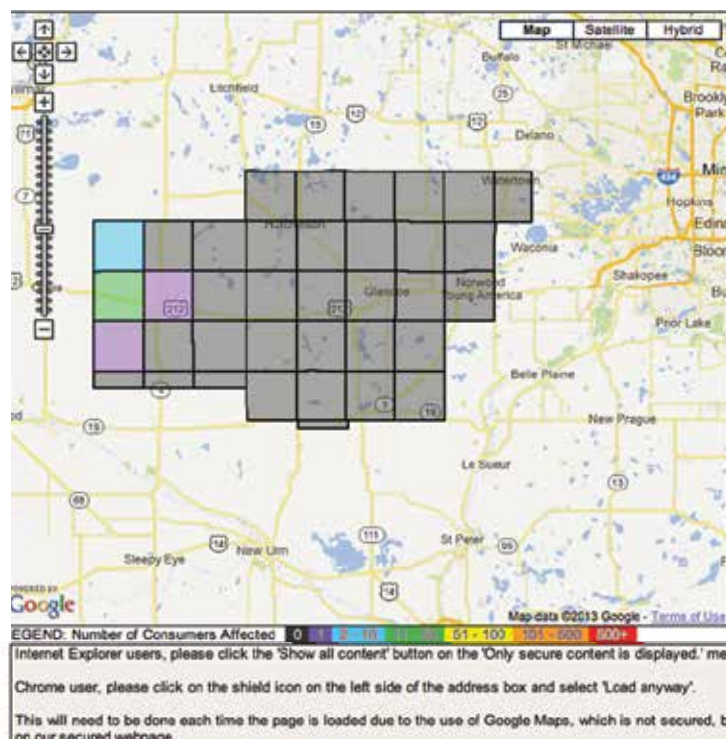
MCPA crews and crews from Moll's Construction will be rebuilding a line from Lester Prairie to the west for eight miles from January through March. Please be observant while traveling McLeod County Road 1 or County Road 22 west of Lester Prairie. Watch out for crews working.

See where power outages are 24/7



McLeod Cooperative Power's outage map is a great tool for those interested in seeing where electricity is out. While the map does not pinpoint the exact location of power outages, members have indicated that they like knowing if others in their area are without electricity. It will let you view the number of outages in your township.

To view the map, visit www.mcleodcoop.com and click on the Outage Map on the home page.



It is very important that you continue to call your outage into 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. Our outage map populates as members call in and reported outages work with our outage management software.



Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1

Community and civic groups, emergency responders and other 501(c)3 non-profit organizations are welcome to apply to McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up Trust for donation assistance. The trust is able to donate funds to worthy local projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or McLeod Counties. Funding is from the generosity of electric cooperative members who round up their electric bills.

Application forms are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2014.