

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

September 2017



McLeod Co-op Power is now available to those of you who use Facebook for your communication gathering and sharing. Like us on Facebook and use our site as one more source of information on what is happening at your electric cooperative and in your community. Look for regular posts of information that may be of interest to you and your friends. The Co-op also hopes to use this as one more communication tool to update members during long or large outages.



regular Facebook users this may be an additional quick source of information.

You can link to the McLeod Co-op Power Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop/> or search for @mcleodcoop on Facebook. The Co-op's site launched in August.

We encourage members to watch our Facebook page late in September to be the first to know when the Co-op's redesigned website is available. The McLeod Co-op Power website is getting updated to be more user-friendly, especially for members using mobile devices. We are striving to make it easier for visitors to find information and use our site.

We encourage members to go to the Co-op's website at www.mcleodcoop.com to view the outage map or get detailed information during big power outages. However, for

Several August outages not caused by storms

An outage on a transmission line along Hwy. 212 near Buffalo Lake, caused power problems on Thursday, August 24. Just before 1:00 in the afternoon, one conductor on the transmission line went down. This caused the outage and started a grass fire. Over 3,900 McLeod Co-op Power members were affected. Most of these members in Sibley and McLeod Counties experienced only a momentary blink or brief outage. About 522 members in Renville County were without power for 49 minutes. Members near Buffalo Lake, which are served from the Preston Lake Substation, were out for 65 minutes. MCPA restored power to members by back-feeding power from alternate sources.

Later that afternoon, after Xcel Energy had repaired the downed line, a second conductor went down in the same area. This caused about 500 MCPA members in the Hector area to be without power for 27 minutes. Transmission lines are owned and operated by individual transmission companies, however, they share the use of lines to transport

electricity with many different distribution utilities along the line's route.

Members in the Hector area were again without electricity for a few hours on Friday night, August 25 when a conductor broke between Hector and Bird Island. Power was restored to MCPA members in approximately 2.5 hours by back-feeding power to MCPA lines.

On Monday, August 28, an excavator dug into the Co-op's underground line north of Glencoe about 10:00 a.m., even though the contractor had followed the proper steps to get utilities in the area located. Of the 892 MCPA members affected, restore times varied, but everyone had power back on by 11:30 a.m.

McLeod Co-op Power regrets any inconvenience these outages caused for our members. The Co-op reminds everyone that any downed power line can be dangerous. People should stay away from downed lines and immediately report the situation to 911, or their utility if they know who owns the power lines.

Beware of scammers spoofing phone numbers

Scammers are getting crafty these days. Promotional companies are spoofing caller ID by using local business or personal names to get you to pick up the phone to hear their solicitation. McLeod Co-op Power, other local businesses and personal people's names could show up on your caller ID even though that is not who is calling. It has been happening more frequently in recent months. Just because the Co-op's name shows up on caller ID does not necessarily mean we called you.

If McLeod Co-op Power calls your home or cell phone number and you do not answer, we will leave you a message (provided you have voicemail or an answering machine).

MCPA power supplier to conduct residential energy use survey

In the effort to plan and forecast future electricity usage and consumer energy needs, MCPA's power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), is conducting a residential end-use survey in September. A few randomly selected members will receive post cards in September. The cards will include a bar code and will allow members to go online and complete the survey electronically. Members who do not complete the survey online will receive a paper copy of the survey in the mail in October.

The survey is critical in helping GRE develop forecasts for power generation and supply in the future. The information will also help GRE as it plans long-range load forecast. Participation is voluntary, but if members take part, it helps MCPA and GRE plan for adequate generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure to meet member needs well into the future.

In this issue...



Operation RoundUp donates to dog park 3



Wildlife sanctuary promotes conservation . 4



Smart energy usage 8

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com Like us on facebook

Local Democracy authority adopted

At its August 22 meeting, McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution Adopting the Authority of the MN Public Utilities Commission, including Cooperative Generation Rules and Interconnection Agreement for Co-Generation & Small Power Production. This means that the Co-op's local board will now take responsibility for the Co-op complying with the Minnesota laws and rules governing distributed generation (the interconnection of solar, wind or other generation resources to the Co-op's distribution system). This responsibility previously rested with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

A revised version of MCPA Board Policy 4-22 Distributed Generation and Net Metering rated less than 40kW, was also approved at the meeting. Only minor wording changes were made to the policy to make it consistent with standard statewide co-op documentation. The Co-op's existing policy on distributed generation was already in compliance with all recommended interconnection rules and procedures.

The recently approved resolution, generation rules, interconnection agreement, and board policy on distributed generation are all available to members on the Co-op's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com.

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



Did you know we are part-owner of a Security Company?

That company is Heartland Security Services. In 1999, McLeod Co-op Power was one of nine cooperatives that formed a partnership to provide security and monitoring services to our members. Since then, Heartland Security Services has continued to grow and today we are one of thirteen cooperatives providing this service.

Heartland Security's mission is to enrich the lives of their customers by protecting their families, homes, and businesses with innovative technologies, quality equipment, skilled installation, caring service, and trusted monitoring.

Heartland Security can provide security for homes and businesses as well as agricultural monitoring. For your home, Heartland Security protects you, your family and your valuables against burglary, fire, water and carbon monoxide to name a few hazards. They pride themselves on custom designing a solution to meet your needs and budget.

If you own a business, they can help protect you against property risks, including property theft and building damage. McLeod Co-op Power is secured and monitored by Heartland Security. In fact, recently, a quick response by the agent

monitoring our property thwarted a thief at our pole yard. We can't offer too many details but the thief was apprehended and the security video is being used in the investigation. We are grateful to Heartland Security for designing and installing a custom security system that protected our property and personnel while helping to keep our business running smoothly.

For the agricultural industry, they offer specialized ag monitoring including high and low temperature sensors, door sensors and alarms, automatic feeding equipment sensors, and generator monitoring.

As you can see, Heartland Security offers a variety of ways to protect your family and property. Give them a call at 1-888-264-6380 to set up an appointment and see how they can give you peace of mind. McLeod Co-op Power is proud to be an owner and a customer!

Proud to keep your lights on,
Carrie

Tidbits for history buffs — Excerpt from 75 Years of Service, McLeod Co-op Power's 1935-2010 history.

"We knew electricity was a great thing. We just had to share it with others."

Delmer Schmidt, who lives north of Glencoe in Rich Valley Township relayed these stories — "In the late 1930s some guys would put up the poles. My brother Wilmer had gone to Dunwoody to be an electrician. He would run wires and solder the wires on the farms so they were ready to get electricity. He'd also rip out the upstairs floors of houses so they could get wire to the ceiling light fixtures. He'd run wire in the houses and install entry (fuse) boxes. Then the inspector would come and approve the wiring. He could always tell my brother's work because he used heavier wire than the rest of the electricians because he wanted to make sure people didn't have power quality issues.

There was one farm south of Glencoe in Sibley County, owned by Edwin "Eddie" Kelm. It was ready for inspection in 1940 except for the wire being soldered. My brother got sick and all of us in the family were quarantined for six weeks. We weren't supposed to leave the place. I never got sick or anything from my brother. But it was almost the Christmas season and this family could not get their lights turned on until the soldering was done and the inspection done. I had learned soldering and wiring from my dad who was a tinsmith. I snuck over to the Kelm farm and shimmied up the pole and soldered the wire with a gas torch. The inspector came, and the family had their lights turned on before the holidays.

Our family had electricity from NSP in a house we lived in prior to 1929. Then we moved to my parents'

home place in Rich Valley Township, so we knew how electricity worked. When we got electricity brought in by REA to this farm, my family had an electric stove and refrigerator that my brother had already wired in. The electric stove was such an improvement for my mother every day but especially when she had to cook for the threshing crews. The old wood stove could never keep an even heat.

Most people knew nothing about electricity. My brother Wilmer built a tabletop demonstration to show people how a three-way switch would work. He'd show them how a yard light switch could be turned on or off from the house or from outside." This would help people decide how they wanted the wiring done on their farm.

Board of Directors

District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier

Hollywood Twp. in Carver Co., Winsted Twp. in McLeod Co., Victor, Woodland, & Franklin Twps. in Wright Co.

District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President

Hassan Valley, Sumter & Rich Valley Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 3 - David Resch

Bergen, Helen, & Glencoe Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer

Boon Lake, Brookfield, Osceola, Kingman, Preston Lake, Hector, Melville, Bird Island, Palmyra, & Norfolk Twps. in Renville Co. & East Lake Lillian Twp. in Kandiyohi Co.

District 5 - Allan Duesterhoeft

Lynn & Acoma Twps. in McLeod Co. & Ellsworth Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 6 - Gary Burdorf

Penn Twp. in McLeod Co, New Auburn, Green Isle, Dryden & Arlington Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 7 - Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative

Hutchinson & Hale Twps. in McLeod Co., Collinwood Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

Collins & Round Grove Twps. in McLeod Co, Martinsburg, Bandon, & Wellington Twps. in Renville Co., Grafton, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, & Alfsborg Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 9 - Gerald Roepke,

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

Watertown, Camden, & Young America Twps. in Carver County

McLeod Cooperative Power News

USPS 2220

Periodicals Postage Paid at Hutchinson, MN

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

McLeod Cooperative Power News

P O Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

The **McLeod Cooperative Power News** is published monthly for \$4.70 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members by McLeod Cooperative Power Association 1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Editor: Sue Pawelk

General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley

cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com

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

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



Linemen and other Co-op field employees participated in safety training on July 18. They are shown during review of proper use and interconnection of the Co-op's 40 kW generator. The same day they also received training on safe use of chain saws, protective gear to be worn when cutting brush, and safe brush cutting techniques.

Dog park to become a reality in Hutchinson by later this year

Co-op's Operation RoundUp donation helped project meet its goal

A citizen's group from Hutchinson realized a need for a dog park in the city, where dogs could run and get some exercise. Dogs are pack animals that need to run and socialize with other animals. Not everyone has a backyard for their pets to run in safely and not everyone can take their dogs for a jog. People that live in apartments or the elderly need a place to let their pets run.



Dogs in Hutchinson will soon be romping in their own fenced dog park, similar to this one. A \$1,000 donation from Operation RoundUp helped meet the required goal of \$10,000, to help pay for half of the fencing.

With over 300 licensed dogs in Hutchinson and many more dogs in the surrounding area that all need daily exercise, it is not a surprise that so many individuals and businesses in the area have supported the project. The Hutchinson MN Community Dog Park has over 1,000 followers on its Facebook page, and hundreds of individuals and businesses made donations or did fundraising. In February of 2017, the Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter joined in as a fiscal sponsor, overseeing the donations.

Amy Solinger, who led the citizen's fundraising drive for the dog park, said, "The McLeod Co-op Power Operation RoundUp donation to the project pushed it over the top to meet its \$10,000 goal."

The Heart of MN Animal Shelter, which is a non-profit sponsor of the project, applied for Operation RoundUp funds in March. The project was awarded \$1,000 to go towards the cost of fencing around the dog park. The supporters of the project had been challenged by the Hutchinson City Council to raise \$10,000 (half of the cost of the fencing) as a condition for the city's support. Supporters have raised about \$10,500 as of earlier this summer.

The City of Hutchinson has selected a one-acre site in East River Park as the location of the dog park. East River Park is north of the intersection of First Avenue SE and Erie Street SE in Hutch. It is along the Dakota Rail Trail and will be served by a restroom at Depot Marketplace, about 700 feet away.

The dog park will be surrounded by a chain link fence. They plan on separate play areas for large and small dogs. The city plans include fresh water for dogs, an animal waste station, benches and garbage cans.

The group was hopeful that the dog park would become a reality in 2018 but thanks to supporters and the city, construction of the park is expected to be done this month (September).

This project was one of many to receive Operation RoundUp funds from the MCPA Trust in March. Hopefully, this community project will benefit area dog lovers from all over the area.

Any Co-op member not already rounding up their electric bill to the nearest whole dollar can sign up to do so any time by contacting the Co-op for a form or downloading a participation form from the web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. By rounding up your bill, the change gets donated to Operation RoundUp and is dispersed annually to community projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver Counties. It is a tax-deductible donation with a receipt printed on your electric bill. Please consider joining today.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

If your bill is \$155.62, it is rounded up to \$156.00. The extra 38 cents goes to the Operation Round Up Trust Fund. Multiply all that extra change by the generous members who participate and it makes a big difference in our local communities. The average annual contribution is \$6.00. The most a member can donate per account is \$11.88 (99 cents a month). Contributions are tax deductible.

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: _____

2017 RESIDENTIAL REBATES

summary of rebates available from your co-op this year*

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

Dehumidifier \$25
Electric Clothes Dryer..... \$75

RECYCLING

Old Freezer or Refrigerator..... \$75
(proof of recycling required)

CONSERVATION

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Up to \$500
toward installation & equipment

ENERGY STAR SWIMMING POOL

Air Source Heat Pump Pool Heater..... \$400
Variable Speed Pump \$200

ENERGY STAR LIGHTING

LED Yard Light..... \$60
LED Holiday Light Strings, (limit 10) \$2
LED Light Bulbs, (limit 10) \$3

HVAC

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Space Heating..... \$50/kW
14.5 SEER Air Source Heat Pump..... \$480
15 SEER Air Source Heat Pump..... \$580
16 SEER or higher Air Source Heat Pump \$630
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (delivered fuels) \$300
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (primary electric heat)\$500
Ground Source Heat Pump.....\$400/ton
ECM (fan motor) \$100

WATER HEATERS

Electric Storage Water Heating Program \$400

*This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial custom rebates. There is a \$2,000 maximum rebate per member per year. Only ETS space heating does not have a \$2,000 maximum cap. All rebates are on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly.

Most downloadable rebate forms are available on the Co-op website at www.mcleodcoop.com (click on Customer Service tab). Please read the details on specific rebate forms, as some products have limits, require ENERGY STAR certification, or other requirements.

Air Source Heat Pump rebate forms must be completed by the installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvacreducation.net web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our cooperative website at www.mcleodcoop.com (click on About Us tab and then Our Partners tab). There are no rebates on central air conditioners. The Cooperative encourages any member replacing their central air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump. LED yard lights must be installed on consumer-owned building or facilities. Lights cannot be installed on Co-op power poles.



The man-made pond is kept open all winter through the use of the property's well and pump system. This is important for the health and happiness of the birds that stay year-round.



Several Whitetail deer claim the Sanctuary as home.

Wildlife sanctuary is the result of a 107-year-old passion for conservation

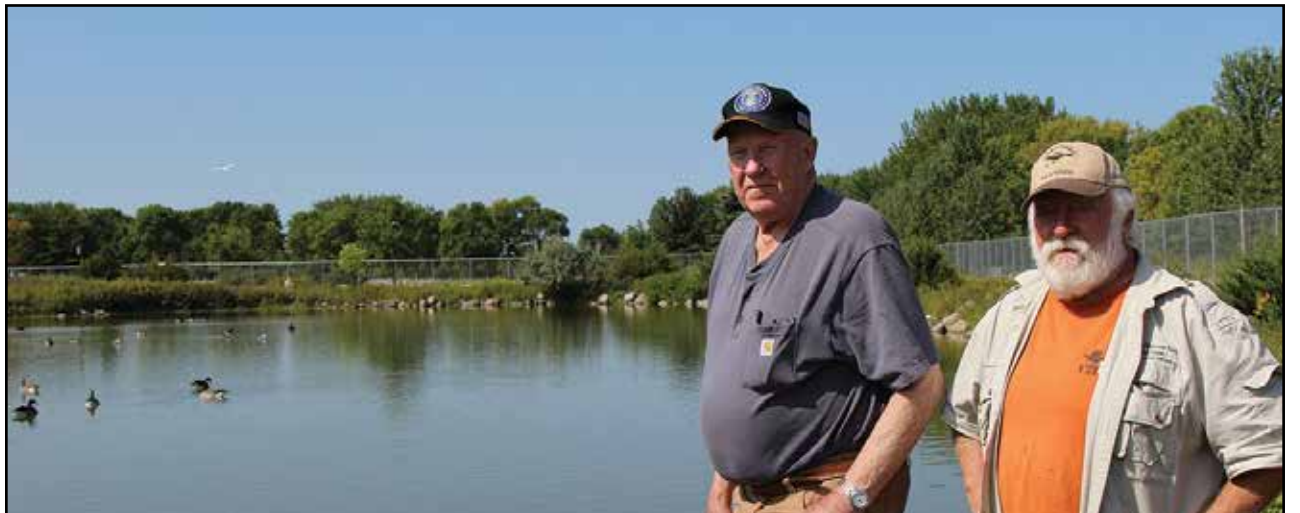
Stopping by the Gopher Campfire Wildlife Sanctuary along the Crow River south of Highway 7 in Northwest Hutchinson is a feast for eyes and soul. Nestled among milkweed and other natural prairie restoration grasses and shrubs and with the beautiful Crow River as a backdrop, visitors can enjoy the antics of numerous native species including mallards, wild turkeys, wood ducks, greater Canada geese, snow geese and blue geese. Only one species, the mute swan, is not native to the area. Whitetail deer can also be seen in the Sanctuary. During migration, waterfowl may total as much as 5,000 birds that stop for the pond and safety of the Sanctuary.

Few know the history of the Sanctuary, or how a passion for saving wildlife species bound for extinction led to its creation so many years ago. Today, the Gopher Campfire Wildlife Sanctuary is the oldest wildlife sanctuary west of the Mississippi River. Although they operate as the non-profit arm of the Gopher Campfire Club, they exist in two separate locations; the Club is on Lake Byron northeast of Hutchinson, and the Sanctuary is west on Highway 7, Hutchinson.

Our guides to the history of the Sanctuary are Howard (Skip) Quade, Jr. and Virgil Voigt, members of the Sanctuary board and long-time supporters and volunteers for the Sanctuary. Skip's father, Howard Quade Sr., was an early supporter and developer of the Sanctuary. Skip remembers growing up visiting the Gopher Campfire Conservation Club, located northeast of Hutchinson off of County Road 7, as well as the Sanctuary in the city of Hutchinson.

"You could say I've spent most of my life involved with this," Skip said. Skip also is the Chairman and principal fund-raiser for the Sanctuary, which is the non-profit arm of the Gopher Campfire Conservation Club.

Virgil, a 40-year veterinarian of all species of animals throughout his career, is a long-time member of the Club and tireless supporter of the Sanctuary.



Howard (Skip) Quade, Jr., Chairman, and Virgil Voigt, Board Member, are two of six members of the Sanctuary Board. Skip has been involved from the time he would come with his father Howard Sr., who helped develop the Gopher Campfire Club and Sanctuary.

"I got involved many years ago when the Sanctuary asked me to treat one of their elk," Virgil said. His respect for animals and desire for their welfare and flourishing has kept him involved ever since. As they talk about the creation of the Conservation Club, it is evident that their passion for and desire to protect wildlife hasn't waned in all their years of involvement.

Imminent extinction of bird species led to creation of Gopher Campfire Conservation Club

In the early 1900s as pioneers moved westward and cities like Hutchinson began to spring up, swamps and other waters were drained and lands were divided and plowed, leading to the drastic loss of natural habitat for the area's wildlife. In addition, market hunters and their indiscriminate hunting for profit threatened to destroy entire species of wildlife. Hunters slaughtered waterfowl and upland birds, beaver, muskrat and mink until many species were near extinction. Even Robins were hunted in towns such as Lofton, Tennessee to fetch 10 cents a dozen. It's estimated that as many as 250,000 robins were killed in that town alone. An article in the Hutchinson Leader newspaper in early 1910 also wrote a front-page article on the market killing of robins.

Nationally, this trend threatened the beautiful

and varied wildlife that graced the previously unspoiled country. To combat this, Theodore Roosevelt founded the Boone and Crockett Club in 1887 which authored the "fair chase" statement, advocating "ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit of animals and birds in a manner that doesn't give the hunter unfair advantage."

Locally, the spirit of conservation began to take hold, as well. Carlos Avery, executive agent of the Minnesota State Game and Fish Commission felt that "a lack of knowledge, not unconcern, was responsible for the depletion of the country's natural resources." The solution was to educate hunters in sportsmanship, ethics and morals of hunting.

Sam G. Anderson, Jr., a Hutchinson attorney, had developed a love and respect for wildlife and good sportsmanship from boyhood. Anderson and Avery held a meeting in 1910 involving a number of local Hutchinson sportsmen to establish what would become the Gopher Campfire Club. Avery became the first Club president.

The Club was first established in 1915 at the farm owned by Sam Anderson, which is now the location of Jefferson Street in Hutchinson. On that farm, he sheltered "every variety of duck and goose to be found in North America," along with deer,



A blue goose and snow goose. These geese are of the same family, with a color variation.

pheasants and badgers, according to the history of the Club.

In 1934, Club members, including Skip's father Howard Quade, started the Club's first Sanctuary Committee, which purchased the sanctuary from Anderson and relocated it to four acres owned by the Club near the city power plant.

"That site wasn't good for the wildlife, as oil pollution from the power plant killed a number of them," Virgil said. A new site was sought and eventually in 1961, the Club purchased 25 acres of land in its current location along the river at a cost of \$10,000, to be paid over 20 years at the rate of \$500 per year. Through the hard work of volunteers, the sanctuary was opened in February of 1966.

Club efforts lead to positive changes that impact our area today

Because of the concerted efforts of many involved in conservation from the earliest days, a number of positive things still impact our area today. Among the Club's first accomplishments was to establish a game refuge in the Hutchinson area in 1915. Small tracts of land along the Crow River were purchased and set aside.

"In Hutchinson, the Club helped establish a wildlife refuge around the city where there was no hunting, so migratory birds could nest undisturbed," Virgil said.

Although the purchase of wildlife refuge land was encouraged, there was little funding to allow it. That changed in 1934 with the Federal Migratory Waterfowl Act, which mandated that all waterfowl hunters 16 years or older had to purchase a signed

duck stamp to use while hunting, which provided funds necessary for waterfowl conservation. The Club's efforts to conserve migratory bird flocks helped to save the greater Canada goose from extinction, as well as the snow goose, which Sam Anderson began collecting. The snow geese in the Sanctuary now are descendants of Sam's geese.

"Greater Canada geese were relatively easy to kill by settlers, who also ate their eggs," Virgil said. "A wildlife zoologist I had as an instructor at Mankato State in 1960 said that they were extinct. But I knew that there was a flock in Rochester and there was our flock in Hutchinson."

From those early flocks of geese and dedication to wildlife conservation, the Club now boasts 50 pairs of giant Canada Geese and about 200 goslings hatch each year, along with many geese and ducks that winter in the Sanctuary and nest in the surrounding areas.

"An interesting thing about geese," Virgil said. "About a week after the goslings are born, the parents take them to 'goose day care' where several adults take charge over the young. They teach them and even take them out of the Sanctuary and walk them into town and back."

Another conservation triumph involved the trumpeter swan and cooperation with veterinary science biologists.

"There were no swans in Minnesota," Virgil said. "There were some in Yellowstone National Park and in Alaska." Biologists from the state retrieved eggs from Alaska. Virgil became involved with the reintroduction of the Trumpeter Swan to Minnesota while at the University of Minnesota Veterinary College in 1970. A Northwest Airline pilot friend of his, Dave Algren, collected and flew eggs to Minnesota to be incubated. We now see swans nesting in many parts of Minnesota and it is considered a conservation success story. It is one of the Sanctuary's goals to include trumpeter swans. They visit every spring but don't nest there.

Another success involved Chinese ringneck pheasants. These birds were shipped to the West Coast and brought to Washington and Oregon. Gopher Campfire then introduced them to our area around 1917.

"Ringneck pheasants are the only invasive specie that people like," Virgil said. "That's because they are so beautiful."

Challenges

Ongoing maintenance, animal and bird feed,

manual labor and fund-raising are things the six-person Wildlife Sanctuary board contend with. "Also, we are accountable to the Veterinary Board of Animal Health," Virgil said. "When chronic wasting disease first became an issue, we had to build our fence another foot higher to make sure no deer could get out or in. If a deer gets out of the Sanctuary, it must be disposed of; it can't go back into the Sanctuary." That meant a major fund-raising effort was undertaken by Skip.



Many different species of birds may fly in and out of the Sanctuary and adjacent Crow River, including this wild turkey.

"The Sanctuary has a very good public image in the community," said Skip. "That makes fund-raising relatively easy. But it would be nice not to have to fund-raise for everything. Some people have left the Sanctuary in their wills, and that's beneficial. The Gopher Campfire Conservation Club also donates a percentage of their profits. Everything we do here is through donations and volunteers as we are a 501c3 non-profit organization."

Bob Schlueter, a local 4H leader, brings 4H kids to help clean out birdhouses in the spring and help with other clean-up efforts. Along with local residents feeding the Sanctuary wildlife apples, acorns and garden vegetables, local grocery stores donate out-of-date produce too old for the shelf.

"The public is very supportive of the Sanctuary," Skip said. "Of course we could use additional donations and volunteer help is always needed."

The six members of the Sanctuary board includes Skip and Virgil, as well as Brian Schmeling, Robin Dolezal, Leon Goldschmidt, and Dan Neubarth. Although dedicated, they hope to attract new, younger members.

"We're not spring chickens any longer," said Virgil. He and the board hope that the Sanctuary will continue in the hands of younger members.

For more information, visit <http://gophercampfire.com>.

Source: "Gopher Campfire Club, 100 Years of Conservation and Good Sportsmanship"



Milkweed grown in the Sanctuary support the continuation of the Monarch butterfly. Other native prairie grasses have been planted to make the Sanctuary as natural a habitat as possible for the "residents."

Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments

The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

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

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

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

you from making any payments during the winter, think again. McLeod Cooperative Power will be doing 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

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

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

- 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

Tree trimming can save lives

At a different utility in the U.S., a nine-year old boy was electrocuted while climbing a tree when he made contact with an electric line. The branch he was climbing on was about two feet above the line and sagged into it with the youngster's weight. The utility had performed tree trimming in the area roughly a year before the accident, however, the member whose property the tree was on urged the utility not to trim the tree. He said his great-grandfather had planted the tree and he could not stand to see it trimmed. The member said he would let the utility know if it was coming into contact

with the line and the utility agreed not to cut the tree. Sadly, the branch and the young man both came into contact with the line because the safety clearances were not sufficient.

It reminds all of us that the Co-op trims trees to specified clearances for safety reasons. Even when we do not like to see trees trimmed back from power lines, it may be necessary to allow right-of-way trimming to protect ourselves, our family, or neighbors from harm, as well as helping to reduce power outages.

McLeod Co-op Power appreciates the cooperation of members when tree trimming needs to be done to specified clearances.

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 September 28 to be included in the October 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

- Adult electric wheelchair, used less than 6 months. \$2,000. 320-234-7181
- 1956 sewing machine, model 99K. Works great. 320-587-0481
- Two-wheel trailer w/drop down ramp 4X5X10ft. \$50. 320-310-5673
- Webcor Royal tape recorder high fidelity. Works well. Antique. 320-587-4550
- Wood splitter new shape. 5 in hydraulic. 320-327-2577
- 27in double oven, wide glass front. Good condition. \$100. 612-270-8757
- Bixby corn stove. 320-864-6511
- 8ft bed liner from GMC duely truck. 320-864-6511
- H&S 6ft X 10ft enclosed trailer. 320-587-7746
- Wood splitter, heavy duty. Mounted on 3pt hitch. \$500. 320-420-7027
- 12ft fiberglass fishing boat and trailer. \$275. 320-864-4376
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removable tops. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 2011 JD X360 lawn mower w/48in deck. 320-238-2324
- Detroit 353 motor. 320-582-1534

For Sale Farm

- Cat track to fit a 45 Cat Challenger. 320-582-1534
- Bale thrower from NH baler. 320-522-2167
- Sickle mower. 320-522-2167
- MN hay rake. 320-522-2167

- 1958 John Deere 620 wide front. 320-583-1960
- 1951 John Deere B narrow front. 320-583-1960
- Hay rack 16ft X 8ft. 2in X 8in plank top. Excellent condition. \$1,000. 320-579-1260
- Allis Chalmers C NF belly mt woods 6ft mower. Electric start. 320-587-3393
- 2-NH 679 tandem axle manure spreaders w/hydraulic end gates. 320-587-6863
- JD 60 gas. Good runner, new paint/tires, 3in pt hitch. 320-327-2577
- 2-J&M 250 gravity boxes w/10 ton MN gear/ext poles. 507-327-1869
- 710 McCormick 5 bottom plow. 320-864-4496
- 2-250 bushel gravity boxes. 320-582-1534
- 6ft Wayne tile plow. 320-582-1534

Wanted

- Mounted plow 3-14in bottoms. 320-864-3274
- Chevy trucks 74-88. Clean out your sheds and groves. 320-510-0993
- Gently used Little Tykes outdoor play furniture. 320-552-3099

Giveaway

- Free farm kittens. Manx mix, gray. Available after 9/17. 952-412-5355
- Farm kittens, all colors. 320-864-4938

For Rent

- Storage space for campers, boats, automobiles. 320-582-1534

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.



BRIGGS & STRATTON **STANDBY GENERATORS**

Protect your home and family from the expense and inconvenience caused by power outages. A Briggs & Stratton Standby Generator provides automatic back-up power – so you can carry on with life.

New standby generator program

Severe weather can impact the Co-op's service to the membership. Sometimes even non-weather events can cause an outage. It is a reminder to members of how daily routines are inconveniently changed when the power goes out.

We have heard from some members that an automatic generator would be a handy tool to have as a backup in an untimely power outage. An automatic generator standby system would end the angst about whether one should make the effort to hook up, fuel up, and start up the portable generator or wait a little while longer to see if the power comes back on. It would be handier than a portable generator and a huge improvement over no generator at all.

This is one of the reasons that McLeod Co-op Power

is now selling and installing 12 kW to 200 kW automatic generator systems. There is a need for homeowners who want the ease and convenience of an automatic system. There is also a critical need for farmers or hobby farmers who have livestock that need water or ventilation when the power is out.

The Co-op is making available automatic generator systems from Briggs and Stratton, a century old American company that manufactures its generators in Wisconsin. Residential systems are powered by propane or natural gas.

The Co-op is available to meet with interested members and provide a quote upon the size of generator needed. Call the Co-op at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 to get more information if you are interested in an automatic backup.

July 2017 Outage Summary

During July there were 67 outages reported on the Cooperative's system. Eleven were due to unknown causes, ten due to lightning, and six were planned outages for service upgrades. These were the most common causes of outages in July.

The outages affecting the most members were near Hector on July 21 when an insulator failure interrupted power to 94 members. Thirty members on B phase were out for nearly two hours and 64 members on A and C phases were out for 48 minutes. This outage affected the largest number of members during July. The second largest outage was south of

Silver Lake on July 5, just after midnight. Tree growth into a line put 30 members in the dark for two hours.

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.

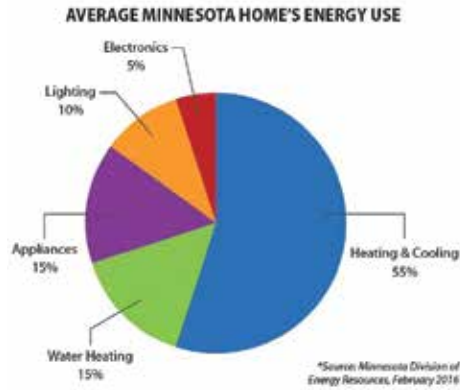


Smart energy use

with help from McLeod Co-op Power

With a focus on member-owners like you, McLeod Co-op Power works to help families, farms, and businesses use energy wisely. Whether you are building a new home, remodeling an existing home, or simply buying a new appliance, your cooperative offers professional advice and a wide array of incentives to ensure you get the most for your energy dollar.

When it comes to energy use, every home is unique. Factors that impact your energy use include the number of people in your family, the construction and orientation of your home, the type of heating and cooling system you use,



and the efficiency of your home appliances.

You don't have to sacrifice your lifestyle or your home's comfort to be a smart energy user.

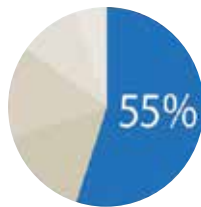


SMART ENERGY USE

Heating and cooling

Heating and cooling makes up more than half of the average home's energy usage in Minnesota, which makes it a strategic area to maximize efficiency. Start with your home heating and cooling systems. Find out their efficiency levels and set up a consistent maintenance schedule that will keep your units in peak operating condition. Then, walk through your home to check for insulation and air infiltration issues. Energy dollars could be escaping through your windows, doors or roof.

A new efficient off-peak heating system can provide your home with significant energy savings. The off-peak programs offer a lower electric rate that is about half the regular general service rate, making electricity one of the most stable and cost-effective heating sources available.



Off-peak home heating options can include:

- Dual Fuel — electric primary heat with a propane, fuel oil or other automatic backup, with electric heat being controlled during peak demand times up to a max of 400 hours per year.
- Heat pumps — both air source or ground source heat pumps can cool your home in summer and heat your home for most of the winter at very high efficiencies and low cost. An automatic backup is required to use a heat pump on the Dual Fuel rate.
- Storage Heat — forced air or hydronic furnace, room units, or under-floor heating that charges overnight from 11 PM to 7 AM every day but provides the home with heat 24/7.
- Cycled Air Conditioning — Air conditioners or air source heat pumps can be cycled during peak hours in exchange for the low off-peak rate for all cooling. Air conditioning on the metered off-peak rate is only available if there is another off-peak load in the home such as water heating or home heating.

Contact McLeod Cooperative Power to learn more about energy efficiency or money-saving programs, rates and rebates. Call 1-800-494-6272 or 320-864-3148. See list of rebates for appliances in this newsletter.



SMART ENERGY USE

Water heating

About 15% of a typical household's energy consumption is used for water heating, making it one of the largest energy expenses. And depending upon the number and ages of persons living in the home, the percentage could be greater.

Storage water heating is an excellent way to take advantage of the Co-op's off-peak program, which provides the half-price electric rate. The cost of electricity can be affected by how much you use and when you use it. Large capacity water heaters (80 gallons or larger) recognize this by drawing electricity during times of low energy demand when it is less expensive. They heat water overnight when energy from wind is plentiful on the grid. The water is stored in a high efficiency, super-insulated tank.

Generous rebates are available for storage water heating installations. Contact the Co-op for requirements to participate and receive a rebate.

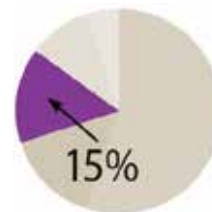


SMART ENERGY USE

Appliances

Appliances help make life easier but they can also result in significant energy costs. The age, efficiency and use of your appliances all play a role in your monthly energy costs. It is also important to remember that appliances still draw energy when they are off or in standby mode. Energy efficient models (which usually have the ENERGY STAR certification) cost less to operate when on and in standby mode. This saves you money in the long term.

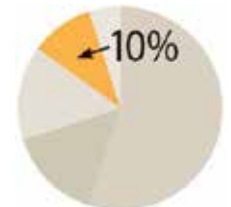
Homes with multiple refrigerators or freezers or other out-of-the-ordinary appliances can increase the percentage of energy use that comes from the appliance sector to more than 15%.



SMART ENERGY USE

Lighting

Making improvements to your home's lighting is one of the fastest, easiest and most cost-effective ways to lower your energy bill. Light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs are one of the most economical options. They have lower wattage levels than incandescent bulbs, but emit the same light output. A wide variety of LED bulbs are available in most hardware and home improvement stores.



SMART ENERGY USE

Electronics

Electronics provide entertainment and make our lives easier. TVs, laptops, smartphones, and tablets all require a reliable supply of electricity. This sector continues to grow in its percentage of energy use as families add more and more electronic devices and gadgets. Gaming systems and elaborate TV viewing/audio systems can increase your monthly kWh use. Although electronics are a small portion of your home's total energy use, that does not mean there are not ways to be more efficient. Follow these tips to get the most value out of the energy used by your electronics.



- Look for the ENERGY STAR label when making a purchase.
- Use a power strip for devices and turn it off when not in use to eliminate the unneeded consumption of electricity. Many devices continue to use energy even when not in use.
- Be sure to unplug chargers because they draw energy even when they are not connected to a device.
- Adjust the settings on your TV or computer to the energy-saving option. Turn off devices when they are not in use.