

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

December 2014

In this issue...



New sites added to Coal Creek Tour for 2015..... 6



Give the gift that keeps on giving 8

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

MCPA welcomes Carrie Buckley as its new General Manager



The MCPA Board of Directors has selected Carrie Buckley as its new General Manager. Buckley began her duties at McLeod Co-op Power on December 1.

Carrie Buckley is a Certified Public Accountant. She has served for nine years as Director of Finance, Regulatory Affairs and Rates at Homer Electric Association, a distribution utility in Homer, AK, and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Alaska Electric & Energy

Cooperative, a generation and transmission utility. She served as Controller for both organizations before her promotion to the director position. Previously, she had worked in both the public and private sectors as a CPA, and as Treasurer/CFO for a Federal Defense Contractor. She is a graduate of the University of Montana and NRECA's Management Internship Program.

She comes to us from Homer Electric Association in Homer, Alaska, a cooperative with 22,420 members and over 32,800 meter locations. This co-op has 155 full-time employees serving members at a corporate office, a service center in Kenai, and at multiple generation power plants and hydroelectric plant sites, as this co-op now owns and operates its own generating facilities and transmission system. Homer is located on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula, about 200 miles south of Anchorage, and it is famous for its fishing — being known as the “Halibut Capital of the World.”

Buckley has relocated to Glencoe and is getting familiar with the Co-op, its employees, programs and the service area. She has family and friends in

Minnesota, and two children attending colleges in central Minnesota.

She tells us, “While I treasure my memories of Alaska, I look forward to creating new memories from my next adventure in Minnesota. I believe in the cooperative model and eagerly anticipate meeting the McLeod Cooperative members. I thank the Board of Directors for selecting me for this opportunity.”

“The board is very pleased to have Carrie Buckley leading our Cooperative,” stated Chairman of the Board Keith Peterson. “We are fortunate to have someone with her management, regulatory and financial experience coming to work for us. We are hopeful that her strategic and visionary leadership will help MCPA and its employees prepare for challenges we see coming down the road,” Peterson added.

We invite members to come to the Co-op's Open House on Friday, December 19, to meet Carrie and to welcome her to our community. Coffee, cider & cookies will be served from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on December 19, at the Co-op office, 1231 Ford Avenue N., Glencoe.

Holiday Treats Dec. 19



Plan to visit the Co-op office at 1231 Ford Avenue in Glencoe on Friday, December 19 to enjoy holiday cookies, cider and coffee. Holiday treats will be available from 8 a.m to 4 p.m. on the 19th. Members may also want to meet our new general manager, pick up their 2015 scenic calendar, and register for a door prize. The Co-op will have employees available to answer any questions you have on subscribing to the Community Solar Program or joining a Load Management Program for heating or water heating.

Capital credits applied to December bills

Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) may notice lower electric bills in December. A total of \$693,100 is being distributed this month in capital credit refunds. This amount includes all remaining capital credits from 1995 and 20% of operating margins allocated from 2013.

Capital credits are being applied to active electric accounts and will show as a line item credit on each bill that is supposed to receive a refund. Former members who no longer have an active electric account will be mailed their refund in the form of a check in December.

**MCPA
has returned
over \$8 Million in
capital credits to
members since
1998.**



Recycle holiday light strings

For your convenience, MCPA will be collecting old holiday light strings in our office and delivering them to Adult Training and Habilitation (ATHC). We will collect old light strings and provide them to ATHC where all the components

are recycled. ATHC provides jobs for disabled persons sorting and recycling light strings, old electrical cords, appliance and telephone cords. There is no charge to drop off your cords. Only battery chargers and adapters are not accepted.

New meter installations to begin in January

The style of Turtle® meter reading devices which McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) has been using for a decade to collect monthly meter readings will no longer be made by the manufacturer. Replacement meters with the capability to send us the meter readings will begin to be installed in January. It is planned to take 12-18 months to complete the new meter installations across the entire service area.

MCPA does not expect any problems in gathering meter readings from members during the transition. The Turtle devices in use have been reliable and we have sufficient replacement units available should we have any Turtles that quit working between now and when all members will have their new meter reading device in 2015 or 2016.

Holiday Hours



The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Our offices will be closed
**Wed., Dec. 24 and Thurs., Dec. 25
and Thurs., Jan. 1**
so our employees may spend the holidays
with their families.

For outages or electrical emergencies call
1-800-927-5685.

Snowmobile safely this winter



Whether you are a recreational snowmobile rider or a diehard sledhead, a fresh snowfall is a taunting invitation to be the first to cut through the untouched powder. Snowmobiling can be a great way to enjoy the long winters we are blessed with — or cursed with — depending on your view, but comes with a number of safety considerations.

In addition to observing state snowmobile regulations and local laws, it's always a safe practice to drive at moderate speeds and drive defensively. Be especially careful if driving in a power line right of way. Reduce your speed and always be on the lookout for electrical transformer boxes and guy

wires — the cables that anchor power poles. Darkness, fog and deep snow can make them hard to see.

Still, it cannot be stressed enough to stay on marked trails. Marked trails offer signs that alert snowmobilers to trail changes. When you venture off of those marked trails, you put yourself and others with you at risk for coming into contact with objects, such as electrical equipment, hidden under the deep and undisturbed snow.

If you see a downed or sagging power line, notice missing or damaged guy wire covers or have other safety concerns regarding electrical equipment along your ride, contact the local utility or authorities right away.

Board of Directors

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Hutchinson

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Silver Lake

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District 9

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McLeod Cooperative Power News

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1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Editor: Sue Pawelk
General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley

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**

**24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850**

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

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

Saving Money in the Kitchen

Wasted energy is wasted money. The simple, low-cost measures that follow can reduce your operating costs by making your kitchen more energy efficient.

- 1 Prepare and cook your menu for efficiency. Defrost frozen items in a refrigerator overnight instead of running them under warm water, saving energy and water. Also, determine which items can be cooked at lower temperatures or for shorter periods.
- 2 Cover pots and pans while cooking. Covering pots and pans helps to retain heat, reducing cooking time and energy use.
- 3 Use the microwave whenever possible. Microwaves use a lot less energy than a range top or oven.
- 4 Check oven and steam seals. To keep heat (and energy) from escaping, make sure the fittings around doors are in good shape and make a proper seal.
- 5 Operate dishwashers at full load. Consumers waste energy by running dishwashers at partial loads. Wait until dishwasher is full to run it.



- 6 Close and seal refrigerator doors. Refrigeration units are big energy users. Conserve energy by making sure doors latch tightly, and gaskets are sealed correctly. Minimize trips in and out of the refrigerator and put a stop to the family member standing with the door open while they decide what they want to eat.
- 7 Shut off the overhead exhaust fan when you are done boiling things on the stove top. Overhead exhaust fans serve a good purpose of removing steam and excess moisture and heat when you are cooking dishes on the range top. However, after your cooking is done, turn off the fan. Leaving it on will continue to exhaust heat from the house that your furnace just finished putting into your conditioned living space.



This year's 2015 scenic Minnesota calendars are available in the Co-op office. Please stop in and pick up a copy. First come, first serve, while supplies last.

Submit rebate forms by Dec. 31

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.

* Rebate forms must be received by Dec. 31, 2014 to be eligible for 2014 rebates.



Shop online, watch movies, download songs and stay in touch with family and friends the way you want—super-fast! Members pay no up-front costs when you activate your Exede High Speed service by December 31st!*

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Six ways to cut the cost of powering your home

We all want to use energy efficiently and see lower energy bills, but sometimes it's hard to know whether it would be most effective to install a new heating system or purchase new appliances to make the biggest difference and get the most bang for our buck.

The chart at right can help us get a better idea of where the biggest savings could be achieved. It shouldn't be a big surprise that heating systems use the greatest amount of energy in running the average home. The great news is, this also is where a homeowner can make the biggest impact in cutting energy use, increasing efficiency and seeing real savings.

1 Dual Fuel is a No-Brainer
With the right dual fuel system for your home, you literally could save hundreds of dollars each and every year. There are dozens of members over the years who have shared their stories of significant savings. They have nothing to gain but the satisfaction of helping their fellow members.

A dual fuel system uses an electric heat source as its primary heat. This can be retrofit into an existing system by installing a plenum heater atop a propane or fuel oil furnace, for example. During times of peak electric use, that electric heat is controlled and your automatic backup furnace, boiler, etc. kicks in. In a controlled dual fuel system, a member heats with a low electric rate, saving substantially over propane or

fuel oil. The best part is, you can choose which heating system to use, depending on the price of fuel at any given time.

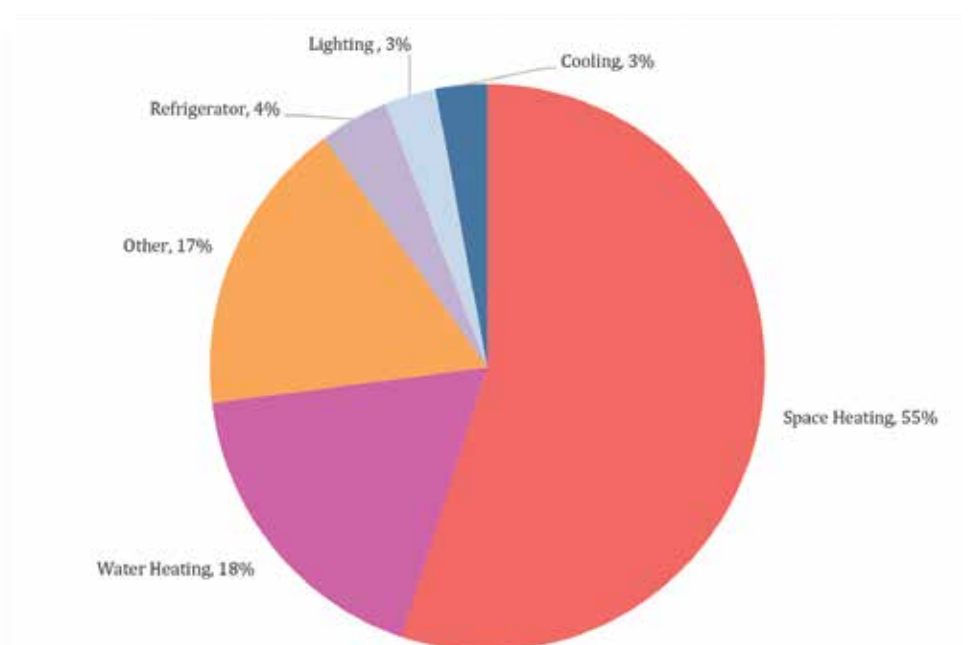
2 Water Heating Programs

By using a super-insulated water heater such as a Marathon, and going on the Peak Shave or Storage Water Heating program, you can heat your water with our low energy management electric rate which is saving members considerable money on their electric bill.

3 Shop Smart for Appliances

Purchase price isn't the only factor when shopping for appliances. How much an appliance costs to operate over it's lifetime can vary widely. Fortunately, there are two ways to insure you purchase an energy-efficient model. First, look for the yellow Energy Efficiency label on appliances. Near the top you will find the Estimated Yearly Operating Cost of the appliance. Don't be hasty to purchase an appliance just for its features. Shop and compare several brands and models to get the one that costs the least to operate.

ENERGY STAR appliances must meet government standards that allow a consumer to save substantially on their energy costs. Therefore, when you purchase an appliance with an ENERGY STAR insignia, you know you are purchasing a product that has been tested and approved for energy efficient use.



Figures are averaged across the state and will vary by region.

Data obtained from the Minnesota Weatherization Field Guide, Minnesota Dept. of Commerce State Energy Office.

4 Choose LED Lighting

LED bulbs save 75 percent or more over an incandescent bulb and can last years. The prices of LED bulbs are coming down. Although the initial sticker price can still be high, the cost is paid back in energy savings.

LED bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating are subject to very specific requirements designed to replicate the experience you are used to with a standard A-type bulb so they can be used for a wide variety of applications. ENERGY STAR rated bulbs also are independently tested for their durability, light quality and long life.

5 Reduce Phantom Loads

Use smart strips for your frequently-used appliances to reduce wasted energy for your appliances. Even in the off mode,

many electronics still consume energy. But by plugging them into a smart strip and then turning off the smart strip when you're done using the electronics, you will stop that energy drain that you aren't getting any benefit from.

6 Contact your Co-op

Your Co-op is in the energy business. We work with contractors and members on their heating and cooling systems and know what will save you energy and money and what won't. When choosing a new heating or cooling system, check around and then contact your Co-op. We can discuss how much energy you're using now, what will work best for your situation and how to save you money in the long run.

You are our member-owners. We are always looking out for you.

Know the Law if you have declared a sales tax exemption

Electricity sold for residential use to members who are metered and billed as residential users, and use electricity as their primary heat, may request to be exempt from the sales tax for the months of November through April. This does not apply to anyone other than members whose primary source of heat is electricity. By primary source, it means that 50% or more of your heating requirements are electric. However, if your electric heat is used in combination with wood or another fuel that actually provides more

than half of your spacing heating, you may not qualify.

Members receiving tax credit for electric heat when electric heat is not the primary source of heat are in violation of Minnesota State Sales Tax Law. You should let the Co-op know immediately if there have been any changes and electric is no longer your primary heat source.

GRE files IRP, commits to evolving generation portfolio



Great River Energy's 250-kilowatt solar array at their headquarters in Maple Grove has been providing solar energy to help power computers, light work stations and help with air conditioning costs since it became operational earlier this year.

Great River Energy (GRE), a power supplier, filed its 2014 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) on October 31, with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

The document details the cooperative's commitment to reliably meet its member-owners' energy needs in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible way as it continues to adapt to a changing industry and economy.

GRE's 15-year outlook provides options and flexibility, adds new winds and hydro energy, and maintains energy efficiency and conservation programs.

The IRP also includes an assessment of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Clean Power Plan rule to cut carbon emissions from power plants. GRE's plan calls for the continued operation of its existing fleet of power plants. The plan also results in a 28 percent reduction in the carbon dioxide intensity of its system by 2029 from 2012 levels, using EPA's draft compliance formula.

Throughout the year, GRE collaborated with its board of directors, member cooperatives and a variety of interested parties to gather input on modeling and the resource plan in preparation for this year's filing. The result is an IRP that meets state criteria and complies with all legislative and regulatory requirements, including the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard.

"We invite the commission to review and accept our resource plan filing and support our member-owners' conclusion that this plan is in their best interest and in the best interest of their end-use consumers," said Lauren Ross McCalib, manager, resource planning and regulatory affairs for GRE.

GRE has proactively taken measures to prepare for likely greenhouse gas regulations by further diversifying its generation portfolio, which already includes facilities of various fuel types. The company recently added Spiritwood Station, a combined heat and power plant, that will be twice as efficient as a typical coal plant. The plant also utilizes GRE's patented Dry-Fining™ system, which improves the quality of lignite coal, creating further plant efficiency and lower emissions.

"We are strategically positioning our organization for a low-carbon future," Ross McCalib said. "Great River Energy has long offered programs that encourage conservation and energy efficiency. We have added a large amount of wind energy to our portfolio, and we remain committed to investing in transmission, solar and other renewable energy sources in a way that limits cost impacts for our members."

A 250-kilowatt solar project was installed this year at Great River Energy's headquarters in Maple Grove, while additional arrays are under development or already generating electricity in its member-owners' communities. The company is currently evaluating programs for plug-in electric vehicles while assessing its potential role in promoting their use in Minnesota.

Industry News

Electric Cars and Fuel Cell Models Debut

New electric cars, plug-in hybrids and fuel cell vehicles debuted at the 2014 Los Angeles Auto Show.

Mitsubishi's Concept XR-PHEV can use gasoline to recharge its batteries while driving. Mitsubishi revealed its Concept XR-PHEV, a plug-in hybrid that doesn't always have to be plugged in. It has solar cell arrays embedded in the roof that help with battery charging. And if the power goes out at home, it's no problem. Mitsubishi says the car's 100-volt AC outlets can deliver up to 1,500 watts of power. That, the company says, can power a typical household's domestic appliances for a full day using the car's lithium-ion battery pack. And if the car has a full tank of gas, the batteries can be recharged to power a home for up to 10 days.

The Audi A7 Sportback h-tron quattro is a plug-in hybrid which, instead of using gasoline, has fuel cells. The automaker said that the car can go about 62 miles on 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram) of hydrogen. That means it's good for about 310 miles when the tank is full, a process Audi said takes no more than about three minutes. The car has a battery which, if fully charged, can back up the fuel cells for another 31 miles.

Volkswagen showed off a car that it says runs on a "power source of the future." The Golf SportWagen HyMotion has a fuel cell powertrain. Inside the fuel cell, hydrogen and oxygen are combined to form pure water, and the energy released in the process powers an electric motor. ~Electric Co-op Today

Energy efficiency may be the key to saving trillions

Worldwide, governments, companies and families could be saving trillions of dollars by improving efficiency with cars that go farther on less fuel and improved appliances, light bulbs and factories, experts say. Energy efficiency creates jobs in fields like upgrading buildings, and is generally cheaper than the alternative of constructing new power plants and buying more energy, they argue.

America uses half the energy per dollar of gross domestic product that it did in the 1970s and has saved more than \$15 trillion since then through rising efficiency. Experts say that the use of more modern cars, appliances and equipment leads to efficiency improvements of more than 1 percent a year in developed countries, even without concerted effort. ~The New York Times

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October Outage Summary

October was a quiet month for outages. The Cooperative had a total of 27 outages, affecting 126 consumers. Eleven of those outages were due to unknown causes.

The largest outage was on Sunday, October 19 about 10:52 in the morning. A material or equipment failure caused 61 members south of Hutchinson to be without power for one hour and 53 minutes.

The second largest outage for the month affected 12 consumers southwest of Stewart on Tuesday, October 14 about 2:20 p.m. The cause

is not known, however, members were out of power for one hour and 25 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.

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 **Dec. 29** to be included in the Jan. 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

- 14 ft Crestliner Super Seaman boat w/trailer. \$650. 320-587-7964
- Walk behind snow blower. JD 1032D 10hp 32". Hay certified. 320-583-8553
- Winpower PTO generator on trailer. 7kW, 120/240v. \$500. 320-583-4968

For Sale - Farm

- Small square wheat straw & alfalfa bales. 320-522-2167

Wanted

- FLOE enclosed 4-place or 2-place trailer for sleds. 320-583-4546
- 3-3.5 ton Pax Steer Stuffer in good condition. 320-864-5095

- Used portable dishwasher, good condition. 952-467-3133

For Rent

- Branson vacation rental one/two bedroom condo, weekly. 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.

Brand new sites added to 2015 Coal Creek Tour



Members who sign up for the Coal Creek tour will get to visit some new sites never before offered by the Co-op. This year, a tour of newly-opened Spiritwood Station (and possibly the adjacent Dakota Spirit AgEnergy ethanol plant or Cargill Malt plant) in Jamestown, ND will be on the itinerary. The trip will include tours of Falkirk Coal Mine, Coal Creek Generating Station, Garrison Dam, and the newly redone North Dakota Heritage Center.



Tour dates are Tuesday, July 21 through Thursday, July 23, 2015. Cost is \$250 per person and includes two nights lodging and complimentary hotel breakfasts, motor coach transportation, three lunches, and a great time meeting fellow members and seeing some highly educational energy facilities. Call Katie at 1-800-494-6272 to make your reservation.

Experience Washington D.C.



Time for high school juniors and seniors to apply

High school juniors and seniors have until March 2, 2015, to apply for the Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour competition. One local youth will win an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 13-18, 2015 from the Cooperative.

For over 40 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour by sending their high school students to experience first hand,

the essence that is our republic. An information packet is available upon request to any high school junior or senior. Just call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272. You will have until March 2, 2015 to submit your application. Students complete a questionnaire and application to qualify. Please encourage your child or grandchild to apply. They need only attend a high school in or reside in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or western Carver County.

Volunteers needed for Nominating Committee

To elect directors in Districts 4, 5, & 6 at the 2015 Annual Meeting, we need members from those districts to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members participate in the election process by selecting director candidates and submitting their names to the Board for approval. They also assist with collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers are needed from the following townships:

District 4 includes: Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Brookfield, Hector, Osceola, and Kingman Townships in Renville County, and East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County.

District 5 includes: Lynn, Collins, and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.

District 6 includes: New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, Dryden, Transit, and Alfsborg Townships in Sibley County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power if you are willing to volunteer for the 2015 Nominating Committee no later than January 2, 2015. Committee meetings are scheduled for January 29 and February 12, 2015. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 14, 2015.

				Ellsworth	Collinwood		Victor	Woodland	Franklin
				3					
	East Lake Lillian			Acoma	Hutchinson	Hale	Winsted	Hollywood	Watertown
	4					7	1		9
Kingman	Osceola	Brookfield	Boon Lake	Lynn	Hassan Valley	Rich Valley	Bergen	Camden	
Bird Island	Melville	Hector	Preston Lake	Collins	Sumter	Glencoe	Helen	Young America	
				5		2			
Norfolk	Palmyra	Martins-burg	Grafton	Round Grove	Penn	New Auburn	Green Isle		
	8								
	Bandon	Wellington	Moltke	Bismarck	Transit	Dryden	Arlington		
						6			

What makes a good director?

At McLeod Cooperative Power we believe that our Board of Directors comprises a pillar connection with our membership and the community at large. Besides meeting the legal requirements for Director nomination, we are seeking individuals who hold some important personal characteristics. We’ve summarized these attributes below.

Possess a sincere interest in preserving the strength of the Cooperative’s operations and maintaining a productive relationship with its consumer-members. McLeod Cooperative Power has assets of about \$25 million, employs 29 full-time people and is responsible for providing quality electric service to more than 6,400 accounts, as well as a variety of ancillary services. Our electric distribution system serves a diverse membership consisting of residences, farms, businesses and industries. While representing all members of the district, **Directors must work with each other to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the entire distribution system.**

Be willing and available to fully participate in the business activities of the Cooperative. Attendance is expected at all scheduled Board of Directors meetings. In addition, from time to time, Directors will be called upon to represent the Cooperative at other meetings and events where their presence is deemed to be beneficial to the Cooperative.

Remain accessible to the members whom they represent. Since the Directors are elected from and by the Cooperative’s membership, it is important that they work to **maintain open lines of communication with their constituents. They should also strive to be knowledgeable about trends and circumstances that may impact the people and communities of central Minnesota,** and be capable of using basic computer skills to receive electronic communications and reports from the Co-op.

Be enthusiastic. During these times of accelerated change, we look for proactive, resourceful and inspired leadership.

Director qualifications per the Co-op Articles of Incorporation

Article 3, Section 2 of the McLeod Cooperative Power Association Articles of Incorporation states the following about director qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

- A. is not a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving service at the member’s primary residence or principal place of business in the district from which the Director is elected;
- B. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate’s nomination was or during service on the Board of Directors is finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- C. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate’s nomination was an employee of the Cooperative;
- D. is or becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding a Director candidate’s nomination shall have been, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;
- E. is a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, whether by blood, or in law, of an employee of the Cooperative;

- F. is a person that is child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, by blood, or in law, of an incumbent Director that is not up for re-election at that time;
 - G. is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;
 - H. is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another Director; or
 - I. is absent without cause from three (3) or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors during any twelve (12) month period.
- A member that is an authorized farm corporation, family farm corporation, regular corporation, partnership, limited liability partnership or other business entity may select an individual member residing on or actively operating such business entity to be eligible for election to the Board. A member that is not a natural person may select one of its officers to be eligible for election to the Board, provided that not more than two (2) such officers may serve on the Board at the same time.

MCPA Director Candidate Application

The undersigned, a member of McLeod Cooperative Power Association, hereby applies as a nominee for director of McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____ and requests that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election for director from said district to be held at the next Annual Meeting, April 14, 2015.

I certify that my account is current and I am a member in good standing with McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____.

I certify that I am a resident of District _____ and am receiving electric energy from McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

I certify that I am not in a competing business with McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

If elected director, I agree to attend as many meetings of the Board of Directors as possible and to abide by the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and Policies of McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

Date: _____

Signature: _____



Clock ticking on production of large water heaters

Congressional action needed to preserve large electric water heaters needed for storage program

A long-running and valuable cooperative program will be dramatically impacted this spring if an impending ban on the manufacture of 55 gallon and larger water heaters is not overturned. Electric cooperatives and other advocates are encouraging Congress to preserve large-capacity electric resistance water heaters during its “lame duck” session.

At issue is a Department of Energy (DOE) standard that is slated to begin on April 16 that would effectively ban the manufacture of electric resistance water heaters with a storage capacity of 55 gallons or more. The rule will require all large-capacity electric water heaters to operate at 200 percent efficiency, a level that only heat-pump water heaters can meet. (The DOE has apparently failed to consider that heat pump water heaters are not designed for the cold northern states, where air heated by a fuel oil or propane furnace would be used to produce domestic hot water. There is no efficiency in heating your water with expensive fuel oil or propane intended to heat your house.)

Great River Energy’s electric thermal storage (ETS) water heating program uses super-insulated, large-capacity electric resistance water heaters. Each water heater functions as a “thermal battery” that can store energy during the off-peak

hours. Only those larger water heaters subject to the DOE ban possess the flexibility to produce the benefits of the ETS program.

“This ban is being touted as an energy efficiency measure, but it ignores the simple fact that a large-capacity water heater used during the off-peak hours is one of the best ways to store energy,” said Great River Energy Member Services and Marketing Director Gary Connett. “Electricity produced during the overnight hours is not only inexpensive, but it also includes a much higher percentage of wind-generated electricity,” Connett added.

Load management programs like ETS water heating are strategic resources that help cooperatives boost electric system efficiency and increase off-peak energy sales while reducing wholesale demand costs and offsetting the need to build additional power plants. Every night, Great River Energy’s ETS water heating program stores nearly 1,000 megawatt-hours of low-cost, off-peak energy in 65,000 large-capacity electric resistance water heaters.

This means that if Congress cannot help intervene with a remedy, no U.S. manufacturers will be able to produce 85 or 105 gallon water heaters (or any sizes over 55 gallons) after April 16, 2015. It

will make joining the ETS water heating program more costly and will take us back to the days when members had to use two 50 gallon water heaters side-by-side. So, MCPA is ordering as many 85 and 105 gallon water heaters as we can get, and we are encouraging any members that want to save money on ETS water heating to join the program now while a limited number of large water heaters are still available. Now through December 31, 2015 there is a \$300 rebate on ETS water heating.

Members currently enrolled in ETS water heating programs will not be affected until it is time to replace their existing water heaters. That is a concern for the Co-op and our members. Although we have been told by Marathon that they will financially stand behind any warranty issues, we know there will not be any larger size water heaters available anywhere to replace the 85 or 105 gallon capacity tank that they need.

Our chances for success in Congress are slim even though Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar have been supportive of our efforts to get this fixed. It could be helpful for cooperative members to contact each of them. They should be thanked for their support so far and urged to speak with their leadership about scheduling a vote on a stand-alone water heater fix bill during the lame duck session.



Community Solar

Give yourself a gift that will keep giving & giving for 20 years

Have you thought of putting up a few solar panels but you are not sure you want

to make the investment, or work through the interconnection paperwork and state requirements, or deal with the annual insurance, repairs, and maintenance? Maybe you do not have a good unobstructed exposure in your yard to locate a solar array. Participating in MCPA’s Community Solar Project is a hassle-free alternative. So consider giving yourself a gift that will keep giving back to you for 20 years — a Community Solar Subscription.

As a community solar participant you would get 100% of the kilowatt hours generated by your share of the array each month for 20 years. You are credited each month for those kilowatts at the current energy rate and power cost adjustment, which lowers the amount of your monthly electric bill. As electric rates rise in future years, your credit each month continues to become more valuable. It is not a fast financial payback, but it is a hedge against the rising cost of electricity in the future. It is also a cheaper way to get into solar without the risks associated with owning and maintaining an array yourself. And it gives participants the full retail value of the kWh generated by the panel or panels they subscribe to each month, without shifting

higher costs for renewable generation onto their neighbors and other MCPA members.

The Co-op has committed to building at least one 20.5 kW array with 50 panels this spring. The Co-op is hoping to build 41 kW with 100 panels available for subscription and can expand to up to 150 panels if enough members purchase subscriptions by January. Final size of the Community Solar Project will be determined by the interest of our members between now and January 1. The final number of panels needs to be determined by early January. Construction is scheduled for April and May.

Each panel is estimated to produce 511 kWh per year (average over 20 years). Production will vary from month to month and year to year. Generally, solar panels produce more energy in the summer and less in the winter, due to the hours of sunlight.

To help members learn more, the Co-op has “Frequently Asked Questions” and a copy of the Subscription License available on the MCPA web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. Brochures and paper



Do you want Santa to bring you a Community Solar Panel Subscription? Each tenKsolar panel is approximately 6.5' x 4.5' as shown. It utilizes a special cool mirror film manufactured by 3M on its reflectors which boost energy production. The design we plan to use is one of the safest PV systems on the market and carries the best warranty in the solar industry.

copies of the license agreement can also be mailed to members. We have employees available to answer all of your questions over the phone or to meet with you. Just call us at 1-800-494-6272 or 864-3148 for help.