

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

May 2015

In this issue...

**OVER \$133
in coupons in
this issue!**

Page 1 -
Water Storage coupon

Page 3 -
Fluorescent and CFL
bulb recycling coupons

Page 8 -
LED lighting coupon

Official publication of



**Sign up by
June 1**



**Picture yourself in one
of these hard hats...**

Coal Creek Tour July 21-23

- Touring a coal mine and power plant in North Dakota
- Touring Garrison Dam and Fort Mandan
- Visiting the newly renovated North Dakota Heritage Center
- Three-day bus tour with other MCPA members
- Electrical energy education and hours of great scenery

Put the sun to work for you *Purchase a share in the Co-op's Community Solar Array*



Members have a small window of opportunity to buy into the Co-op's community solar garden before it starts producing power. The project is 75% subscribed. Any members considering solar generation should contact the Co-op immediately! A subscription purchases a portion of your monthly electric kWh for the next 20 years from the community solar project. Array construction is scheduled for completion before this newsletter reaches your home. The best time to sign up is now, before the greatest summer energy production months begin.

Community Solar:

- Costs less than building an array on your own property
- Has zero maintenance or repair hassles because the Co-op takes care of insurance and maintenance for the 20 year contract
- Provides a monthly credit on your electric bill for all the kWh produced by your share of the array

- Provides a greater financial credit as electric rates rise
- Does not shift costs to other MCPA members who are not participating

The array is located outside of Glencoe on Co-op property. Cost to subscribe to the project is \$1,550 per panel. Subscriptions are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Just submit your completed solar agreement with your \$1,550 per panel check. Credit card payments are accepted also. Solar agreements are available for download on the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com or by calling the office and requesting a copy.

Each solar panel is estimated to produce 511 kWh per year. At 2014 rates, that would be a credit of about \$5.07 per month. Credits are higher during the summer months when rates are higher and solar array production is at its maximum. Each year rates go up, your credit goes up as well.

This year's tour includes the Coal Creek Station power plant, Falkirk coal mine and a hydro dam. On the way to Bismarck, we will have drive-by tours of Spiritwood Energy and other facilities in Jamestown, ND.

Tour price is \$250 per person. It includes two nights lodging at the Hampton Inn, complimentary breakfasts, three lunches, motor coach transportation, and tours. Group leaves Tuesday morning and returns Thursday evening to Glencoe. Call Katie at the Co-op to make your reservation 1-800-494-6272. Please make your reservations by June 1.

MEMBERS ONLY COUPON

**\$100 off
retail price**

**on one 85 or 105 gallon
Marathon water heater**

Water heater must be installed on Storage Water Heating Program within 45 days of purchase, at location served by McLeod Co-op Power.

Coupon valid May 1-July 31, 2015 only. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Valid only on sales to MCPA members for installation at their home/account.





MCPA office will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

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

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

ELECTRIC SERVICE	2012	2013	2014
Number of members	5,708	5,719	5,730
Miles of distribution line	1,889	1,891	1,891
Average number of consumers receiving service	6,597	6,597	6,593
Density of consumers per mile	3.49	3.49	3.49
Total kilowatt-hours sold.....	173,316,094	183,710,093	185,256,185
Average kWh sold to residential consumer per month ..	1,404	1,531	1,551
Average bill per residential consumer per month	\$169.72	\$184.78	\$191.56
Average cost of residential kWh	\$0.1209	\$0.1204	\$0.1235

The Perfect Mother's or Father's Day Gift

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

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

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

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



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

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



Stay connected by updating your contact information

At McLeod Cooperative Power, we take great pride in providing affordable, reliable power to our members. However, with how much McLeod Cooperative Power strives to provide reliable power and the expectations our members have on reliability, sometimes power outages simply can't be avoided. It can range from weather-related to planned outages (which is done to enhance reliability). But did you know there are steps you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible? By keeping your contact information up to date, you can take full advantage of the services McLeod Cooperative Power offers.

You may have noticed reminders through other portions of our newsletter requesting your updated contact information. With the number of members who have transitioned from landlines to cellphones, or have changed their number with a new cellphone or smartphone upgrade, the Co-op won't have your new contact information without your assistance in keeping us informed.

Remember when you had to speak to a customer service representative in order to report a power outage? Waiting on hold could be frustrating and time consuming. Today, with the press of a button, you can easily report an outage. At McLeod Power, we use the phone number you provide to link your service address to our outage management system. For example, if you call us to report an outage, our automated system instantly recognizes your phone number and can determine the particular service address from which you are reporting an outage. Once you give our system a response, your outage is reported. It's that simple! But remember — this only

works if your current phone number is linked to your service address.

Updating your contact information is helpful because it also speeds up the power restoration process. With correct information, our outage management system can predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

To update your contact information, simply call McLeod Power during regular business hours, or add a note regarding the change when you mail the payment for your next McLeod Cooperative Power bill.

Putting safety first this month — and throughout the year

On another note, it's May — and we are celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Please see a related article in this newsletter for safety tips in your home.

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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.

Phone: 320-864-3148
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

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

If hot weather hits or the market price of electricity is very high, we could experience an **EXTREME PEAK DAY**. That is a day when the demand for energy is so high that we will ask our members to conserve energy. Whether you take action to conserve is totally voluntary. On such a day, the Cooperative will use an automated recording system to call your contact phone number and notify you that it is an **EXTREME PEAK DAY**. Please listen to the recorded message, it will provide the announcement that it is an **EXTREME PEAK DAY**. It will also tell you the hours of requested



conservation and provide a list of ways you can conserve. If you do not answer and it goes to voice mail, or

you have an answering machine, we will leave you the same message. If there is no answer, the system will try to call you back later in the day.

By conserving energy for a few hours, you can help the Cooperative avoid expensive peak day demand and energy charges. This helps manage electric rates for all of our members. Our power supplier, Great River Energy, is able to supply us with plenty of energy to meet the power needs of all of our members, even on an **EXTREME PEAK DAY**. However, the price we may have to pay to deliver that energy during peak hours of the hottest summer days may be very high. It is the goal of McLeod Cooperative Power to keep rates as low as possible. We greatly appreciate any effort our members can make to conserve on these days.

On **EXTREME PEAK DAYS** we will ask you to:

- Do laundry early in the day or after 10 p.m.
- Wait until after 10 p.m. to start the dishwasher.
- Go out for dinner, cook in the microwave or on the grill, instead of using the stove or oven.
- Turn off or unplug the dehumidifier, computer equipment that is not being used, unnecessary lighting or rechargeable appliances until after 10 p.m.
- Turn your thermostat up a degree or two during the peak hours so your air conditioner run time is reduced.

Doing some or all of these conservation practices will keep your house cooler on hot summer days. Doing activities that add heat or humidity to your home on an extremely hot day requires your air conditioner to run longer and use more energy.

2015 Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Program



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

Here's how it works:

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

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

- You must be a MCPA residential or small business member to participate.
- Each coupon may be redeemed for up to 10 bulbs.

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

Free CFL Recycling



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

of bulbs redeemed: _____ (up to a maximum of 10 bulbs)

Coupon expires 12/31/2015. Limit of 10 bulbs per coupon. Coupon valid only when completed. Must be MCPA residential or small business member to qualify. Must be redeemed at hardware store participating in MCPA/Mercury Technologies recycling program.

50¢ off Fluorescent Bulb Recycling



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

of bulbs redeemed: _____ (up to a maximum of 10 bulbs)

Coupon expires 12/31/2015. Limit of 10 bulbs per coupon. Coupon valid only when completed. Must be MCPA residential or small business member to qualify. Must be redeemed at hardware store participating in MCPA/Mercury Technologies recycling program.

50¢ off Fluorescent Bulb Recycling



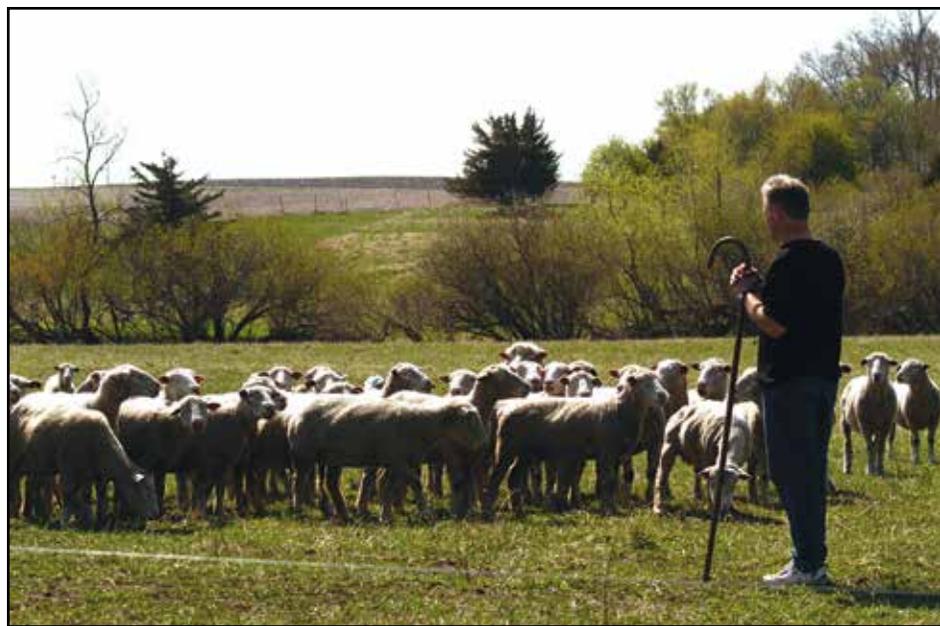
Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

of bulbs redeemed: _____ (up to a maximum of 10 bulbs)

Coupon expires 12/31/2015. Limit of 10 bulbs per coupon. Coupon valid only when completed. Must be MCPA residential or small business member to qualify. Must be redeemed at hardware store participating in MCPA/Mercury Technologies recycling program.



Connie Karstens and Doug Rathke built a two-level retail and educational center to serve the public and offer lamb, organic meats and health-related products, nutrition counseling and educational seminars.



Shepherd Doug Rathke cares for the farm's sheep from birth. An on-site processing facility supplies lamb to customers looking for a healthy beef-like alternative.

Counting sheep leads to better sleep for the Lamb Shoppe's clientele

For husband and wife team Connie Karstens and Doug Rathke, what began as a business raising, selling and shearing sheep has grown into a passion for helping people live healthier, more satisfying lives.

It all began when Connie's parents hired a talented sheep shearer named Doug Rathke to shear the sheep they kept on their family farm. Connie just happened to be available to help that day. That was the beginning of their relationship and dream to some day own their own sheep farm.

That dream became reality in 1990 when they purchased the farm they occupy east of Corvuso on MN. Hwy. 7. Originally planning to only raise and sell sheep to other farmers and processors, that plan changed.

"People driving by would see the sheep and stop to ask if we had any meat to sell," Connie said. Because it happened so often, in 1996 Doug and Connie decided to add on to their home to build a meat processing area and retail outlet.

Besides being the farm's shepherd, Doug excelled at competitive sheep shearing. In 1988, Rathke was the first American to receive the "Gold Seal of shearing excellence" from the New Zealand Wools, known today as Tectra.

Doug has facilitated numerous schools, teaching over 2500 students to shear sheep. In 2000, Doug won the Nationals in Denver, Colorado. He has been selected as the Charlie Swaim Tournament USA shearer of the year in 2004 and 2005.

To create greater visibility for their business, the family established a booth in the Food Building at the Minnesota State Fair and has been offering lamb chops on a stick, gyros and lamb burgers for 25 years.

"Lamb is like beef, but has a more delicate flavor," Connie said. "It's richer in B12, and has a more bio-available form of iron. It's also easier to digest."

Meeting a need, growing a passion

As often happens, preparation, opportunity and need came together to bring the family to an entirely new opportunity. When Clara was four years old, she became quite sick. After numerous tests, the traditional medical community could give no answers. In desperation, Connie contacted a herbalist.

"Her health just completely turned around," Connie said. Always fascinated by the connection between what we put in our bodies and how it affects health, Connie delved more into natural ways to prevent and cure illnesses. She trained for six years, including a two-year apprenticeship with a certified herbalist, and achieved a Masters degree in Holistic Nutrition.

Always seeking to fill needs, Doug and Connie kept adding products their customers asked for, eventually building a separate retail and educational center to incorporate organic beef, chicken, turkey and additional organic and health-sustaining foods, teas, herbs, oils and more.

"I do a lot of research to find out which products have the best quality and value, so people don't have to do that for themselves," Connie said.

Connie began offering health consultations for people who want to improve and protect their health through more natural methods.

"We can use food as medicine," Connie said. "In fact, many of the medicines we have today were developed from plants. For instance, aspirin was made from the spirea and willow bark. And foxglove was the basis for digitalis."

Education is something Connie is passionate about, having taught nutrition at Ridgewater College for 14 years. The entire top floor of their store is used to hold classes a couple of times a month. She also teaches through Community Education programs.

"I hear a lot of testimonials about how people have been helped through using food and herbs. I used to have bad migraines, but now I feel better than I did in my 20's. Sad to say, but it's true. But as good as testimonials are, I love the science behind it more so. There is a lot of science behind herbs and that's more compelling."

Connie said that she enjoys teaching people how to use the herbs and plants that we can find in our own region. She takes people on herb walks to help them identify what plants were used by Native Americans in our region. One day she plans to write a book about local herbs and how they can be used to treat minor health issues.

"I love to see people learn how to help themselves in the right way, by working with their health care professionals."

Connie regularly sees about 20 clients each week. Some are



As customers request products, Connie researches and purchases the best products that offer the greatest value.



This is where Connie, who holds a Master's Degree in Holistic Nutrition, meets with an average of 20 clients per week.

interested in relief from minor sore throats, to more chronic conditions such as fibromyalgia, high blood pressure and digestive issues.

Yes, and she has herbal blends to help people sleep better, too.

"I love what I do, Connie said. "It doesn't seem like work and the days just fly by."

Connie and Doug also care about energy efficiency, so they utilize a dual fuel system with a heat pump, storage water and cycled air programs in their new building.

"Our building is so much more efficient than our home, where we use propane," Connie said. "We also love our radiant in-floor heat." Everything is on control, so they save with the lower electric rate, too, which helps the bottom line.

"We so appreciate all the Co-op has to offer," Connie said.

Putting safety first this month – and throughout the year

It's May – and your Coop is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the



wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.

- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside

each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org.

Industry News

Legislation enables co-ops to continue utilizing water heaters in demand response programs

Congress passed a key piece of legislation Tuesday, April 21, that enables hundreds of electric cooperatives to continue utilizing large capacity, electric-resistance water heaters as part of their demand response programs.

A provision of the "The Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015" (S. 535) was written in response to a Department of Energy (DOE) regulation now in effect that effectively bans the manufacture of water heaters with storage capacities of more than 55 gallons, which threatened energy and money-saving programs offered by electric cooperatives.

A collaborate effort between the National Rural Electric Association (NRECA), DOE, lawmakers and other stakeholders aided in S.535 passing the U.S. House by a voice vote, which sent it to President Obama for his signature. Senators Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., authored the bill, which cleared the U.S. Senate on March 27.

"Electric co-ops across the country appreciate the incredible perseverance of Senators Portman, Shaheen and many others for their leadership in passing S. 535," NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson said. "The bill helps save consumers money, promotes reliability of the grid and helps integrate renewable energy — truly a win-win-win piece of legislation."

Recognized as a national leader in load control, Great River Energy was at the forefront of the effort to preserve grid-enabled water heaters for demand response programs. Gary Connett, director of demand-side management and member services, testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Power in support of S. 535.

"The electric industry is searching for a low-cost battery to store electricity," Connett said. "We think we have it. It's in the basements of approximately 100,000 homes in Minnesota. It charges each night, and discharges every day in the form of hot water."

Once enacted into law, the water heater provision in S. 535 will sustain access to these water heaters while manufacturers also produce appliances called for in the new efficiency regulations.

~Great River Energy

Editor's Note: On April 30 the President signed the legislation referred to in this press release.

Worried about Water in Your Basement This Spring?

Prevent expensive water damage with a water sensor from Heartland Security.

Our system will notify you immediately if your sump pump stops working or water starts leaking into your home.

Call us today and be prepared before the spring rains turn into a headache!



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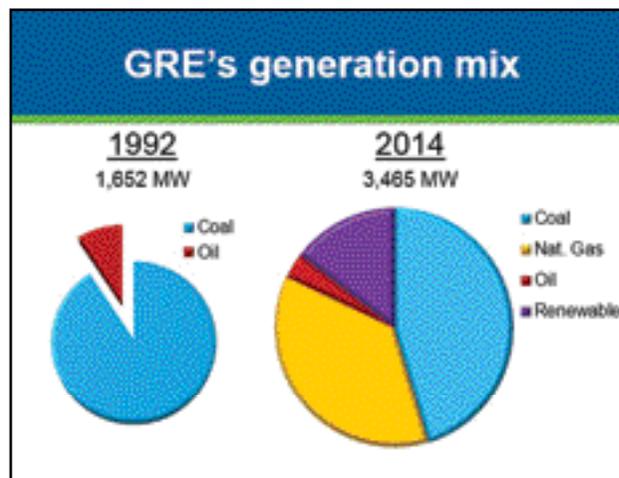
ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Call 811

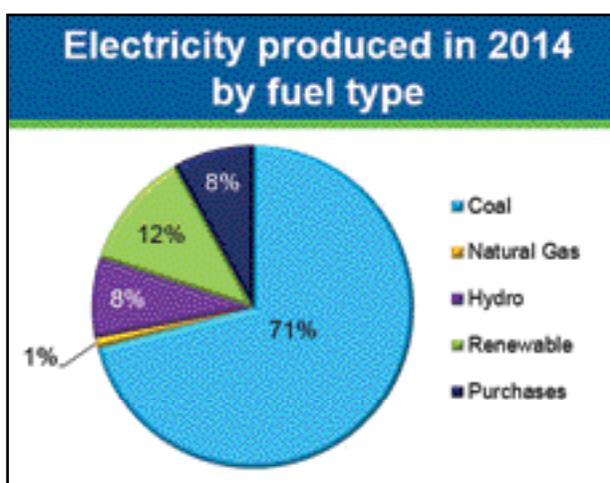
What fuel sources produce our electricity?

Great River Energy's generation portfolio continually evolves to reflect changes in the industry and better serve our membership. At MCPA's annual meeting, GRE's Gary Connett updated members on highlights of 2014 energy production and how generating electricity has changed for us in the past two decades.

The cooperative made strides in 2014, bringing online a state-of-the-art combined heat and power



In the past 20 years, the cooperative's capacity (the ability to produce energy) has increased two-fold. Coal generation capacity has increased due to higher efficiencies obtained from using Dry-Fining technology at Coal Creek Station.



The energy generated by GRE resources in 2014 comes from a variety of different resources, many of which are renewable sources.

plant, Spiritwood Station, in November. GRE also worked with our member cooperatives on plans to build 20 solar installations.

Early in 2014, Great River Energy announced plans to construct nearly 650 kilowatts of new solar energy installations. This began with the June completion of a 250-kW solar array located at Great River Energy's headquarters facility. That installation includes a mix of technologies designed to identify how solar energy installations can be integrated into cooperative systems.



The remaining solar installations will be sited at up to 19 locations throughout Minnesota, located in Great River Energy's member cooperatives' systems across the state. In addition to adding to our growing portfolio of renewable resources, these projects will provide Great River Energy and our member-owner cooperatives with experience in solar development, and demonstrate solar technologies that are effective with cooperative electric systems.

By testing different solar generation technologies, Great River Energy intends to better understand the opportunities and challenges of this generation source. With that knowledge, we better provide energy-supply options for members who want solar power.

Other renewables in GRE's portfolio are 468 megawatts of wind energy, a waste-to-energy plant and hydropower resources.

MCPA News Ads —

Free want ad service for members.

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed below or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by May 28 to be included in the June issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please check ad category

- Giveaway
- For Rent
- For Sale
- Wanted

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____
 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
 P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- 1980 Alumacraft boat w/35hp Evinrude. Ready to fish. 320-864-4243
- 1982 Yamaha Bravo 250cc. Great rider snowmobile. \$500. 320-864-4243
- Pop machine, cools good. Coin mechanism needs repair. \$300/obo. 320-864-4243
- Black GE slide in under counter dishwasher. \$35. 507-964-2419
- Used 80,000 BTU LP furnace AC unit working. \$100/each or \$150/both. 320-583-3888 p.m.

- Silo staves 10 inch X 30 inch. \$2.50/each. 952-457-5034
- Silo doors. \$20/each. 952-457-5034
- TV radio tower Rohn 64ft free standing. \$1,000. 320-979-6313
- Beige couch w/brown print. Excellent condition. \$100. 320-864-5842
- JD GX345 lawn mower, 54 inch deck, 733 hrs. \$2,750. 320-579-0267
- Two bedroom cabin on Horseshoe Lake in Richmond MN. 952-955-1281

For Sale - Farm

- Corn stalk round bales, 4X6, net wrapped, stored inside. \$25/each. 320-510-1080
- JD 60 gas tractor, w/3 pt, new tires/paint, field ready. 320-327-2577
- 2 tractor tires 18.4x28, 6 ply. 320-864-4496
- 800 gallon fertilizer tank. 320-864-4496
- Stock tank 5ft X 2ft X 2ft. \$10. 320-587-8065
- Charolais bulls for sale. 612-490-2254

March Outage Summary

During March there were 16 outages reported on the Cooperative's system.

The largest outage affected 31 consumers. On Monday, March 9, about 11:30 p.m., a motor vehicle caused an outage for two hours and 45 minutes near New Germany.

The next largest outage was on Sunday, March 1. Nineteen members were without power for just over two hours northwest of Hutchinson. Outage was caused by decay/age of primary cable.

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.

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.

Consumer-owned yard lights should not be installed on power poles

The Cooperative is pleased to see many members installing LED yard lights and taking advantage of the \$60 rebate for installing an LED yard light.

However, we remind members that a consumer-owned yard light must be mounted on your own building, pole or personally owned facilities. It should not be mounted on a power pole owned by the Co-op.

Rental lights, owned by the Cooperative are not eligible for replacement rebates. LED yard lights eligible for the rebate must be either ENERGY STAR® or Design Lights Consortium (DLC) rated 50-100 watt LED yard light fixtures. Light must have been purchased after January 1, 2015 and must be installed where electricity is supplied by the Cooperative. See rebate form on the Co-op's web site for details. Professional installation by a licensed electrical contractor is recommended.

Get the speed & savings you want
Exede High Speed Internet delivers blazing speed, top dependability, and big monthly savings—and it's now available from your local co-op. Exede actually delivers 140% of its advertised speed* so you can browse, shop, connect, stream and share online the way you want!

MONTHLY DISCOUNTS
\$10 off each month for first 12 months

FREE INSTALLATION
with NO activation fee

800-494-6272 www.mcleodcoop.com

exede
INTERNET

*Standard price of \$80 off the 12 month service package through the first 12 months of service. After that it reverts back to the regular monthly price of \$100/month. If you choose a higher tier package the price of that package will be discounted \$10/month through the first 12 months of service. Offer valid for service activation through 6/30/15. Service not available in all areas. Minimum 24 month commitment. \$200 fee equipment lease for plus-monthly service fee and lease service fee not shown. Actual speeds will vary. Use of Exede service is subject to data transmission limits measured on a monthly basis. For complete details visit the Exede Website: www.exede.com Exede is a service mark of Exede, Inc.



AC tune-ups eligible for credit once every two years

Announcing the 2015 air conditioning tune-up program.

Just schedule a tune-up of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (unit must be at least 5 years old and in working condition to qualify) and when your licensed professional HVAC contractor performs the service work, have them complete the rebate coupon below. Send the completed rebate form to the Cooperative with a copy of the contractor's invoice. His tune up must include the items on the coupon. After the Co-op receives your documentation, we will credit your electric bill \$25 within 4-6 weeks.

Pole testing in May

Mi-Tech Pole Inspection Services will be testing and treating electric poles in the Hector Substation area during the month of May and possibly into early June. The Mi-Tech pole tester will be working in the townships of Hector,

Melville, Martinsburg, Palmyra and Osceola in Renville County. The name Mi-Tech is displayed on their truck, however, if members have any questions or ever notice anything they think to be unusual with people working around Co-op facilities, they are encouraged to call McLeod Co-op Power.

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

\$300* Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater that is being installed on the Storage Program.

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

ENERGY STAR Swimming Pool

Variable speed pump \$200

Air source heat pump \$400



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 hvacredemption.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. 21, 2015 to be eligible for 2015 rebates.

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Eligible for credit a maximum of once every 24 months

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

CHECK LIST

Brand Name _____
Model # _____
Serial # _____
Tons/BTU Rating _____ SEER Rating _____

- Clean Outdoor Unit
- Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
- Check Blower Belt
- Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
- Compressor Amp Reading Check
- Blower & Oil
- Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
- Check Filter
- Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
- Blow Out Drain Line
- Visual Inspection of Cooling System

Recommendations _____

Technician Signature _____
Date _____

Cooperative opens online store for MCPA members only

Store features LED light bulbs and energy conservation products



McLeod Cooperative Power members now have their own online store for purchasing LED light bulbs and energy conservation products. The site is designed to make shopping for household LED light bulbs easier for our members. All types and styles of LED bulbs available are EnergyStar certified and are warranted for several years. Many are made in the USA. The most popular household LED bulbs are eligible for a \$5 per bulb rebate, which is applied before you submit your order — giving you instant savings! For example, if you ordered six TCP 10-Watt A-Lamps @ \$6.79 each, you get a \$30 rebate applied to your

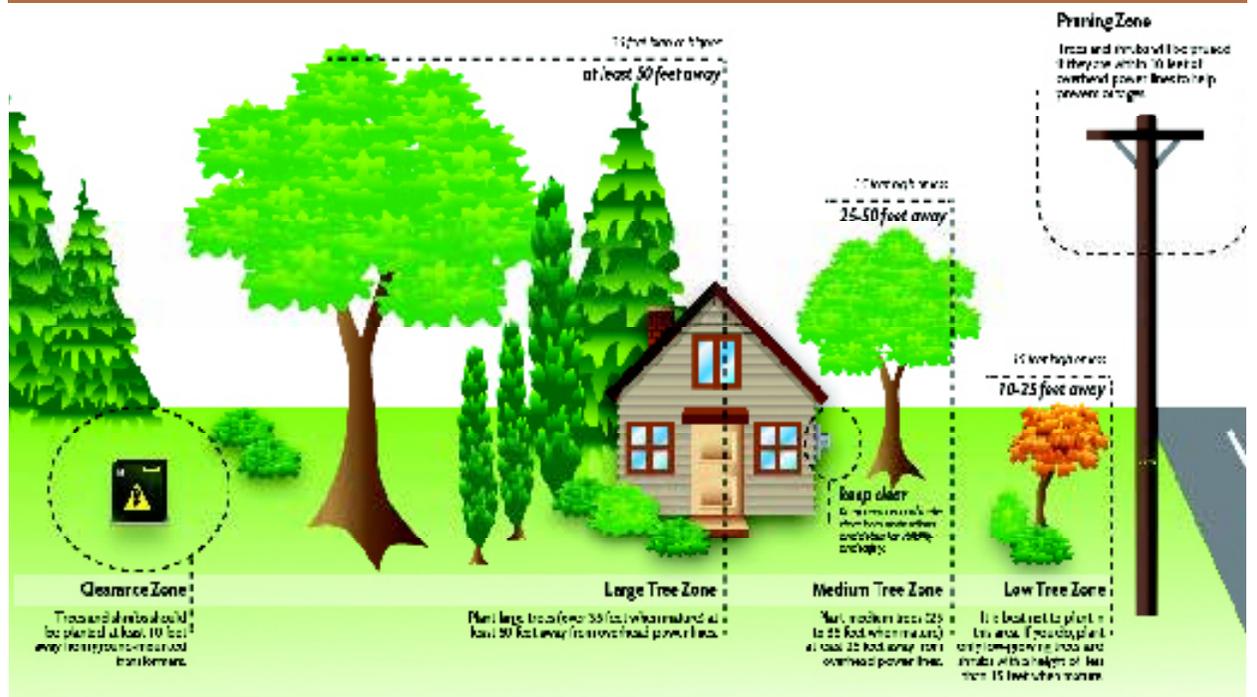
order, bringing your cost to \$1.79 per bulb plus shipping.

The site also gives members access to energy conservation products like faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads, programmable thermostats, Kill-A-Watt energy usage monitors, motion and photo controls, weatherization products, hard-to-find LED lights for special applications, and LED yard lights. These items are not instantly rebated, however, it gives MCPA members access to high-quality and high-efficiency products that are sometimes hard to find.

Members can get to the store via McLeod Co-op Power's website (www.mcleodcoop.com) and clicking on the Lighting Store link on our home page. Members who do not have internet access can still order light bulbs and items via telephone (1-877-738-6824). Make sure to identify yourself as a McLeod Co-op Power member so you get the \$5 rebate on the featured household bulbs. All products will be shipped right to your home by our fulfillment partner Service Concepts, a cooperative business in Indiana.



If you plant trees under or near a power line, it increases the Co-op's tree trimming costs for decades into the future



Mail -In Rebate up to \$15 value

on any Energy Star® rated LED Lighting

- Purchase up to 5 Energy Star® rated LED Lighting products and receive a \$3 rebate per bulb. (\$15 maximum rebate).
- Submit this completed rebate form and cash register receipt showing LED bulb purchase to McLeod Co-op Power. May be sent in same envelope with electric bill payment or mailed separately.
- Purchase of bulbs and submission of rebate form must both be between Jan. 1, 2015 and Nov. 30, 2015. Any brand LED bulb qualifies.
- Rebate will be applied to electric account as a credit within 60 days. **May not be combined with other MCPA rebates.**

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

of bulbs purchased (Max. 3): _____

Acct. #: _____ Loc. #: _____



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 5 LED bulbs for a maximum total rebate of \$15 per customer. Reproductions of coupon are not allowed. **Copy of cash register receipt showing LED bulb purchase must be attached.** Rebate will be applied as a credit to electric account of member named above within 60 days of receipt.

The Cooperative is continually looking for ways it can reduce costs. Tree trimming is one expense that has a potential for savings if members will work with us to minimize the number of places we need to trim trees and how often they need to be trimmed.

Trimming trees to keep them out of power lines costs the Co-op and its members over \$250,000 a year. Tree trimming is one of the Co-op's largest maintenance items. This is money spent on trees that the Cooperative does not own or benefit from. This money is used for trimming or cutting members' trees under or near existing power lines. If we did not cut and trim the trees, members would experience significantly more outages, longer outages, and greater expense. We ask you to please LOOK UP before planting any trees. Make sure they are not planted under a power line and that they are far enough away so the outermost branches of the tree at maturity will not be within 15 feet of the power line. This will help keep our costs and your electric bills lower.

Why do we trim trees?

1 Trimming trees is something that the Co-op must do when trees are a potential hazard to our lines. When trees get into lines

they interrupt power when they make contact with a line, making your lights blink. Or they take the power out completely if they fall on the lines.

2 Trees that grow into our lines can conduct energy into the ground. This is called "line loss". The Co-op and its members pay for this lost power even though it never gets to your meter and we get no usable work from the energy. It is energy that we have purchased from Great River Energy but do not get any benefit from.

3 We also trim trees to protect the safety of the general public, our members, and our employees.

McLeod Cooperative Power hires a tree trimming contractor to do the majority of tree cutting and trimming. We are able to send contract tree crews to work in one township at a time, staying at the job until that area's wires are clear. Our tree contractor will chip the brush and leave the wood.

When MCPA crews have time, they can respond to specific member requests for trimming in other parts of our service area. Because MCPA does not have a brush chipper, it is the member's responsibility to dispose of the wood and brush.

How can members help reduce the Co-op's tree trimming expense?

1 Don't plant new trees under or near power lines. Always look up before you plant a tree and stay far away from any overhead lines. (See chart above for distance guidelines.)

2 When we come to trim your trees please allow us to either cut them down or take a minimum of 15 feet clearance on either side of the power line. This would allow us several years before we would have to trim them again.

3 Volunteer to clean up brush on your property if you can.

4 If you do not want your trees cut or trimmed, members can opt to have their overhead line converted to underground. This conversion would be at the expense of the member.

Members with questions on tree trimming should contact the Cooperative office. Trees are cut and trimmed and vegetation sprayed to keep growth from endangering power lines according to the MCPA board-approved Tree Trimming & Clearing Policy.