

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

June 2014

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Replace your old water heater before you get a "cold shower"

How old is your water heater? Most of us don't think about our water heater in the basement until it quits working, and when that happens, that's all we can think about, especially if we have a house full of guests!

If your old water heater just can't seem to keep up with your hot water needs or if it is starting to leak, it is time to install a new energy-efficient water heater. Most hot water heaters are built to last 10-15 years. Waiting until your current water heater fails will force you to make a quick decision and you may end up not purchasing a water heater that best fits your needs.

McLeod Co-op Power's storage water heating program is designed for year round homes and uses the super-efficient 85 or 105 gallon Marathon® brand water heater. Marathon water heaters are superior to most other brands with their seamless, blow-molded tank with a warranty against leakage for as long as you own your home! In addition, the elements and thermostats carry a six year warranty.

The Co-op offers a \$300 rebate to any member who is not currently on the storage water heating program and installs a high-efficiency Marathon water heater with the control equipment for participation in the storage water heating program. The average family of four uses 600 kWh per month for water heating. They will save approximately \$453 per year! That is almost a \$38 per month savings just by participating in the storage water heating program. Plus, if you have central air conditioning, that also can be controlled and added to your off-peak meter for a 55% savings for letting the Co-op cycle your air conditioner on peak days.

A family of 2-3 can usually join the storage program with an 85-gallon Marathon heater. A family of 4-6 persons will require a 105-gallon heater. On the storage program the water is heated from approximately 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. The elements then remain off for the other 16 hours until they recharge again

the next night. By heating water only at night, when electricity is cheapest, you can save significant dollars each month. And you have plenty of hot water for baths, showers, and laundry since the system is sized to meet your family's needs. If you have an oversized or sunken bath tub some extra storage capacity may have to be added. Call the Co-op for program details 1-800-494-6272.

The load management controller, off-peak meter, and mixing valve are provided by the Co-op at no charge to members joining the storage program. Installation is done by the plumber or electrician of your choice. Cost of installation is the responsibility of the member.

Marathon Water Heater Pricing

Suggested retail price:

105 gallon
\$1,135.00 plus tax

85 gallon
\$1,035.00 plus tax

\$300 rebate is sent to member upon completion of the project.



Surveys being mailed to farmers this month

McLeod Cooperative is working with the Minnesota Project to develop a good method of helping our farm customers hear about and take advantage of energy efficiency opportunities on their farms. The Minnesota Project was awarded a grant by the State of Minnesota to help rural utilities promote energy efficiency and conservation research and development.

The first step in the project is to send surveys to members to determine who are actively farming. Surveys are scheduled to be mailed out sometime in June.

If you receive a survey and are actively farming, please take a few moments to complete it and return it. It will help the Co-op reach our farmer-members with efficiency programs and grants to lower production costs.

New EPA policies will be a challenge for utilities and could drive up cost of electricity

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rules on June 2nd that if drafted, will require utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 30 percent lower than 2005 levels nationwide by 2030. This will have a dramatic effect on electricity generated by coal. In Minnesota, about 46 percent of our electricity comes from coal generation, so the ruling could have a big impact on the future power supply, reliability and cost of energy in our state.

Our power supplier, Great River Energy, the state's second largest

power producer, relies on coal for 67 percent of its energy. The balance comes from 13 percent hydro, 11 percent renewables, and 9 percent from a mix of natural gas, contracts, and misc. GRE has reduced its reliance on coal significantly in the past 15 years, like most Minnesota utilities which are ahead of other states in the U.S. in energy conservation initiatives, efficiency improvements, and renewable generation resources.

See article from our Interim-General Manager Gary Connitt on page 2 of this newsletter for more on this topic.

Ridgewater College students receive scholarships from unclaimed capital credit fund

The Cooperative donates funds from unclaimed capital credits to the Ridgewater College Foundation. The Foundation awards scholarships to students from the four-county area served by MCPA. Students have to either have graduated from a high school in one of the communities within our service area or be a current resident of the area.

Students receiving scholarships for fall semester 2014 from MCPA are **Michelle Rischmiller** of New Auburn, **Jason Mertens** of Danube, **Jeremiah Grimsley** of Waconia, **Thomas Maresh** of Winsted, **Austin Neubauer** of Olivia, and **Brett Rickheim** of Stewart. Scholarship recipients are selected by the Ridgewater College Foundation, based upon criteria provided by MCPA.

The MCPA office will be closed Friday, July 4

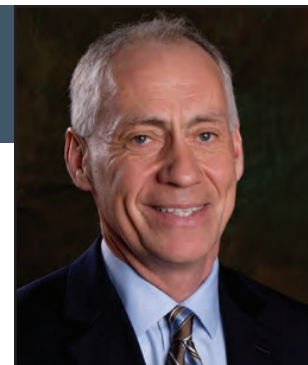


in observance of Independence Day.

Outages may be reported 24 hours a day to 1-800-927-5685.

Manager's Message — by Gary Connett, Interim-General Manager

Great River Energy statement: Proposed regulations to reduce CO2 emissions from existing power plants



Great River Energy and its 28 member cooperatives are analyzing the proposed regulations announced June 2 by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. Our top priorities are to maintain affordability and reliability for our members while reducing emissions. To that end, we have been actively collaborating with others to find creative and flexible options for reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in our region and have shared our ideas with the EPA, among others.

The Obama administration's announcement of the proposed CO2 rule is a key milestone in our nation's debate about how to address CO2 emissions from the fleet of existing power plants that provide our country with reliable, low-cost energy. Great River Energy will engage in that debate by emphasizing responsible actions that ensure continuing access to electricity, a necessity of life for all in our modern society. We also will work with the states in which we have facilities to develop cost effective implementation plans that ensure reliable electric service.

Our efforts to prepare for the proposed CO2 rule began years ago. Since 2005, Great River Energy has seen the emissions intensity of our generation portfolio reduced significantly.

- Carbon dioxide emission have been reduced by 20%
- Nitrogen oxides have been reduced by 40%
- Mercury at our largest plant has been reduced by 40%
- Sulfur dioxide has been reduced by 56%

Great River Energy has also been a leader in the state of Minnesota for conservation and energy

efficiency. We have met or surpassed Minnesota's conservation goal every year and are continually adding improvements to our operations that make them more efficient. We expect to receive full credit from the EPA for those actions when considering our compliance with the new regulations.

Last summer, Great River Energy adopted and began implementing an aggressive plan to take steps to reduce our exposure to greenhouse gas regulations. Our plan includes addressing stranded costs by accelerating depreciation of our two largest coal plants; managing CO2 emissions to 2005 levels or lower; meeting any future growth with conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas and market purchases; implementing cost-effective opportunities to reduce CO2 now and in the future; operating the combined heat and power (CHP) plant, Spiritwood Station, beginning in 2014 consistent with President Obama's August 2012 Executive Order calling for 40 GW of new CHP by 2020; ensuring municipal waste is diverted to our waste-to-energy plant rather than landfills; and developing solar and other non-traditional generation projects in cooperation with our members.

Since then, Great River Energy has actively engaged and collaborated with others to find a regional, market-based solution to lowering CO2 emissions. This proposed solution was developed with The Brattle Group and is currently viewed as one of the leading regional solutions that reduces CO2 emissions while maintaining reliability and affordability for all electric customers.

Great River Energy also believes that no carbon emission reductions will be fully effective if the

international community is not also on the same remission reduction path. Our innovative and cost effective DryFining™ technology has reduced all emissions, including CO2, at our largest coal plant. Great River Energy has a License and Technology Transfer Agreement with Tangshan Shenzhou Manufacturing (TSM) Company to make the technology available to utilities in China. We must continue to develop clean coal technologies that can reduce CO2 in the U.S. and worldwide in order to have a global impact on emissions reductions.

Great River Energy remains a supporter of renewable energy and is on track to provide 25 percent of our electricity from renewable resources by 2025, as mandated by the state of Minnesota. The use of renewable power on our system is nearly 700 megawatts and is generated by municipal waste, wind, hydroelectricity and other sources.

Additionally, we recently completed construction of a 250-kilowatt solar photovoltaic array at our headquarters site in Maple Grove, Minn., and have planned solar projects throughout the state with our member cooperatives.

Great River Energy is focused on providing affordable electricity to our members in a reliable and environmentally responsible manner, and we will continue to seek ways to keep electricity reliable and affordable for our members while reducing emissions.

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McLeod Cooperative Power News

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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
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.

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

Focus on Operation Round Up recipient:

Arlington Fire Department

The Arlington Fire Department was awarded a \$425 donation by McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up® Program. These funds were used to purchase an immobile-vac mattress to reduce backboard pain for injured persons that the department aids.

As a member of the Co-op, you may choose to round up your electric bill each month to the nearest dollar and have that change donated to Operation RoundUp. If you do not already participate, just fill out the coupon on this page and mail it to the Co-op or include it with your next electric payment.



MCPA employee Bob Thomes and Arlington Fire Chief John Zaske show off the new backboard immobile-vac mattress purchased with funds from MCPA's Operation Round Up program.



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, 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: _____

Go to www.mcleodcoop.com to find out if it will be a load control day

If you participate in the cycled air conditioning program, a peak shave water heater program, an irrigation program, or a commercial and industrial interruptible program, you may want to know if your off-peak system will be controlled and when. By going to the Co-op's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com

and clicking on the "Is it a Peak Day?" box on the lower right, you will get an update with specific hours load will be controlled that day. You can also access history on previous control days and see the forecast for load control tomorrow.



Don't damage your cooling unit by starting it too soon after turning on your breaker.

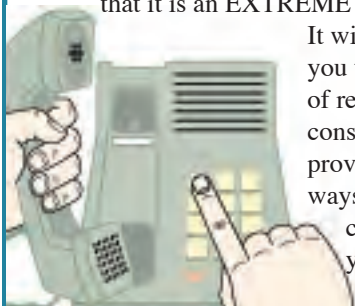
If you had the power turned off to your air conditioner or air source heat pump over the winter, you can turn the breaker back on, however, do NOT try to start your cooling unit until you check your owner's manual!

It is very common for air conditioners and heat pumps to have a heater unit that makes sure the coolant is in the proper state before you try to operate the air conditioner. If your model has one of these heater units and you fail to turn the power supply (breaker or fuse) back on for the 8-12 hours or time specified in your manual for your model, you run the risk of causing damage to your cooling unit's compressor. Repairs can be costly.

Whether or not your system has a heater varies for different models and manufacturers. The best way to find out is to read your Owner's Manual. You could also ask your HVAC contractor when they are servicing your cooling system.

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.

Finding the right AC contractor

Q *When my central air conditioner conks out, it is always on one of the hottest days. What is the best way to pick a good repair contractor? Is there any pre-season maintenance I can do myself? - Barb H.*

Dear Barb: An old central air conditioner or heat pump does typically conk out on the hottest days. This is because it is running almost nonstop to keep the house cool. Also, the efficiency and cooling output of the unit drops as it gets hotter outdoors, putting even more strain on the old compressor, especially the bearings and valves.

Finding a good contractor to repair or replace an old air conditioner is important because you expect your system to keep running for a long time after their repairs. The refrigeration system in an air conditioner is a complicated piece of equipment. You have no way to determine if things are set properly, so you have to trust that the contractor did it correctly.



Provide adequate clearance around outdoor unit for good air flow through the coils. Photo credit - James Dulley

When installing a new system, the contractor should do a thorough analysis of your house and calculate its cooling needs. This should involve more than just measuring the outside dimensions and then recommending the same size unit (one ton is 12,000 Btu/hour) of cooling as you have now. Improper sizing will result in higher utility bills and poor comfort level.

A knowledgeable contractor should ask if you currently have any heating and cooling problems, particularly with various rooms. There may have to be additional return air registers and ducts installed. This can increase the overall cost significantly, so the lowest estimate is not always the one you should select.

Your Co-op requires that HVAC equipment be installed by a contractor that has gone through Quality Installer certification in order to qualify for any rebates that may be available. The Co-op is a good source of information about qualified contractors in your area. You can also find a list of contractors who have gone through certification at hvacreducation.net.

There are several maintenance tasks you can do

each spring to keep your air conditioner running efficiently, but don't eliminate regular professional service. Heating and cooling systems are no longer simple devices. They are packed with electronic circuit boards and controls, meaning you would have no way to test them without specialized readouts and training.



Seal duct joints with duct tape and close off the humidifier duct damper. Photo credit - James Dulley

Having adequate air flow through the outdoor condenser coils is imperative for good efficiency and a long life. This is where the hot refrigerant expels its heat to the outdoor air. If the air flow is impeded and reduced so the refrigerant does not cool as designed, it can throw off the entire functioning of the system.

Make sure there is a foot or two of clearance around the housing where the coils are exposed to the outdoor air. This may require trimming back a few shrubs or not stacking things like junk and garden tools against the outdoor unit.

If you notice some of the heat transfer fins on the coils are bent over and touching so air cannot flow between them, separate them with the tip of a scraper. Don't flex them too much or they may break off. They don't have to look uniform to be effective. Make sure all the screws on the housing are tight. This insures the air is being drawn through the coils and fins.



Change the air filter regularly. This is a high-quality pleated media filter. Photo credit - James Dulley



Turn off the power to the indoor unit and vacuum the blower and evaporator coils. Photo credit - James Dulley

Source:
James Dulley,
www.dulley.com.



The air-conditioning system is complicated, so you need a technician to do regular maintenance. Photo credit - James Dulley

Change the indoor filter regularly. Switch off the electricity to the unit and remove the cover over the indoor blower unit. Clean dust off the blower and any evaporator coils you can reach with the vacuum brush attachment. Adequate indoor air flow is also important for good efficiency. Seal any leaking duct joints with aluminum or duct tape and close the bypass damper for the humidifier.

A properly-sized and maintained central air conditioner is crucial to energy efficiency. If you want the best efficiency in air conditioning summer and winter, consider an air source heat pump. They operate at up to 300 percent efficiency and one unit provides cool air in the summer and warm air in the winter. Contact the Co-op for more information.



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

Protect your electronics from power surges



With all the microprocessors that drive modern appliances, computers, and home entertainment systems, proper use of surge suppressors can save you the expense of replacing damaged equipment.

A power surge usually lasts only a fraction of a second, but the excessive voltage is enough to destroy circuitry inside sensitive electronics. Digital devices have thousands of tiny on and off switches that continuously send and receive information during normal operation. A shift in the smooth supply of electricity can disrupt this flow of information and cause the device to malfunction.

Flickering lights and blinking computers are sure signs of power fluctuations during a storm. A direct lightning strike will send up to 200,000 volts coursing through a power line, enough to burn up standard 20-amp electronics.

But most surges are less dramatic and occur without a homeowner's knowledge. These surges result from sudden changes in electricity caused by anything from a downed power line to the cycling energy use of a hair dryer. Transient surges can produce instantaneous results: a crashed computer, for example. But often the damage goes undetected, only to surface later in a detrimental way, such as a microwave that suddenly stops working.

Homeowners can protect their electronics with surge suppressors. As the term implies, these devices suppress an erratic power supply by diverting excess voltage to a ground wire. Suppressors will not protect a home from a direct lightning strike. Suppressors come in a multitude of applications, from single-plug wall units to rack-mounted, home-entertainment system protection. Many models also have options for telephone line and cable television connections to protect modems, fax machines and video equipment.

Source: Mike Federman, Ruralite Services.

Here are some features to look for when buying a surge suppressor:

- Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) tested, with a UL 1449 listing and the term "Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor." The UL 1449 standard changed in 1998, so check old surge suppressors to make sure they still comply.
- An indicator light or some other feature is needed to show whether the device has experienced a power spike. If the light is out, the suppressor no longer works properly and should be replaced.
- Voltage suppression of 330 volts per UL standards. Higher voltage ratings give less protection.
- The suppressor must discharge excess energy to ground, not to neutral.
- Make sure any manufacturer insurance guarantees to cover the cost of replacing damaged equipment.

Prices and features vary greatly. Do your research and read labels. Purchasing protection based on price alone may result in costly repairs or replacements.

Industry News

Utilities have invested more than \$2 billion in clean coal technologies in North Dakota

Amidst a time of rapid state growth and increased industrial activity, the American Lung Association's (ALA) "State of the Air" 2014 Annual Report gave eight North Dakota counties "A" grades for lack of ozone, also known as smog.

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, including Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station and Leland Olds Station, and Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant, the nation's only lignite-to-natural-gas synfuels plant. The ALA also ranked Bismarck and Fargo among the cities with the cleanest air in the United States.

Terry O'Clair, director of the North Dakota Department of Health air quality division, notes that the ALA rankings look at only particulate and ozone, but North Dakota is one of only a handful of states in the nation that meets all of the federal ambient air quality standards.

"Most of the industry in the state is in the western half and yet our air monitors show that ozone levels are below federal standards and really don't deviate between the western and eastern counties in North Dakota," O'Clair said. The utilities that operate the seven coal-based power plants have invested more than \$2 billion in clean coal technologies that reduce emissions. About half of that sum has been invested in the last five years to reduce more sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. The industry is now poised to invest in new controls that will reduce mercury emissions.

The ALA has compiled the annual report each of the past 15 years, using local data that is submitted to Environmental Protection Agency. This year's report covers the years 2010-2012.

~Press Release, Basin Electric Cooperative

Reach of Co-ops Extends to the Vatican

At a recent audience with Pope Francis, Dame Pauline Green, president of the International Cooperative Alliance, accompanied co-op representatives from Argentina to explain how they are combating poverty in the pope's native country.

That came as no surprise to Pope Francis. He said he has known about cooperatives since 1954, when his father sat him down with his brothers to explain about co-ops, and he sees an important role for them today.

"When are the world's leaders going to understand that the cooperative economy, cooperative movement, cooperative enterprise is not something only for a time of crisis?" he asked Green and the Argentine delegation. "It's the way businesses should be developed going forward."

"Research shows the cooperative principles are an inherently sustainable environment for business," Green said. "We have got to build that message about sustainability."

~Electric Co-op Today

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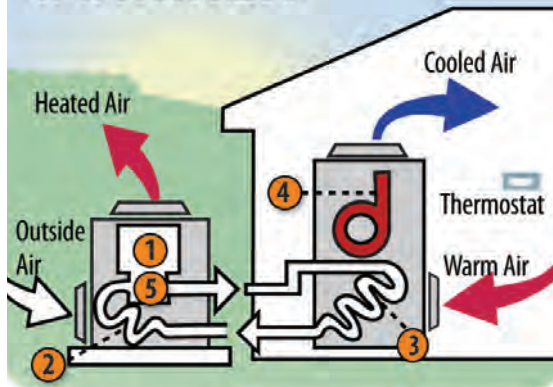
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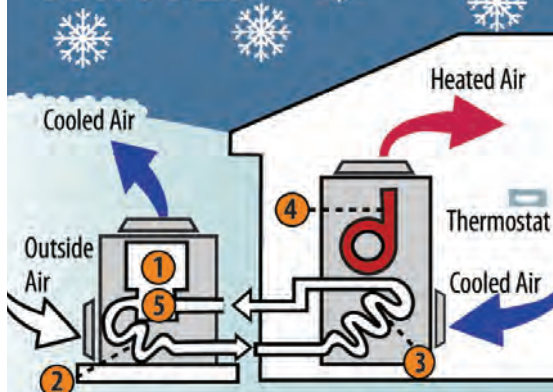
How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

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

SUMMER



WINTER



- 1 Compressor**
Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.
- 2 Condenser**
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 3 Evaporator**
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 4 Air Handler**
Fan blows air into a home's ducts.
- 5 Reversing Valve**
Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA

Inspections are the law!

Anytime you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, remember that Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work.

Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in your best interest. Improper wiring can damage your property and equipment and injure or kill the people you love.

Inspectors for the counties McLeod Cooperative Power serves are:

McLeod & Meeker Counties:

Rod VanOrt 320-593-2880

Renville County:

Jeff Bute 320-327-2545

Sibley County:

Chris Gappa 507-317-7289

Carver County:

David Hucky 952-442-2761

Don't SWEAT Summer Electric BILLS

As temperatures rise, there's plenty of things you can do to save energy and trim your electric bill. Raise your thermostat a couple of degrees—78° is the most efficient setting. Ceiling fans are a great way to move air around the house, and you can shade your electric bill by planting trees on the south side of your home.

Don't sweat summer electric bills—check out www.EnergySavers.gov for more ways to save!

Brought to you by America's Electric Cooperatives

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 **June 26** to be included in the July 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

- 1997 Hitchhiker II 5th wheel camper. Two slides. Beautiful condition. \$6,750. 320-365-3529
- 1993 Ford P.U. 2 wheel drive club cab 132,230 miles. \$1,000. 320-395-2035
- 1981 Lund 14' boat, tilt trailer, 15hp Johnson \$1,250 cash. 320-833-2090
- 1998 S-10 pickup. Good runner and mileage. \$1,500/O. 320-864-4243
- Approx 2 1/2 dozen large heavy duty plastic bags 6' X 2'. 320-510-0983

For Sale - Farm

- Patz barn cleaner chain, 420 ft, motor and unit. 320-864-4496
- Gehl big bale fork. \$150. 320-587-8065
- 3 Black Angus Hereford cross steers, 300-600#. Market price. 952-353-2381
- 60FT 800 gallon sprayer Ravan controller. \$3,300/OBO. 320-522-2167
- Calf creep feeder. \$100. 320-587-8065

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.

Air conditioner problems?

Keep your cool this summer!

If you experience air conditioner problems, please check the following items before calling McLeod Co-op Power.

- 1 Is your A/C circuit breaker or fuse and furnace switch on?
- 2 Is your thermostat on "Cool" and calling for A/C?

If you participate in Load Management:

3 Are any lights on in the gray load control receiver box outside?

- If multiple red lights are on, wait 20 minutes. The Co-op could be in a peak demand period. If multiple red lights are still on after 20 minutes, call McLeod Co-op Power during business hours at 1-800-494-6272 or after-hours at 1-800-927-5685.
- If no lights are on, check your breaker or fuse. If these are okay

and the lights still do not come on, call you're A/C service technician or electrician.

4 If the outdoor compressor runs but the house is not cool, did you have your house cool before 2 p.m.?

- If no, wait for the cycling to end. You're A/C unit will catch up with cooling. In the future, keep your A/C on during extended hot spells.
- If the A/C runs but the air is just not cool, then call you're A/C service technician.



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. This 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.

April Outage Summary

During April there were 20 outages reported on the Cooperative's system.

The largest outage affected 17 consumers. On Saturday, April 19 at 11:29 a.m., an anchor let loose and caused wires to slap together. Seventeen members south of Hector were without power for 1 hour and 31 minutes.

The next largest outage was Friday, April 11 at 10:06 a.m., northwest of Young America. Cause of outage is unknown. There was no equipment

failure. Fifteen members were without power for one hour and 28 minutes.

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 area already out working on the project.

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..... \$100

ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier.....\$ 25

Storage Water Heating* \$300

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

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

*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 hvacreducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. There will be no rebates 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 refrigerator or freezer units without documented proof of recycling to receive rebate.

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

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

Copy of contractor's invoice must be submitted. Member eligible for one tune-up rebate in any 24 month period.

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 _____

Power line worker scholarship awarded

Raymond Eberhard of Glencoe has been selected to receive a \$500 scholarship. Raymond plans to attend Minnesota West Technical College in Jackson, MN in the power line worker program. He is a 2014 graduate of Glencoe Silver Lake High School. He is the son of Robert and Gloria Eberhard. Congratulations Raymond.



Know of a new or expanding business that plans to locate in this area?

McLeod Cooperative Power has an Economic Development Loan Fund established to assist with gap financing for business projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley, and Carver Counties. One of the main criteria for eligibility is job creation. If you are a business owner looking to locate your business in this area or start a new business, and you are interested in applying for some competitive rate loan funds, contact Sue Pawelk at McLeod Co-op Power 1-800-494-6272 for details.

Back in 2005, McLeod Cooperative Power applied for a USDA grant on behalf of the Buffalo Lake Economic Development Authority to build a grocery store and bakery in downtown Buffalo Lake after the 2003 tornado destroyed many of the Main Street businesses.

The Cooperative's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund was established from that grant and as the loan funds have been repaid over the years the fund has been built back up to where money is available to be loaned out for new projects. This is how the Co-op helped with gap financing for the Adult Training & Habilitation Recycling Center in Watertown.

McLeod Cooperative Power is committed to revitalizing the rural communities in our service area. It is our goal to utilize this revolving loan fund for job growth and economic health of our area. Applicants or projects do not need to be electric customers of McLeod Cooperative Power to apply for funding. Review and approval of loan applications and amounts rests with McLeod Cooperative Power.



Last winter was downright scary.

Take the fear out of next year. Switch to off-peak electric heat today.

Last heating season was enough to send a chill up your spine and a scare into your pocketbook. Don't let fuel shortages and price spikes creep on you again next winter.

Now is the time to install dependable, efficient off-peak electric heating in your home or business. Programs and incentives for storage heat are available from McLeod Cooperative Power.

Whether you are looking for increased comfort or lower heating costs, consider the powerful value of off-peak electric heat.

Don't wait for the sequel.

Bad news is Coal Creek Tour is cancelled. Good news is you can still save 15% at Medora.

Due an insufficient number of members signed up for July's Coal Creek Tour, we had to cancel the trip. However, if you are planning to go to Medora, ND on your own, cooperative members may save 15% at Medora attractions (www.medora.com).

Are you planning on taking your family to Medora this summer (www.medora.com)? If you do, don't forget to take advantage of your discount through McLeod Cooperative Power! Through our partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt



Foundation, MCPA members can get 15 percent off lodging, golf, fondue and musical tickets by using the discount code TOUCH2014.

"Hey Jimmy, the neighbors are getting that high speed internet installed, we should too!"

High speed Internet where you live. Now offering FREE installation and \$10.00 off for the first three months.

**Your Authorized Dealer
McLeod Cooperative Power
(800) 494-6272**

UP TO **12** Mbps
DOWNLOAD SPEED

exede
INTERNET

Limited Time Offer
for NEW EXEDE
customers.



Service not available in all areas. Minimum 24 month commitment term. \$9.99/month equipment lease fee plus monthly service fees and taxes apply. Non-standard installation may result in additional charges. Equipment must be returned upon cancellation of service to avoid unreturned equipment fees. Actual speeds will vary. Use of the Exede service is subject to data transmission limits measured on a monthly basis. For complete details and the Data Allowance Policy, visit www.exede.com. Exede is a registered service mark of ViaSat, Inc. Check exede.com for promotional offers in your area.