

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

May 2014

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Know what's on your electric bill

Most customers are on the Farm & Residential Service rate.

Your electric bill is broken down into three main components:

1

Cost of Basic Service (Fixed Charge)

This charge is the same every month, regardless of how much or how little electricity you use during the month. It covers the cost of providing safe, reliable electric service. It covers items like substations, taxes, poles, wire, and meters. It supports our fleet/equipment, facility expenses (lighting, phones, heating, etc.), customer service functions such as line maintenance, right-of-way clearing, billing expenses, monthly newsletter, and general and administrative expenses such as accounting functions, financing expenses, collection of delinquent accounts, crew dispatching, and information technology expenses.

2

Residential Energy Charge

This is the charge based on the amount of electricity you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). One kilo-watt hour is equivalent to the amount of power used by ten 100-watt bulbs for one hour. Rate is \$0.1165 per kWh in summer and \$0.1065 per kWh the rest of the year.

3

Power Cost Adjustment

This amount varies each month depending on wholesale power prices. It reflects the changes in the cost of fuel and purchased wholesale power since the rates were set. Some months this has been a surcharge and other months this has been a credit.



Picture yourself in one of these hard hats...

- *Touring a coal mine and power plant in North Dakota*
- *Enjoying the Medora Musical & Pitchfork Fondue in the Badlands*
- *Taking a three-day bus tour with other MCPA members*
- *Exploring electrical energy education and hours of great scenery*

Join McLeod Cooperative Power as your host for the 2014 Coal Creek Tour July 28-30.

This year's tour includes the Coal Creek Station power plant tour, Falkirk coal mine tour, and information on the Blue Flint Ethanol plant during a drive-by tour and visual of land reclamation. Also included is your ticket to the Medora Musical — family friendly entertainment with singers, dancers, and live horses on stage doing a mix of country, western, gospel and patriotic music. The musical is performed nightly in the 2,852

seat Burning Hills Amphitheatre in the outdoor splendor of the North Dakota Badlands. Before the musical the group will eat at the Pitchfork Fondue Cookout.

Tour price of \$400 per person double occupancy or \$500 per person single occupancy includes one night hotel in Bismarck and one night in Medora, most meals, ticket to musical and pitchfork fondue, and motor coach transportation. Group leaves Monday morning and returns Wednesday evening to Glencoe. Call Katie at the Co-op to make your reservation 1-800-494-6272.

Employee promotions



Dan Schade was promoted to Line Superintendent in April. Schade has been a lineman with McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) for 35 years. He was also a line foreman for MCPA for many years before this promotion.

Terry Underdahl was promoted from lineman to line foreman to fill the job opening when Schade became Line Superintendent. He has been with MCPA for eight years and had journeyman experience with other utilities before coming to MCPA.

Earlier in the year, line foreman **Curt Hanson** moved to the Engineering Department as a Staking Technician to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Laun Aiken. His foreman position was filled by **Craig Marti**, who was promoted from lineman to line foreman. Marti and Hanson have both been with MCPA more than 15 years. A few new apprentice and journeyman line workers have joined the MCPA organization in recent months to fill the open jobs due to these promotions.

Pole testing in May

Mi-Tech Pole Inspection Services will be testing and treating electric poles in the New Germany Substation area during the month of May and possibly into early June. The Mi-Tech pole tester will be working in the townships of Camden, Young America and a portion of Hollywood in Carver County, and also in portions of Bergen and Helen townships in McLeod County this month. The name Mi-Tech is displayed on their truck. If members have any questions or ever notice anything they think to be unusual with people working around Co-op facilities, they are welcome to call McLeod Co-op Power.

Warning: Don't Bake All Bulbs



Use caution when replacing an oven light.

Source: NRECA

CFLs are good for the pocketbook but not perfect in every situation. Keep these tips in mind:

- 1 Don't dim unless it's dimmable. Buy a specifically designed CFL for a dimmer switch application.
- 2 Don't flip too fast. CFLs work best if they are left on for more than 15 minutes each time they are turned on. Older bulbs take 30 seconds to three minutes to reach efficient operation. Frequently switching them on and off shortens bulb life. Newer CFLs feature an Instant-on capability; look for that on the lighting label if you expect frequent flipping.
- 3 Give them air. CFLs may be used in enclosed fixtures as long as the enclosed fixture is not recessed. Totally enclosed recessed fixtures create temperatures too high for CFLs.
- 4 Protect CFLs outside. Look at the package or bulb for temperature restrictions before using a CFL outdoors.
- 5 Don't shake. Don't use CFLs in vibrating environments such as a ceiling fan or garage door opener.
- 6 Do the twist. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base. Never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by the glass tubes.

To learn more about using and recycling CFLs, visit www.epa.gov/cfl.

Oven lights are handy. Curious if a casserole's ready? Flip the switch; no need to open the oven and release heat to get a baking update. But be careful when replacing this little light. Never put a bulb in the oven that's not built for high heat.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) use less energy than classic incandescent bulbs, but they're not safe in extreme temperatures. Most lighting labels designate safe temperatures, but warnings may be in fine print. Need to replace your oven light? Look for appliance light bulbs. Found at local hardware stores and other retailers, these bulbs are designed for extreme temperatures in ovens and refrigerators. The hardy bulbs are here to stay; 40-watt appliance bulbs are exempt from federal lighting efficiency standards.

Why won't CFLs work? Instead of heating a filament until white-hot to produce light like an incandescent bulb, a fluorescent lamp contains a gas that produces (UV) ultraviolet light when excited by electricity. The UV light and the white coating inside the bulb result in visible light. Since CFLs don't use heat to create light, they are 75 percent more energy efficient. But the technology that cuts energy use doesn't stand a chance in an oven's 400+ degree heat.

Source: Empire Electric Association, U.S. Department of Energy

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

ELECTRIC SERVICE	2011	2012	2013
Number of members	5,724	5,708	5,719
Miles of distribution line	1,886	1,889	1,891
Average number of consumers receiving service	6,578	6,597	6,597
Density of consumers per mile	3.49	3.49	3.49
Total kilowatt-hours sold.....	168,755,843	173,316,094	183,710,093
Average kWh sold to residential consumer per month ..	1,464	1,404	1,531
Average bill per residential consumer per month	\$167.78	\$169.72	\$184.42
Average cost of residential kWh.....	\$0.1146	\$0.1209	\$0.1205

The Perfect Mother's or Father's Day Gift

Do you worry about your parents getting older?
Do you worry about mom or dad living alone?



The First Alert emergency pendant from McLeod Co-op Power may be just the thing they need to help you worry less while they live on their own. One press of the button will call the 24-hour medical dispatch center, which will send a family member, neighbor or police over to help.

The pendant allows them to work outside in the garden or go to the mailbox, and still summon help if they need it. Emergency pendants are reasonably priced and make a perfect Mother's Day or Father's Day gift.

Call McLeod Co-op Power at
1-800-494-MCPA for more information.



Hwy. 22 & Ford Ave
Glencoe, MN
1-800-494-6272



MCPA office will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Electric outage calls are answered 24 hours a day at 1-800-927-5685.

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Editor: Sue Pawelk
Interim-General Manager: Gary Connett

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.

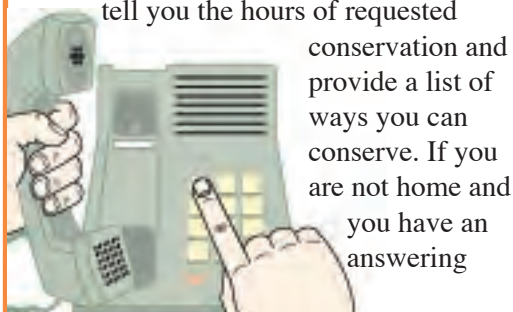
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1-800-494-6272
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Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 811 or 1-800-252-1166

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

If 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.

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.

2014 Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Program



McLeod Cooperative Power makes bulb recycling easy and we'll even help pay the fee.

Here's how it works:

- Free recycling of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) with coupon. Simply bring your used CFL and FREE recycling coupon to a participating retailer.

- Beckler's Hardware Hank (Bird Island)
- Hite Hardware (Glencoe)
- Hutchinson Ace Hardware (Hutchinson)
- The Hardware Center (Gaylord)
- Thomes Bros. (Arlington)
- Angvall Hdwe. & Mercantile (Lester Prairie)
- Gibbon Lumber & Hardware (Gibbon)
- Hector Hardware Hank (Hector)
- Hometown Hardware (Buffalo Lake)
- Home Solutions (Norwood Young America)

- You must be a MCPA residential or small business member to participate.

- Limit 6 coupons per household.

While fluorescent lamps are environmentally preferred over incandescents, they do contain a small amount of mercury and if improperly disposed of can be harmful to the environment. It is illegal to place them in the trash.

Free CFL Recycling



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Coupon expires 12/31/2014. Limit one coupon per lamp. Coupon valid only when completed. Must be MCPA residential or small business member to qualify.

Free CFL Recycling



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Coupon expires 12/31/2014. Limit one coupon per lamp. Coupon valid only when completed. Must be MCPA residential or small business member to qualify.

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New member dishes the dirt on spring cleaning



The warmer weather has many of us thinking about spring cleaning. After a long winter, it's time to chase away those dastardly dust bunnies and sweep those swaying cob webs.

Energy efficiency doesn't only have to do with heating and cooling. Our efforts also can be optimized to get more done with less time and muscle.

That's where member Cindy Haugland comes in. As owner and operator of Tidy Tightwads, Cindy is the mind and muscle behind the Hutchinson cleaning and organizing company. Tidy Tightwads was founded on the principle that less mess and more money go hand-in-hand.

"I came from a long line of women who wash our baggies," Cindy said. "If you can get 16 cents out of a dime and a nickle, you're ahead." So the name Tidy Tightwads fits her philosophy.

She turned her natural gift into a business.

"I've always been a neat freak," Cindy said. "My friends told me I should start a business to help others organize their homes." The business just grew from there to include residential cleaning, carpet cleaning and handyman services.

"I'd be cleaning a home and the client would ask me if I knew anyone who could do handyman tasks around the house. So now my husband offers his services part-time in addition to his employment at Hutchinson Technologies. It's better than 'rent-a-husband!'"

Cindy enjoys the rewarding feeling that comes when a house is clean and organized.



"You don't always think about how something like this can change someone's life," she said. "Single moms and working moms sometimes just can't keep it together. Their lives are so

busy. When they can come home to a clean home, they're a different person. In fact, I've had husbands that say, "Don't ever quit coming!"

Tidy Tightwads employs a staff of 10 full-time and part-time people. Cleaners usually work in pairs for greater efficiency and accountability.

"It's good to have another pair of eyes so nothing gets missed."

One thing Cindy would like homeowners to work on is to go through their stuff they don't use and ask themselves why they have it and who they intend for it to go to when they're gone.

"If you can't give it away or throw it away, give it to the kids now so they can enjoy it and you can free up some of the clutter. The only way to truly get organized is by simplifying...focusing on your priorities, and ridding yourself of things that take up time, space, money or energy without giving you any benefit back. Think about this.

As part of her services for regular cleaning clients, Cindy gives them a "clutter box" to put in all the items that they want to get rid of. Cindy will then pick it up and see that the items are donated.

Energy Saving Spring Cleaning Tips from a Pro

Dishes:

Probably the most efficient way to wash dishes, hands down, is the bucket method (one sink of warm, soapy water, one sink of clean, water) with very few dishes!

But if you're like most families the dishwasher is the way to go. Cut down on your dishwasher energy by doing the following:

- Only run the dishwasher when it's fully loaded.
- Place cups between prongs, not on top of them.
- Set the dishwasher to the "light" wash cycle.
- Load it the smart way by placing the soiled side of the dish towards the center of the machine for better spray exposure.
- Skip the dry heat cycle which wastes electricity. Just open the door and let the dishes air dry plus add moisture to your kitchen if needed.

Laundry:

- Don't overload your washer. This causes extra wear on the machine and clothes don't get clean.
- Use less detergent. Using too much makes it harder to rinse out of clothes. Better to use not enough than too much....
- Wash clothes in cold water or the coolest temp possible. It's better for clothes and uses less energy.
- Clean the lint filter. A dirty lint filter can result in a 30% increase in drying costs.
- Save energy with back to back loads in the dryer.

Here's a handy check list of things you might not have thought to clean:

- Drains: kitchen, bathroom, floor, shower/tub, laundry. If you can pull them up and clean out build-up, then do that. If not, use vinegar for a fresh scent.
- Base board: The little ledge can build up with dust. Pick one room each day, and use a damp cloth or toothbrush to give them a fresh look.
- Ceiling and floor fans: Dust with duster or rag.
- Exhaust Vents: Take the cover off in your bathroom and use the vacuum hose and/or a damp rag to rid of dust build up.
- Shower Curtain: Wash fabric curtains according to laundry instructions, and wipe down plastic. If stained or ripped, replace liner.
- Steps: Sweep your front steps, back steps, garage steps, etc and knock down any cobwebs, etc from the last few months.
- Ice Maker: Empty out the ice maker in your freezer.
- Dishwasher and Washing Machine: Run a cycle of lemon juice or vinegar to clean out water stains and built-up odors.



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

A “Tidy” home away from home



In addition to Tidy Tightwads, Cindy and her husband John purchased and redecorated a home on Lake Minnie Belle near Litchfield with plans to rent the home out to families and groups. The home, affectionately called “Bayside Chalet,” sleeps up to 19 people. It features three levels with a walk-out to the lake, six bedrooms, two bathrooms, a loft, three decks and a three-season porch.

This year-around home accommodates groups all four seasons. Groups that have utilized the Chalet include scrapbooking groups, family reunions, Bible study groups, book clubs and groups of friends who want to get together and enjoy the lake.

The home was decorated “tightwad style” with repurposed items from garage sales, thrift stores and from online resale sites, yet Cindy’s decorating talent has created a home that is beautifully stylish and exudes vacation-style comfort. The home is kept clean and organized by Tidy Tightwads professionals.

For more information on services and cleaning or organizing rates, visit Tidy Tightwads at www.tidytightwads.com/. For more information, photos and rental rates for the Bayside Chalet, go to: <http://baysidechalet.com>.



This country-style Chalet is spacious and comfortable. It’s casual style can accommodate up to 19 people.



The small bay the Chalet sits on connects to the sizable Lake Minnie Belle which offers boating, swimming, skiing, tubing and more.

Industry News

Judge strikes down Minnesota’s anti-coal energy law

A federal judge recently struck down a landmark 2007 Minnesota law that bans new power generation from coal, saying it regulates business activities of out-of-state utilities in violation of the U.S. Constitution’s commerce clause.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson enjoined the state from enforcing key sections of the law, which North Dakota coal and utility interests said hampered their ability to find buyers for power from existing coal-fired generating plants or to plan for new ones.

“It is a complete victory for us,” North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said in an interview.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton said the state will appeal the ruling and “oppose North Dakota’s intentions with every means at our disposal.”

North Dakota, joined by utilities and coal companies, sued Minnesota two years ago, saying the state’s Next Generation Energy Act violated the U.S. Constitution by improperly restricting electricity sales by North Dakota power companies.

Under Nelson’s order, Minnesota can’t enforce state restrictions on electricity imports from new power plants that increase greenhouse gases. No Minnesota utility has announced plans to do that. But the order, if upheld, could open the door to Minnesota utilities buying more coal-generated power from other states.

Minnesota relied on western coal for 46 percent of its electricity in 2013, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. North Dakota got 79 percent of its power from coal, including lignite mined in that state.

The 2007 law effectively bars Minnesota utilities from importing new coal-based electricity or from building new coal power plants. North Dakota interests argued that the law blocked that state’s utilities from signing new coal-based power deals, even in other states.

“This statute overreaches,” wrote Nelson, who serves on the federal bench in St. Paul. She called the law a “classic example of extraterritorial regulation” and concluded that if every state had such laws “the current marketplace for electricity would come to a grinding halt.”

Source: StarTribune

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March Outage Summary

During February there were 28 outages reported on the Cooperative's system.

The largest outage affected 966 consumers. On Monday, March 3, at 6:26 a.m., a transmission line outage caused members served off of four substations in Renville County to be without

power for 1 hour and nine minutes.

The next largest outage was also on March 3 about 11:59 a.m. Due to construction work 73 members were out of power for 21 minutes west of Winsted.

The next largest outage on Wednesday, March 5 about 11:44 a.m., caused 33 members to be without power near Lester Prairie. Repair time was 1 hour and 51 minutes. Construction was also the cause.

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.

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 **May 29** to be included in the June issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please check ad category

- Giveaway
 For Rent
 For Sale
 Wanted

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

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- 10kw Plenum heater with controls \$400. 320-583-6401
- 2006 Kawasaki Vulcan 500 LTD, under 1,400 miles, new battery. 320-587-8960
- BF Goodrich LT275 70R18 A/T tires. Nice. Four like new \$600. 320-587-7443
- Steel outside house door and frame. Size 3.0 \$75. 320-864-4972
- 1990 LeBaron convertible. Runs great, 119,000 miles. Needs work \$1,675. 952-353-2535
- Porta-Bote 4 stroke 5HP Nissan motor. Low hours \$1,375. 952-353-2535
- New Whirlpool electric range. Standard features \$275. 320-395-2873

- 1994 Cadillac STS, leather, loaded, 194,000 miles. Only \$2,400. 320-864-6014
- 1999 Ford Expedition. Good condition, 244,XXX miles \$1,900. 612-581-0448
- Used Kenmore heavy duty gas dryer \$99. 320-583-0471

For Sale - Farm

- Used hog nursery feeders, misc round feeders, water fountains. 507-964-5683
- Ford 900 w/5 foot brush hog, 3pt hitch & hydraulics. Great Runner. 952-955-2414
- Farmall M tractor, reconditioned head, new fluids \$1,375. 612-499-2212
- John Deere 4010 diesel, syncro, 12 volt, rock box, weights \$9,500. 320-583-4968

- Angus bull, great disposition, great genetics. 320-296-1962

Wanted

- Walk behind snow blower with electric start. 320-224-6593
- Readers digest condensed books for craft project. 320-587-8232
- Used fencing supplies. Barb wire, t-post, insulators. 320-864-4008
- Buying scrap lead, cash paid, no batteries. 320-221-0724

For Rent

- Vacation rental: Branson one bedroom condo \$450/wkly. 320-779-0015

Cleaning out your garage, attic or spare room? Try listing it for free in the MCPA classifieds?

These want ads are designed to help members buy items from or sell items to other members, or rent their property to members. They are not designed to advertise services or for-profit business pursuits. That is why we do not offer a services column and do not accept advertisements for commercial businesses.

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.



2014 Operation Round Up Trust Recipients

The Trust received 14 completed applications. The eight projects receiving funding were:

- \$425 Crow River Habitat for Humanity** — to support their expansion of affordable housing for low-income families throughout the county.
- \$425 Girl Scouts of MN & WI River Valleys** — help fund equipment, supplies, and transportation for the Girl Scout Swim Team from south central MN (last year 79 of the participants were from our area).
- \$425 Arlington Fire Department** — to purchase immobile-vac mattress to reduce backboard pain.
- \$425 Brownton Fire Department** — to help fund purchase of hydrant valve that will prevent water hammer or water main breaks when filling tanker trucks.
- \$425 GFW Dollars for Scholars** — donation to Dollars for Scholars program awarding scholarships to graduating senior from Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop (also now including many former McLeod West students).
- \$425 Sibley East Schools** — purchase of Alpha Better desks.
- \$425 F.R.E.E. (Friends, Relatives Enabling the Elderly)** — help fund handicapped accessible van for transporting residents of the Buffalo Lake Healthcare Center.
- \$425 United Way of McLeod County** — Support program to distribute books to McLeod County families and encourage parents to read to their children.
- \$425 Adult Training & Habilitation** — purchase automatic handicapped door for Winsted facility.

Operation Round Up is the easiest way to make a tax-deductible donation of up to \$11.88 per year and get a receipt of your year-to-date donation right on your electric bill. It makes it easy to pay your bill because it is always an even dollar amount. And best of all is your change is helping worthwhile community projects in our service area. We could fund more projects if more members would participate.

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.

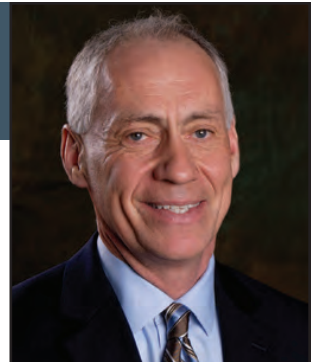
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Account #: _____

Signature: _____



Summary of Annual Meeting Address

Gary Connett, who started serving as Interim General Manager of McLeod Co-op Power the end of March, addressed the members present at the Co-op's April 8 Annual Meeting. Connett introduced himself to the audience and gave them a little background on his family and 40 years of working with and for electric cooperatives. He explained the focus cooperatives have for their members and how they work for the sustainable development of their communities.

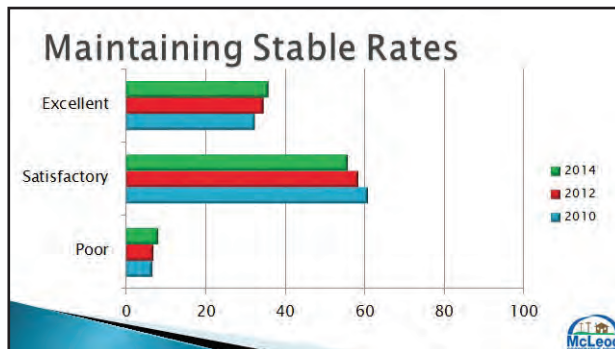
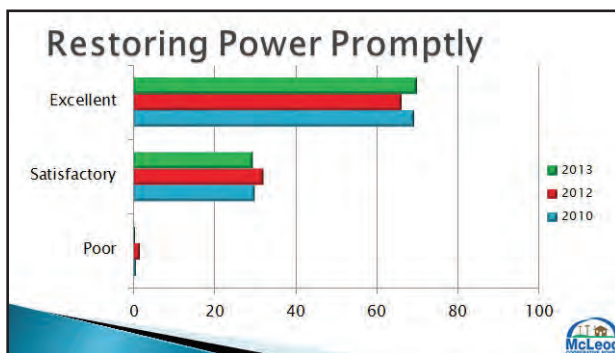
Then, he spoke specifically about McLeod Cooperative Power; what he will be doing for our Cooperative and how he will be working with the board of directors and employees to build a good foundation for MCPA. He is a big fan of local leadership and the value that a strong leader can bring to the Co-op and to the community. He will be helping the MCPA Board of Directors assess the different options for leadership at the Co-op.

Some of the other tasks he hopes to get accomplished in the next 6-8 months include:

- Planning to build a 20 kW solar array on McLeod's project, that will be owned by Great River Energy and will be part of GRE's generation resources.
- Exploring the opportunity to expand the solar installation to include a community solar garden where members could purchase one or more solar panels to offset their energy purchases.
- Developing a plan for replacement of the Turtle meter reading devices (which are no longer being manufactured), with a new meter that can send us the meter readings. MCPA has selected the product to replace the Turtles but still needs to develop a plan for changing them out over the next year or two.
- Looking at our garage facilities to determine the best method to keep the line trucks under cover and in a heated environment, so they are ready to roll during any weather conditions.

Connett also commented on the results of the MCPA Member Satisfaction Survey completed by members in February and March. He shared with the Annual meeting audience a handful of the survey responses. (Some of the slides are shown on this page). He said that hundreds of members took the time to write written responses/comments on the surveys. Comments were largely favorable, and some that we may need to consider making adjustments to how we do things.

"Overall, your cooperative is in good shape and the members are happy with the service that they are



receiving, but we won't take that for granted. We will continue to strive to improve. We know that good service is good business," said Interim-General Manager Connett. He added, "For McLeod Co-op Power Association, we know that our members are most important. We are in business to serve your energy needs."

He commented on the interesting answers members gave to the solar renewable energy questions on the survey. A large percentage of members thought we should generate more power from renewable sources such as wind and solar, but only a small percentage of members were willing to pay more for energy generated by renewable sources. When asked if they were interested in purchasing a solar panel in a community solar garden for \$1,600, a surprisingly large number of members said yes to the purchase of one or more panels.

Connett then switched hats, and spoke as a representative of Great River Energy, updating the

audience on what is happening at GRE. Our power supplier is owned by 28 member cooperatives like McLeod Co-op Power and serves 1.7 million people. It employs 880 people in MN and ND, has 3,619 MW of generation (701 from wind) and 4,600 miles of transmission line. GRE focuses on a triple bottom line. They balance affordable rates, with reliable electric service, and environmental stewardship.

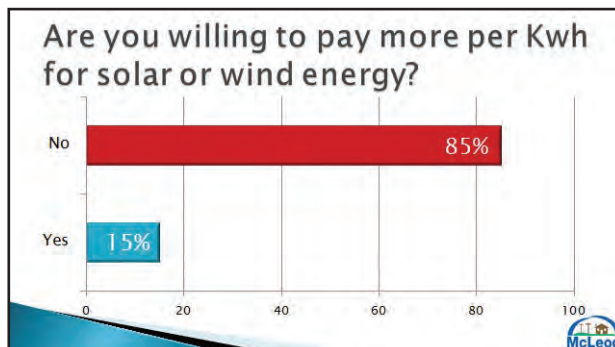
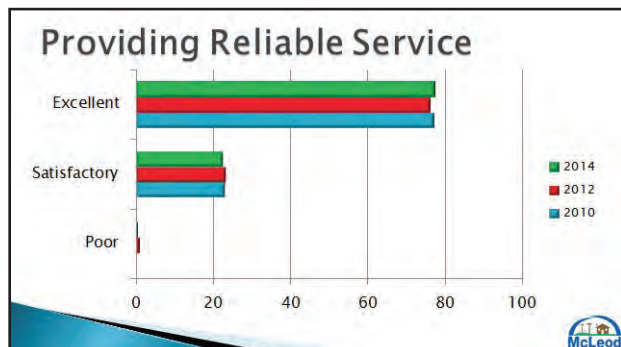
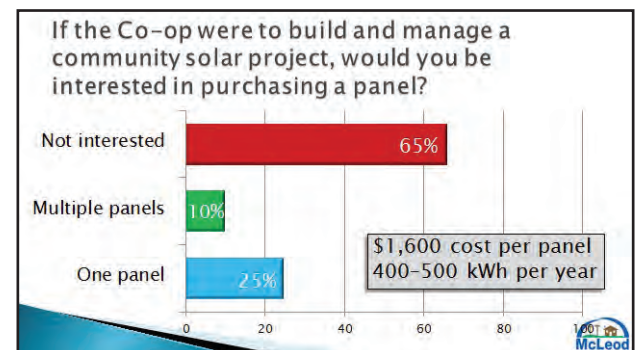
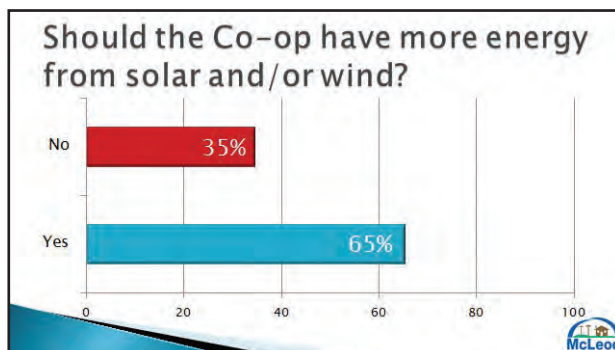
GRE had an outstanding 2013. Last year the margins exceeded the amount budgeted, operating costs were below budget, capital spending was reduced, and they were able to go into 2014 without a rate increase. GRE also had \$121 million in savings from making business improvements.

Energy sales are predicted to be up in 2014. Last year, GRE relied on coal, natural gas, and wind for most of its capacity requirements, and coal, hydro, and renewables for the majority of its energy sales.

Connett shared about the 250 kW of solar power being installed at GRE's headquarters in Maple Grove and 18 solar installations of about 20 kW each at member cooperatives throughout Minnesota. This is in addition to current wind and waste-to-energy resources. He also talked about GRE's role in economic development and growing our communities using an \$8 million revolving loan fund, financing sources such as USDA, State of Minnesota, and community funding.

GRE is preparing for changes in the energy business, participating in research and development projects, and engaging in EPA rulemaking to prevent harmful regulation that would raise costs for our members. They are also mitigating risk from pending governmental regulation by doing things like accelerating depreciation of Coal Creek Station and Stanton Station.

Connett encouraged members to help their Cooperative by looking for energy efficiency opportunities and by participating in Co-op energy conservation programs.



Renewable energy

- ▶ 468 MW – wind energy
- ▶ 31 MW – waste to energy
- ▶ New solar projects coming soon
 - 250 kW at Maple Grove headquarters
 - 20 kW installations at 18 locations throughout MN



It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to 10 CFLs, to last as long as one LED

Measuring LED potential

The Cooperative Research Network has partnered with several electric cooperatives throughout the United States to test LEDs. Researchers are cautiously optimistic; LEDs offer several benefits:

- LEDs could last longer, perhaps even for decades
- The energy to use LEDs could be substantially less than that of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or other fluorescents
- With no mercury content. LEDs are more environmentally friendly
- The products are rugged and more resistant to breakage
- LEDs perform well in cold climates, especially outdoors
- LEDs can be dimmed and produce a more pleasing light

Some consumers avoid LEDs because the price tag exceeds normal light bulb costs. The true value lies in the lifetime of the bulb. It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to 10 CFLs, to last as long as one LED lamp.

Buyer Beware

Poor quality LED products are flooding the marketplace. Some are manufactured outside of the United States with components that produce low light levels, don't boast long

service life, or make exaggerated energy-savings claims. Don't be fooled. Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR® logo for guaranteed color quality over time, steady light output over the lamp's lifetime, high efficiency, and a warranty.

You can also look for an LED Lighting Facts label. The label helps consumers compare products to manufacturer claims and similar products with a quick summary of performance in five areas:

- **Lumens:** Measures light output. The higher the number, the more light is emitted.
- **Lumens per watt (lm/W):** Measures efficiency. The higher the number, the more efficient the product.
- **Watts:** Measures the energy required to light the product. The lower the wattage, the less energy is used.
- **Correlated Color Temperature (CCT):** Measures light color. "Cool" colors have higher Kelvin temperatures (3,600-5,500 K); "warm" colors have lower color temperatures (2,700-3,000K). Cool white light is usually for visual tasks. Warm white light is usually better for living spaces because it casts a warmer light on skin and clothing. Color temperatures of 2,700 to 3,600 K are recommended for most general indoor and task lighting.

Color Rendering Index (CRI):

Measures the effect of the lamp's light spectrum on the color appearance of objects. The higher the number, the truer the appearance of the light.

The best way to try LEDs is with the coupon below.

Save up to \$9.00 with the mail-in rebate coupon below from McLeod Co-op Power. Purchase one to three ENERGY STAR® rated LED light bulbs and receive a \$3.00 rebate per bulb from the Co-op. You can buy any brand of ENERGY STAR rated LED lighting product purchased from any retailer between April 1 and November 30, 2014. Send your completed rebate form (from this newsletter) and cash register receipt showing LED bulb purchase to McLeod Cooperative Power before November 30, 2014. You may send us your rebate form in the same envelope with your electric bill payment, if you choose, or you can mail it separately to McLeod Co-op Power, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe MN 55336. The rebate will be processed and a credit for the amount of the rebate applied to the member's electric account within 60 days of receipt. Only one coupon per member for a maximum rebate of 3 bulbs and \$9.00 total credit. No reproduction coupons are allowed.



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

Announcing the 2014 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.

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 _____

Mail-In Rebate up to \$9 value on any Energy Star® rated LED Lighting

- Purchase up to 3 Energy Star® rated LED Lighting products and receive a \$3 rebate per bulb. (\$9 maximum rebate).
- Submit this completed rebate form and cash register receipt showing LED bulb purchase to McLeod Co-op Power. May be sent in same envelope with electric bill payment or mailed separately.
- Purchase of bulbs and submission of rebate form must both be between Apr. 1, 2014 and Nov. 30, 2014. Any brand LED bulb qualifies.
- Rebate will be applied to electric account as a credit within 60 days.

Member Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 email: _____
 # of bulbs purchased (Max. 3): _____



Mail Rebate to:
McLeod Co-op Power
P.O. Box 70
Glencoe, MN 55336

Only members of McLeod Co-op Power are eligible for rebate. One coupon from MCPA Newsletter for up to 3 LED bulbs for a maximum total rebate of \$9 per customer. Reproductions of coupon are not allowed. **Copy of cash register receipt showing LED bulb purchase must be attached.** Rebate will be applied as a credit to electric account of member named above within 60 days of receipt.