

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

January 2018

Charging your phone for a year

50¢

Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

Satisfaction Survey will be in bill you receive in January. We really want your input!

You could win one of five \$100 electric bill credits.

M cLeod Co-op Power would like to know how it can meet your needs and serve you better. A satisfaction survey will be coming your way in January.

All MCPA members will receive a survey in their electric bill in mid-January. Please fill out the survey form. Seal it and put it in the mail. It is a postage-paid mailer and will go right to the company tabulating the surveys for us.

With many land lines no longer being used, it is important for the Co-op to have correct contact information for members. Each member who provides their name, e-mail, and active cell/home phone numbers will be entered in the drawing for five \$100 electric bill credits.

This survey provides important information to the Cooperative. It shows us how satisfied you are with your rates and service compared to previous years. It shows us where improvement may be needed. It gives you an opportunity to tell us what additional services you would like the Co-op to offer.



Rate change notice

The System Delivery Charge (previously called fixed charge) will be increasing February 1, 2018. There will also be a change to the Load Management Rate. The board-approved changes were explained in the December 2017 issue of the Cooperative newsletter. A recap of why the changes are being made is also on page 3 of this issue.

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Official publication of



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

A look back at what was accomplished in 2017

Happy New Year! Do you have a resolution for the new year? Many people do and many people are quite successful at keeping their resolution throughout the year rather than for the first few weeks in January—like yours truly!

This year I'm going to try something different. A wise colleague at Great River Energy, our power provider, selects a "word" for the year. Just one word to remain mindful of throughout the year. As of this writing, I am considering both Improve and Prioritize. I'm leaning toward Improve because in my mind we did a good job of prioritizing in 2017. Challenging our organization toward improved performance is a constant theme at McLeod Co-op Power but setting it as a resolution for 2018 creates an even better framework to be mindful to improve our performance every day, even if only by a little bit. Those small improvements add up to impactful betterments.

Thank you for listening, I have settled on "Improve" for our Co-op's 2018 Resolution!

So, if "Improve" is the word for 2018, then, in retrospect, "Prioritize" might well define 2017. I thought you might like to see some priorities and highlights from 2017.

- **Safety** - Throughout 2017 the Safety Committee continued revising MREA's Safe Work Practices to fit our own needs. The Safe Work Practices are a condensed version of safety intended to replace the unwieldy full safety manual, making it a more user-friendly document.
- **Outages** - Through November 2017 our average outage time per customer of 150.13 minutes was just slightly lower than those for the same period in 2016 of 155.34 minutes. The main cause of 2017 outages related to transmission lines, trees, and wind, in that order. Those statistics support prioritizing our aggressive

tree clearing policy which was very successful in 2017 and will continue into 2018.

- **Construction Work Plan** - We made good progress on major projects of converting overhead distribution under-built on transmission lines to underground service. The 2016 wet soil conditions required deferring projects into 2017, creating a situation of accomplishing two years of projects in 2017. We took advantage of a window of good weather to almost complete the backlog of projects in 2017. To be finalized in 2018, the projects include the 10.8-mile east and north circuits of the Winthrop Substation, the 2-mile Hwy 7 three phase line in southern Hutchinson Township, and the 7.1-mile Hwy 15 three phase south out of Bell Substation in Hassan Valley and western Sumter Townships. This means greater reliability for our members and less chance of a storm taking down overhead lines that were on transmission poles.
- **Refinanced Loans** - We refinanced \$725,000 of loans from RUS to CFC. The interest rate on the loans dropped from about 5 percent to about 3.5 percent for an initial annual savings of \$10,875.
- **Facilities** - Our Facilities Committee worked with an architect and contractor to develop a Master Facilities Plan for our aging headquarters and garage.
- **Diversified Services** - The Board approved a new line of business of selling turnkey generators. The line of business offers a program that utilizes 10kW-200kW automatic generators made by Briggs & Stratton. The program was very popular with members and had solid first year sales.
- **Local Control** - In August 2017, we adopted Local Control for Co-ops, which gives the Board, rather than the Public Utilities Commission, the final authority for allowing Distributed Generation installations by members.



- **Social Media** - We entered the social media world when we launched our Facebook site in September. We encourage you to "like" us and enjoy our occasional posts.
- **Cooperation among Cooperatives** - Two of our linemen volunteered to participate in Hurricane Irma (Florida) power restoration.
- **Website** - The update went live on October 9. The redesigned site is more user friendly, displays better on mobile devices, is ADA compliant, and allows us more editing capabilities than our previous version.
- **Community Participation** - In November, the Board approved a \$160,000 Economic Development Loan to the Buffalo Lake Economic Development Authority for GAP financing to assist with the purchase of a new building which is being constructed in Buffalo Lake to house the Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Learning Center. It will provide daycare and after school care for 60 children. It's important to note we have exhausted our available loan funds with this loan, which was precisely the goal. Our Strategic Plan emphasizes community development through economic development loans.

The above highlights were certainly not everything we accomplished in 2017 but they were all prioritized to advance our strategic plan.

We are proud of our 2017 accomplishments due to the exemplary efforts of a dedicated group of employees and directors. In 2018, we resolve to improve upon those efforts because you, our member/owners, should expect nothing less.

Proud to keep your lights on,
Carrie

Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 16

Cooperative members residing in Districts 4, 5, or 6 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2018 director election in their district. To have another name, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, on the ballot, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 16, 2018.

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

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

District 5 includes: Lynn and Acoma Townships in McLeod County, and Ellsworth Township in Meeker County.

District 6 includes: New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, and Dryden Townships in Sibley County, and Penn Township in McLeod County.

Board of Directors

- District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier, 320-485-2554**
Hollywood Twp. in Carver Co., Winsted Twp. in McLeod Co., Victor, Woodland, & Franklin Twps. in Wright Co.
- District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President, 320-779-1101**
Hassan Valley, Sumter & Rich Valley Twps. in McLeod Co.
- District 3 - David Resch, 952-449-1793**
Bergen, Helen, & Glencoe Twps. in McLeod Co.
- District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer, dkirtz@mcleodcoop.com**
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, 320-587-9134**
Lynn & Acoma Twps. in McLeod Co. & Ellsworth Twp. in Meeker Co.

- District 6 - Gary Burdorf, 507-964-5815**
Penn Twp. in McLeod Co, New Auburn, Green Isle, Dryden & Arlington Twps. in Sibley Co.
- District 7 - Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative, rhlavka@mcleodcoop.com**
Hutchinson & Hale Twps. in McLeod Co., Collinwood Twp. in Meeker Co.
- District 8 - Keith Peterson, President, kpeterson@mcleodcoop.com**
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, 952-353-2153**
Watertown, Camden, & Young America Twps. in Carver County

McLeod Cooperative Power News

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The McLeod Cooperative Power News is the official member publication of McLeod Coop Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events.

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

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Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

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

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

Director candidates sought for 2018 elections

Districts 4, 5, & 6 have upcoming director elections in 2018. Members residing in one of these districts, who are interested in being a director candidate, should complete a director application form and turn it into the Co-op by January 16. Forms were in the November and December newsletters and are available at the Co-op office.

It is the job of the Nominating Committee to select the two names to appear on the ballot in each district. Additional members may also be candidates using the Nomination By Petition process which is explained in this newsletter. Member involvement is an important part of the democratic process. And cooperative organizations being controlled by their members is one of the things that makes cooperatives unique.

System delivery charge to increase February 1 to protect the integrity and financial stability of MCPA

We work every day to keep McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) financially strong on behalf of all members, while upholding our commitment to safely provide reliable electricity.

As a non-profit co-op, our rates are structured to collect what we need to meet our financial obligations and to reliably serve our widespread geographic area. Our System Delivery Charge (fixed charge) helps recover the cost of bringing basic service to your home, farm, or business. By increasing this standard charge beginning February 1, 2018, it will make the Co-op less vulnerable to drops in kWh sales due to weather. An unusually mild winter or cool summer may result in lower energy use for consumers but it can also mean insufficient kWh revenue for the Co-op to pay its own bills. Increasing the System Delivery Charge will help stabilize incoming revenue and also recover a greater percentage of the actual cost of bringing basic service to each member's location.

For members on the Single-Phase Farm & Residential Rate, the current \$33.50 charge will increase to \$36.00. Three-Phase will increase from \$52.50 to \$56.00. It will

first appear on bills in mid-March for February usage. MCPA's System Delivery Charge is in the mid-range for co-ops that purchase power from Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier.

The only change to energy rates will be the Load Management (off-peak) Rate. It will increase from \$0.0588 to \$0.0612. This rate has historically been 50 percent of the general service rate, and it will continue to be 50 percent less than the regular rate. The charge for off-peak kWh had not been increased as frequently as the other rates. This slight increase was necessary as load management rates from our power supplier for dual fuel, storage programs, and cycled cooling have been increasing annually.

MCPA regularly updates its cost-of-service study. This is done by an independent engineering and rate consulting firm to analyze what it costs MCPA to serve each member class, whether residential or commercial, and guide us in protecting the integrity and financial stability of your cooperative. It is our goal to be fair and equitable to each rate class.

A device to give seniors at home greater independence



Do you worry about mom or dad living alone?

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

The pendant allows them to work outside in the garden or go to the mailbox, and still summon help if they need it. Emergency pendants are reasonably priced and make a perfect gift. Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-MCPA for more information.

Get your 2018 scenic calendar



A few 2018 scenic calendars are still available at McLeod Co-op Power. If a Co-op member would like one, we encourage you to stop by the office at 1231 Ford Ave. N. in Glencoe to get one while the supply lasts. They have beautiful scenic (mostly Minnesota) photos.

Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



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

Application forms are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 or on the Co-op website www.mcleodcoop.com. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2018.



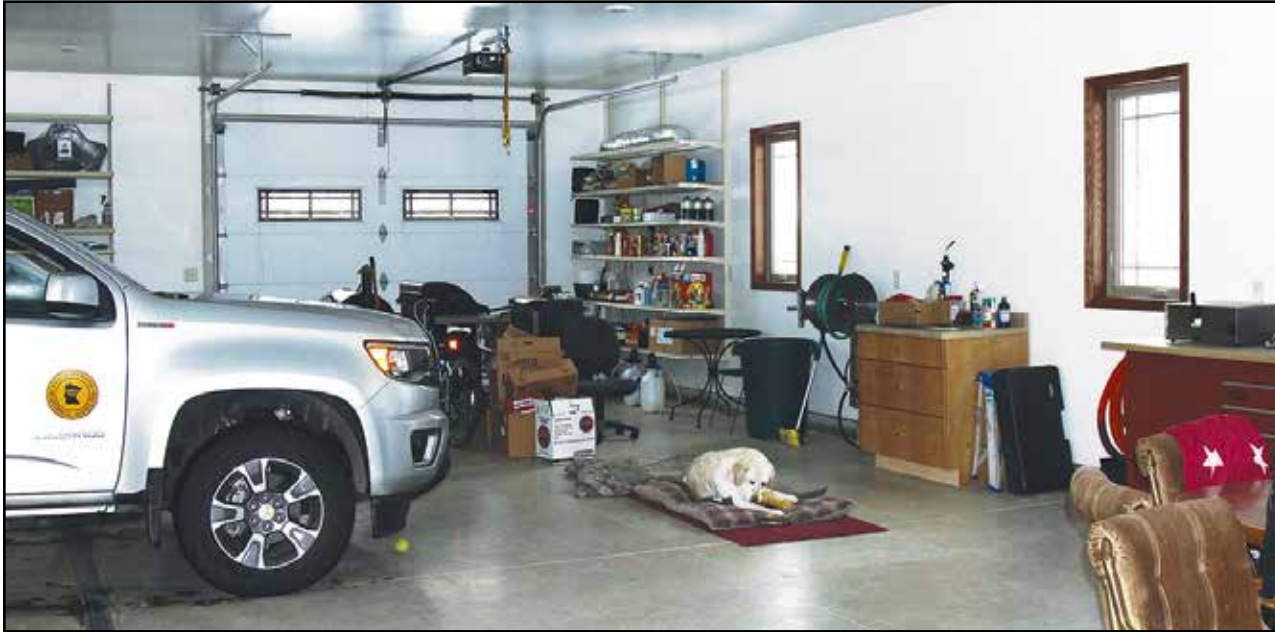
Time for high school juniors and seniors to apply

High school juniors and seniors have until March 2, 2018 to apply for the Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour competition. One local youth will win an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 9-14, 2018 from the Cooperative.

For over 40 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour by sending their high school students to experience first hand, the essence that is

our republic. An information packet is available on the Co-op website www.mcleodcoop.com. Click on ABOUT US tab and then YOUTH PROGRAMS tab. You will have until March 2, 2018 to submit your application. Students complete a questionnaire and application to qualify. Please encourage your child or grandchild to apply. They need only attend a high school in or reside in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or western Carver County.

State electrical inspector chooses new heating technology



This 30x50 foot garage floor is heated with new air source heat pump water heater technology that is in beta testing.

Jeff Bute was an electrical contractor, owning Jeff's Electric in Hutchinson for 20 years before becoming a State Electrical Inspector. He's always been a fan of clean, efficient electric heat. So it's no surprise that when he and his wife Kimberly, CPA and partner at Hanson, Piehl and Beckman, built a home in 2015, he wanted an all-electric heating system.

"I didn't want to do geo thermal," Jeff said, "because it's too expensive. But I wanted something energy efficient."

So the couple opted to heat and cool their home with one unit; an air source heat pump, which provides heating at efficiencies up to 200 percent and cooling during the summer at efficiencies of up to 300 percent.

"I added a plenum heater from Electro Industries to supplement the heat pump when outside temperatures are below 0 degrees. Otherwise the heat pump is the main source of heat for the home."

Jeff enrolled his system on the Co-op's dual fuel program, which allows the Bute's to heat and cool their home with a very low electric rate. During times of peak energy use, the Co-op "controls" or turns off the primary electric heating system (their air source heat pump), and an automatic back-up heating unit switches on to provide heat during the peak. In the Bute home, a propane furnace was installed as the back-up. Because of the efficiency and low electric rate, the Butes are able to save a substantial amount each year heating and cooling their home.

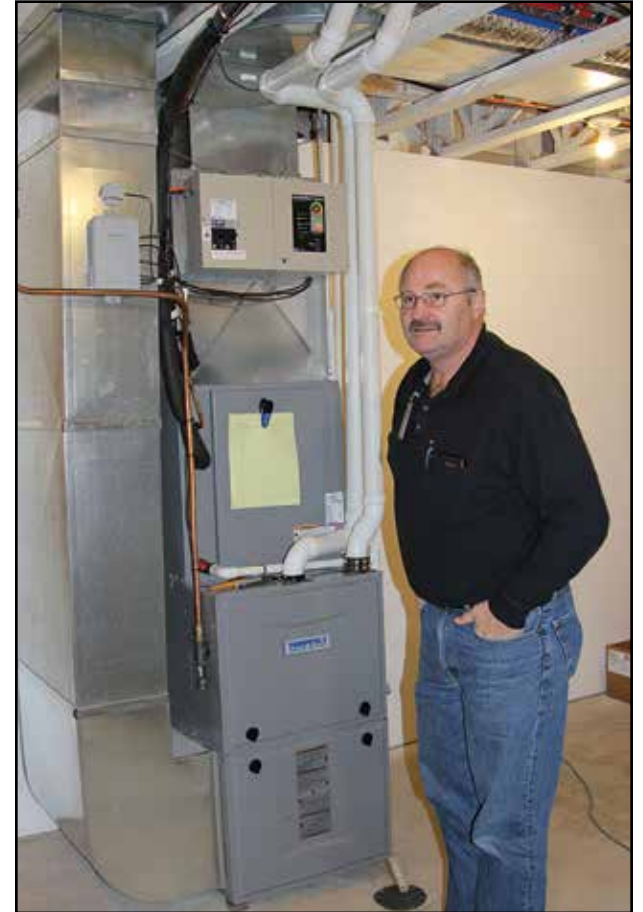


The heat pump water heater units that sit indoors and the tubing that circulates warm water to heat garage floors to entire homes. This new system offers efficiencies up to 300 percent.

In-floor heat provided by brand new technology

Jeff and Kim wanted in-floor heat in the lower level of their home as well as in their 30x50 foot garage. That meant looking at installing a boiler to heat the water that would flow through tubing installed under the cement floor. In-floor heat is even, comfortable and can be zoned for greater control. There are not hot spots or drafts and is becoming more popular with homeowners looking for comfort. Now this type of heat can be just as efficient as an air source heat pump, while providing the comfort.

While an electric boiler is 100 percent efficient, McLeod Co-op Power Energy



Jeff Bute heats his home with a dual fuel system that includes an air source heat pump, a plenum heater and propane furnace as a backup during times of peak control.

Management Technician Shannon Jerabek suggested that the Butes consider an experimental unit that was much more efficient.

"Electro Industries was looking for homeowners to do a beta test of the NorAire Heat Pump system," Jerabek said. They had certain criteria they wanted met and were looking for someone that could monitor the system, so I thought Jeff fit the criteria and suggested that they consider it.

A NorAire® Heat Pump Boiler takes advantage of the same super efficient air source heat pump technology used in the rest of the house, but instead of space heating, it's used to heat the water that is circulated to heat the floors. This raised the efficiency level from 100 percent for a traditional electric boiler to as much as 332 percent. The efficiency of the system is due in part to its technology — it transfers heat from the outside into the boiler, rather than creating heat, like a regular boiler. For people who want the efficiency of a heat pump but also want warm floors, this is ideal. For those that want to heat their homes through in-floor heat on all levels of the home may now do so with much greater efficiencies than by using a regular 100 percent efficient boiler.

Transportation sector the largest polluter in 2017

For the first time in 40 years, power plants are no longer the biggest source of U.S. greenhouse gas pollution. That dubious distinction now belongs to the transport sector: cars, trucks, planes, trains and boats.

The big reversal didn't happen because transportation emissions have been increasing. In fact, since 2000 the U.S. has experienced the flattest stretch of transportation-related pollution in modern record keeping, according to data compiled by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The big change has come from the cleanup of America's electric grid.

Electricity use in the U.S. hasn't declined much in the last decade, but it's being generated from cleaner sources. Coal power has declined by more than a third in the last decade, according to the EIA, while cleaner natural gas has soared more than 60 percent. Wind and solar power are also increasingly sucking the greenhouse gases out of U.S. electricity production.

The transportation sector is also entering a critical period of reformation. Cars are becoming more efficient under aggressive pollution rules passed under President Barack Obama, but that's so far been offset by an ever-rising American appetite for SUVs, crossovers and pickup trucks. Even the nation's clean-air policies could soon change. The Trump administration is considering rolling back the toughest fuel-efficiency standards, which are set to take effect in the early 2020s.

-Bloomberg

California tells electric companies to shape up

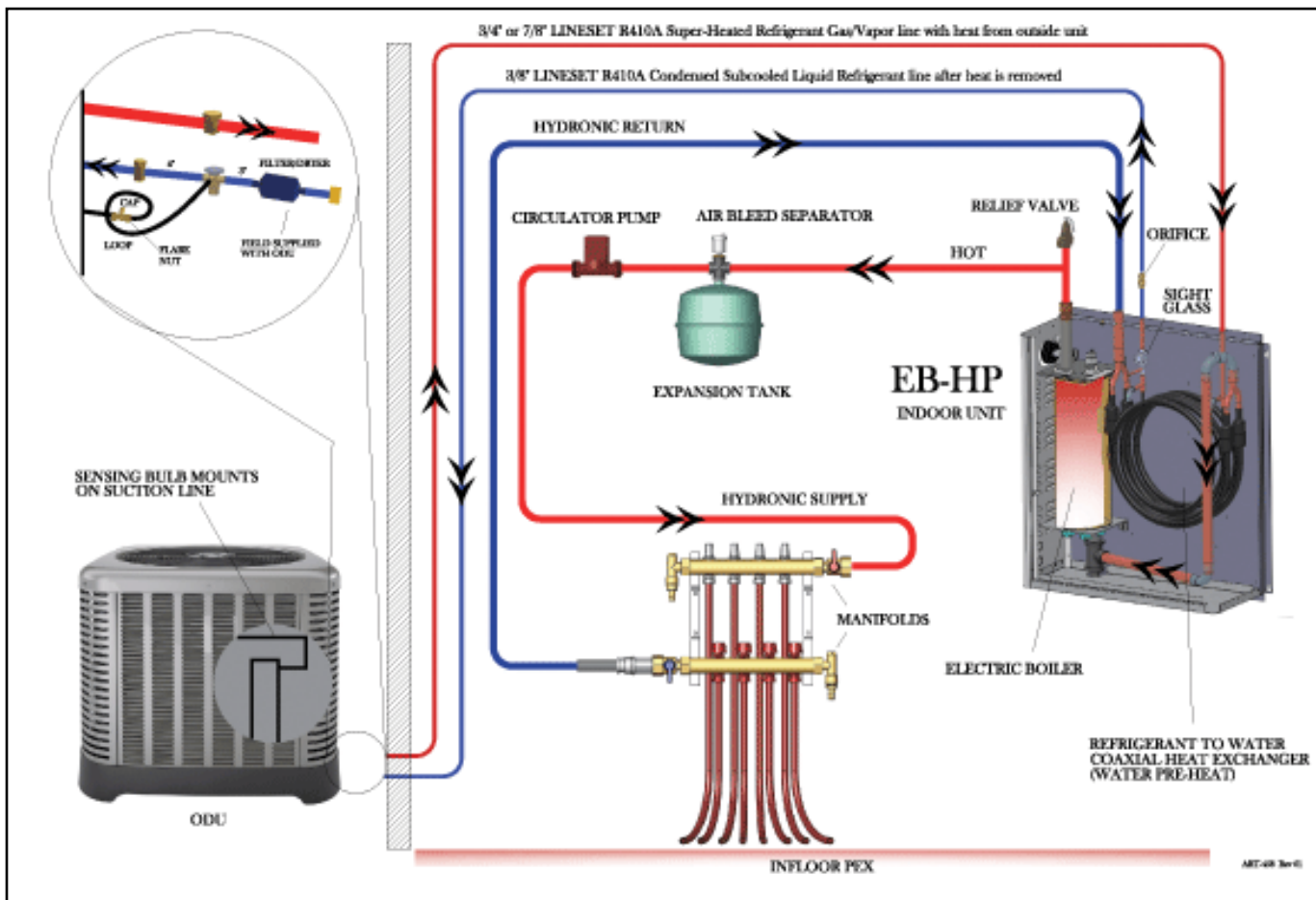
With recent wildfires in Southern California, and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. facing scrutiny over the October wine country fires, state regulators ordered electric utilities to do a better job of keeping tree limbs and other vegetation away from power lines.

The Public Utilities Commission adopted regulations requiring major utilities to reduce wildfire risk by taking better care of their transmission lines. Cal Fire and the PUC are investigating whether PG&E's power lines were a contributing factor in the wine country fires, which killed 44 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Regulators directed utilities to increase the "clearances between vegetation and power lines" in high-risk zones. Those areas cover 70,000 square miles, or 44 percent of California's land. Utilities were also given broader authority to disconnect customers who refuse to allow crews to come onto their property to remove trees that pose a fire risk.

Utilities are under increasing pressure to deal with wildfire hazards. PG&E has already been sued multiple times by victims of the October fires, and has warned investors that claims for wildfire damage could reach several hundred million dollars. PG&E has also said its losses from the 2015 Butte Fire, which burned 71,000 acres and killed two people in Calaveras and Amador counties, would surpass \$750 million.

~The Sacramento Bee



Using super efficient heat pump technology, members can have the option of in-floor heat that is up to three times more efficient than a standard boiler.

During periods of extreme low temperatures outside, the system will call for an electric assist, much like a plenum heater supplements the traditional air source heat pump during frigid temperatures.

The Butes put the in-floor heat on energy management as well, so during times of peak electric use, the system is temporarily controlled. In exchange, they are able to take advantage of the Co-op's low energy management electric rate.

"During peak energy use when the system is controlled, the concrete continues to stay warm for a long time, so there's really no need for any back-up heat for the floors," Jeff said.

"This type of system has a lot of potential," said Jerabek. "The up-front cost may turn away some people, but the operating cost is phenomenal."

As a contractor and business owner, Jeff is always thinking ahead. In addition to his dual fuel system, which allows him to use whichever system is the least expensive to operate, he also had a generator installed into his electrical system should they ever lose power. In that case, the 20 kW generator would provide enough electricity to run the general service.

"I've always had a generator around for emergencies, but never have installed an automatic unit. But when you build a home and spend this kind of money, I just thought it was a good idea and good for resale value. As an electrical contractor we'd always do work around homes and businesses when they were selling



One air source heat pump water heater unit heats the lower level floor and one heats the garage floor.

them and they would have us install generators for resale, and I would tell them, 'Well, if you had done this five years ago you would have gotten some benefit out of it, too, instead of giving all the benefit to the next guy.'"

"I've been satisfied with the system," Jeff said. I would recommend it to someone else if they asked me."

Due to the many package options, residential needs and homeowner expectations, a discussion with the Co-op or qualified HVAC installer is required.

If you're planning to build a home in 2018 and this type of system is of interest to you, additional detailed information is also available at Electro Industries at their website: electromn.com

November 2017 Outage Summary

During the month of November the Cooperative had a total of 55 outages, affecting 283 consumers. The largest number of outages (21) were planned due to service rebuilds and construction work on the system. The Co-op attempts to notify consumers in advance of these outages. The second most frequent cause of outages in November was a tie between squirrels and customer-caused outages at six each.

The outage affecting the most consumers was on November 11 about 2 p.m. when a consumer was cutting down a tree and it fell through a power line, causing an outage for 49 accounts north of

Hutchinson. The outage lasted for one hour and 41 minutes. The second largest outage was November 26 at 6:50 p.m. near New Auburn. Forty members were without power for just over two hours. Cause of outage was unknown.

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.

Power Line Worker Scholarship Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2018-19 school term, may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award one \$500 scholarship for a local student.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County or are a resident of one of those four counties, and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply. Applications and informative career brochures are available on the Co-op website www.mcleodcoop.com or by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 13, 2018.

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 January 28 to be included in the February 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

- 55 gallon steel drum w/removable tops. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- Pickup tool box. 320-864-4496
- 1 ton chain hoist. 320-864-4496
- Pipe vise on stand. 320-864-4496
- New Faribo woolen blanket, white block, red/yellow stripe. 952-955-1195
- Arctic Cat Purple powerlube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
- Used lumber 2in X 4in X 12ft, 2in X 6in X 12ft. 320-587-7746
- Kids playhouse/school bus shelter. 320-582-1534
- Yale forklift 5000lb lift. 320-582-1534

For Sale Farm

- 6ft Wayne's tile plow. 320-582-1534
- Round bales of hay. 320-582-1534
- Round bales for bedding. 320-582-1534
- 2 - 225 bushel gravity boxes. 320-582-1534

- Tractor cab for IHC tractor. 320-582-1534
- Schwartz snow bucket. 320-582-1534
- Detroit 353 motor. 320-582-1534
- JD dummy head. 320-522-2167
- NH bale thrower. 320-522-2167
- Sickle mower mtd. 320-522-2167
- 1950 JD B w/twin cylinder loader and snow bucket. 320-562-2521
- Loftness 10821G snowblower/1000rpm pto/HD 9ft/dbl auger. 507-964-5683
- John Deere model 235 24ft disk. 320-583-3302
- 18ft Lindsay pony drag. 507-647-5445
- Gehl silage box parts. 507-647-5445

Wanted

- 70-80 Chevy trucks running or not. 320-510-0993
- Gravity box 200 to 400 bushels. 320-583-3302

Give Away

- Cats. 320-587-7746

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.

Marathon — Hot Water For Life.



For many people the demands of work and family leave little time for leisure. With busy lives, who has time to deal with a water heater that needs frequent attention and replacement? Today, when people look for reliability and durability — they choose Marathon water heaters.

 **Marathon**
 WATER HEATERS

Rebate program rolled out for 2018

Most of the rebates from 2017 are continuing into the New Year. A few of the rebate amounts have been adjusted. ENERGY STAR rated dryers will qualify for a \$25 rebate. ENERGY STAR rated LED light bulbs will be at \$2 maximum per bulb. ECMs or electrically commutated furnace fan motors will qualify for a rebate of \$50 in 2018. These are lower rebates than last year.

The refrigerators or freezers that are recycled without the purchase of a new unit, are required to be operating and must be units removed from properties served by MCPA. Documentation of recycling is required. The purpose of this rebate is to remove old working units that consume a lot more kWh than newer units from service.

Rebate forms for most appliances are available for download at www.mcleodcoop.com. If you do not have internet access just call the Co-op and we will mail you a rebate form.

Please read all requirements on each rebate form. Certain rebates have limited quantities or they require the appliance to be ENERGY STAR or DLC approved. All rebates are on a first come, first serve basis. A \$2,000 maximum annual cap per member applies to all rebates except storage space heat.

Call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272 or 320-864-3148 if you have any questions on the rebates for 2018.

LED yard lights now for sale at the Cooperative office

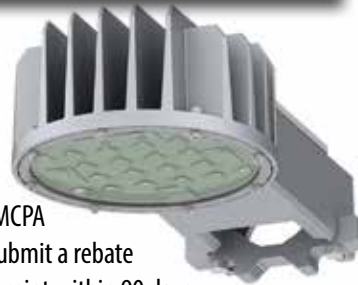
LED yard lights are available for any member to purchase. The 50 watt yard light is for members who want to have their own private yard light that can be wired from the member's secondary service. The light fixture must be mounted on a member's own building or facilities. It cannot be mounted on a Co-op power pole.

Each fixture is a long lasting, low maintenance, highly efficient replacement for existing 100/150/175W high pressure sodium, metal halide and mercury vapor security lights. The light utilizes an all-aluminum housing for maximum heat transfer and durability. Fixture has a rugged construction. It is a 3-wire UL listed light fixture. The light sells for \$175.00 plus sales tax and a mounting arm can also be purchased for \$20.00 plus sales tax.

These lights qualify for a \$60 high efficiency rebate from the Co-op.

To receive the rebate the light must be installed on a location served by MCPA and the member must submit a rebate form and copy of sales receipt within 90 days of purchase. Members may download a rebate form from the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com or call the office 1-800-494-6272 to get a form sent out by mail.

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



Replace your old water heater before it springs a leak or stops working

Lower your monthly bill and get a \$400 rebate

Are you considering a switch to the storage water heating program? Now may be a good time to take action. The Co-op has water heaters in stock. There is a \$400 rebate currently available when installing a new high-efficiency, large water heater on the ETS (electric thermal storage) water heating program. If you have been wondering how you can reduce your monthly electric bill, the Water Storage Program (with or without the Cycled Air Conditioning Program) can save you hundreds of dollars a year.

Over 1,350 members participate in the program. The Co-op has a satisfaction guarantee on the program. Interest-free financing of water heater is available to any member with good payment history. Payment by check or credit card are also accepted.

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

Plus you get:

- a more efficient water heater
- with a lifetime warranty against leaking
- \$400 ETS rebate
- ETS program has satisfaction guarantee



High-Efficiency Appliance Rebates for 2018

Dehumidifiers	\$25
Dryers	\$25
Refrigerators & Freezer (Max of 2/year)	
Refrigerator harvest	\$75
Refrigerator w/recycling	\$75
Freezer Harvest	\$75
Freezer with recycling	\$75
AC Tune Up	\$25
Ductless ASHP	
Delivered Fuels	\$300
Primary Electric heat	\$500
ECM	\$50
GSHP (\$/ton)	\$400
QI ASHP	
SEER 14.5	\$480
SEER 15	\$580
SEER 16	\$630
ETS Space Heat - per kW	\$50
ETS Water Heating	
100 gallon minimum capacity	\$400
Heat Pump Water Heater	
50 gallon minimum capacity	\$500
Swim Pool ASHP	\$400
Pool Variable Speed Pump	\$200
LED Light Bulbs	\$2
LED Yard Light	\$60
Electric Vehicle & Chargewise	\$500

This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial 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 on the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com. 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 hvacaducation.net website. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on www.mcleodcoop.com website. There are no rebates for central air conditioners. The Co-op encourages any member replacing a 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. Rebate for recycled refrigerator or freezer must be for removal of old but still operating unit from location served by MCPA, and recycling documentation required.

Monthly cost to operate outdoor heated pet appliances



When winter arrives, electric bills often rise. When trying to figure out what has caused an increase in the electric bill, remember to add in any extra winter appliances to keep your furry friends warm or give your livestock or feathered friends access to drinking water. Sometimes we forget about these pet appliances that add to the cost of the monthly electric bill. See guide on this page to show monthly dollar cost to operate the most common winter appliances for pets. Calculations are based on 10 hours per day or 24 hours per day, depending upon if it is only plugged in for pets



while you are away at work or if you leave the appliance plugged in all the time. Unplugging a heating device when it is not needed is the best way to keep energy bills low.

This chart shows appliances used *outside* or in unheated buildings. Low-wattage pet beds or mats used *inside* a heated home are rated as low as 6 watts and consume only 54 cents when used continuously all month. Outdoor mats need to be much higher wattage and result in higher energy use. Another low-energy option for indoors is the microwavable pet bed warmer. You heat it up in the microwave and it stays warm for 12 hours.

The best ways to reduce the cost of operating a stock tank heater is to insulate around the outside of the tank and cover a portion of the top. A



thermostatic control that allows the heater to kick on only below a certain temperature will consume less energy.

Correctly sizing the underwater de-icing heater to match the size of the tank is also important. It is recommended that a 1,500-watt heater be used in a 100-300 gallon tank, a 1,000-watt heater in a 70-100 gallon tank, and a 500-watt heater in less than a 70 gallon water tank.

Appliance	Power Rating	COST PER MONTH (10 hours/day)	COST PER MONTH (24 hours/day)
Small-medium outdoor pet bed	20w-40w	\$.74-\$1.49	\$1.78-\$3.57
Large heated dog mat	60w-80w	\$2.22-\$2.98	\$5.34-\$7.18
32 oz. water bowl	12w	\$.45	\$1.07
1.5 gallon water bowl	25w	\$.93	\$2.23
Multi kitty barn/house	25w	\$.93	\$2.23
Space Heater in garage or shed	1500w	\$55.80	\$133.92
Bird bath de-icer	50w	\$1.86	\$4.46
Bird bath de-icer	150w	\$5.58	\$13.39
Small bird bath	70w	\$2.60	\$6.25
20" pedestal bird bath	150w	\$5.58	\$13.39
Brooder/ lamb/pet heat lamp	250w	\$9.30	\$22.32
Poultry waterer	125w	\$4.65	\$11.16
Heated garden hose (7w/ft)	180w	\$6.70	\$16.07
5 gallon horse bucket	130w	\$4.84	\$11.60
16 gallon horse tub	260w	\$9.67	\$23.21
Stock tank sinking tank heater	1500w	\$55.80	\$133.92
Floating fish pond de-icer (up to 600 gal)	1250w	\$46.50	\$111.60

When purchasing any appliance, check out the wattage or kW rating on the box. The larger the wattage, the more energy it will take per hour. Cost is calculated using the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Either kW (or watts divided by 1000)} \\ &\quad \times \text{Hours used/day} \\ &\quad \times \text{number of days used/month} \\ &\quad \times \$.012 = \$/\text{mo.} \\ &150 \text{ watts}/1000 = .150 \\ &\quad \times 24 \text{ hrs/day} \\ &\quad \times 31 \text{ days a month} = \\ &111.6 \text{ kWh} \times \$.012 = \$13.39/\text{month} \end{aligned}$$

Below-average temperatures in December and January could increase the operating hours of space heaters or outdoor heated appliances.

Today's electricity comes from many sources

Renewable energy has grown over more than 20 years, and now represents a significant portion of the energy used to serve Great River Energy's member cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives have supplied reliable electricity to Minnesotans for nearly 80 years. The way electricity is generated has changed a lot over that time, with new fuels and technologies contributing to greater efficiency and lower emissions.

The Midwest's most efficient coal and nuclear power plants remain critical to reliable energy, but several new types of power generation have emerged.

"The rise of renewable energy has added up over time, and now represents a significant portion of the energy serving our membership," said Great River Energy Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "In fact, Great River Energy will meet the state of Minnesota's renewable energy standard of 25 percent renewable energy in 2017 — eight years ahead of the requirement."



Decades spent strategically selecting generation sources — both owned by Great River Energy and supplied by others — have resulted in an economical and reliable generation portfolio.

From 2001 to 2009, Great River Energy started up four natural gas-powered generation facilities. Known as "peaking stations," they operate when electricity demand is at its highest levels — a relatively small number of days each year. These stations fit Great River Energy's portfolio very well when combined with renewable energy sources.

Great River Energy signed its first agreement for wind energy in 1999 and has since added more than 450

megawatts of wind energy to its portfolio, with 300 more megawatts on the way. Meanwhile, Great River Energy's member cooperatives have been busy adding solar installations as local renewable energy sources. Great River Energy's Elk River Resource Recovery Project, which produces electricity using municipal solid waste, is also considered a renewable resource in Minnesota.

"These new resources complement our existing economic plants to form a diverse power supply for Great River Energy," added Brekke.

Although the fuels and technology are changing, Great River Energy has positioned its portfolio with the same goals in mind: cost and reliability.