

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

October 2014

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Members may participate in community solar project

McLeod Cooperative Power is finalizing plans for a community solar project that would be built in the spring of 2015 (pending approval of county permits). It would provide Co-op members with a simple and affordable way to participate in solar generation without having to construct and maintain their own array.

McLeod Co-op Power's Solar Community will allow members to buy into the project today, and receive electric bill credits for years to come, based on the output of the system. If the cost of electricity continues to increase over the next 20 years, the value of each panel's production credit would increase incrementally as well.

Through the Community Solar Project, members can also benefit from the production of solar:

- Even if member's home or business is not a good site for solar production
- Even if member rents their home or business
- Without installing equipment on their property
- Without worrying about maintenance or repair costs



A solar array similar to this 20kW array at Dakota Electric Association in Farmington, Minnesota will be built on MCPA property by Great River Energy for their own generation. MCPA is proposing to build two additional 20.5 kW arrays as a community solar project at the same location. (photo from Dakota Electric Association.)



SOLAR WISE

- Without extra insurance costs
- Without the personal responsibility of meeting and maintaining the Minnesota interconnection requirements when selling power back onto the grid

Members who want to participate sign a license agreement specifying that they wish to purchase the kWh output from one or multiple solar panels. The member pays a one-time cost of \$1,550 per panel to subscribe. The cost of the project, as well as 20 years of maintenance and insurance, is covered in the subscription price.

Each panel is estimated to produce 10,227 kWh over the 20-year life of the

project. This means 511 kWh average production per year for each panel.

Due to the economies of scale of this project, the cost per watt to construct and install the community system will be significantly lower than the cost per watt for an individual to purchase and install a system in their own yard or on their roof. And then all the costs for insurance, operation and maintenance have been added in so that the community solar generation is not shifting any costs to members who do not choose to participate.

The license agreement will be available soon on the Co-op's website (www.mcleodcoop.com) or you may call our office to request a copy. Additional questions and answers about the Community Solar Project on page 8 of this newsletter.

Cooperatives are guided by these Seven Principles

- Owned by the people who use their services.
- Provide education, training, and awareness on their form of business.
- Not-for-profit entities that operate for the economic benefit of their members.
- Support one another for the benefit of their communities.
- Democratic organizations controlled by their members.
- Focus on developing and giving back to their communities.
- Independent, self-help organizations.



Electricity sold for residential space heating, when used as the primary source of heat, is exempt from Minnesota sales tax for the usage months of November through April. To qualify, members must complete an exemption form, available from the Cooperative. If you have signed an exemption previously, you do not have to sign one again. We keep it on file. Heating systems monitored by load management or off-peak meters are also eligible and will not be taxed.



Options are:

- You can pay in advance.
- Have the post office forward your mail.
- You can sign up for auto pay and have the payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.
- You can call us with a credit card payment.

**Be sure to make arrangements before
you leave by calling 1-800-494-6272.**

Please notify the Cooperative if you are heading south for the high the Turtle will send us heading, we still need to know arrangements you prefer.



Volunteer safety inspectors from the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Loss Control Department and from a few other cooperatives conducted a RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) inspection on September 22 at McLeod's facilities. Besides walk-through inspections of all buildings, the group is pictured here observing MCPA line crews at work. This safety inspection is performed once every three years. McLeod Cooperative received a satisfactory performance rating.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation for Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications	
1. Publication Title		2. Publication Number	
McLeod Cooperative Power News		0 0 0 0 - 2 2 7 0	
3. Issue Frequency		4. Number of Issues Published Annually	
monthly		12	
5. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®)		6. Annual Subscription Price	
McLeod Cooperative Power Association P.O. Box 70, 1231 Ford Avenue N., Glencoe NE 55336-0070		\$ 6.72	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)		8. Contact Person	
McLeod Cooperative Power Association P.O. Box 70, 1231 Ford Avenue N., Glencoe NE 55336-0070		Sue Pawlek Telephone (include area code) 320-866-3148	
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)			
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)			
Sue Pawlek, publisher, McLeod Cooperative Power Association P.O. Box 70, 1231 Ford Avenue N., Glencoe NE 55336-0070			
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)			
Sue Pawlek, editor, McLeod Cooperative Power Association P.O. Box 70, 1231 Ford Avenue N., Glencoe NE 55336-0070			
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)			
Sue Pawlek, managing editor, McLeod Cooperative Power Association P.O. Box 70, 1231 Ford Avenue N., Glencoe NE 55336-0070			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address	
McLeod Cooperative Power Association		P.O. Box 70	
		1231 Ford Avenue N.,	
		Glencoe NE 55336-0070	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgagees, or Other Securities. If none, check box: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address	
Rural Utility Service		STOP 1566-1400 Independence Ave., NW	
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National Rural Utility Cooperative		Woodland Park, 2201 Cooperative Way	
Finance Corporation		Herndon, VA 22071	
Co-Bank		DEPT. 167, Denver CO 80291-0167	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):			
a. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:			
b. Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months			
c. Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			

PS Form 3526, July 2013 (Phase 1 of 4 New Instructions page 42) PSN: 7530-01-000-8000 **PRINTED NOTICE:** See also privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
McLeod Cooperative Power News	September 2014
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	
Published monthly for cooperative members	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	5,827
(1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions (Include on PS Form 3841 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2,210
(2) Mailed to County Paid Subscriptions (Include on PS Form 3841 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	3,486
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails (including Sales Through Endorsers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS)	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	
b. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4))	5,696
c. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies (Include on PS Form 3841)	57
(2) Free or Nominal Rate to-County Copies (Include on PS Form 3841)	24
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	
d. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d(1), (2), (3) and (4))	81
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15b and 15d)	5,777
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page K3))	50
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	5,827
i. Percent Paid (15b divided by 15h times 100)	96.62

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3824, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies ▶			
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a) ▶			
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a) ▶			
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (50b divided by 15c) x 100 ▶			

☒ I certify that 35% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed.
 ☐ Publication not required.

In the October 2014 issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Sue Pawelek, editor, McLeod Cooperative Power News

Date: 09/25/2014

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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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 \$4.77 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.

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

Phone: 320-864-3148
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Boring under the Crow River:

In early September, McLeod Co-op Power undertook a project to convert the south and west circuits out of the New Germany Substation from overhead to underground. Several miles of overhead lines that went through wet marshland and river bottoms will now be fed via underground conductors. This project will improve reliability for members in this area. Previously, it was very difficult to get to the poles if there were problems or outages. Making repairs sometimes had to be done by boat or bombardier due to the river and muddy soil conditions.



The Co-op hired MP Nexlevel, an underground utilities contractor, to bore 750 feet under the south fork of the Crow River, south of New Germany, using their directional boring machine. Co-op crews had to terminate and splice cable along the line, set riser poles, and switch the line over to the new underground.

August Outage Summary

During the month of August the Cooperative had a total of 33 outages, affecting 456 consumers. Six outages were caused by squirrels and eight individual outages by material or equipment failures.

The largest outage for August was Monday, August 18 about 5:36 p.m. South of Glencoe, 124 members were without power for one hour and 41 minutes due to wind. The second largest outage was Friday, August 29 about 7:07 p.m. when a tree hanging into the line caused an outage for 119

members northeast of Hutchinson. Consumers were out for one hour and eight 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 are already out working on the project.

CAN YOU PURCHASE PROPANE FOR \$.80 Per GALLON?



Cost Comparison

Off-Peak Electric Systems vs Propane Systems
 Comfort Plus Central Furnace @ \$.05/kWh = \$1.20/Gallon
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Consider a Steffes Comfort Plus Furnace

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- No routine maintenance
- No smoke...no chimney
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Contact the EXPERTS TODAY to find out how you can be comfortable and save money!

Comfort Plus furnaces charge overnight when electrical demand is low, there is an abundance of wind power being sold into the grid, and electricity is at its lowest rate.



Keep elderly parents safe while they live alone

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 give mom or dad greater independence. Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 for more information.

Johnsons glad to have made the switch to dual fuel



Dennis and Pamela Johnson

Dennis & Pamela Johnson's lovely lake home is built on Jensen's Point, Lake Minnie Bell. Tucked against the shore at the end of a very long woodsy drive, the lake view and garden-filled yard make it worth the time it takes to blow winter snow.

"Oh, it takes about two hours to blow, going up one side and back," Dennis said. Retired from a 38-year career at Sterner Lighting in Winsted, he's got the time, but he's still keeping an eye on weather predictions for the winter.

"I was blowing a lot of snow last winter," he said.

"I usually keep him busy in the winter in his wood shed," Pam, a retired HTI trainer, said. A treasure trove of his woodworking efforts are everywhere, including decorative benches and lawn furniture. When their two daughters were young, he was kept busy making desks, rocking horses, even furniture for their college years.

"But last winter he was so busy with snow," she added.

Pam's grandfather purchased the land and built a cabin on the point in the 1940's. When the land was divided between the children, Pam's brother took the cabin and uses it in the summer, while Pam and Dennis built a home on a vacant piece of property.

"The point has always been full of Jensen family, and people always refer to Jensen's Point when giving directions," Pam said.

The Johnson's one-level home with a crawl space was originally built with a propane forced-air furnace and the

couple used about 800-900 gallons of propane in a typical winter. It wasn't too bad when propane prices were down, but when prices began to rise about seven years ago, Dennis thought a change might be good.

"He began reading about plenum heaters," Pam said. Dennis did some checking and called Dave's Heating and Air Conditioning to ask some questions.

"Our crawl space has one small area that has a taller ceiling where the furnace and Marathon water heater are," Dennis said. "But there was no room for a plenum heater. Dave knew of an HVAC contractor that could install the plenum heater on the side of the plenum instead of on top of the furnace, so that's what we did."

By installing a 100% efficient electric plenum heater and using their existing propane furnace, the system now qualifies as a dual fuel system. By allowing the Co-op to control the electric heat during times of peak use (such as bitter cold days when electricity is being used more), the couple can heat their home at the low energy management electric rate. Plus, they were able to cut their propane use by two-thirds, which saved substantially on their heating bill.

"I'd say our heating bill for the winter has been about cut in half," Dennis said. "This past winter we used about 300 gallons of propane."

Part of their propane goes to run the gas fireplace, which they turn on during the fall and spring to take the chill out of the air without having to turn on the furnace.



Their crawl space didn't allow the plenum heater to be installed vertically atop the furnace, so they mounted it horizontally in the duct, which works just fine.



The Johnsons cut energy and cost in their lake home even further by using a Marathon water heater on the storage water program and by switching to more energy-efficient lighting options.

"Our highest electric bill this past winter was \$165 in February," Dennis said.

Using the worst case scenario, suppose all the four months of winter (December through March) were at the high \$165 a month, and all the 300 gallons of propane were used during that time period. If propane is selling at \$2.00 (which is what propane is expected to sell for this fall), his total winter heating bill would be somewhere around \$1,260. Now suppose that they still heated with only propane. At \$2.00 for 900 gallons, that would be about \$1,800. If propane stays at \$2.00 per gallon, they still save at least \$540 in just one winter.

Fuel comparison analysis shows that unless propane falls to somewhere around \$1.21 a gallon, electric heat on the energy management rate will

save money. The higher the propane price, the greater the savings. Not just one month, but every month, year after year.

With all the talk last year about high propane prices, and analysts trying to predict what will happen this year, the Jensens know that they made the wise choice years ago. That's a pretty comfortable place to be.





Minnesota utilities unite to fight customer scams

"Slam the Scam" launched to raise awareness

For the first time, nine Minnesota utilities (CenterPoint Energy, Connexus Energy, Dakota Electric, Great River Energy, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation, Minnesota Rural Electric Association, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy) are joining forces to fight back against customer scams.

Reports of phone and email billing scams targeting Minnesota utility customers are increasing at an alarming rate, representing thousands of dollars lost by customer victims. In an effort to shut down scammers, the Minnesota utility coalition recently launched "Slam the Scam," an awareness campaign aimed at warning customers and preventing scams. The coalition is encouraging customers who think they are being targeted by a scammer to simply end the conversation — "slam" down the phone.

Utility companies across the country are reporting an increase in scams aimed at customers. Some Minnesota utilities are experiencing a tenfold increase in customer scam attempts over last year. Scammers are targeting all classes of customers, but particularly small businesses such as restaurants. In most cases, a scammer calls during busy hours of operation and threatens to disconnect the customer's utility service unless they make a payment immediately.

Scammers are using various tactics to con customers into providing payment. Posing as utility employees, scammers have been known to:

- Tell intended victims their account is past due and threaten to disconnect their utility service if they do not make a payment immediately.
- Require victims to pay using a pre-paid debit card, such as a Green Dot card.
- Manipulate caller ID to display a fake number, which may actually be your utility's number. This is called "spoofing."
- Email customers phony utility bills that appear to be from an energy provider with an account number, amount due, due date and a link to make the payment.

Protecting personal and financial customer data is a top priority for



utility providers, and they are working to provide solutions to protect the public from scams. Utility providers want customers to know if they are behind on their bills, they will receive a written notice first before service disconnection. Customers who have not received a disconnection notice in the mail should not engage anyone on the phone or by email demanding to take payment. Instead, customers should hang up and contact their utility to verify account status and report the attempted scam. They are also encouraged to report the incident to local law enforcement.

Utilities offer the following tips to avoid being victimized:

- Never give out personal information, credit card numbers or wire money as a result of an unexpected or unsolicited call or email if you cannot validate the authenticity.
- Utilities provide many options for payment; be suspicious if the caller is insisting on the use of a pre-paid debit card or an immediate payment.
- Be aware that your utility will contact customers first by U.S. mail about past due bills — not over the phone. You will be sent a disconnection notice in writing before your service is turned off.
- If it just doesn't feel right, end the conversation and contact your utility company.

The Better Business Bureau of Minnesota is closely tracking these types of scams.

Industry News

GE Leaves the Home

General Electric (GE) — which has been selling products to consumers since the invention of the light bulb by Thomas Edison, the company's founder — has agreed to sell its appliance business to Electrolux for \$3.3 billion. Electrolux will continue to sell appliances such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines under the GE brand.

The move marks the end of a long and fundamental piece of GE's corporate history. The company invented the toaster in 1905 and launched a finance service during the Great Depression to help consumers pay for new appliances over time. Going forward, GE will focus on industrial equipment like aircraft engines, locomotives, medical imaging equipment and power generators. Power & Water is one of GE's higher growth and margin segments, according to the company.

~CFC Solutions NewsBulletin

Mood lighting has gone high tech, using LEDs and smartphones

"With LEDs, unlike other light bulbs, you can control the color and the intensity of the light. You can start to more closely mimic daylight with an LED. So you really have—in one technology—a huge variety of lighting choices using one type of LED," said Brian Sloboda, senior program manager at NRECA's Cooperative Research Network.

The impacts are felt both at the workplace and on the home front.

"Fluorescents just sap the energy out of you," Sloboda said. But with LEDs, you can adjust the color so that people "feel happier and feel not as tired at the end of the day."

As Sloboda noted, "lighting impacts everything we do," and humans tend to prefer daylight. "Anything you get that's closer to daylight, we just like better."

For co-ops building new offices, or consulting with commercial members doing so, Sloboda said, "the more natural daylight you can bring into an office building without increasing the heat inside, the better off you are from an energy-efficiency standpoint and from an employee standpoint."

For retailers, studies have linked better lighting to improved sales.

"When you look at a jewelry or makeup display case, the lighting in there does a couple of things," Sloboda said. "The lights in there are now typically LED, because LED does not produce UV rays, so it does not destroy the products in the case. But they also can light it to make it more appealing."

However, in other commercial settings, retrofits can be difficult. Sloboda called it crucial to hire a lighting expert, because "if you get it wrong you've wasted a lot of money."

At home, Sloboda said there are LED products such as Philips Hue in which a homeowner uses a smartphone to control lighting color. With a couple of taps you can go from daylight to something romantic or even something unusual—"an orange color for Halloween, or a color for your favorite team on sports day." Each resident can have their own favorite settings.

While the upfront cost for a homeowner is not inconsequential—the Hue starter kit, for example, is about \$200—Sloboda notes that LEDs should last "several years."

~ECT.com

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Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments

The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

Make plans now to pay your bill to avoid being without electricity this winter.

McLeod Cooperative Power regularly disconnects the electrical supply of members who do not pay for the electricity they use. While we dislike to have to disconnect members, it would not be fair to our other members if we allow certain members to use electricity for free while our other members pay.

The Cold Weather Rule was adopted to protect some people from having their primary source of electric heat disconnected between October 15 and April 15. However, this law doesn't mean there won't be disconnections. The law says that a person must be making regular payments or have set up a payment plan and be honoring those arrangements to avoid being disconnected. If you are behind in your payments and are counting on the Cold Weather Rule to protect

you from making any payments during the winter, think again. McLeod Cooperative Power will be doing disconnects this winter in accordance with the law.

Please read the full Cold Weather Rule summary below. The list of agencies who can provide assistance to qualifying residents having trouble paying their bill is on this page and is also listed on the back of any electric bill with a delinquent balance.

It is up to the member to make payment arrangements or seek assistance to avoid disconnection. Please do not wait. The sooner you contact us, the greater the chance you will have electricity all winter long. Call today at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 for details about applying for shut-off protection or to make a reasonable payment arrangement.

Cold Weather Rule Summary

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year if the customer has met the requirements under item 1 below. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- You declare an inability to pay.
- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- Your account is current for the billing period immediately prior to Oct. 15, or if you have entered into a payment schedule and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.
- You have contacted MCPA and have set up a payment arrangement.

If all of these items are not satisfied the electricity may be shut off due to non-payment.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather months, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.
- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.
- Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.

Our members are important to McLeod Cooperative Power. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether

the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule. Names and contact numbers for energy assistance providers are listed on this page.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker Counties

Heartland Community Action Agency

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
218 Main St. S., Suite 108,
Hutchinson MN 55350
Toll free: 800-992-1710
McLeod: 800-829-2132

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330 (Hutchinson
Toll-Free)
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

Renville County Energy Assistance Program

105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-2202
1-800-363-2533

Sibley County area

Sibley County Public Health & Human Services

111 8th Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000
1-866-396-9963

MN Valley Action Council

110 6th Street, P.O. Box 87
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-2981
706 N. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-6822
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency

712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952)-496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500

Correction: Water Storage rebate is \$300

Last month’s newsletter incorrectly stated that the rebate for joining the Hot Water Storage Program was \$200. The current rebate is \$300. Rebates are good through December 31, 2014 or until funds are depleted.

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 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 refrigerator or freezer units without documented proof of recycling.

I recall a time when we couldn't get high-speed Internet in these parts.

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

Limited Time Offer for NEW EXEDE customers.

exede INTERNET

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.

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 **October 28** to be included in the Nov. 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

- 10 kw plenum heater with controls. \$400. 320-583-6401
- 2000 Buick LaSabre, many new parts. \$2,500/any reasonable offer accepted. 320-327-2472
- Ash & Apple wood. Shedded, good for fireplace/outside. \$100. 320-327-2472
- Brown contour chair lounge. \$250. 320-848-6390
- 16ft fishing boat, 65hp & trolling motor & trailer. 320-587-7746
- Frigidaire HD gas dryer, lg capacity, very good condition, \$100/BO. 320-587-8386

For Sale - Farm

- Vintage 1973 Arctic Cat Panther snowmobile. \$600/OBO. 320-562-6339 leave msg
- Projector screen 94 inch, Eletrol motorized DVD players, color monitors. 952-657-1502
- 30 Free Stahl pipes, complete w/ channel iron brackets. 320-583-7360
- Very old real horsehair blanket for sleigh rides. \$185. 320-587-6657
- Two wheel trailer, excellent condition. \$950/BO. 320-328-5748
- 93 Kenworth Detroit 10 sp. 320-587-6301
- 84 Int Cummings 19ft box and hoist. 320-587-6301

Wanted

- 14ft portable bale elevator with 3/4hp electric motor. \$250. 612-803-4475
- Gehl BC1500 round bail carrier. \$150. 320-587-8065
- 1960 Chevy C10 grain truck. Fully operational. \$1,750. 320-395-2265

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.

MCPA Community Solar FAQs

How large is the MCPA Community Solar Project?

The Cooperative has available 100 solar panels, which is equal to 41 kilowatt (kWdc). Each 410 Watt panel is approximately 6.5' x 4.5'.

What kind of solar system is it?

It is manufactured by TenKSolar, which is a Minnesota based company.

Where is the Array located?

It will be at 591 Lindbergh Trail in Glencoe Township, on the Cooperative's pole yard property near Hwy. 212.

How can I participate in MCPA's Community Solar Project?

It's very simple. You must be a member of McLeod Cooperative Power. Complete the Customer Agreement Form and return it to McLeod Co-op Power with payment. Phone payments are accepted. You can call us at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 or stop by the office and we can assist you with your questions and provide you with a copy of the agreement. Agreements are available on the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com.

What is the cost?

To purchase the output from one panel for 20 years is \$1,550. Two panels would be \$3,100.

How can I pay?

Cash, Check, or Credit Card are accepted.

Is there a limit on how many I can purchase?

A member may license the output of multiple solar panels, provided that no agreement may be obtained for a number of solar panels that produce combined production credits that exceed the most recent 12-month average used at the location/account at which they are applied.

What if I move?

If you move to another location on MCPA Co-op lines you may transfer the credits to your new account. If you will no longer be an MCPA member, you can transfer/assign or donate the panel output to another member, friend, family member or organization that is a member of MCPA. The Co-op can assist you with identifying an interested member/organization. If you are unable to find someone to transfer the credits to, a discounted buyout option is available.

This lease/contract with MCPA is good for 20 years, beginning when the array is completed (estimated to be spring of 2015). The estimated annual output is 511 kWh per panel. The actual amount may vary from month to month, and season to season. The output credit will appear each month on your electric bill as a line item.

How much would my credit be worth each month?

If you purchased the output from one panel, it is estimated to produce an average of 42.6 kWh per month. At 2013 rates, this would be equivalent to reducing your electric bill about \$4.90 a month. It is assumed that if the cost of electricity continues to increase over the next 20 years, the value of your kWh would increase incrementally as well.

If I do not purchase now, can I buy later?

Yes you can, provided we have panels available.

Where does the electricity go when the system is producing energy?

This system is interconnected with the electric grid, so the output goes directly onto our distribution wires.

Does the system have a battery backup system?

No. The cost for the battery backup system is currently too expensive to warrant the cost.

Does the system work in the event of a power outage?

No. All renewable systems with an inverter and no battery backup require line voltage to function and will not generate during an outage.

Does the weather and change in seasons affect the solar production?

Both the weather and seasonal changes will affect the amount of sun reaching the panels. During the summer, the panels will produce more energy because the days are longer and the sun is higher. If it's a cloudy day, the panels will produce less. During the winter, there will be less production because of limited hours of sunlight and, at times potential snow coverage.

How do you meter the solar array?

A meter will record how many kWh the array produces and sells back into the grid. The total power production of the array each month will be divided by the number of panels in the array. Each participating member will be credited with their share of the array's output based upon how many panels they signed up for in their agreement.

What does the cost cover?

MCPA will provide all necessary maintenance and insurance for the life of the project. MCPA will make certain that it meets all applicable codes, standards, and regulatory requirements at the time of installation and throughout the term of the agreement. In the event of equipment failure, MCPA will bring the equipment back to working order as quickly as is reasonably possible.

Who uses the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)?

All environmental attributes and RECs are retained by MCPA.

Glencoe Food Cooperative is now incorporated



The Glencoe Food Cooperative Steering Committee announced that the Glencoe Food Co-op, Inc, has been officially incorporated. With assistance from a Glencoe attorney the cooperative is working on drafting its articles of incorporation and bylaws. A temporary board of directors has been named and officers are in place.

Any individual interested in being on the food co-op's contact list may sign up at their website, www.glencoefoodcoop.com. A public informational meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Glencoe City Center.

Steps are underway to get a market feasibility study performed. If it is found that residents from Glencoe and the surrounding area are willing and able to support a food cooperative, and the business moves forward, then the \$20 would be applied toward that individual's membership share purchase. Details and application forms are available at www.glencoefoodcoop.com.

October is Co-op Month. The sixth principle of The Seven Cooperative Principles is "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" and the seventh principle is "Concern for Community". We strengthen the cooperative movement when we work with and through other cooperative organizations. We also focus on the needs of our members and the sustainable development of their communities, as well as economic development within our service area.

Save up to \$9.00 on LED light bulbs

Save up to \$9.00 with the mail-in rebate coupon from McLeod Co-op Power (right). Purchase one, two, or 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 and you may purchase your bulbs from any retailer between October 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.

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. (\$9.00 total rebate for 3 bulbs.)

• 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 Oct. 1, 2014 and Nov. 30, 2014. Any brand LED bulb purchases.

• Rebate will be applied to electric account as a credit within 60 days of receipt.

Member Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
City of bulb purchase (state, zip, and ex. 3): _____
Acct # _____ Location # _____

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 and above within 60 days of receipt.

VOID