

# Critical information every member needs to know

# What equipment is the Co-op's responsibility and what is the member's responsibility?

The diagram on this page shows what equipment is owned by the Co-op and what is owned by the member. The meter is normally the dividing line. The poles, wires and transformer or underground conductors and pad mount transformer (green box) that brings power from the road to your property is owned by the Co-op. We maintain and repair this equipment. The meter is also owned by the Co-op.

The meter socket is owned by the member. The wires which go from the meter to the house or other buildings or well are secondary service wires. They are the responsibility of the member, whether they are overhead or underground conductors.

#### Who is responsible for repairs?

amage to the Cooperative's equipment or any interruptions to electric service resulting from a problem on the Co-op's lines up to the meter, will be corrected as quickly as possible by the Cooperative personnel at our expense.

All wiring and equipment after point-of-delivery (normally the meter) belongs to the member-consumer and maintenance is your responsibility. Members should call independent electricians to make necessary repairs or improvements to their wiring. An electrician may require the Co-op to shut off power depending upon the customer's type of service.

If you inadvertently damage or notice that damage has occurred to the Cooperative electric facilities, it is the member-consumer's A Reminder from MCPA Operations Department —
Any wiring that goes beyond the meter pole/disconnect on your yard is a responsibility of the member. If you need assistance with these lines, please contact your own electrician.

Barn

Co-op Equipment & Responsibility

House

Shed

responsibility to give prompt notice to the Co-op. When repair work is necessary due to member or non-member damage of Co-op property, the party responsible for the damage will be charged for mileage, labor, material and overhead repair costs.

## When the power goes out, how do you determine who to call?

t is important to know what electrical equipment is owned by the Co-op and what is owned by the homeowner because it will determine if you call your electrical contractor or McLeod Co-op Power.

If a storm causes damage and you can see poles or wires down along the roadway, it is pretty clear that the Co-op will come out to fix the distribution system. But who do you call when your power goes out, no one else has reported an outage, and you may not be sure if the problem is on the Co-op side of the meter or your own secondary side of the service? The Co-op meter provides a good clue.

Generally, on a single-phase service, if you look at the display on the electric meter it will be scrolling information across the display. If information is visible on the display, then power is still being supplied from the Co-op to your service and the problem will typically be on your secondary side of the service. This would be a good time to check main breakers or fuses or call your electrician. If the display is blank, then power is not being delivered to the meter. Most likely the problem is on the Co-op side and a call should be made to 1-800-927-5685 to report the outage.

It is important to try to determine if the problem is on your side of the

meter before you have us dispatch a crew. In the event an outage is reported, a crew will be dispatched on a service call. If the cause is found to be on the member's side, including open breaker switches and member's connections, the member will be charged for the mileage, labor (two-hour minimum), materials, and any other overhead charges. The Co-op linemen cannot do repair work on any member wiring beyond the point of the meter.

## DANGER: Don't ever remove a meter!

E lectricians and members are not authorized to pull an electric meter to perform work on a service. It is Co-op policy that pulling and reinstalling any



energized meter must be done by a trained Co-op employee using the proper protective equipment.

# **Critical Information** *Continued on page 3*

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#### Official publication of



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## **Direct Payment Plan is safest and easiest** way to pay your bill

his is an especially good time for members to sign up for the Direct Payment (Autopay) Plan. You can get away from writing a check, putting on a stamp and mailing your payment to the Cooperative. It is so simple to sign up. Once on the program, MCPA will automatically take care of the bank draft from your account. You save time and money each month and so does the Cooperative.

#### Here is how it works:

- You will receive your normal monthly bill around the 15th of each month, giving you 13 days to review the charges.
- Your bank account will not be charged until the 28th of the month (or the next business day if it falls on a weekend).

To get on the Direct Payment Plan, just fill out the Authorization for Direct Payment form and return it to the Cooperative along with a voided check. Please allow 3-4 weeks for your enrollment on the program.

Call 1-800-494-6272 today if you need assistance signing up.

## AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize McLeod Cooperative Power Association and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution

three business days befor	,	
Name of Financial Institut	tion	
Branch		
		Zip Code
Signature of Member		
Date		
Address (Please Print)		
Bank Acct. #	Che	cking Savings
PLEASE ATTACH A BLANK,	VOIDED CHECK FRO	OM YOUR DESIGNATED ACCOUNT
FOR VERIFICATION.		
Electric Acct. #		
Location #		

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

### Move Over Law will make work conditions safer

appy Father's Day to all of you Dads! Good influences can come from many different sources, so my greeting includes all you men and women who somehow play a positive role in a young person's life.

Congratulations to this year's graduates. Whether it is high school or college, I hope you're proud of yourself for completing this phase and readying yourself for the next chapter. The best is yet to come!

Safety legislation passes — A bill to strengthen an existing law that will make work conditions safer for your Cooperative's linemen has passed the Minnesota House and Senate and has been signed by the Governor. Minnesota has had a "Move Over" Law for many years. The law was passed after a Minnesota highway patrolman was hit and killed by a vehicle in 1990 while conducting a routine traffic stop on Interstate 90.

The law requires motorists who come upon emergency vehicles with lights flashing to move over an entire lane to

provide a measure of safety for those workers on the side of the road. Utility vehicles are included in this definition.



However, the current law only enforces this for roadways that have two or more lanes running in the same direction (interstates). It doesn't apply to county highways and roads where our linemen do the majority of their work. The new law would require drivers to slow down to a safe speed when passing emergency or utility vehicles stopped on roads with only one lane of travel in each direction or face potentially steep fines.

The law really is common sense. We are grateful for the support of legislators in helping keep our roadways and workers safe.

> Proud to keep your lights on, Carrie



## Taylor Schauer awarded scholarship

Taylor Schauer of rural Glencoe is this year's recipient of the Co-op's Power Line Worker Scholarship. He will be attending Minnesota West Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota in the Line Worker Program. He will receive a \$500 scholarship from the Co-op to go towards his education.

Taylor is the son of Tim and Dawn Schauer of Glencoe.



McLeod **Cooperative Power** offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4th.

Outages may be reported 24 hours a day to 1-800-927-5685.

#### **Energy Efficiency Tip**

7 hen streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

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#### **McLeod Cooperative Power News**

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Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

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

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## Meet the Electric John Deere

By Kaley Lockwood

reen and yellow are arguably the second-most American set of colors, behind red, white and blue of course. This rings true particularly for those who operate John Deere machinery on a daily basis, as the growth of our nation is supremely dependent on the country's agriculture industry, including the good folks who support it.

Technology in recent years has been the catalyst for the boom and bust of many industries. In the past decade or so, advancements in farming technology have primarily been focused on automation and precision, but with the automobile industry moving towards electric

vehicles, the ag-industry is following suit.

John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor in 2017 at SIMA, an international agribusiness tradeshow in Paris. This technological innovation was given a "special mention" as it truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.

In a press release by John Deere, SESAM is said to have all of the same features and functionality of a "conventional" tractor while offering the benefits of electric power. This emissions-free tractor runs at a lower noise level than other traditional tractors and is operated using two independent electric motors. The electrification of this tractor simplifies the moving parts and thus, greatly reduces the need for maintenance.

These two motors power an adapted DirectDrive transmission, producing 130 kilowatts of continuous power with a peak output of 400 horsepower, according to Farm-Equipment.com. The website also affirms that the tractor takes three hours to fully charge and can run up to four hours in the field with speeds ranging from two to 30 mph. As a comparison, the Tesla model 3 may have a capacity of up to 75 kilowatt hours of battery storage (kWh), providing a range of about 310 miles. The SESAM has a capacity of 130 kWh with a range of about 34 miles, which means that this tractor uses a lot more electricity in a shorter period of time.

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work. In fact, the President and CEO of Autonomous Tractor Corporation, Kraig Schulz, purported that a 200 horsepower electric tractor would hypothetically need about 1,500 kWh of batteries to complete a full day's work. As energy storage technology continues to advance, it's only a matter of time before



In 2017, John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor. This technological innovation is truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.



A peek under the hood of John Deere's first, fully battery-powered tractor. The all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.

John Deere manufactures a tractor that can meet this need.

Although SESAM's battery technology may not yet be practical for a full day of farming, the all-electric tractor is a very exciting development for the agriculture industry. This is one of many future steps in the direction of electrifying agricultural machinery and integrating this equipment with renewables. As the press release stated, "The SESAM tractor is a major part of John Deere's vision of the energy-independent farm of the future."

This push towards electrification of farm machinery in lieu of using fossil fuels directly supports the beneficial electrification movement. This concept, known fully as "environmentally beneficial electrification," is gaining traction among a growing number of groups in the U.S. including local electric cooperatives. Frequently promoted as a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment, beneficial electrification also helps consumers by providing products that are cleaner, quieter and easier to maintain. John Deere's SESAM tractor does just that.

Kaley Lockwood writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

#### **Critical Information**

Continued from page 1

We want to protect you from possible injury. McLeod Co-op Power will provide this service during regular business hours. Just call the Co-op to schedule an appointment. A trip charge of \$75 will apply and will include both removal and reinstallation of the meter. A notice of two business days is requested.

WARNING: If an electrician or member pulls an electric meter to disconnect a service, the meter will send a power outage alarm to the Co-op. If a line crew responds to the outage, the member will be billed at the applicable line crew service call rate of \$200 during business hours, \$400 on evenings or Saturdays, and \$500 on a Sunday or holiday.)

So, please do NOT pull a meter yourself! Instead, coordinate your work needs with the Co-op in advance. We will be there to safely remove and reinstall the meter during regular Co-op business hours for the \$75 trip charge.

The cost of rolling a truck and crew to one location to provide a service that benefits only one individual member needs to be charged to that individual. It is not fair for that cost to be paid by the rest of the membership. This helps keep the overall costs as low as possible for all members.

Members are encouraged to install a bypass disconnect when building a new service or upgrading their service. This allows an electrician to disconnect power to work on a service without requiring the meter to be removed.

#### Have you cut a meter seal?

R einstalling meter seals safeguards homeowners, children and the general public from entering boxes where live power may be accessible. If you cut a seal on a load management box, please call the Co-op to notify one of our Energy Management Technicians to reseal the equipment and keep everyone safe. There will be a \$35 trip charge to cover transportation expenses.

# Couple saves historic building, energy and money





Brian Gatz (below, right) helps out his wife Amy, who is the registered owner of The Liquor Depot.

Prairie have always had an entrepreneurial spirit. They have owned (or still own) rental facilities for boat restoration and storage and a mini-storage site. That's in addition to Brian's welding shop and Amy's job as a loan officer at Security Bank & Trust, Winsted.

"We are always looking for opportunities," Brian said. "The store that at one time had been a Casey's General Store sat empty, Amy had an idea that it would be good to open a liquor store since there wasn't one in town."

The old Casey's store had a history. The building was once a railroad depot. Henry Wiedenroth purchased the depot from the Burlington Northern Railway and moved it to it's current location to operate a combo gas station and grocery store. It opened for business in the fall of 1979. It's changed hands many times since then, but always had an identity as a gas station. Most recently, a liquor store was added and it sold off-sale liquor from the back of the building.



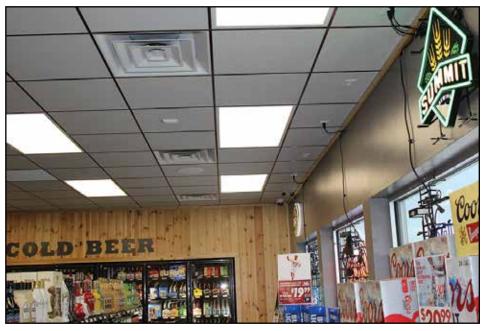
It sat empty for many years until the Gatz couple came along and decided to give it new life.

In its history, the depot building has been added on to at least twice. Now, in its finished state, it boasts 10,000 square feet. The liquor store, which the couple appropriate called The Liquor Depot, occupies the front of the building. Like it's predecessors, another business operates out of the back of the building. Peg Rathkamp of "Rock it With Color Hair Coloring Professionals" shares a beautifully designed space and has plans for a massage therapy room in what used to be the old "beer cave."

During the renovation of the building, Amy and Brian chose to install energy efficient LED lighting to save energy and money.



The Rock it With Color salon also was remodeled and received LED fixtures. Owner Peg Rathkamp attends to a customer.



LED fixtures replaced incandescent lighting in the ceiling and refrigerator. Even the beer lights have been replaced with LEDs.

"We probably changed out 50-60 lights inside and out," Brian said. Even our outside electronic sign and our beer signs are LED." In addition, the salon received LED fixtures in their new space.

Switching to LED lights can save up to 75% on energy output. In this case, it's estimated that The Liquor Depot LED lighting switch, including all the lights that were changed in the salon, the outdoor lights, door lights and refrigerator lights (totalling 99 fixtures) will save an average of more than 62,700 kilowatt hours, for an average savings of more than \$7,000 annually.

During the installation, the electrician suggested that the Gatz's call the

Co-op to find out what rebates might be available.

"The Co-op was awesome to work with," Brian said. "I got a lighting rebate to help with the expense and they were so helpful."

The Liquor Depot has been open eight months now. Amy and Brian couldn't be happier with the way things have gone.

"We have five wonderful employees. Our manager, Gene Starke, came from the old liquor store and handles all the day-to-day operations. It's important to know that you can trust your employees and we know we can."

## Worried about Water in Your Basement?

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Coop Members: Ask about your discount!

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## **Industry News**

### Move Over Bill Receives the Governor's Signature

The Move Over bill passed both bodies and was signed by the Governor on Saturday, May 19.

In 2015, Minnesota electric cooperatives promoted, and

the legislature passed, legislation that expanded Minnesota's move over law to include parked utility vehicles with their emergency or warning lights activated. This legislation applied to a highway having two lanes in the same direction.

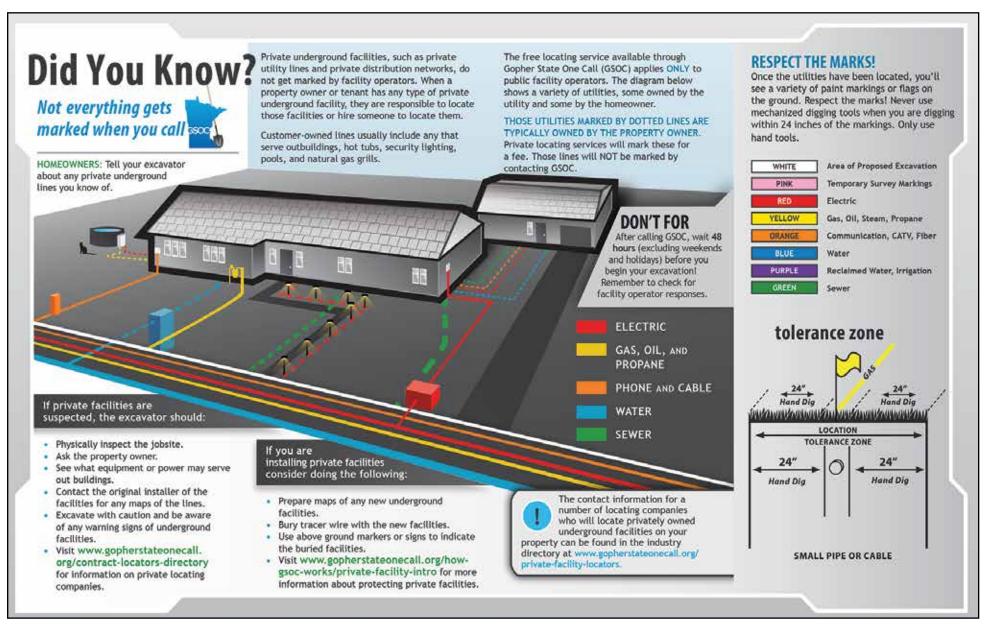
The legislation this year adds to the statute streets or highways having only one lane in the same direction. The legislation requires that drivers slow down, maintaining a safe speed for



traffic conditions, and operate the vehicle at a reduced speed until safely past the parked utility or emergency vehicle.

Safety is a priority for electric cooperatives, who have employees working alongside roadways every day. Traffic is always an issue. This additional piece of legislation will further increase the safety of our lineworkers.

~Minnesota Rural Electric Association





## AC tune-ups eligible for credit once every two years

## Schedule an air conditioning tune-up with your contractor today.

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

### **Air Conditioner/ Heat Pump Check List**

Eligible for credit a maximum of

once every 24 months
Owner
Acct. #
Address
Location #
Phone #
Company doing Tune-Up
Technician's Name
Company Phone #
CHECK LIST
Brand Name
Model #
Serial #
Tons/BTU Rating SEER Rating
☐ Clean Outdoor Unit
Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
☐ Check Blower Belt
☐ Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
Compressor Amp Reading Check
☐ Blower & Oil
Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
☐ Check Filter
Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
☐ Blow Out Drain Line
Visual Inspection of Cooling System

### April 2018 Outage Summary

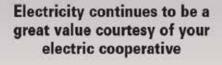
here were 37 outages in April. Out of the 37 outages, six were caused by squirrels or critters, and seven due to material changeouts. These were the most frequent causes of outage during April. This was amazing as April 14-15 brought us a blizzard, but thankfully, very few outages.

The two outages affecting the most consumers were 95 members in the dark April 1 due to a feeder outage south of Glencoe. The outage lasted 57 minutes and was caused by ice and snow on a tree than came down on a line. The second largest outage affected 61 accounts in Hollywood

Township in Carver County on April 27. Cause was a contractor dug into the Co-op's primary line. Member's were out for just over one hour.

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.

# Having a back-up plan for dinner. All year long.





## **MCPA News Ads** — Free want ad service for members

Recommendations\_

Technician Signature \_

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 June 28 to be included in the July issue. Thank you!

## I Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

i icase rail tills ad ill tile liext ille	/ litews
Name:	DI 1 1
Address:	Please check ad category
Telephone number:	Giveaway
Remember to limit your ad to nine words!	For Rent
1 2 3	For Sale
·	Wanted
456	
789	
Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classi P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336	fied Ads

#### For Sale Miscellaneous

- Almond colored fridge/freezer. \$150. 320-583-1200
- Nuwave 6qt digital air fryer. Used once. \$90.
- 40in X 60in kitchen table/4chairs/extra self-storing leaves. \$225. 320-587-7587
- 2015 Bobcat 3400 UTV, 730mi, electric dump. \$12,500.612-240-7085
- 28ft aluminum extension ladder. \$150. 320-310-1987
- Single XLT adjustable bed, all bedding included. \$250. 320-583-4827
- Used lumber 2inX4in & 2inX6in and others. Half price. 320-587-7746
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- Pull behind road grader. 320-864-3018

#### For Sale Farm

- 500-gallon gas barrel w/electric pump. \$500. 612-756-0105
- NH#54A bale thrower. 320-522-2167
- Sickle mower mounted, 320-522-2167
- IH 720 onland plow 7X18, excellent shape. \$4,500. 612-240-7085

#### Wanted

- Older front tine garden tiller. 320-583-3888
- 2pt IH equipment or just 2pt hooker. 320-979-3580
- Unwanted riding lawn mowers. Free pick-up. 320-587-9207

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.



It's the best of both worlds. ASHPs provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces and you can switch between cooling and heating directly from the thermostat, putting you in complete control.

#### ACT NOW and get DOUBLE or TRIPLE the rebate on an ASHP

based on your SEER rating and while rebate dollars are available

<u> Air Source Heat Pump</u>	<u>Rebate</u>	Ductless Air Source	
14.5 SEER	\$1,000	Heat Pump	<u>Rebate</u>
15 SEER	\$1,250	Fossil fuel primary hea	at\$450
16 SEER	\$2,000	Electric Primary heat.	\$750

**Installation must be completed between May 1 and July 31, 2018 by a certified "Quality Installation" contractor** listed on the 2018 "QI" list on hvacreducation.net website (link on www.mcleodcoop.com). Rebates distributed on first come, first serve basis when rebate form is received from installing contractor, and while supply lasts.

Call McLeod Co-op Power for details 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272.

## **BEAT THE SUMMERTIME PEAK**

## **CHANGE YOUR HABITS AS HOT WEATHER SETS IN**

#### **Housework Hiatus**

Avoiding peak energy costs is a good reason to put some chores on hold, at least until power demand dips on hot summer days. Chores such as washing and drying clothes, using a dishwasher, or vacuuming can cause higher demand on the system and can be done outside of the peak noon to 8 PM, Monday through Friday.

Other ways to keep your home cool on the hottest days and to reduce energy demand at the same time include not heating up the house with steam from showers or bathing during peak hours. It makes your air conditioner work harder to remove the heat and humidity that a bath or shower puts into the air. Try not to use your oven or boil liquids on the stove top during the noon to 8 PM peak hours on very hot days. Cooking in the microwave or on the grill is preferred. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Be sure to pull shades or curtains on the sides of your home that receive the most direct sunlight. These things also help reduce heat gain in your home and help your air conditioner or heat pump from having to run overtime.

# **Energy Star Appliance Rebates for 2018**

<b>Dehumidifiers</b> \$25
<b>Dryers</b> \$25
Refrigerators & Freezer (Max of 2/year) Refrigerator harvest
Primary Electric heat       \$750         ECM       \$50         GSHP (\$/ton)       \$400
QI ASHP       \$480 \$1,000         SEER 14.5       \$580 \$1,250         SEER 16       \$500 \$2,000
<b>ETS Space Heat</b> - 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
<b>LED Yard Light</b> \$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 hvacreducation.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.



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.

# Automatic standby generator can keep everything in your house running, even when you are not there

torm season has been a blunt reminder of how inconvenient life can be when Mother Nature knocks out the electricity. We are suddenly faced with panic when the rain is pouring down and the sump pump is not running!

To give our members a peaceful assurance that even when the grid goes out, the power in the house does not need to go out, the Co-op offers automatic standby generators that can power almost everything in the house. The generator will automatically start when power goes out and shut off after power is restored. No need to haul out a portable unit or sit in the dark.

McLeod Co-op Power has partnered with Briggs &

Stratton, a 100-year-old U.S. company, on 12-200 kW generators that can power homes, farms or businesses. The Co-op does a turn-key installation, providing all the expertise to correctly size and safely wire your generator. Fuel supply of propane or natural gas to the generator is supplied by your gas company. Larger commercial generators are also available in diesel models.

Residential or hobby farm installations are commonly a 12 kW or 20 kW generator. The cost for a residential generator plus installation is usually \$5,800 to \$8,500, depending upon size and wiring required. Contact McLeod Co-op Power for details at 1-800-494-6272. The Co-op can provide you with a price quote.



## **Right-of-Way Clearing continues**

Burnham Companies have been hired by the Co-op to conduct right-of-way clearing. They are finishing up in Acoma Township in McLeod County and are moving to do clearing in other areas. They are doing tree trimming, brush clearing and the application of EPA-approved herbicides to slow the growth of trees under power lines.

McLeod Co-op Power performs right-of-way clearing to ensure safe and reliable power, as trees are a main cause of outages. However, safety is the Co-op's #1 reason for cutting trees around power lines.

## Late May storms cause outages



Three-phase poles were torn down by winds south of Hutchinson along Hwy. 15 on Tuesday, May 29. This interrupted had power restored by 9 power to some members in the Hutchinson area for several hours.

PM, and the final individual contents of the Hutchinson area for several hours.

pril brought us a blizzard.
May brought record
high heat of 100
degrees and several powerful
thunderstorms that caused
numerous outages for McLeod
Co-op Power members.

The evening of Thursday, May 24 thunderstorms rolled through McLeod Co-op Power's service area. Immediately after the storm we showed over 1,800 outages. Carver County had the most members without power due to a damaged insulator on a transmission pole near the Hollywood Substation. This knocked out both Hollywood and New Germany substations. New Germany Substation was backfed to get members electricity back on. Due to the location of the damage, Hollywood members could not be restored until repairs were completed. Power was restored to all members by 2 AM Friday morning.

The afternoon of Tuesday, May 29 strong thunderstorms again moved through the Co-op's service area, causing outages across many townships in McLeod, Renville, Carver, and Sibley Counties. The largest outages were south of Hutchinson due to a line of three-phase poles along Hwy. 15 that were taken down by the strong winds and a line outage in Carver County. Most members PM, and the final individual

outages were repaired by 1

AM on May 30.

As summertime approaches, we urge members to be ready for storm season, with a supply of flashlights, bottled water and other necessities in case of an outage. Members should also have the Co-op's 24-hour outage number (1-800-927-5685) posted somewhere near the telephone or programmed into your cell phone. Contact us if you need a refrigerator magnet with the outage number.

For convenience, members can stay updated on outages by checking the Outage Map on the Co-op's website www. mcleodcoop.com. To prevent any inconveniences caused by outages the Co-op also sells and installs whole-house automatic standby generators. Call the Co-op for a quote on a generator for your home, farm or business.