

# McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

October 2016

## LED yard lights now for sale at the Cooperative office

Members have been asking the Co-op to stock and sell high-efficiency LED yard lights. They are now in stock and available for any member to purchase. The 50 watt yard light is for members who want to have their own private yard light that can be wired from the member's secondary service. The light fixture is a long lasting, low maintenance, highly efficient replacement for existing 100/150/175 watt high pressure sodium, metal halide and mercury vapor security lights. The light utilizes an

all-aluminum housing for maximum heat transfer and durability. The fixture has a rugged construction and a 3-wire UL listing. The light sells for \$175.00 plus sales tax. A mounting arm can also be purchased for \$20.00 plus sales tax.

The 50 watt light cannot be flush-mounted on a building. It needs to be suspended by a 1.25" to 2.5" diameter mounting arm. So if a member is replacing an old yard light fixture that was on a traditional arm, you may reuse the old arm and mount

this light to it, or you can purchase a mounting arm from the Co-op. Private lights cannot be on poles owned by the Co-op.

These lights qualify for a \$60 high efficiency rebate from the Co-op. To receive the rebate the light must be installed on a location served by MCPA and the member must submit a rebate form and copy of sales receipt so it is received at the Co-op by December 20, 2016. Members may download a rebate form from the Co-op's website



www.mcleodcoop.com or call the office 1-800-494-6272 to get a form sent out by mail.

Lights must be picked up and paid for at the Cooperative's Glencoe office. The Co-op will accept cash, check or credit card payment for the light.

## Carol Barlau plans retirement and recounts many changes at the Co-op since 1974



Carol Barlau will retire this month

Carol Barlau started working at McLeod Co-op Power as a temporary employee in May of 1974. Magnetic strip cards were the new advancement over the posting machine. She spent the summer updating capital credit records using the new system.

In the fall of 1974 Carol took a job in the electric billing department when someone retired. She assisted customers with billing until May of 1978, when she took off a few years to have children. In 1983 her old job reopened. She applied for the job and got it.



In the early 1983, employees began using automated computer equipment. Former employees OrDella Henke Knish, Randall Owen, and Carol Barlau (standing) become familiar with a new technology — called a dumb terminal — with a separate floppy disc drive attached.

In 1997, she moved to an accounting clerk position, where she worked until her retirement this month. Carol was responsible for payroll, accounts receivables, and a variety of other duties during her almost 20 years in the accounting department. During her years at the Co-op she saw advancement to computer terminals that used floppy discs, and eventually to personal computers, and then to the laptops and technology used today.

Once Carol is officially retired in mid-October, she hopes to have more time to spend doing crafts, quilting, babysitting grandkids, and traveling with her husband Jim after he retires. The Co-op thanks Carol for her decades of devoted service to MCPA and its members, and wishes her well in her retirement.

## McLeod Cooperative Power is reducing costs through attrition

McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) is reducing costs by not hiring replacement employees when someone retires. The sale of the DIRECTV and Exede businesses has allowed existing employees the flexibility to absorb duties of retiring employees, whenever possible. MCPA continues to utilize attrition opportunities each time there is a retirement if it makes sense for the organization. By doing what it can to reduce operating costs MCPA is trying to keep rates affordable for members.

Employees who work in the accounting, billing, and administration support areas will each take on specific duties that were part of the accounting clerk position. These other employees have each been training with Carol Barlau in recent weeks to learn their new duties.

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com



## Beware of utility payment scams!

If someone calls you demanding immediate payment or asking for your banking information, it is not from McLeod Cooperative Power. Don't be fooled by caller ID numbers. Scammers can "spoof" numbers and appear to be calling from someone else's phone number when, in fact, they are not. Please contact your local law enforcement and the Co-op to report any suspicious calls.

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## UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

Think before you post that sign! Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers. Their jobs are dangerous enough – help us keep them safe!



## Attention military personnel

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential member for nonpayment, that has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available upon request.



MCPA line crews practice bucket rescue drills and pole top rescue exercises annually as part their safety training. This summer MCPA lineman each took their turn at performing the pole top rescue exercise. Apprentice lineman Jared Klein is shown rescuing the dummy.

### Board of Directors

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All member story ideas and comments are welcome.  
Send to Sue Pawelk at the address shown.

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

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





Tiffany Brockhoff of the Good Samaritan Society in Arlington recognizes the \$1,000 donation from the Operation RoundUp funds donated by members of McLeod Co-op Power who round up their electric bills. The donation has helped fund the construction of a year-round gazebo for nursing home and assisted living residents in Arlington. Also pictured is Bob Thomes of McLeod Co-op Power.

## Good Samaritan residents get a new and improved gazebo

The Good Samaritan Society in Arlington applied to the Co-op's Operation RoundUp Trust for a donation to help build a new three-season, insulated gazebo. The old gazebo was a screened in porch that was in need of repair and had been in use for more than 30 years. Good Sam was selected by the volunteer Operation RoundUp Trust board to receive a \$1,000 donation from MCPA's Operation RoundUp fund.



It is probably the easiest tax-deductible donation you could make. Just complete the coupon on this page and return it with your bill. After that, your electric bill will always be rounded to the nearest even dollar amount. If your bill is \$148.77, you will be billed \$149.00. That 23 cents change goes

to Operation RoundUp. Together with other member's change and payroll donations from MCPA employees, it multiplies into a larger amount. Then the Co-op tries to get matching funds from other sources to increase it further. Your annual donation prints right on your electric bill and is your tax-deductible receipt. The average donation is \$6.00 per year from one account. The maximum is \$11.88 per year per account. Some generous MCPA members, who have multiple electric accounts, have chosen to sign up more than one account to be rounded up.

The result is MCPA's Operation RoundUp Trust can help many local organizations with worthy projects to improve our communities in McLeod, Sibley, Renville and Carver Counties.

The Operation RoundUp donation was added to the other funds they had raised from private donors, organizations, and by hosting a Tour of Tables fundraiser in April. The total project cost over \$14,000. On September 28, the Good Samaritan Society recognized their donors at an open house event, giving everyone a look at the new gazebo. MCPA's Operation RoundUp was one of nine donors recognized for donating \$500 or more towards the project.

The new gazebo will be used by residents of the Good Samaritan Nursing Home and Assisted Living, their families, and visitors.

Tiffany Brockhoff, who oversees HR, marketing, community relations and resource development for Good Sam in Arlington, is so pleased that their residents have this wonderful new gazebo to use. Residents always enjoy spending time outside visiting and enjoying nature. This new insulated gazebo will expand the months of the year they can get out.

Bob Thomes, who coordinates many of the community development activities for McLeod Co-op Power, was glad that the members of McLeod Co-op Power who round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar were able to help fund this project. Participation in Operation RoundUp helps so many local, community organizations like Good Sam get projects fully funded.

**Yes**, sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## Farming safely around power lines

McLeod Co-op Power Association (MCPA) reminds farmers to look up and take precautions this harvest season while maneuvering large equipment around overhead power lines and utility poles.

Electrical hazards on farms are present year-round, but require special attention during this busy time of year when tillage machinery, large combines and other tall pieces of equipment are used for extended lengths of time. These farm tools either don't have enough clearance to pass underneath power lines due to their size, or strike guy wires and utility poles while being operated, which can result in an outage for a number of customers and even prove fatal to those in immediate proximity. Every year, an average 62 American farm workers are electrocuted, according to Labor Department statistics.

### MCPA urges all farm workers to take the following steps to prevent accidents and injury:

- Do not operate equipment under a power line in a manner that would cause contact or near-contact with the wires.
- Do not lift, elevate, build or pass under a power line any object, implement or vehicle that may make contact or near-contact with the wires.
- Equipment that can be extended, such as a stack mower or grain elevator, requires the utmost care when in the vicinity of a power line.
- Slow down when working near power poles; harvest the edge of the field by the poles in the daylight and leave some extra safety space.
- To help prevent arc flashing — an electrical explosion that can cause fire or injury — it is recommended that equipment, antennas and people stay at least 15 feet away from any energized power line wire.
- If you see a broken power line, do not touch it. Stay away from it and call 911.

Safety is of the utmost concern to MCPA and we urge people to follow the outlined safety practices. If farmers do not follow safety practices and damage is done to a pole, transformer or other equipment the farmer will incur the cost to replace the utility equipment.



# The Clay Coyote lights the way to big energy savings

Anyone who loves pottery and other hand-made one-of-a-kind pieces of art will be familiar with the Clay Coyote just north of Hutchinson. Set amongst rolling acres of native grasses, flowers and a lovely lake, the Clay Coyote Gallery is a favorite destination for those who enjoy collecting pottery, and for shoppers looking for a unique gift for a wedding or other special occasions.

For more than two decades, Betsy Price and Tom Wirt stewarded their vision of crafting beautiful, functional and affordable pottery. They came a long way from first selling pottery pieces from their property's pump house on a honor payment system, to shipping pieces nationwide through their website's online store.

Three years ago Tom and Betsy decided to retire from full-time involvement in the business and began the process of selling the business to Betsy's daughter Morgan Baum and her husband, Ian. Morgan, after all, had been raised in the business and it was part of who she was.

"I had watched this business grow and I grew along with it," Morgan said. "I always knew this would be part of my legacy, I just didn't know how."

It took those three years to put all the pieces together to purchase the Clay Coyote and to move back to Minnesota from New York City, where she was a Director of Development for Consumer Reports. Ian works in the computer industry, so his



**Morgan Baum (center) grew up watching the Clay Coyote grow and develop. Now she and her husband Ian purchased the Coyote from founders Betsy Price and Tom Wirt to create the only incubator for emerging clay artists anywhere in the U.S.**

*Submitted photo*

business can be done virtually anywhere.

## New business model

Tom and Betsy's pottery would no longer be produced at the studio, so Morgan and Ian brainstormed what direction to take the business.

"Everywhere I look there are aging potters," Morgan said. "We knew that we had to come up with a business model that would help to grow the next generation of Minnesota potters." That sense of responsibility and the desire to continue to provide pottery for the Gallery, the Baums hit on an unusual concept. They would invite promising pottery artists as potters in residence; not for only a few weeks as most residencies are, but for up to five years. These emerging artists would learn all the aspects of successfully launching a pottery business, from creation of their own signature pottery, to marketing, selling and managing a



**The studio space includes three private work areas plus the shared spaces for glazing and firing. LED strip lights illuminate the space well for a fraction of the cost.**

business, all the while producing pottery for display and sale in the Gallery. Essentially, the Clay Coyote would become an "incubator" of emerging artists, which could be the first program of its kind in the United States. This presents a unique and valuable opportunity for the artists.

"Displaying their pottery in the Gallery gives them the opportunity to hear from customers about what they like and don't like," Morgan said. "Customers really drive the artist's creative lines. They provide feedback about what people want. The artists can see what sells and what doesn't and adjust."

Currently, two potters in residence have been chosen, and a third will be added soon. Katie Teesdale and Levi Yankosky have already begun work at the Clay Coyote studio, which has been redesigned to provide three distinct spaces for their own private work, and a large collaborative space for detailing, glazing, and firing.

Teesdale hails from Philadelphia where she had been working at The Clay Studio, a nonprofit education institution dedicated to the development of ceramic artists.

For the past two years, she organized the Claymobile, a program to reach the under-served districts in Philadelphia through a mobile clay arts initiative. She also works as a part-time ceramics teacher for the Dassel-Cokato High School. She describes her pottery as organic and has been experimenting with nesting forms.

Yankosky, a native of southern Minnesota, attended Winona State University where he received a degree in history and political science. He is a self-taught potter, who is interested in exploring the history of clay arts and connecting it to modern, practical pottery. Most recently, Yankosky worked as a production potter for Dock 6 Pottery in Minneapolis.



**Levi Yankosky demonstrates wheel throwing pottery.**

*Photo courtesy of Clay Coyote*



**Katie Teesdale's organic style pottery utilizes a lot of handwork to create one-of-a-kind pieces.**



### Promoters of cleaner electric grid zapped by roadblocks

**B**uilding new high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) power lines in the United States will help the nation's aging power grid handle more renewable energy. But the U.S. electricity transmission system is saddled with a sprawling regulatory process that vets proposed long-distance projects at a glacial pace.

In the West, it can involve as many as nine federal agencies. States sometimes delegate their role to multiple agencies. Even counties can get involved in the deliberations. The upshot is that going through the legal hoops and keeping investment capital at the ready for several of the proposed lines has set back construction for years. Congress tried to solve this problem in 2005 and failed.

In 2011, the Obama administration, which supports many of the projects, picked seven pending interstate AC and DC power lines, promising to push them through this bureaucratic mess by forming a "rapid response team for transmission."

That produced a hopeful moment for TransWest Express LLC, the owner of the only HVDC line and the longest among the seven the White House picked to move fast, but it's still running through the gauntlet of regulators after more than nine years. "I don't want to be critical of it, but I would say it has lost momentum," said TransWest President Bill Miller, referring to the rapid response team. "It hasn't done a whole lot."

~ClimateWire

### Clean Power Plan: Court adds 10th Judge to hear arguments over landmark rule

**I**n a surprise twist to the legal battle over the Clean Power Plan, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit expanded the panel of judges that heard arguments.

Judge Cornelia Pillard, who has sat out previous decisions on the litigation, will join all the court's active judges — except President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, Chief Judge Merrick Garland — to participate in the en banc arguments, the D.C. Circuit order says. Pillard's addition to the panel is yet another wrinkle in the fight over Obama's signature climate rule.

In an extremely rare move, the D.C. Circuit had pushed back arguments on the climate rule that were originally scheduled for a three-judge panel in June to September in front of the full court. The change could make it more difficult for challengers of the rule to succeed, said James Rubin, a partner at law firm Dorsey & Whitney.

~E&E Publishing



Switching to 35 LED can lights from 121 halogens cut energy use by 95% in the Gallery. The Gallery contains hand-made art from 150 artists from across the country. It's a one-stop Gallery for special occasion gifts.

#### Energy efficiency changes

Three electric kilns and one larger gas-fired kiln occupy the shared studio space. The electric kilns are on load management and the Co-op's half-price electric rate. The load management program controls the electricity to the kilns during peak electric use. However the artists are able to fire during off-peak times so it doesn't impact the pottery being fired.

All the pottery is fired twice; first in electric kilns, which fire to 1,860 degrees. Then once glazed, the pottery is fired in the gas kiln, which the Clay Coyote takes up to cone 10, or just over 2,300 degrees. The gas kiln can hold up to 100 pieces, depending on their size and shape. Due to its size, the gas kiln takes so much time to heat up, fire the pottery and cool down, it can only be used every eight days.

Along with the change in business model, the Gallery and Studio have also undergone a transformation of sorts. The Baums have invested in new energy-efficient windows, have rebuilt one studio wall to add insulation, and have painted and reorganized the studio.

#### Making the switch to LEDs

The biggest change to the pocketbook was in the realm of lighting. The Baums took advantage of the Co-op's commercial lighting rebate to switch out 121 50-watt halogen light fixtures to 35 11-watt LED

can lights. They also replaced T-8 and T-12 fluorescent lights with LED strips in the Studio. These changes will result in a reduction of 33,700 kWhs per year, saving the Baums around \$4,000 on their annual energy costs. The lighting rebate helped with the up-front costs, and the energy savings will result in a relatively quick payback of their initial investment.

"Our electrician told me our LED lights should last 50 years," Morgan said. "I like the fact that LEDs are safe, secure and efficient, and there is no fire hazard like there could be with the hot halogen lights."

#### An Invitation

The Clay Coyote Gallery carries the work of 150 artists from across the country. It also will carry the pottery of the three artists in residence. Morgan encourages fans of the Clay Coyote to see the new, fresh items these emerging artists are creating.

"The Clay Coyote was built from the ground up by the support of local people and communities," Morgan said. "We need that same support now. This is the only emerging artist incubator



Morgan occupies the space inside the gas kiln, which can hold up to 100 pieces of pottery.

in the country. We're excited to see what the next five years will bring."

Visit the Clay Coyote website at [www.ClayCoyote.com](http://www.ClayCoyote.com). There you will find more about the emerging artists, see Gallery photos, have access to recipes, blogs and the online store for ordering products.

#### Upcoming Event:

The Clay Coyote will be hosting a Fall Open House Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 23, noon to 4 p.m. You will be able to meet the new potters, see studio demonstrations and enjoy some light refreshments.

Contact the Co-op for more information on rebates for energy management and commercial lighting programs.

# Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments

## The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Cold Weather Rule Summary

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

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

- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- You have contacted MCPA, have set up a payment arrangement, and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

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

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

the following information to the customer:

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

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

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

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

**4** The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied.

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

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

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

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

## Energy Assistance Providers

### Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker Counties

#### *United Community Action Partnership*

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

### McLeod County area

#### *McLeod County Social Service Center*

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

### Renville County area

#### *Renville County Energy Assistance Program*

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

### Sibley County area

#### *Sibley County Public Health & Human Services*

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

### MN Valley Action Council

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

### Carver County area

#### *Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency*

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

### Wright County area

#### *Wright County Community Action*

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



## August Outage Summary

During the month of August the Cooperative had a total of 94 outages, affecting 1,729 consumers. The largest outage was on Thursday, August 4. MCPA went from over 1,160 outages in the morning to zero outages by evening. While the vast majority of our members had their electricity restored by 2 p.m., some members had to wait a bit longer. MCPA line crews worked all day until the last members were back on by that evening.

The challenge with outage restoration on August 4 was that storm damage was geographically widespread. The first outage calls came in from areas outside of Hector, Buffalo Lake, Winthrop, and

Stewart. So crews headed west to start restoring power. As the storm moved to the northeast, lightning strikes and strong winds caused outages near Hutchinson, Silver Lake, Winsted, Watertown, Lester Prairie, and Glencoe. There were many outages with trees or branches down on power lines that take time to remove before repairs can be made. Some damage sites included broken poles and snapped lines.

The Sherman Substation west of Winsted, had a high side fuse knocked out, that left almost 450 members in McLeod County with partial power (dim lights). A lightning strike near the substation is the suspected but unconfirmed cause of the problem.

The second largest outage was Sunday, August 7, just after

midnight. About 200 members were without power for one hour and 53 minutes due to a splice decaying and letting loose on a line in Glencoe Township.

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 here or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by October 28 to be included in the November 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

- 102 Armstrong flute. 320-583-3028
- 6 ft X 12 ft covered kennel and dog house. \$200. 320-587-8336
- Sewing supplies: books/notions/elastic/zippers/ribbons. \$10/bag. 320-587-4974
- Red raspberries. \$4/pint. 320-864-5095
- Antique wooden quilting frame. \$15. 320-328-4041
- Never used GE electric clothes dryer. \$75. 320-327-2472
- 12 1/2in DeWalt DW733 planer, new knives. 320-833-2206
- Coleman 5000ER portable generator. Used very little. \$325. 320-469-3164/after 6pm.
- 10-32 JD walk behind snow blower, newer 12hp engine, half cab. \$325. 320-469-3164/after 6pm.
- Wood splitter, 30in stroke, 5in cylinder. PTO hyd pump, lifting cylinder. \$425. 320-469-3164/after 6pm.
- McKee 7 ft, 3 pt, snow blower, 2 stage, 1 auger. Used very little. \$600. 320-469-3164/after 6pm.
- 7ft, 3pt FMC grader. Almost new. \$500. 320-469-3164/after 6pm.

- Polaris ATV 500, scrambler automatic, water cooled, good condition/tires. 320-583-5388
- 55 gallon steel drums w/lids. \$15. 952-353-2351
- John Deere 110 garden tractor w/front PTO drive. Make offer. 320-583-7260

### For Sale - Farm

- New Holland 499 haybine, 12 ft, 540 rpm. \$2,700. 320-223-9104
- 1970 JD 3020 diesel, wide front, cab, dual hyd, 4,600hrs. 320-510-5869

### Wanted

- IH-185 planter units. 320-833-5503
- Corelle dinnerware "Old Town Blue" pattern. Plates/bowls/ext. pcs. 320-583-1045

### Giveaway

- Farm kittens, many colors. 320-864-4938

*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.*

## Do tankless water heaters live up to the hype?

An unlimited supply of hot water definitely sounds like a sweet deal to many homeowners. So do reduced water heating costs, instantaneous hot water on demand, and more space in the utility closet or mechanical room. These are all promises made by some companies selling tankless water heaters. But does the technology really deliver?

Unlike traditional electric resistance or gas-fired water heaters, tankless models do not store hot water — they heat water only as it is consumed. One or a series of heating elements within a tankless water heater are activated when a hot water faucet or valve is opened. The unit heats water until the faucet or valve gets closed.

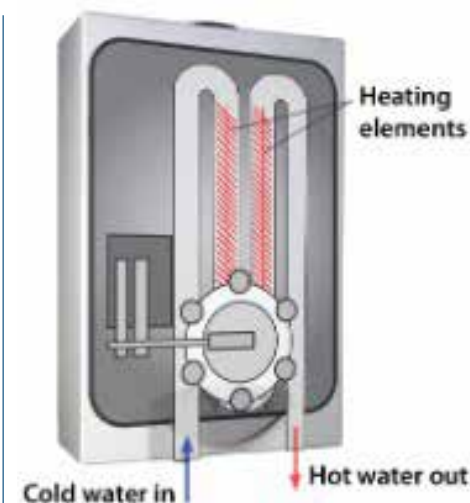
### Unlimited hot water?

Even the largest whole-house unit may not supply enough hot water for simultaneous, multiple uses. For example, such a unit may be able to supply only two showers simultaneously or perhaps one shower, a dishwasher, and a sink. If users demand too much water, temperatures will drop. As a result, a tankless system probably won't meet the needs of a large family. In addition, water temperature depends on the volume coming out of a faucet.

### Hidden Costs?

Generally, tankless water heaters do not require a lot of space. But they do require an upgrade in electrical service — something most home improvement stores often don't mention and a chief reason electric co-ops generally don't recommend the appliances. This means consumers who want to replace an existing conventional water heater with a tankless unit or add one as part of a home-remodeling project will incur significant additional costs.

For example, a traditional tank water heater with 4,500-watt elements operates on #10 wire and a 30 amp circuit breaker. One whole-house tankless model boasts four



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

7,000-watt elements for a total electrical load of 28,000 watts. This requires wire and a circuit breaker that will handle at least 120 amps. If it is installed in a home with a service smaller than 200 amps, it may cause flickering lights, or power quality issues with computers and other appliances, if you try to heat water at the same time as you use other appliances.

### Other options?

Consumers looking for an efficient water heater should consider a heavily insulated electric resistance unit operated on a load management program. These appliances are often the most cost-effective option. And because of their hot water storage capabilities, they can be installed on the Co-op's storage heating program that shaves power costs during peak demand hours and is a proven way to help keep electric bills affordable.

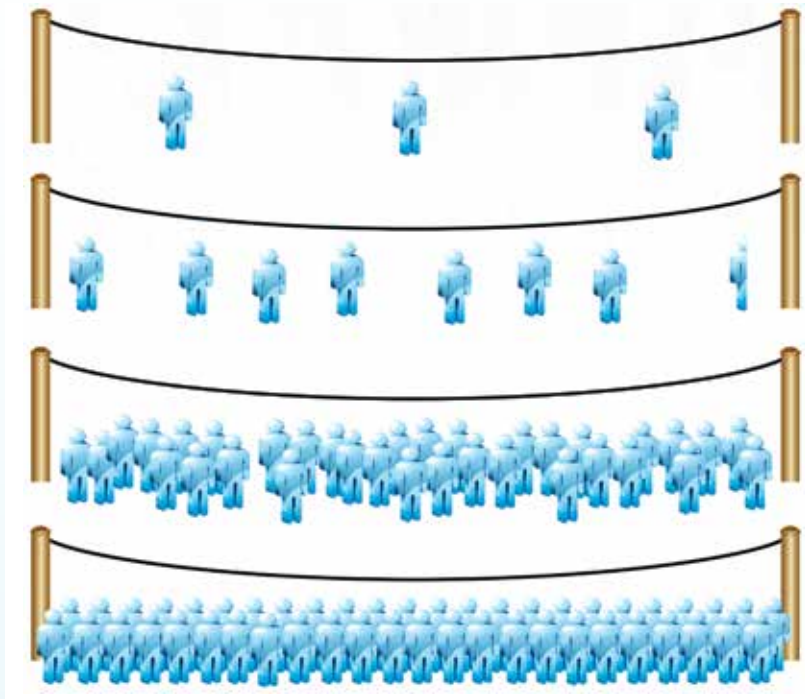
To reduce home water heating costs, simple and inexpensive measures could be implemented such as tank insulation, temperature setback, timers, heat traps, low-flow shower heads and installing your electric water heater on McLeod Co-op Power's storage water heating program. The Co-op also sells Marathon water heaters, which are super-insulated for maximum efficiency, and have a lifetime warranty against leaking. Call the energy experts at MCPA for details 1-800-494-6272.

## BY THE NUMBERS: *Electric utility comparisons*

Three types of electric utilities serve Minnesotans: consumer-owned cooperatives, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and municipal-owned utilities (munis). Here's a comparison of McLeod Cooperative Power to the three different types using numbers for the nation.

### Average number of consumers per mile of line

- **McLeod Co-op Power Association = 3**
- **Electric cooperatives = 7.4**
- **IOUs = 34**
- **Munies = 48**



## ABOUT CO-OPS

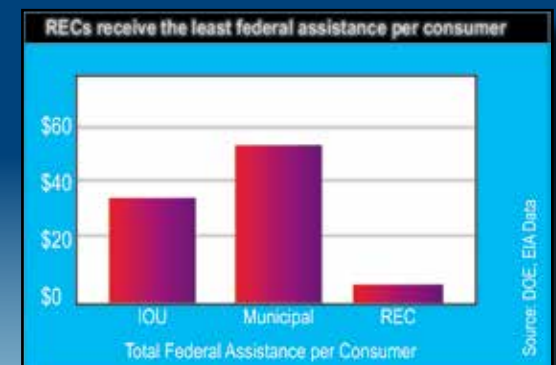
Electric cooperatives are private, independent electric utilities owned by the members they serve. Democratically governed businesses, electric cooperatives are organized under the Cooperative or Rochdale Principles, anchoring them firmly in the communities they serve and ensuring that they are closely regulated by their consumers.

Electric cooperatives began to spread across rural America after President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935. The Executive Order establishing the REA and the passage of the REA Act a year later marked the first steps in a public-private partnership. It has over the last 75+ years bridged the vast expanse of rural America to bring electric power to businesses and communities willing to organize cooperatively and accept responsibility for the provision of safe, affordable and reliable electric power.

Today more than 900 electric cooperatives power Alaskan fishing villages, dairy farms in Vermont and the suburbs and exurbs in between. They provide reliable and technologically advanced service to 42 million Americans while maintaining a unique consumer-focused approach to business.

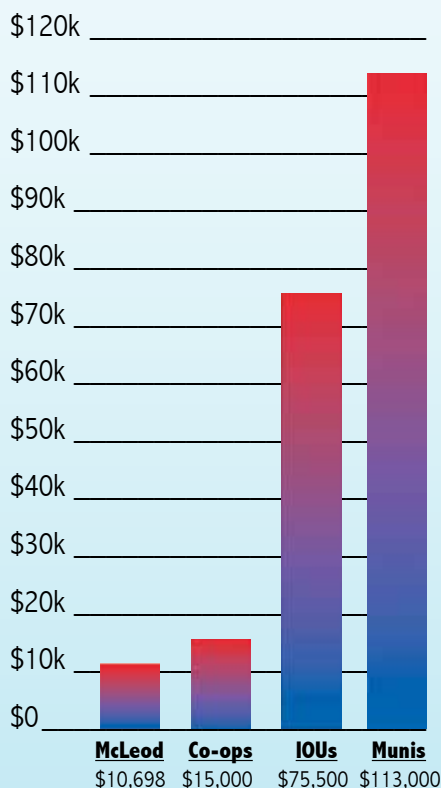
### Federal assistance to electric utilities

According to Nobel Laureate economics professor Lawrence R. Klein of the University of Pennsylvania, all types of utilities (investor-owned utilities (IOUs), municipal-owned utilities and electric cooperatives enjoy some form of subsidy. **You may be surprised to learn that electric cooperatives receive the least amount of subsidy per customer. Rural Electric Co-ops (RECs) receive the least federal assistance per consumer.**



All electric utilities receive federal subsidies in one form or another. Calculations based on federal government financial reports show that rural electric cooperatives receive the least federal amount of subsidy per consumer. This is in spite of the fact that (RECs) serve only eight consumers per mile of line compared to 34 for investor-owned (such as Xcel Energy) and 48 for city-owned utilities.

### Annual revenue per mile of line



### Density is a main driver in cost to deliver power to you

McLeod Co-op Power serves only three members per mile of line. Some of our neighboring cooperatives serve from four to 12 members per mile. The average Co-op serves 7.4 members per mile. Investor-owned utilities average 34 customers per mile and municipal utilities average 48 customers per mile. **So, McLeod Co-op Power has similar costs per mile, but has only a fraction of the number of consumers to share in paying those costs. That is one of the reasons why the System Delivery Charge (formerly fixed charge) is greater for MCPA than for our neighboring municipal and investor-owned utilities.**

### Comparative characteristics

TRAIT	CO-OPS	IOUS	MUNIS
Owned by	Consumers	Stockholders	City/town
Number in MN	48	5	125
% of landmass served	80%	10%	10%
% of consumers served	13%	72%	15%
Tax status	Not-for-profit	For-profit	Not-for-profit
Earnings from operations?	Not allowed, returned to members	Paid to investors	Can be used for general fund
Pays income tax?	No	Yes	No
Pays property tax?	Yes	Yes	No
Number in U.S.	912	200	2,000
% of total distribution line	43%	50%	7%
Number of consumers (U.S.)	18.5 million	104 million	21 million
Total assets (U.S.)	\$140 billion	\$870 billion	\$260 billion

(Sources: NRECA, EIA and Electric Consumers)