

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

January 2015

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

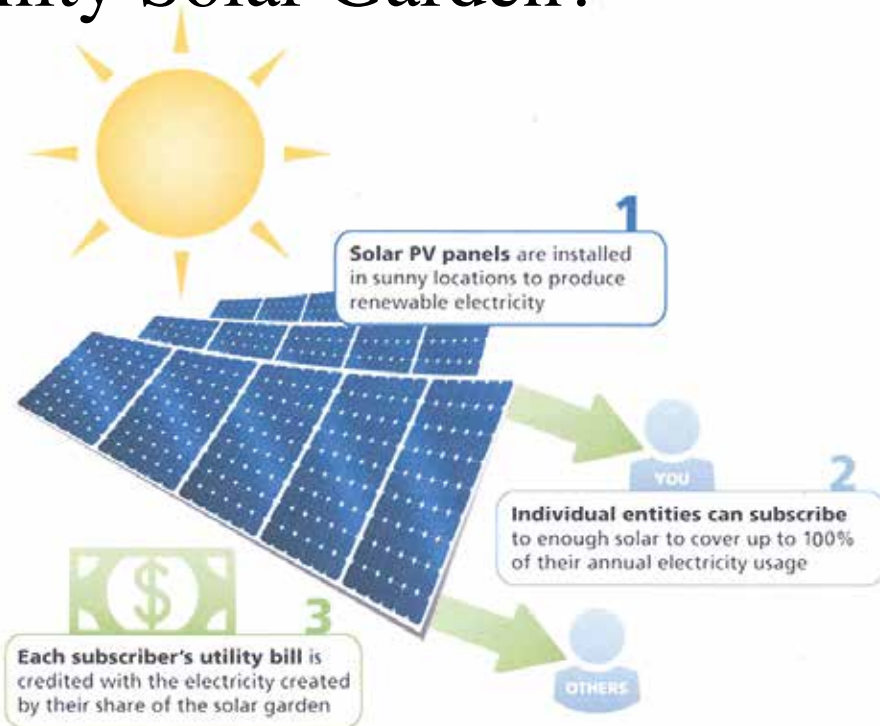
What is a Community Solar Garden?

It is where a solar array is built in one place to generate electricity from the sun, but the participants who share in the garden's production (kWh output) may live in different places, even far away from the physical location of the array. The participants may not be directly responsible for the care and maintenance of the solar garden, although they share in the benefit of what is produced.

How will the Co-op's Community Solar Project work?

McLeod Co-op Power is building two solar arrays with 50 solar panels each in the spring (41 kW with 100 panels total). It will be located on the Co-op's pole yard property near Hwy. 212. McLeod Co-op Power will own, insure, and maintain the arrays.

Co-op members may subscribe to purchase the kWh output of one or more panels for \$1,550 per panel. That entitles the member to all of the kilowatt-hours (kWh) generated by their share of the array for 20 years. The total kWh produced by the number of panels a member has subscribed to will be credited to the member's electric bill each month. This can reduce a member's bill just as if they owned a solar array in their own yard.



Benefits for the member:

- Lowers electric bill each month with credit for kWh produced by their share of array
- Avoids the hassles of constructing, owning, insuring, and maintaining array personally
- Less costly for member than having array on their own property
- Participation with other co-op members in solar project
- Know a portion of their electricity is generated locally, from environmentally-friendly source
- Alternative for members who cannot have an array in their own yard
- Long-term investment opportunity and hedge against rising electric rates in the future

Benefits for McLeod Co-op Power:

- No cost shifting to members who do not participate. (Participants pay 100% of the project costs)
- Opportunity to offer solar-generated kWh to members
- Allows employees to become educated on how solar works
- Employees will be a better resource to help educate and assist members

- One-time opportunity to benefit from construction cost-sharing with Great River Energy when they build their own 20 kW array on our site

Any member who is interested in the community solar project should contact the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272. Employees can answer all your questions and provide you with a license agreement. A printable copy of the license agreement and answers to the most commonly asked questions are available on the Co-op's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com.



Director applications must be returned by January 19

Just a reminder to any member from Districts 4, 5, or 6 interested in running for the board of directors in 2015, that a director application should be completed and returned to the office by January 19. The Nominating Committee for these three districts will meet in late January.

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.

More than one-third of the panels have already been subscribed to by members. The remaining panel subscriptions are going quickly and the Co-op anticipates all 100 panels will be fully subscribed before construction begins in May. So don't delay. If you have been thinking of investing in solar, this is a very good opportunity to consider.

Manager's Message — by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



Hello to all of our McLeod Cooperative members! Thank you for the warm welcome

My first month as General Manager was very busy but more importantly it was very rewarding. December 1st found me getting to know all of the employees, getting situated into my office, and becoming familiar with the Co-op's policies and procedures. My first week on the job also included the Member Manager's Meeting at Great River Energy (GRE), where I was introduced to the general managers from all of the other GRE co-ops and some of the staff at GRE. The meeting provided a wealth of information on many of the issues currently facing the co-ops.

I also had the pleasure of visiting with many of our MCPA members at the holiday open house on December 19th. We shared stories about where they live and what they do. I shared my background growing up on a wheat farm in northeastern Montana and what it was like living in Alaska for 30 years. I look forward to meeting more of our Co-op members throughout the year.

I was able to meet with a few of our largest industrial accounts in mid-December. I appreciated the face-to-face conversations with some of our key accounts to get a better understanding of their processes, challenges, and ensuring their service needs are being met. We share commonalities with some of our largest members because they are also cooperatives and many of their members are also our members.

This past month I met with the managers of our neighboring municipal utilities in Glencoe and Hutchinson. I am pleased we have good working relationships with these neighboring utilities and that we back each other up with mutual aid in the event of storms or large outages. The local municipal utilities share many

of the same concerns we have, such as how to provide reliable power cost-effectively, how to protect our patrons from legislative mandates that will raise rates, and how to promote economic development in our communities.

At the Co-op's December 23rd board meeting, we held an update session with the six legislators from our service area before they headed to St. Paul in January for the 2015 Minnesota legislative session. The Co-op welcomed Senator Lyle Koenen (represents Renville County), Senator Scott Newman (represents portions of Sibley, McLeod and Meeker Counties), Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen (represents Sibley and part of McLeod County), Rep. Dean Urdahl (represents Meeker County and a portion of McLeod County), newly elected Rep. Tim Miller (represents Renville County), and

newly elected Rep. Jim Nash (represents Carver County). The legislators shared with the MCPA board, staff, and myself, their key goals for the 2015 session. We were able to get their position on key energy issues affecting the Cooperative and make them aware of what legislation could be harmful to our Co-op members and future energy rates.

Looking back on my first month, I can say it flew by. However, I can also say that it felt good to be so warmly welcomed by the co-op employees, directors, and members. I am grateful for this opportunity to be a part of the McLeod Co-op Power family and look forward to a successful year for our Cooperative in 2015.



Minnesota legislators met the Co-op's new general manager Carrie Buckley at the December Co-op Board of Directors Meeting. Pictures left to right are: Rep. Dean Urdahl, Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen, General Manager Carrie Buckley, Sen. Lyle Koenen, Rep. Tim Miller, Sen. Scott Newman, and Rep. Jim Nash.

Annual Meeting will be in Hutchinson this year — Mark your calendars.

This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the Hutchinson Event Center.

Business meeting is set for 10 a.m. with lunch to follow. Plan to attend this year's event.

Entertainment before the meeting to be provided by The Medicine Show Music Co.

Board of Directors

District 1

Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

District 2

Joe Griebie, **Brownton**

District 3

Roger Karstens, Vice President
Hutchinson

District 4

Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer
Hector

District 5

Allan Duesterhoeft, **Hutchinson**

District 6

Lester Ranzau, **Glencoe**

District 7

Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative
Silver Lake

District 8

Keith Peterson, President
Hector

District 9

Gerald Roepke, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
New Germany

McLeod Cooperative Power News

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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.

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Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

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



Many members gathered at the Co-op office on December 19 to visit over cookies, cider and coffee. Winner of the \$25 electric credit door prize was Douglas Starrett of Hutchinson.

Co-op employees participate in holiday parades



Some employees of McLeod Co-op Power and their families volunteered to participate in the Arli-Dazzle Parade in Arlington on December 6 and the Glencoe Holly Days Parade in Glencoe on December 13. The Grinch in his sleigh hitched a ride in a Co-op pickup truck adorned with lots of LED lights.

Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 20

Cooperative members residing in Districts 4, 5, or 6 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2015 director election in their district. To have another name, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, on the ballot, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 20, 2015.

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

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

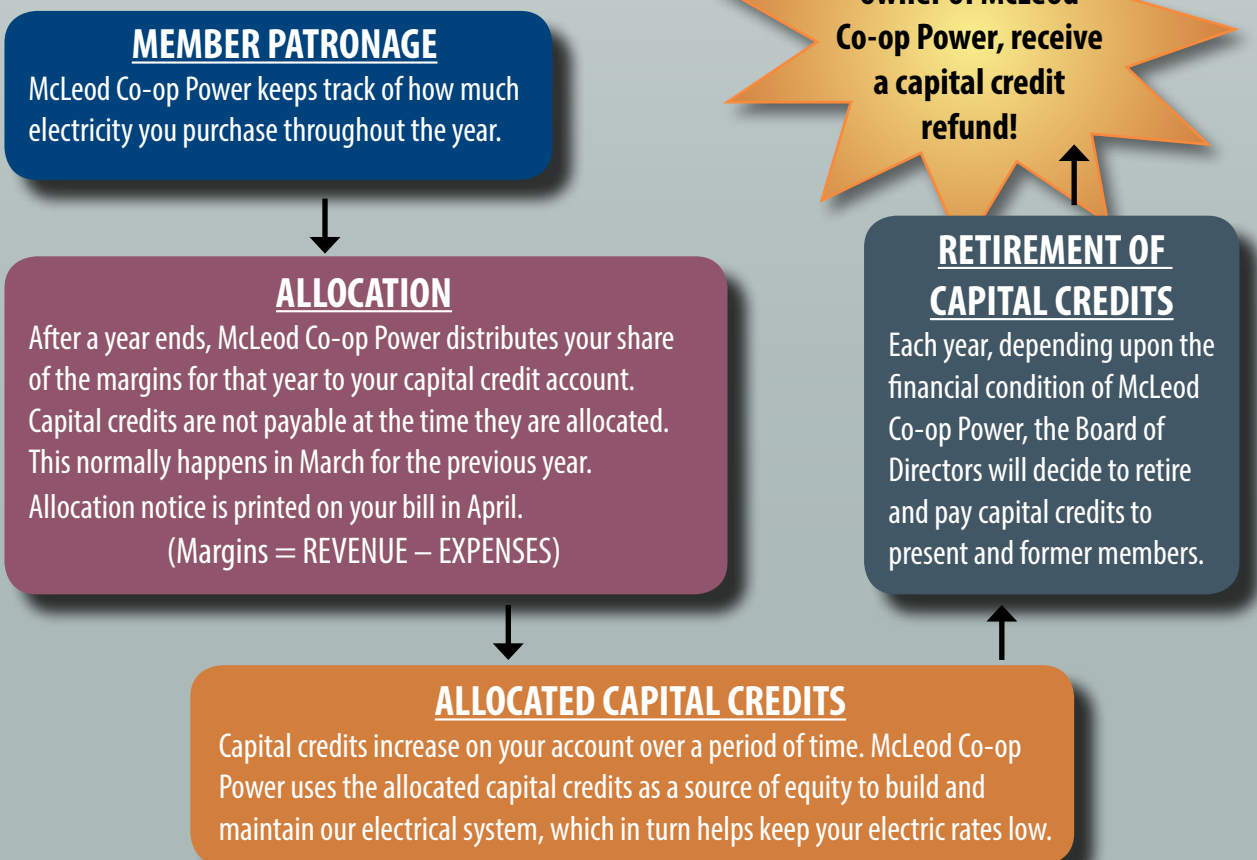
District 5 includes: Lynn, Collins, and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.

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

How do capital credits work?

It PAYS to be a member-owner of McLeod Cooperative Power! Earning and receiving capital credits is one of the membership rewards for buying electric services from McLeod Co-op Power. It is a non-profit cooperative and every year margins are allocated back to the member-owners in the form of capital credits. This year McLeod Co-op Power's Board of Directors approved retiring and paying out approximately \$693,100 in capital credits to current and former

members of the Cooperative. McLeod Co-op Power has returned over \$8 Million in capital credits to members since 1998. People currently members with an active electric account received this as a credit on their bill in December. Members who no longer have active accounts were mailed a check in December.





There is a proximity sensor under the faucet. One tap will turn water on and off.

Photo credit - Kohler



A pull-down sprayer with a long hose improves convenience and saves water.

Photo credit - Kohler

New touch-control faucets save water and energy

Dear Jim: My kitchen faucet has a very slow drip and the finish is worn. I want to replace it with one that is attractive and convenient to use. I often wash dishes by hand, so what is the most efficient design to purchase? - Pat D.

Dear Pat: Most people think of a kitchen faucet as just a simple valve to turn water on or off and to set the water temperature. But the proper selection of a kitchen faucet has a significant impact on water and energy savings, not to mention convenience, health and kitchen decor.

You should never ignore a dripping faucet, even if it seems to be leaking cold water. The leak may actually be coming from the hot water side, but it feels cold by the time it gets to the faucet and drips out. Even a slow leak from the hot water line can add up to substantial energy costs over time. Keep in mind, heating water is the greatest home energy consumer following general home heating and cooling.

Although you will not see it directly on your electric bill, using cold water consumes energy too. It requires a great deal of energy to purify, pump and treat.

Two primary factors affecting water and energy efficiency of a kitchen faucet are the maximum flow rate and the convenience of controlling the flow and temperature.

For many years, two-handle (hot and cold) controls were popular. Today, one-handle kitchen faucets are almost always used. In addition to defining your style and decor, the size and shape of the faucet may impact your overall average water consumption.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a listing for plumbing products, similar in concept to EnergyStar for appliances, called WaterSense. To qualify for a WaterSense label, the faucet must be 20 percent more efficient than standard products in a category. The industry standard is 2.2 gpm (gallons per minute) maximum water flow rate. Look for the WaterSense label.

The most recent, convenient and efficient feature for kitchen faucets is the touch-control feature. Without having to turn off the water via the handle, the water flow can be controlled with the wave or touch of a hand. By not having to adjust the handle each time, water is not wasted by readjusting the temperature.



Touch the faucet anywhere to turn water on and off without readjusting the flow rate. Photo credit - Delta

This provides significant water and energy savings – particularly when rinsing during food preparation and when washing dishes by hand. For most people, using a standard faucet consumes more water and energy when washing dishes by hand than when running a properly loaded efficient dishwasher. With the touch-control feature, careful hand washing can be more efficient than the dishwasher.

Another advantage of this feature is the faucet handle is touched less often with dirty hands, so the attractive finish lasts longer.

Also, with all the health concerns today about diseases from cross contamination of foods, touching the handle less is a real plus. Very few people wash the handle each time they have touched it.



Move your hand within several inches of the proximity sensor to turn water on and off without readjusting the temperature. Photo credit - Moen

Of the two no-hands technologies, I use the type that senses touch from your body (hand, forearm, elbow, etc.). It detects the slight electrical change from your touch to open or close a special valve. For example, when I am rinsing dishes, I can hold several plates in each hand and just tap anywhere on the faucet fixture with my elbow to start the water flow and stop it when they are rinsed.

The other technology has a proximity sensor on the top and in the front of the faucet neck. Waving a hand over the top sensor triggers the solenoid. This does not require one free hand. The sensor on the front of the neck senses hands when they are in a typical hand-washing position.

Tall spouts with a pull-down sprayer are convenient to use and also result in savings. They provide a professional look, which is popular in today's kitchens. Depending upon the under-cabinet clearance, select the tallest one you can. Some are as



The wave of a hand over the proximity sensor turns water on and off. Photo credit - Moen

tall as one foot. You will appreciate the height when you have to rinse a large platter or fill a large pot.

The pull-down sprayer increases the functionality of the faucet. If you use the sprayer feature option often, select one with a pause button. This allows you to stop the flow temporarily when moving utensils or rinsing various foods without having to wave over or touch the fixture.



A pull-down sprayer with a pause button allow you to conveniently stop the water flow for savings. Photo credit - Moen

The following companies offer efficient kitchen faucets: American Standard, 800-442-1902, www.americanstandard-us.com; Delta Faucet, 800-345-3358, www.deltafaucet.com; Kohler, 800-456-4537, www.kohler.com; Moen, 800-289-6636, www.moen.com; and Pfister, 800-732-8238, www.pfisterfaucets.com.

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Five tips for space heater safety

As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a less expensive alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips from the Cooperative to keep you, your family and your property safe.

Materials – What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.

Placement – While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a level floor on a nonflammable surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, preventing fire hazards. Also, remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination, unless the heater is designed for bathroom use. Moisture can damage the heater.

The most important rule about space heater placement is the three-foot rule. Whether you are using the heater in the bedroom, living room or kitchen, space heaters should always be kept three feet away from flammable materials and out of the way of children and pets.

Special Features – Does your space heater have an auto shut-off function if tipped over? Auto shut-off can be a lifesaver. If you currently own a space heater without auto shut-off, consider purchasing a heater



Photo credit - James Dulley

with this important safety feature.

Cords – You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause overheating. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and should be the only thing plugged in to the wall outlet. Also make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.

Use – Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.

Following these tips and making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can keep you safe this winter.

Source: April Lollar, APR, CCC writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Industry News

Commentary: Taking a stand for a secure energy future in Minnesota

The household electricity bill makes up a large portion of monthly expenses for many hardworking Minnesotans. Fortunately, over the past several decades, Minnesota families and businesses have benefited from access to affordable and reliable energy that includes electricity from coal.

Not long ago, state policymakers, business leaders and citizens made necessary tough decisions to ensure Minnesotans will continue reaping the rewards of an all-of-the-above energy strategy. Some people choose to ignore the benefits of coal-fired electricity. They won't tell you coal-fired electricity is available in large volumes on demand to customers 24 hours a day. They won't tell you a balance of fossil fuels (including coal) and renewable energy sources can help protect the environment and provide affordable energy. Nor will they tell you that without a balanced, reliable and affordable energy supply, the quality of life enjoyed by Minnesotans today will surely decrease.

Coal mining companies are also focused on environmental stewardship. These companies have reclaimed more than 27,000 acres of mined land — about 42 square miles — in North Dakota since 1970. Reclamation is a highly regulated, carefully planned and managed process that takes years to successfully complete. Recently, Coal Lake Wildlife Management Area, near Underwood, N.D., opened to local families, students and visitors to show off a brand-new park created as part of the reclamation of mined land.

The fact is, coal-fired electricity plays an essential role in keeping Minnesota families secure, schools affordable and businesses competitive because it is the foundation for the 24/7, cost-effective power that is too often taken for granted. Minnesotans have thoughtfully chosen to augment this baseload power with alternative sources of energy like wind and solar.

Traditional energy sources, such as coal, are critical to our region's way of life. That's why business leaders and policy stakeholders have launched a new organization, the Coalition for a Secure Energy Future. This new coalition will advocate for a regional energy strategy that enhances, preserves and protects the use of a diverse set of established energy sources, including coal, to ensure families and businesses have affordable, reliable energy for today and the future. Keeping coal-fired electricity in the energy mix is essential.

Written by: Jason Bohrer, president and chief executive of the Lignite Energy Council

~Star Tribune

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HEARTLANDSS.COM

November Outage Summary

November was a quiet month for outages. The Cooperative had a total of 12 outages, affecting 39 consumers. Four of those outages were due to unknown causes and four were caused by squirrels.

The largest outage was on Thanksgiving morning November 27 about 7:23 a.m. A material or equipment failure caused 17 members southwest of Hector to be without power for three hours.

The second largest outage for the month affected eight consumers east of Winsted on November 27 also, just before 1p.m. The cause was a squirrel. Members were out of power for one hour and 18 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 **Jan. 29** to be included in the Feb. 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

- 180 ft of 36 inch and 290 ft of 72 inch chain link fencing. 320-510-1080
- #314 John Deere 42 inch riding snow blower hydraulic with chains. \$2,000/OBO. 320-327-2472
- 4ft x 8ft Mankato pop-up fish house. \$65/make offer. After 4 p.m. 320-583-3888
- 40 gallon fish tank w/stand, heater, rocks, filters, plants and more. \$125. 320-583-2588

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.

For Sale - Farm

- 8530 small square baler. New parts. \$7,500. Thresher. 952-353-2489

Wanted

- Building or storage shed to be moved. 320-221-0724

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.

Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2015-16 school term, may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award one \$500 scholarship for a local student.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County or are a resident of one of those four counties, and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply. Applications and informative career brochures are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 17, 2015.

Putting electric heat in a garage or shop?



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

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

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

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

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

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

Three new rebates added in 2015

This year the Co-op will be offering a \$60 rebate for a member who purchases and installs an LED yard light. This rebate is for members installing a new LED yard light or replacing an older, less efficient yard light on a building or their own facilities. (It is not available to consumers when the Co-op changes out a rental fixture owned by the Co-op to LED).

There is also a new \$200 rebate for members installing a variable speed pump on their swimming pool and a \$400 rebate for installation of an air source heat pump swimming pool heater. Call the Co-op if you have a pool to make sure your installation meets the rebate requirements, before you purchase the new equipment.



The \$75 rebate for recycling your old refrigerator or freezer when you purchase a new ENERGY STAR model has been expanded. Now a rebate is also available if you recycle your old refrigerator or freezer and provide documented proof of recycling, even if you are not replacing it with a new model. This is an effort to get older, less efficient refrigerators and freezers that are still operating in basements and garages off of the electric grid. Other rebate amounts will remain the same as they were in 2014.

Rebate program for 2015

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

Recycling of old Refrigerator or freezer with documented proof of recycling \$75

LED Yard Light \$60

Swimming Pool

Variable speed pump \$200
Air source heat pump \$400

\$300* 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 2015. 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, 2015 to be eligible for 2015 rebates.

New meter installations to begin in late January

Chapman Metering from Iowa will begin replacing electric meters in MCPA's service area later this month. Their vehicles will have a McLeod Co-op Power logo on them. Members who have any problems or concerns should call the Co-op office at 1-800-494-6272.

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

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*Contact us for service availability in your area. Service not available in all areas. Minimum commitment term, early termination fee and/or activated equipment fee may apply. One year set up fee and month equipment lease or service fee may apply. Speeds are "up to" and are not guaranteed. Actual speeds may vary. Requires a clear view of the southern sky. Exede is a service mark of ViaSat, Inc.

HIGH HEATING BILLS LEAVING YOU
OUT IN THE COLD?

There are better ways to heat your home and water.

Heating bills can put a big chill on your family's budget. But we have heating options that are more reliable and available than your current solution—and backed by our off-peak energy program to help you save.

Warm up to smarter alternatives—contact us today!



320-864-3148
www.mcleodcoop.com

ENERGY WISE MN

Used poles are available at the Co-op

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

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

Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



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

Application forms are available on the Co-op website or by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2015.

DOE bans large-capacity water heaters

Get yours before April 16

It is true. The Department of Energy (DOE) has placed a manufacturing ban on large-volume electric resistance water heaters. The government agency is making the ruling effective April 16, 2015. Recent efforts in Congress failed to get a work-around to this rule approved before Congress went home in December.

Electric cooperatives are still working in the best interest of consumers to actively oppose and communicate with the DOE about the implications of the potential ban.

"It is a shame that the DOE is banning a product that works so well to store water heated with low-cost electricity generated at night," said Customer Service Manager Sue Pawelk. "Large water heaters work like a battery by heating water at night, with electricity often produced by wind turbines, and then providing hot water whenever people need it during the day."

McLeod Co-op has over 1,270 families participating in the storage water heating program. An additional 880 members have peak-shave water heaters.



If you're currently on the off-peak water heating program with a large tank, the ban won't affect you. You will not be required to replace it. But your warranty, if you have a lifetime replacement guarantee, could be affected since companies will no longer be allowed to manufacture water heaters with a 55 gallon or larger capacity.

If you are considering a switch to the storage water heating program, now may be a good time to take action. At this time, McLeod Cooperative Power has a fair amount of 85 and 105 gallon tank inventory available for its members joining the storage program. Once our supply is depleted, and certainly after they can no longer be manufactured in April, a large tank will be hard to find.

There is a \$300 rebate currently available when installing a new high-efficiency, large water heater on the ETS (electric thermal storage) water heating program.

Call the Co-op's energy experts today to help you select the proper size tank for your family. Participation in the ETS water heating program is one of the best ways to significantly lower your electric bill every month of the year.



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.