McLeod Cooperative Power
NEWS
August 2016

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McLeod COOPERATIVE POWER

www.mcleodcoop.com

Are energy bills higher in the country or in town?

Your family has been living in town. You buy a house in the country. You receive your first electric bill from the rural electric cooperative and are very surprised that it is so much higher than the electric bill when you were living in town. Why is it different? Are energy costs really more in the country?

Costs in the country are different than costs in town. **When comparing, you need to look at a total of your energy and utility bills, not just your electric bill.** It is very likely that your electric bill will go up when you move to the country but your city water and sewer bill will disappear. Heating and water heating costs will vary with the source of fuel. The square footage of the new house will affect your heating and cooling costs.

Generally, in the country a member has a well pump. They pump their own water for less than $15 a month (unless they are watering the lawn/garden or have a big family that uses a lot of water). In the country a member may possibly have a lift pump on their septic system, usually using less than $5 a month. In town they received a water and wastewater bill from the city for approximately $50 to $100 a month. The actual amount is dependent upon gallons of water used by the family living in the home, whether in

town or in the country. **Result: In town the electric bill may be $20 lower but homeowner is paying $50 to $100 for water and wastewater service that is usually not assessed in the country** (unless living in an area with wastewater service).

The source of fuel for home heating in a city is often natural gas. In the country, homes are heated more frequently with propane, fuel oil or off-peak electricity. Historically, natural gas has been more economical than propane or fuel oil, making energy costs for space heating cheaper in town than in the country. Off-peak electric heat is often less costly than fuel oil or propane, but if you use electricity to heat your home your electric bill will be higher and your fossil fuel heating bill will be minimal or non-existent. **Result: If off-peak electricity is the primary heat in your rural home, your electric bill will be higher but your overall space heating cost may be less than fuel oil or propane. If you had natural gas heat in town, your overall space heating cost may be a little higher per BTU in the country but you will no longer pay a natural gas bill or a fee for a gas meter.**

The same principle applies to water heating. If you heated your water with electricity in town and also now with electricity in the country, the cost will only vary slightly. If you are fortunate enough to buy a house with off-peak electric water heating on co-op lines, your water heating cost will be much lower. If you heated your water with natural gas in town and are now heating it with electricity, your electric bill will be higher, however, you won't have a natural gas bill. **Result: Water heating costs also vary because of the type of fuel you use and market prices of each fuel source.**

Usually changes in the square footage of a new home will affect home heating and cooling costs. Get a bigger home, your cost to heat and cool will be more. Cooling costs for homes with uncontrolled air conditioners are usually comparable unless the square footage of the home or efficiency of the cooling unit is different. If you purchase a rural home with off-peak cooling, you can anticipate up to 50% lower cooling costs. **Result: The Co-op's off-peak cycled cooling rate is half the price of uncontrolled air conditioning/cooling so a rural electric bill might be less if the home is an off-peak participant.**

Appliances also make a difference. Did your previous home have gas or electric appliances, such as clothes dryer, cooktop, or oven? Do you have the same refrigerator or is the current one a different size or efficiency than the previous one? These things all affect your electric usage.

Do you have a yard light? In town, street lighting is paid for by the city and may be incorporated into your taxes or city utility bill fees. If you have a yard light in the country, the energy used by the light will add a few dollars a month to your electric bill or you may pay a monthly rental light fee, resulting in a higher electric bill. **Result: If you move to the country and have a yard light that is on all night, it will increase your electric bill a few dollars a month. When you were in town the cost of street lighting was probably incorporated into your city taxes or fees.**

If you move into a new home and have questions on concerns about your electric energy usage, call the energy experts at McLeod Co-op Power 1-800-494-6272. They can answer your questions and help you understand differences in your energy costs.

Great River Energy to end operations at Stanton Station

Great River Energy has announced plans to retire the Stanton Station power plant by May 2017 because the plant is no longer economic to operate with current low prices in the regional energy market. Stanton Station is located near Stanton in Mercer County, N.D.

"Stanton Station has provided dependable electricity to Great River Energy's member cooperatives for 50 years," said David Saggau, Great River Energy president and CEO. "The plant's long and successful record was possible thanks to a talented staff and supportive community."

"After careful consideration of several alternatives, it became clear that retiring the plant was in the best interest of our member cooperatives," Saggau added. Recently, Stanton Station has been generating electricity on a limited basis due to economic conditions. During that time, it has often been more affordable to operate other plants or purchase power from the regional market.

"We are making every effort to minimize impacts on our employees and the community through this transition," Saggau said. "We are providing Stanton Station employees wih a number of support resources and services whether or not they continue working for Great River Energy at another location."

Great River Energy continues to operate the Coal Creek Station power plant, which is located northeast of Stanton, and the Spiritwood Station plant near Jamestown, N.D. Great River Energy is the majority owner of Midwest AgEnergy Group which owns and operates two ethanol plants and related facilities in North Dakota. Great River Energy also maintains a number of transmission facilities in the state. "We remain a committed partner in North Dakota's energy industry," Saggau said.

Great River Energy is developing plans to decommission Stanton Station in a responsible manner that will safeguard the local environment and assure the safety and security of the local community. Stanton Station, which began generating power in 1966, has a generating capacity of 189 megawatts.

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

Some things are just the same in every state

I've been contemplating summer in Minnesota compared to summer in Alaska:

- *Tornadoes instead of earthquakes*
- *Lightning in Minnesota, hardly any in Alaska*
- *Road trips with the top down — a rare occasion in Alaska*
- *A need for air conditioning in Minnesota instead of a sweatshirt*
- *Mosquitoes instead of... mosquitoes... just wishing it weren't the same!*

But mosquitoes aren't the only thing the same, some things are the same in every state, like people taking time away from work to vacation and enjoy time with their families. This is a good opportunity to teach your children about safety around electricity.

Electricity is a dynamic power source. We live our lives surrounded by it, but sometimes we forget just how dangerous electricity can be. Many home electrical fires, injuries and electrocutions can be prevented when we understand and practice electrical safety. This is especially true for our youngest co-op members.

Throughout the school year, McLeod Cooperative Power presents programs in area schools to help teach youngsters about electricity. But as your child's first and most important teacher, perhaps it's time to have a talk with your sons and daughters to reinforce those lessons.

Start at an early age teaching them about the physical dangers associated with electrical components and how to handle electrical plugs, outlets, switches and other devices. Keep in mind, talking to your children about electrical safety should also include fun activities and facts about the basics — what is electricity, the need to respect its power and how to use it efficiently as they study, work and play.

As we all know, kids will be kids. Getting them to show interest in some of these lessons won't be easy. Just remember that what your children learn from you today can be a lifesaver later when they encounter potential hazards like downed power lines in their path, playing hide-and-seek behind those big metal electrical boxes in the neighborhood or are tempted to clamber up a utility pole.

Gather your youngsters around the kitchen table or on the front porch — some of the best teachable moments about electrical safety can happen in and around your home. Look around. There are plenty of opportunities to demonstrate safety that are as close as the electrical outlet on your living room wall. For example, show young children how plugs work, and let them know that even if they are curious about the slits of an electrical outlet, nothing else should be placed inside. Each year about 2,400 children end up in the emergency room after suffering injuries caused by inserting objects — paper clips, pens, screws, nails, forks, hair pins, coins and more — into electrical receptacles. That's about seven children a day who sustain injuries ranging from electric shock to burns.

But this isn't the only electrical mishap that impacts youngsters. Our reliance on electronics and gadgets have left both youngsters and their parents at risk when they overcrowd electrical outlets, continue to use frayed wires, place devices near liquids or leave electronics on for long periods of time. Some of the same guidelines McLeod Cooperative Power offers to protect adults also help protect children. We should all set good examples for our youngsters.

Supplement your lessons at home with resources galore; including those provided by McLeod Cooperative Power. The Electrical Safety Foundational International (www.esfi.org) is among the many national organizations offering free kits, videos and interactive online tools that make learning and practicing electrical safety fun for you and your children. And as they grow older, remember to keep teaching them about the power of electricity and how to use it safely.

Update your cell phone number

Many of us are eliminating our land line since so many of us now own a cell phone. If you've decided to do away with your land line, please make your next call to McLeod Power to update your account with your cell phone number. Even if you haven't done away with your land line, we'd sure appreciate your cell phone number, just in case you're traveling and we need to contact you about your service. Call 1-800-494-6272.

Let's enjoy the remainder of summer and remember to consider safety first.

Carrie

McLeod Cooperative Power News

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

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How are your Operation Round Up dollars working in the community?

Above: Crow River Habitat for Humanity received a $500 donation from Operation Round Up. MCPA's Bob Thomes is shown with Crow River Habitat for Humanity's Executive Director Michele Meis in front of the home the group is currently building in Hutchinson.

Left: Kelly Magnuson, Executive Director of Ridgewater College Foundation, accepted a check from the Co-op's Operation RoundUp organization for $1,000, to be used for scholarships for students.

Crow River Habitat for Humanity, Inc. was one of the organizations to receive funding this spring from MCPA's Operation Round Up trust. They received $500 to use on the current project of building a Partner Family home in Hutchinson.

Crow River Habitat's main purpose is to provide simple, decent, affordable housing in McLeod County for those who do not qualify for a loan through conventional sources. In 2016, the goal is to build a new home for the Moreno's, a family of seven people currently living in a two bedroom apartment. The anticipated cost of the home is $154,000. The home will be built with mainly volunteer labor, which helps keep costs down. The home will then be sold at a no-interest, no-profit loan to the Partner Family. The Moreno family hopes to move in before the end of the year, if all construction stays on schedule. This is the 24th home project for the local chapter.

They work one-on-one with each family they build with. Families must meet the need for housing, the ability to pay for housing, and the willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity. By partnering, each recipient family will make a small down payment and provide up to 400 hours of sweat equity. After loan closing, the family will make regular home loan payments to Habitat for Humanity.

Crow River Habitat for Humanity depends upon the businesses and organizations that donate materials, labor and money to the projects. The donation from Operation Round Up is combined with other grants from United Way, Hutchinson Utilities, Hutchinson Community Foundation, St. Anastasia Catholic Church, Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Christ the King of Glencoe, Wells Fargo, Walmart Community, Edina Realty Foundation, Burich Foundation, Thrivent Builds, Thrivent Action Teams, and many other sources. Besides the large foundation grants, Crow River Habitat for Humanity is very dependent on local donations from individuals and businesses. They also raise funds through their Annual Fund Drive, newsletter appeals, Habitat 500 Bike Ride, Hammer & Nails Dinner, music in the park and brat stands, Vineyard United Methodist Church, St. Boniface Church of Stewart, Thrivent Match Dollars and 3M Gives Match.

Chapter executive director Michele Meis was especially grateful to three businesses that partnered on this house project. She said,"Richard Larson Builders donated crews and equipment for the roofing work. They prepared everything so the house was ready to shingle. Goebel Fixtures are completing everything that is wood in the home with employee volunteers. Mosaic Tile is providing the counter tops."

MCPA's Operation Round Up trust also made a $1,000 donation to the Ridgewater College Foundation for student scholarships in the spring of 2016. Scholarship assistance is given to full-time students attending Ridgewater College. Any money donated to the foundation helps meet needs of students trying to pay for their education. To qualify, students must meet academic GPS standards, and be from or reside in MCPA's four-county area.

Ridgewater has approximately 1,750 students attending on the Hutchinson campus and 3,800 students attending on the Willmar campus. Of the 1,000 students that apply for scholarships from the Foundation annually, only 25-30% are selected to receive scholarships due to limited funding. That is why each donation to the Ridgewater Foundation is so important.

Currently the Foundation receives donations from over 500 individuals, businesses, and organizations each year. This has allowed the Foundation to create and manage over 150 different scholarship funds worth over $2.3 million annually — all for the benefit of students and programs. Last year, the Foundation was able to award over $380,000 in scholarships to 322 students. The $1,000 Operation Round Up donation from MCPA members helped extend that funding to a few more students.

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: _____

PLEASE MOVE OVER

Electric utility crews face a multitude of hazards every day. Electricity is one of those hazards and crews understand just how dangerous it is. Electricity, however, is fairly predictable and somewhat controllable when you are professionally trained to work with it. A hazard we can't control is inattentive driving in utility work zones.

McLeod Co-op Power Association (MCPA) employees are working alongside the road every day, including line workers and staking/field technicians. One of the main hazards associated with this work is traffic. As traffic congestion and speed increase, so do the hazards.

MCPA employees take many precautions to mitigate roadside hazards. They use cones, temporary traffic signs, wear high visibility clothing, and turn on flashing warning lights on their vehicles. Still, workers get hurt and killed in construction zones every year due to inattentive driving. Fortunately for us, we have not had a serious injury or death related to this, but we have had close calls.

Line workers have reported drivers hitting traffic cones or speeding up to get around a work zone instead of slowing down to wait their turn. When drivers do this they are putting lives in unnecessary danger. These people working hard to bring safe and reliable electricity to our members are somebody's son, husband, father, and/or friend. Would you want your loved ones in danger of being hit by a vehicle? Of course not!

NOT ONLY IS IT UNSAFE TO DRIVE CARELESSLY NEAR A UTILITY WORK ZONE, IT IS ALSO ILLEGAL. — Minnesota Statute 169.18 Subd. 12(a) states, "When approaching and before passing a freeway service patrol vehicle, road maintenance vehicle, utility company vehicle, or construction vehicle with its warning lights activated that is parked or otherwise stopped on or next to a street or highway having two lanes in the same direction, the driver of a vehicle shall safely move the vehicle to the lane farthest away from the parked or stopped vehicle, if it is possible to do so." If you are unable to move a lane away, you are to reduce your speed and pass with caution.

You also must obey crews utilizing flaggers or signage to control traffic. If you choose to ignore their direction you are again putting lives in danger and facing a petty misdemeanor charge. If you kill or injure someone in a work zone, you may be convicted of a felony.

The next time you see a MCPA vehicle parked along the side of the road, please move over. Nothing will help our employees more than giving them space and a safe zone in which to do their work. They appreciate it and so do their loved ones!

Tanata family members that are involved in the operation are (left to right): Joshua, Angela, & Lizzy, Wendy & John, Adam, Nicole, & Adley, and Anthony & Maria.

Vine Valley Farms, Inc. added this refrigeration building in 2015, which has the convenient loading dock for semis to pick up produce. They also added a packing shed in 2015, where produce is washed, sorted, and packaged.

Vine Valley Farms Inc. provides a viable vocation for a growing family with a variety of vegetables

In the past 25 years, Vine Valley Farms Inc. in rural Stewart has evolved from planting a few vegetables to a family farm corporation that grows more than 175 acres of vegetables and employs four families and 40 part-time seasonal employees.

John Tanata has lived his entire life on the family farm in Boon Lake Township in Renville County. He met his wife, Wendy, in the 1970s when they were both students at Hutchinson Vo-Tech. Together they raised hogs and cows, grew crops and raised three sons and two daughters.

John's brother Tom grew Atlantic Pumpkins on a plot on their farm. His idea for pumpkins gave the family the idea to grow winter squash and sell to the wholesale market. With the demand for a greater variety of vegetables and hours from seasonal employees, the farm expanded into growing summer produce. The family farm became incorporated in 1996.

The Tanata children grew up helping with the vegetable business. Two grown daughters, Sara and Jamie, helped on the farm until they were through college. Sons Joshua, Adam, and Anthony returned to the farm after college. "Being in a cubicle was not their cup of tea," said John. "They all came back to the farm."

Each of the sons use their educational background to assist in the farm operations with degrees in agronomy, horticulture, and business. Joshua selects the seed and manages the field operations. Adam manages the packing shed, where vegetables are washed, sorted and packaged. Anthony is in charge of logistics for the company. "Each son has their own area of responsibility," said John. "It works well that way."

John and Anthony maintain the machinery. John spends most of his summer days on the phone making sales. Wendy is in charge of payroll and bookkeeping. Their sons' wives have played a role in the operation by selling produce at the Hutchinson Farmer's Market.

Today, Vine Valley Farms grows green beans, green-top beets, yellow summer squash, zucchini, cabbage, bell peppers, cucumbers, winter squash, onions, and storage cabbage. Their produce sells under the brand name "Gems of the Valley" and can be found at Cash Wise, Twin Cities grocers including, Lunds, Byerlys and Hy-Vee. They also sell to both wholesale and food

Zucchini, fresh from the field, goes through the wash, sort and size process before being boxed.

service distributors who deliver to restaurants, schools, prisons and some grocery stores. They also sell vegetables, such as cabbage used for sauerkraut, to private parties. One year, Vine Valley's vegetables were shipped to Puerto Rico when produce was in short supply.

Produce from Vine Valley Farm sells under the brand name "Gems of the Valley".

Vine Valley Farms practices sustainable farming in various ways including limiting the pesticides and herbicides applied to the plants. In addition, weed control is managed by crop rotation, cultivating and hoeing. Honeybees also play a vital role in the successful pollination of the vegetables. Every season, several beehives are brought onto the farm.

Until last year, the operation was at the home farm. In 2015, they built a packing shed and refrigerated building with a loading dock at the farm site just north of their homestead. The family repurposed some of the existing buildings for an office and a corncrib was converted into a break room for its employees.

The Tanatas could not plant, cultivate and harvest their crops without the help of about 40 part-time seasonal workers during the busy season. By Thanksgiving it dwindles down to six or so. Many of the same employees come back year after year to work at the farm.

Late April the planting starts and by the July 4th they are harvesting zucchini. Cucumbers, cabbage, green beans, and peppers are on board next. Winter squash, onions and storage cabbage are harvested beginning in September and throughout the fall. Vine Valley spaces out its plantings to accommodate market demand throughout the growing seasons.

Zucchinis are sorted by size and blemished ones are removed. Fancy's, which are the smallest, are sent to grocery stores and medium sizes are sold to food service. Green beans are mechanically harvested. They go through a shaker that separates the small and broken beans from the whole beans. Any bad beans are removed by hand. They are dipped in a chlorinated bath and then put into waxed cartons for shipping.

Produce is then shipped by either two semis from Vine Valley to wholesale distributors in the Twin Cities or other company's trucks such as, Hy-Vee in Iowa, come right to the farm for pick up.

The Tanatas manufacture some of their own equipment to accommodate custom needs and make operations more cost-effective and efficient. John builds some of the harvesting aids and does his own fabrication. John joked that he had never been employed by someone. "I have no references, but I can do almost anything," he said.

Besides the vegetables, the Tanatas still farm regular crops like corn and soybeans. They also raise 200 sheep that they sell for the meat market. The sheep love the waste vegetables that are not good enough to sell. "The sheep are our composting containers," said John. "Feeding the sheep our vegetable scraps is our way of composting."

The Co-op is working with Vine Valley Farms on a rebate for energy efficient LED lighting installed in the new packing shed. The installation of evaporator units with new scroll compressors in the refrigeration building are also being reviewed to see if they qualify for an energy grant.

It is an inspiration to see three generations of a family working together to plant and harvest an ever-growing variety of vegetables.

Electrical substations may be on ‘Pokémon Go’ game app

The Co-op and other electric companies are urging everyone to be cautious when using the new “Pokémon Go” app and to stay away from all electrical facilities.

Pokémon Go uses real-world environments as a base for its gameplay features. That’s why Pokémon Go requires that GPS be enabled in order to work, and that’s a major draw of the game.

The concept allows you to “catch” Pokémon in your own home, your own school, your own cubicle, your own neighborhood -- if you can go there, you can catch a Pokémon there with Pokémon Go. The app has a Google Maps-like view of wherever you are, with landmarks and places of interest highlighted.

The app uses buildings and landmarks as gathering sites for players. The electric cooperatives learned there is discussion that players can catch electric-type Pokémon characters near actual substations and transformers.

Electrical equipment is very dangerous and should not be considered gaming locations. Electric companies urge gamers, customers and the public

to stay away from substations, all power lines and equipment on utility poles and underground electrical facilities commonly identifiable as those green boxes in neighborhood yards. Never attempt to enter substations, go over a fence or climb utility poles to try and reach transformers. Serious injury or death can occur. If someone sees activity where a person is trying to get into a substation or climb an electrical pole, you are encouraged to call 9-1-1 first, and then the Co-op.

Industry News

Environ. Compliance Costs Hit $6.1 Billion

Electric power plant operators have spent at least $6.1 billion and closed a sizable chunk of coal generation to meet new environmental regulations, the Energy Information Administration says. Between January 2015 and April 2016, coal plants that account for 87 gigawatts—about 30 percent of all U.S. generation—installed emissions control equipment, largely to meet the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS). During that time, operators retired another 20 GW of coal.

Overall, coal generation’s portion of the nation’s electricity pie shrunk from 39 percent in 2014 to 28 percent in the first four months of 2016. “These changes can be attributed to a mix of competitive pressure from low natural gas prices and the costs and technical challenges of environmental compliance measures,” EIA said.

Activated carbon injection technology, which cost an average of $5.8 million per generator in 2015 and 2016, was the most popular compliance tool for the MATS rule, EIA said. The process involves injecting carbon into the flue gas duct work of a plant to absorb mercury. Other compliance methods included modifying existing emissions control equipment, adding new equipment or capabilities, or making operational changes.

~Electric Co-op Today

Pennsylvania slashes rooftop solar subsidies

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) just ended the solar subsidy called net metering, and the state legislature isn’t likely to overturn the decision. The state commission found twice that net metering solar subsidies are not in the public interest, as they raise the price of electricity and transfer money from poor people without solar panels to rich people with them.

Net metering policies force utilities to buy electricity produced by rooftop solar panels at retail rates, which means companies can’t cover the fixed costs of operating the electrical grid. Rooftop solar companies such as SolarCity, have pushed these policies as a way to encourage solar power across the country.

The PUC found that forcing up the price of electricity via net metering hurts the poor and ethnic minorities the most, because poor people tend to spend a higher proportion of their incomes on basic needs like groceries, power bills, gasoline, etc. than wealthier people. As essential goods like electricity become more expensive, the cost of producing goods and services that use electricity increases, effectively raising the price of almost everything.

~The Daily Caller

Geothermal tax credit to expire in 2016

The Minnesota Geothermal Heat Pump Association (MNGHPA) is advising consumers that the 30% tax credit for geothermal will be expiring.

Consumers should be aware that the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 (HR 1424) which offers a one-time tax credit of 30% for homeowners who install geothermal heat pumps is set to expire on December 31, 2016.

The expiring tax credit is expected to drive up demand for geothermal this year. There are a limited number of qualified installers and loop contractors in the Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin geothermal market. Consumers should be advised that if demand were to exceed the market's current installation resources, then some systems may not get placed in service before the December 31, 2016 deadline.

The MNGHPA is cautioning consumers to look out for unqualified installers who may enter the market as demand increases. It also recommends that consumers use installers who are already qualified as members of the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association and/or members of their respective statewide ground source heat pump associations.

Back to School Internet Safety

Fall is a good time to fill your family's backpack of online safety.

- Monitor usage for all computers, cell phones, tablets, gaming devices, etc.
- Establish limits for sites your children can visit and for how long.
- Set rules for interacting on social media, messaging and gaming.
- Talk about internet safety.
- Discuss what is considered personal information that should not be given out.
- Be clear on what is appropriate.
- Let kids know who to go to if they do not feel comfortable online, are being bullied, or someone wants to meet them.

June Outage Summary

During June there were 62 outages reported on the Cooperative's system. Lightning was the the leading cause of outages in June, with trees hanging into powerlines and dead trees falling into powerlines the second most frequent cause of outages.

The largest outage was due to a storm rolling through on Sunday, June 12. Power started going out between 7:40 and 9:15 p.m. and covered areas including Hector to Winthrop to Hutchinson. It took 3-4 hours for crews to repair several outages due to the storm. The second largest outage affected 51 members on Saturday, June 18. It started just before 6 p.m. and was a line outage due to failed primary cable, north of Hutchinson. The outage lasted one hour and 38 minutes for most customers.

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.

Office closed Labor Day

McLeod Cooperative Power's office will be closed Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.

Emergency and outage dispatchers are on duty 24 hours a day and can be reached by calling 1-800-927-5685.

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 Aug. 29 to be included in the September issue.

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

- Queen size head board and foot board with frame. 320-420-2649
- Johnson 9.9 outboard motor. $100. 320-587-8778
- Floral mauve/hunter green sofa. Nice for cabin/apt. $100. 320-282-2670
- 12 place china & bowls & platters. 320-587-8749
- Weed Eater weed-whip. Single string. Runs well. $25. 320-583-0907
- Stihl weed-whip twin string. Runs excellent. $70. 320-583-0907
- 2-qt canning jars. B/O. 507-237-5636
- 1956 Singer 99K sewing machine. Sews great! $60. 320-587-0481
- Mid-century sofa and chair. Will sell separately. $60. 320-328-4041
- Antique wooden quilting frame. $15/BO. 320-328-4041
- Iron bed. B/O. 320-328-4041
- 8 aluminum framed screens. 37in wide X 80in long. 320-583-8753
- Antique treadle singer sewing machine. $60. 320-562-2424
- Kirsch vertical blinds. Neutral color, 84in track, 81in length. $75/BO. 952-353-2448
- Oval coffee table, one center drawer. 54in X 21 1/2in. $25/BO. 952-353-2448
- 2011 Yamaha Grizzly 550. Power Steering, rear seat. $5,000. 952-353-2287
- 55 gallon steel drums w/lids. $15. 952-353-2351

For Sale - Farm

- Farm trailer. 2 wheel. $35. 320-587-7746
- 40ft bale elevator. 320-864-4496
- Machine trailer. 320-864-4496
- Storm damaged bins 24ft w/dryer & 36ft. Make offer. 952-353-2287
- Automatic portable roller mill w/blower. Model #ATG-B 1200X4. 507-327-1869

Wanted

- Metal cupulo. Any size. 320-583-3302
- J.D. #5 or #8 hay mower. 507-834-6682
- Ez-go golf cart. Gas engine. 320-583-5388

Giveaway

- Farm kittens. Litter box trained. 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.

5 Heating Options

TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A NEW OR RETROFIT HEATING SYSTEM

Electric plenum heat

Plenum heaters are an economical choice that work well as a retrofit option for off-peak in a propane or fuel oil furnace. They fit in the plenum of the existing furnace. This allows the member to use the most cost-effective heating source at any time. A plenum heater, after installation, will heat the home with cheap off-peak electricity and use a fossil fuel backup only during peak control hours.

Electric cable or hydronic floor heat

Floor heat is a popular option for off-peak due to its comfort. The key is to install the proper heat storage base with sand and slab with complete perimeter insulation. The preferred installation is on the storage heating program, which offers a $50 per kW rebate ($2,000 max) to MCPA

members. Call the energy experts at the Co-op for details and installation instructions prior to purchasing your equipment. Shops, garages and other non-living spaces are not eligible for Dual Fuel, and must be installed on the Storage Heating Program.

Air-source heat pump with modulating plenum heater

Air-source heat pumps transfer heat instead of creating it. ASHPs are very efficient depending upon the outside temperature. They work just like a high-efficiency central air conditioning unit during the summer. During the heating months, the process is reversed, and provides heat to the interior of the home. They are a good off-peak choice because you get very efficient heat until the temperature drops to between 0 and 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Then the modulating plenum heater kicks in and works with the heat pump for extra savings.

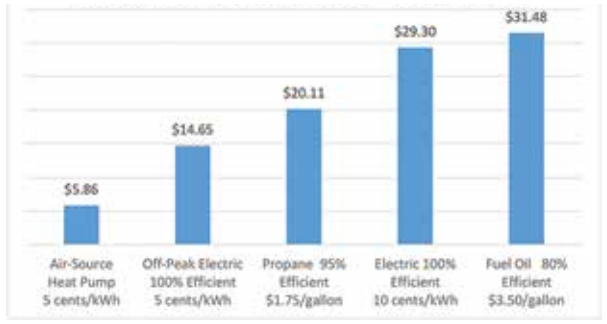
Geothermal heat pumps

Ground-Source heat pumps provide the highest efficiencies for space heating and cooling available today. Geothermal heat pumps use the constant temperature of the earth to transfer heat. Energy efficiency rebates of up to $400 per ton ($2,000 max) are available this year.

Steffes Thermal Storage with air-source heat pump

A Steffes electric thermal storage system is a stand-alone off-peak heating system that eliminates the need for fossil fuel backup when sized properly. Coupled with an air-source heat pump, a Steffes system will deliver great energy savings and high efficiency. Steffes systems convert electricity into heat and store that heat in specially-designed bricks. Because of its large heat storage capacity, it can provide comfort 24 hours per day. Rebates of $50 per kW ($2,000 max). Forced air and hydronic central furnaces are available, as well as room storage units.

Price difference in heating fuels per million BTUs of heat



Rebate program for 2016

Electric Storage Water Heating* $400

Electric Storage Space Heating**$50/kW

Air Source Heat Pump

- 14.5 SEER $480
- 15 SEER $580
- 16 SEER or higher $630

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

- Delivered Fuels $300
- Primary Electric Heat $500

Ground Source Heat Pumps (controlled or uncontrolled) $400/ton

ECM (fan motor) $100

Recycling of Old Refrigerator or Freezer
with documented proof of recycling $75

LED Yard Light $60

ENERGY STAR Swimming Pool

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

ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier ..... $ 25

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

**** ETS space heating rebate is exempt from $2,000 per member maximum rebate limit.**

There is a $2,000 maximum rebate per member per year. Only Storage Space Heating rebate is not included in the $2,000 cap. Rebates are always on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly. Rebate forms are available for download from the Co-op's website. Air source heat pump rebate forms should be completed by installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency heat pumps will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the hvacreducation.net web site. A list of all "registered" contractors in Minnesota is on our cooperative web site at www.mcleodcoop.com. There will be no rebates on central air conditioners in 2016. 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 December 20, 2016 to be eligible for rebate.

Photo of Minnesota's youth tour delegation at the nation's capitol building.

Group of students from Minnesota meeting Senator Al Franken. Elli Gifferson is the first student to the left of Senator Franken. She spent a week in Washington D.C. in June representing MCPA on the NRECA Youth Tour.

Three students from Minnesota looking at an exhibit while visiting the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

To: McLeod Co-op Power members

From: Elli Gifferson, Washington D.C. Youth Tour representative

Message: Thank you for sending me on 2016 Youth Tour

Novelist and Professor Anita Desai once stated, "Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow." After having visited our nation's capital through the Rural Electric Youth Tour, I can personally vouch for Professor Desai's statement.

I am so thankful to all of the members of the McLeod Cooperative Power Association for having provided me with this amazing opportunity. I am truly honored to have represented them as a delegate on the Youth Tour, and I will carry the experience with me forever. Specifically, I will remember all of the incredible people that I met and all of the fascinating information that I learned. Some of my favorite parts of the Youth Tour were visiting the Newseum (a museum about the news) as well as seeing the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights at the National Archives Museum. In addition, I also enjoyed expanding my knowledge of cooperatives. While on the Youth Tour, I learned about the seven cooperative principles, the different types of cooperatives, and the important role of a cooperative in the community as it provides support and commitment through its services.

Therefore, the Rural Electric Youth Tour has, in fact, become a part of me. The tour allowed me to enhance my own understanding of the American government system, American history, and the history and functions of a cooperative. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity of a lifetime, and again, I thank everyone whom made it possible.

Yearly Operating Cost of Refrigerators Old and New

Manufacturers have steadily improved the energy efficiency of refrigerators, due mainly to government requirements and energy labeling to help buyers. Here at RERC, we've done some number crunching to list a refrigerator's approximate kilowatt-hour usage annually according to its age and style.

The table below makes use of an on-line calculator provided by the Dept. of Energy. It allows users to input their local electric rate (we used 11¢), then select the type and model size that matches theirs. Comparing the energy appetite of very old "energy hogs" to new models certainly drives home the savings potential.

Beyond size, age and style, consumers need to know there are factors within each household that greatly affect a refrigerator's energy consumption. A big one is the number of times the door is opened, and how long it stays open. Refrigerators which have through-the-door ice and water dispensers reduce the number of door openings, so this feature cuts energy use.

This table is also an eye-opener for customers who keep a vintage refrigerator plugged-in for added food storage. Is that 30-year-old unit in the garage really worth its $280 operating cost? Also note that energy use will jump during hot weather for refrigerators located in unconditioned spaces. Tests show a refrigerator will use 80 to 90% more electricity when the surrounding temperature is 90 °F versus 70 °F.

Of the 160 million refrigerators in the U.S. about 60 million are over 10 years old.

But for normal household conditions, the *Refrigerator Retirement Energy Calculator* we used to create this table offers reasonably accurate estimates. It can be found by typing its title in the search box at www.EnergyStar.gov.

Since EnergyStar rated refrigerators have even lower operating costs than the newest units shown below, the calculator provides this amount too. Spending a little more for an EnergyStar model is easily justified, particularly when it replaces a refrigerator that's over 10 years old.

Annual Operating Cost, Average Size Refrigerators
Using electricity rate of 11¢ per kilowatt-hour

Year of Manufacture: ↓	 Freezer on Top	 Side-by-Side	  Freezer-on-Bottom or French
Before 1980	$281	$365	$326
1980 through 1989	$222	$289	$258
1990 through 1992	$169	$220	$196
1993 through 2000	$113	$146	$122
2001 through 2010	$84	$94	$84
2011 through 2015	$59	$73	$59

Each refrigerator has an assumed size (capacity range) between 19.0 and 21.4 cubic feet. Source: EnergyStar

Courtesy of Rural Electricity Resource Council