



# No rate increase planned for 2019

The MCPA Board of Directors approved the Co-op’s 2019 budget at their November 27 meeting. It was not necessary to include any rate increase in the budget for the coming year. Members can plan on rates remaining stable for 2019.

“As of the end of October, expenses have been coming in under-budget for 2018 and energy sales have been just above what was expected for this year,” said General Manager Carrie Buckley. “We have worked hard in recent years to reduce internal costs by lowering the number of employees through attrition, adjusting employee benefits, making vendors be more competitive, and reducing inventory levels. These efforts are starting to show their cost-saving value in our 2019 budget,” added Buckley.

Keeping rates stable is also easier when the Co-op does not face rate increases from Great River Energy, its wholesale power supplier. Wholesale power costs are expected to hold steady going into 2019 and Great River Energy is projecting rates to increase less than one-half of a percent annually over



the next 10 years. Wholesale rate stability is good news for McLeod Co-op Power and its members.

According to Great River Energy, this improved financial outlook is the result of sustained strong results stemming from cost-saving measures and strategic decisions to position their generation portfolio. The exit of two coal-based power supply contracts and the retirement of Stanton Station have provided long-term rate relief for members.

“We have an important job for the members at the end of the line, and our employees take that responsibility seriously,” said Michelle Strobel, Great River Energy Vice President and CFO. “Great River Energy is strong today because of hard work and wise decisions we have made in the best interest of our membership.”

Great River Energy is a generation and transmission cooperative, owned by its 28 distribution cooperative members.

**McLeod Cooperative Power wishes you and your family a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year**

**Our offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, January 1 so our employees may spend the holidays with their families.**

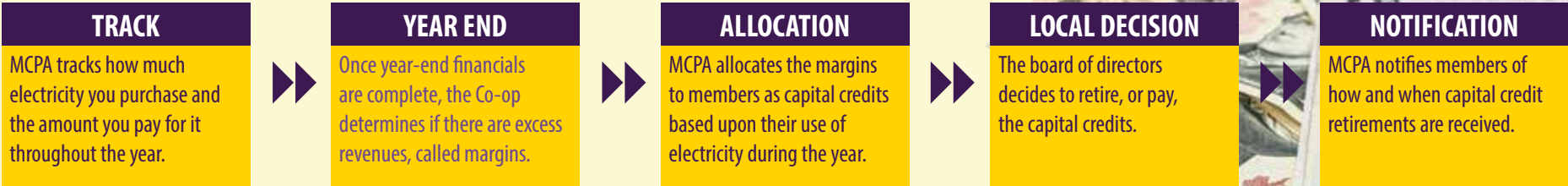
**For outages or electrical emergencies call 800-927-5685.**

## As a member of McLeod Co-op Power, you get the credit \$524,455 going back to members this month

Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) may notice lower electric bills in December. A total of \$524,455 is being distributed this month in capital credit refunds. This amount includes all remaining capital credits from 1999 and 20% of capital credits allocated from 2017.

Capital credits are being applied to active electric accounts and will show as a line item credit on each bill that is supposed to receive a refund. Former members who no longer have an active electric account will be mailed their refund in the form of a check in December.

### HOW DO CAPITAL CREDITS WORK?



**Scenic 2019 calendars are available now**

This year's 2019 scenic Minnesota calendars are available in the Co-op office. Please stop in and pick up a copy. First come, first serve, while supplies last.

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**Official publication of**

**McLEOD CO-OP POWER**

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## Experience of a lifetime!



### High school juniors and seniors may apply for Washington DC trip

High school juniors and seniors have until March 1, 2019 to apply for the Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour competition. One local youth will win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. June 15-20, 2019 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](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). Click on ABOUT tab and then YOUTH PROGRAMS tab. You will have until March 1, 2019 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.

### YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

Through October	2018	2017
Operating Revenue	\$ 16,986,340	\$ 16,055,239
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 10,517,180	\$ 10,079,032
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 6,092,620	\$ 6,060,365
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 16,609,800	\$ 16,139,397
Operating Margins	\$ 376,540	\$ (84,158)
Non Operating Margins	\$ 330,855	\$ 303,290
Total Margins	\$ 707,395	\$ 219,132
kWh's Sold	137,535,858	127,308,162
Member Services Billed	6,785	6,690
Avg kWh Used, Residential/Month	1,436	1,320

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

### Holiday gifts for members

We have several presents all wrapped up for MCPA members. Go ahead, open them up before the holidays. We won't tell Santa!



#### Present #1

No rate increase planned for 2019



#### Present #2

Lower electric bills this month due to retirement of over half a million dollars in capital credits being applied to most bills



#### Present #3

Stable wholesale rates projected from Great River Energy for the next decade



#### Present #4

Co-op sold the Agri-Fleet building and has closed on the property



#### Present #5

Our board took action in 2018 to solve the Co-op's problem of insufficient covered storage/outgrown garage by moving ahead with plans to relocate all Co-op facilities onto one

site by sometime in 2020. We are making good progress on building plans.



#### Present #6

Our employees have completed a list of strategic goals in 2018, all of which, in one way or another, are intended to make life better for our members



#### Present #7

Our members are represented by a board of directors that are member-focused and committed to doing what is best for the MCPA membership as a whole. They bring the input from members in their district to the boardroom and then as a united group they make decisions that are fair and equitable to all members and good for the whole Co-op membership. They do not represent their own personal interests or the agenda of special interest groups. We are fortunate to have such leadership.

I am so pleased to have good news to share with you. Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Proud to keep your lights on. Carrie



### Peace of mind... At the touch of a button.

With FirstCall, help is available when you need it most. The heart of our FirstCall system features the most advanced, easy-to-use, 2-way voice technology available. It's superior speaker clarity, range, and built-in battery back-up make it a secure, effective link to our 24/7 response center.

If emergency medical help is needed, we immediately contact the appropriate authorities and help is on the way. If the situation does not require a 911 emergency agency, a predetermined friend, family member, or caregiver can be called to assist.



### Board of Directors

Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care that an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not

oversee day-to-day operation of McLeod Co-op Power. Administration of maintenance, electric service, and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff, under the direction of General Manager Carrie Buckley. Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-494-6272.

#### 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 320-583-0997

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

#### General Manager - Carrie Buckley cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com, 800-494-6272

### McLeod Cooperative Power News

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Editor: Sue Pawelk

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.

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Web site:  
[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)**

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

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

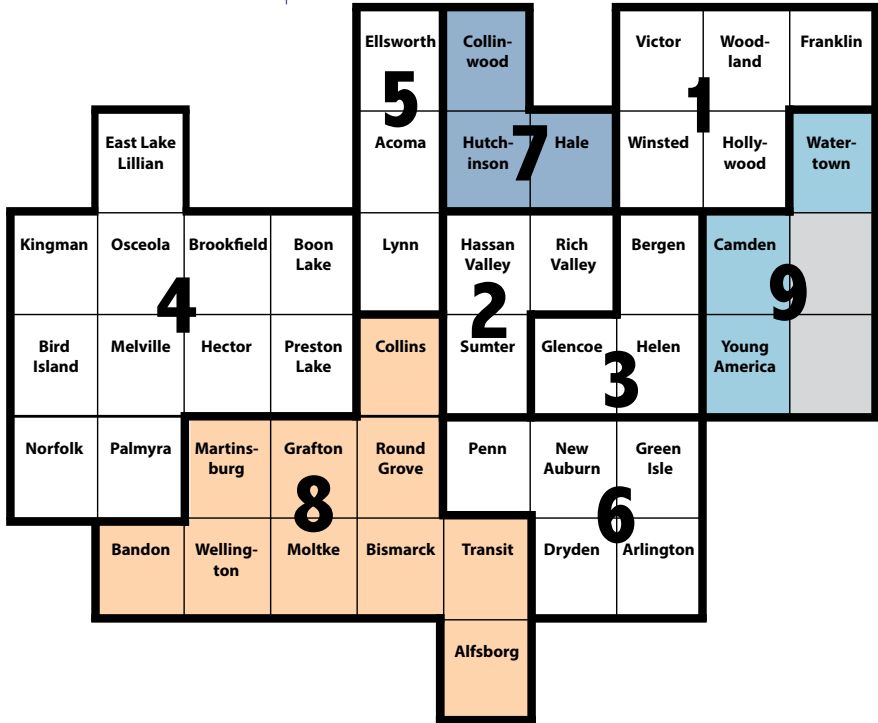
Volunteers needed for Nominating Committee

To elect directors in Districts 7, 8, & 9 at the 2019 Annual Meeting, we need members from those districts to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members participate in the election process by selecting director candidates and submitting their names to the Board for approval. They also assist with collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers are needed from the following townships:

- District 7** includes: Hutchinson and Hale Townships in McLeod County; and Collinwood Township in Wright County.
- District 8** includes: Martinsburg, Wellington, and Bandon Townships in Renville County; Grafton, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, and Alfsborg Townships in Sibley County; and Collins and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.
- District 9** includes: Young America, Camden, and Watertown Townships in Carver County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power at 800-494-6272 if you are willing to volunteer for the 2019 Nominating Committee no later than January 2, 2019. Committee meetings are scheduled for January 24 and February 14, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. The Annual Meeting is planned for Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Members in good standing who serve on the Nominating Committee are paid a per diem for the meetings plus mileage. Nominating candidates to run for board seats is an important part of the democratic process of operating your electric cooperative. We encourage your participation.



What makes a good director candidate?  
Should I run for the MCPA board?

The requirements for eligibility of a director candidate are listed on the form on this page. They come right from the Co-op's by-laws. There are also some important personal characteristics that a director should possess.

Directors should have a sincere interest in preserving the strength of the Cooperative's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with its consumer-members. They must be accessible to the members who they represent. Directors must work with each other to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the entire distribution system.

Directors must also be willing and able to fully participate in the business activities of the Cooperative. From time-to time,

directors may be called upon to represent the Cooperative at meetings or events, in addition to expected attendance at regular monthly board meetings.

Directors also need to possess basic computer skills to receive electronic communications and reports from the Co-op. Each director receives their materials to review before board meetings via iPad.

Members in the districts with elections, who meet the qualifications and characteristics described on this page and have an interest in helping direct McLeod Co-op Power, should consider being a candidate. Anyone interested may contact the Co-op with questions. We would be happy to provide more information. Call 800-494-6272.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association  
Director Candidate Application

By signing this application, I certify that I am a member of McLeod Co-op Power Association (MCPA), and I hereby apply as a nominee for director of MCPA from District \_\_\_\_\_ and request that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election for director from said district to be held at the next MCPA annual meeting, April 9, 2019.

- I am a member in good standing of the Cooperative and my account is current;
- I am receiving service at my primary residence or principal place of business in the district from which the Director is elected;
- Within the past five (5) years I have not been adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- Within the past five (5) years I have not been an employee of the Cooperative;
- During the past five (5) years I have not been employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;
- I am not a close relative of a current employee of the Co-op or of an incumbent Director that is not up for re-election (includes child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, whether by blood, or in law);
- I am not in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;
- I am not the full-time employee or agent of another Director;
- If elected, I agree to not be absent without cause from three (3) or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors during any twelve (12) month period, and abide by the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and policies of MCPA.

I have read the above requirements and certify that I meet the candidate qualifications. I verify that all information and documentation I provide to MCPA for purposes of nomination or election as a director is true and correct.

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Print address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to MCPA by January 15, 2019



# Winter Storm Preparedness

**H**eavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs. This can disrupt power for days on end. With this comes a threat to property and also to life itself.

In a winter storm emergency, restoring power and heat to members is the highest priority, and electric utility crews work hard to restore service. Even so, it can take days to repair the devastating damage of a winter storm. If you are in the midst of storm recovery, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice and difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines: Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility company. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking or moving to be live and deadly.

Safe Electricity stresses the importance of being prepared for dangerous winter storms and the power outages they may cause. You need the right emergency items and knowledge to stay warm and safe in a winter storm.

## Safe Electricity offers the following tips to prepare your home:

- Before winter sets in, update your insulation and caulk and install weather-stripping.
- Call your utility company or professional tree trimmers to cut branches away from your home and power lines.

Safe Electricity emphasizes that everyone, particularly families with special needs, must be prepared in case of a winter emergency and long-term power outages.

## Prepare an emergency kit with the following items:

- Battery-powered radio and flashlights with fresh batteries
- Extra blankets
- Water for drinking and washing
- Non-perishable food and a can opener.
- First aid kit and prescription medicines.

When a storm hits, your preparation should include knowledge.

## The following tips from Safe Electricity can help you stay safe and warm.

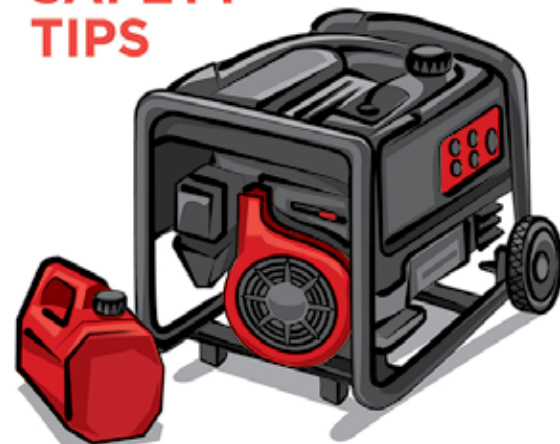
- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damage to appliances and overloaded circuits

when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a signal for when your power returns.

- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves just in case a pipe bursts.
- Do not use charcoal grills or gas ovens to heat your home; this could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in
- Cover windows at night
- Maintain a regular diet. Food provides the body with energy for creating its own energy.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated
- Move around to keep warm, but not enough to perspire. Perspiring causes the body to lose fluids which could potentially lead to dehydration.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or persons over age 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends, relatives or in a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.

For more safety resources, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



**A** generator can be a life-saver in an extended storm outage. But never connect a generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

### Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from your Co-op, should be installed by a professional.

### Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first before connecting your appliances.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

*Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!*

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



*Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.*



# Heartland Security Can Turn Your Home Into a Smart Home

Have an older home but wish you could turn it into a smart home? Worried all the newest smart devices won't work with your house? Heartland Security has you covered. Whether it's your locks, lights, garage door, or thermostat, you can control them all from one app on your smartphone. Whether your home is a few months old, a few years old, or older than you, we can work with you to find a solution to your home security and automation needs.

## Locks

Tired of scrambling to find your house key? Afraid someone might find your hidden key? With smart keyless locks, you can easily lock and unlock your doors from your smartphone. It's also a handy feature if you or someone else in your house tends to forget their keys.

When you connect your smart locks to your security system, you can set your system to automatically disarm when you unlock the doors. Another option is to set a schedule to lock your doors at certain times of the day (for example, between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., when you won't be home).

## Lights

As part of a smart security system, you can control your lights in every room, all from your smartphone. You can even control dimmers. If you like a light on when you get home in the evening, but don't want to leave a light on all day, you can simply use your smartphone to turn the light on before your leave for home. If you'll be away on vacation, you can schedule your lights to turn on and off to make it appear as if someone is home.



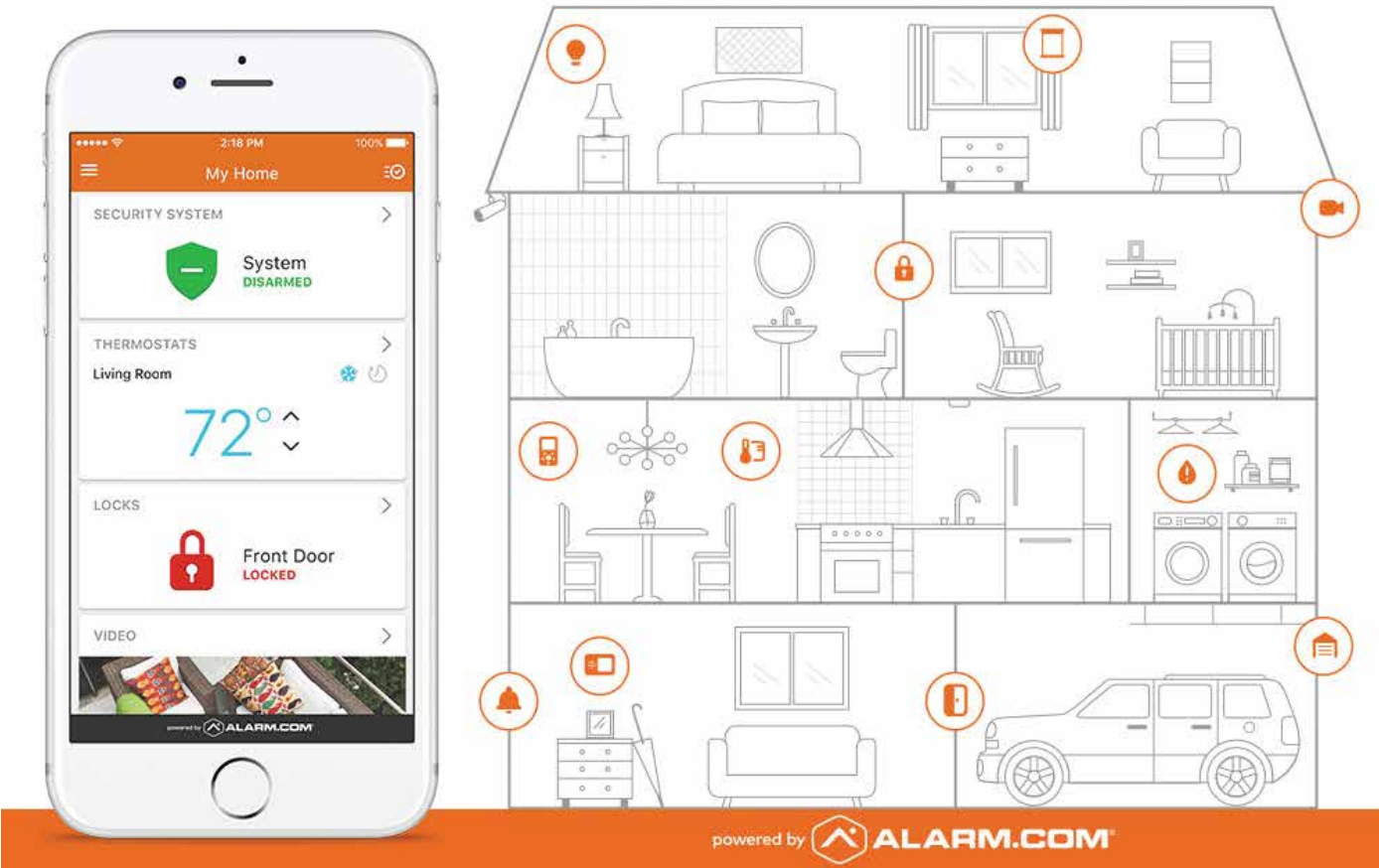
## Garage Doors

Ever leave home and forget whether you closed your garage door? Garage doors are another device you can control with a smart home security system. To get this feature, you must have a compatible garage door opener already installed and wi-fi in the home.

With the Alarm.com app, checking whether your garage door is open or closed is simple. And it's much easier than turning around to drive home and check your garage door!

## Thermostats

Create a schedule for your thermostat based on when you'll be home or away. During fall/winter, set your house to cool down when no one's home during the day and warm up in the evening. Or in summer, do the opposite – raise the thermostat during the day and cool it down at night. If things change from your normal routine, you can quickly and easily change the thermostat temperature from your smartphone, tablet, or laptop.



## Industry News

### Bringing today's technology to a unique system that serves you

One of the most unique elements of the electric system that brings electricity to you will be upgraded this spring with today's technology. This 436-mile high-voltage, direct-current (HVDC) power line system is owned and operated by Great River Energy, a provider of wholesale power to 28 rural electric cooperatives in the state.

Great River Energy's HVDC system – one of few of its kind in the world – delivers electricity from the cooperative's largest power plant in Underwood, N.D., to Minnesota. Think of it as a 436-mile extension cord that delivers power directly from North Dakota to Minnesota so it can be delivered to you.

Here's how it works: Coal Creek Station, Great River Energy's power plant in North Dakota, produces electricity in alternating current (the kind of power used in our homes). A converter station at the power plant converts it to direct current power (the kind of power used in our cars) so it can be transmitted over the HVDC power line to another converter station just outside of Buffalo, Minn. There it is converted back to alternating current power so it can be sent out through the electric system and used at homes, farms and businesses.

Those converter stations are where all of the upgrades will take place. Nearly all of the equipment that is housed inside them will be removed and replaced with advanced technologies.

HVDC systems are unique in general because they deliver electricity in direct current rather than alternating current, which is the standard for most electric systems.

"There are only a few systems like these in the United States," said Greg Schutte, Great River Energy's project manager. He said the main benefit of HVDC systems is the ability to deliver electricity more efficiently over long distances than alternating current systems.

"There is always some power lost in delivery when you transmit electricity over a power line," Schutte said. "But over long distances, those losses are significantly lower on direct current systems than alternating current systems."

Great River Energy has been preparing for this major upgrade since 2011. The upgrade will be completed this spring.

~Press Release





# CRC installs new corn piling system

Central Region Cooperative (CRC) completed construction of a new corn piling system in Buffalo Lake on October 24. The self-piling system holds approximately 2.5 million bushels of corn. Trucks dump corn into a 20,000 bushel-per-hour grain pit. The corn is elevated in the grain leg and then discharged onto a belt conveyor to the center pile tower. It falls through a grain ladder to prevent shatter and fills evenly until it reaches the tip of the containment walls. (Also see photo on top of page 1).

The corn bunker site just outside of Buffalo Lake is served by McLeod Co-op Power. This new self-piling system replaced an older corn bunker CRC previously had on this site. CRC ships grain out via rail from Buffalo Lake.

## 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 December 28 to be included in the January issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

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

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

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads

P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

Please check ad category

☐ Giveaway

☐ For Rent

☐ For Sale

☐ Wanted

For Sale Miscellaneous

- MTD snow blower, runs good. \$170. 320-587-8765
- Pronto electric wheelchair. Used less than 6 months. \$2,000/bo. 320-234-7181
- 7ft 3pt snow blower. Cheap. 320-582-1534
- 7ft snow bucket. 320-582-1534
- 1996 Chevy 2500 4X4, good shape, runs good. \$1,500. 320-296-0563
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- OSB boards 32in X 32in X 7/16in. 952-353-2351

For Sale Farm

- Pair tractor tires 13.6 X 38. Supreme condition. 612-803-4475

Wanted

- Hereford beef quarters for sale, naturally raised, no hormones. 952-457-5034
- 6ft Waynes tile plow. 320-582-1534
- Round bale meadow hay. 320-582-1534

Giveaway

- Wurlitzer double keyboard organ. Excellent condition. 320-296-6860

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.

Going south for the winter

Please notify the Cooperative if you are heading south for the winter. Although your meter will be automatically read, we still need to know what payment arrangements you prefer.

Options are:

- You can pay in advance.
- Have the post office forward your mail.
- Sign up for McLeod Co-op Power auto pay and have the payment automatically

- deducted from your checking or savings account.
- Call us with a credit card payment.
- Contact your bank to use their online bill pay service.

Be sure to make arrangements before you leave by calling 800-494-6272.

October 2018 Outage Summary

During the month of October the Cooperative had a total of 66 outages. Of those 26 were planned for service work, so that leaves 40 actual power outages. Planned outages were the most frequent cause of outages, with 26 outages attributed to planned construction or upgrade projects. The second greatest cause of outages was squirrels, coming in with 11 interruptions.

The outage affecting the most consumers was caused by an OCR/equipment failure on October 20 at 7:54 a.m. It was north of Buffalo Lake. Thirty-one members were out of power for just

over three hours. The second largest outage was north of Arlington on October 21 about 1:30 p.m. A consumer cut down a tree and it fell through a power line causing an outage for 28 members for 2.5 hours.

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



# NOTICE TO ELECTRICIANS & HOMEOWNERS:

## *Don't remove a meter without contacting the Co-op first!*

**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.

Electricians 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. 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.

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.

Emergency disconnects for house or structure fires will be billed to the member at the applicable service call rates.

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.

## Stop and read BEFORE turning off your water heater!



If you plan to shut off your electric water heater using the breaker in the panel you may inadvertently shut off the power to the off-peak meter. This could cause the electric heat to be billed at the general service rate, instead of the off-peak rate.

We strongly encourage you to have an electrician install a separate disconnect switch for your water heater. This would enable you to shut off your water heater at your convenience, while maintaining power to the off-peak meter.

Feel free to contact the Co-op with questions regarding turning off your water heater.

## Cooking a family meal set on low for 4 hours

10¢

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



## Technology for outage reporting making life better for members

The technology of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and the Co-op's Outage Management System (OMS) is making life better for members and for employees. Today, when a meter loses power, it gets reported to the co-op. If several meters lose power, OMS will predict the locations affected by the outage using the number of meters out and their positions. Technology advancements now give outage information to line crews before they arrive at the co-op, helping them prepare for the scope of work to be done.

Technology is helping to shorten the time it takes to report an outage, however, we still need our members help to make the system work well. That

means we still want members to call in when the power goes out. Calls from members help verify the automated data reported and often members can report key information such as where a tree is over a line or if they heard a loud bang, which is most helpful in assessing what caused the problem and where crews need to go to fix it.

The system automatically reporting when the power goes out is great if you are a snowbird away from home or someone asleep in the middle of the night. It is helpful to the co-op to catch meter tampering. However, the automatic technology also reports an outage when an electrician has pulled a meter to do service work without notifying the co-op. Again, we need consumer

assistance. We ask members or electricians to call in BEFORE they plan to do service work, as we will coordinate the work with you and avoid charges to the consumer for dispatching a crew to repair an outage.

The OMS technology makes power outage information available on your smart phone. Go to the Co-op's website and click on the red Outage Map button at the top of the homepage. Members can see if there are outages in their township or if there are widespread outages over many areas following a storm. It helps keep members informed of what is going on across the Co-op's service area.



## Where to locate information for McLeod Co-op Power

Most information reported to members can be found in McLeod Co-op Power NEWS, the Cooperative's official publication. If it was in the newsletter anytime in the past three years, it can be found archived under the NEWS tab on the Co-op's website. The information members ask for most can be found on the MCPA website [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). If you cannot locate information, please call the office and we would be happy to help you find the resources. Attached is a list of Cooperative information and where you can find it.

**Electric bill sample and explanation** ..... Website: About My Bill (blue box) on homepage

**Rates and fees** ..... Website: Rates & Fees (green box) on homepage

**Payment options** ..... Website: Payment Options (green box) on homepage

**Capital credit explanation** ..... Website: ABOUT button at top of page and select Co-op Info

**Co-op office contact numbers** ..... Page 2 of MCPA News, red Crow River Area telephone book, or Website: CONTACT button on top of page

**E-mail form to contact co-op** ..... Website: CONTACT button at top of page

**Map to the office** ..... Website: CONTACT button at top of page

**General Manager and director contact information** ..... Page 2 of MCPA News or Website: ABOUT button at top of page, select Board of Directors

**Co-op by-laws** ..... Copy available upon request, or Website: ABOUT button at top of page, choose Co-op Info, click on Bylaws pdf

**Quarterly financials** ..... Published quarterly in MCPA News or available upon request to a member

**Annual financial report** ..... Distribute at Annual Meeting or available upon request

**How to run for the board of directors** ..... Published in MCPA News Nov. & Dec. issues. Website: ABOUT button at top of page, select Co-op Info

**How to vote in elections** ..... Published in MCPA News January to March issues. Ballots mailed to eligible members with instructions. Website: ABOUT button at top of page, select Co-op Info

**Board meeting dates** ..... Website: ABOUT button on top of page, select Co-op Info

**How to attend a board meeting** ..... Website: ABOUT button on top of page, select Co-op Info, select Board Meeting Dates

**Board meeting minutes** ..... Summary to be published in MCPA News in 2019. Minutes available in office.

**Previous issue newsletters** ..... Website: NEWS button at top of page, select Newsletters

**Rebates/rebate forms** ..... Website: Green I WANT TO button at top of page, select Rebates

**Farm & business energy grants** ..... Call the Co-op and ask to speak to an Energy Management Specialist

**Is it an off-peak control day?** ..... Website: Check Load Control icon on homepage

**Outage Map** ..... Website: Red OUTAGE MAP button on top of homepage

**Renewable energy information/forms** ..... Website: Click on RENEWABLE ENERGY icon on homepage

**Products the Co-op sells (heating equipment, water heaters, generators, yard lights)** ..... Website: PRODUCTS button on top of homepage

**Services (off-peak programs, energy assistance, Operation Round Up, emergency medical pendants)** ..... Website: SERVICES button at top of homepage

**Stray Voltage Testing** ..... Website: SERVICES button on top of page, select Voltage Testing

**Gopher State One Call** ... Website: SAFETY button on top of page, select Gopher State One Call

**Youth programs** ..... Website: SAFETY button on top of page, select Youth Programs

**Safety information/programs** ..... Website: SAFETY button on top of homepage

**Tree trimming** ..... Website: SAFETY button on top of page, select Tree Trimming & Vegetation Mgmt

**Quality certified ASHP Contractors List/Portal** ... Website: ABOUT button on top of page, select Affiliated Organizations, select Search for Installer/Quality Installer Program

## Wounded Veterans Sought



America's rural communities are home to millions of men and women who have served in our armed forces, many of whom are living with a disability. Historically, a disproportionate share of our veterans have come from rural communities. CoBank has partnered with No Barriers USA to honor and support these veterans. McLeod Co-op Power is a CoBank customer and will submit applications on behalf of local disabled veterans who wish to apply.

With your help, CoBank will identify and sponsor up to 50 veterans with disabilities from rural communities to take part in one of four, five-day No Barriers expeditions or the annual No Barriers Summit. These expeditions offer veterans an opportunity to challenge limitations — both real and perceived — and to create a network of support.

CoBank will sponsor two moderate-level expeditions and two difficult level expeditions that will take place during July and August, 2019. Expeditions will involve rafting, rock climbing and trekking activities. Activities are specifically designed to accommodate participation by veterans with a wide array of disabilities. If selected, CoBank will cover all

costs for the participating veteran, including travel expenses.

The annual No Barriers Summit will take place June 13-15 in Lake Tahoe, California. This opportunity is suitable for veterans of any disability level.

### How does a veteran sign up?

McLeod Co-op Power is able to nominate an unlimited number of veterans for participation. Combat-wounded or training-injured veterans with a VA disability rating are eligible for the program. Nominees may be from any branch of service. The program will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis and nominations will be accepted December 1, 2018 - April 1, 2019. Team members for each of the four expeditions and those selected to attend the No Barriers Summit will be announced on Friday, June 7, 2018.

Any interested veteran should contact McLeod Co-op Power at 800-494-6272 or e-mail [mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com) to obtain a nomination form and Veteran Information Sheet. Once applications are received, nominees will be contacted by No Barriers to begin the next steps in the process.

## Meet the people behind your power

You can trust us to make sure your lights come on when you flip the switch.

You can also trust us because we are your neighbors, friends, and co-op members.

**Brad Hundt**  
Lineman

McLeod Co-op Power member  
Youth athletic coach  
Church and community volunteer

**McLEOD**  
**CO-OP POWER**

Your Neighbors, Energy Cooperative