



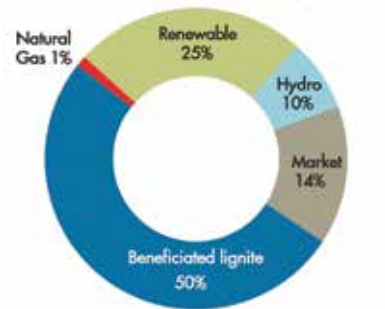
McLeod Co-op Power receives just under 7% of its energy from federal hydro dams and about 93% from Great River Energy

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) manages federal hydro dams which provide McLeod Co-op Power with about 7% of its electrical energy needs. The other 93% of the Co-op's energy is from its wholesale power provider Great River Energy (GRE). GRE is a regional generation and transmission cooperative, owned by McLeod and 27 other rural electric cooperatives.

Of the energy purchased from GRE, 25% is from renewable sources today.

2017 Member Energy

All-requirements member-owner cooperatives



GRE has a goal to supply its member-owner cooperatives with energy that is 50 percent from renewable resources by 2030. This voluntary goal will more than double the current renewable energy supply delivered to you.

Great River Energy has already met Minnesota's 25 percent renewable energy standard eight years ahead of requirements. We continue to evolve our power supply portfolio, delivering even more renewable energy to our member-owner cooperatives to help them remain competitive in a changing market

Great River Energy also established interim renewable energy goals of 30 percent by 2020 and 40 percent by 2025. It is adding this renewable energy to the power supply portfolio for its all-requirements member-owner cooperatives, like McLeod Co-op Power.

Great River Energy has spent more than a decade positioning its portfolio, lowering costs and reducing dependence on coal as a fuel source, while improving the overall flexibility of its generation portfolio. These measures have resulted in a 35 percent reduction in their carbon dioxide emissions since 2005.

Great River Energy has exited two contracts for coal-based electricity in recent years and, in 2017, retired a North Dakota power plant owned by the cooperative. Improvements at Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station power plant have reduced the plant's emissions of sulfur dioxide and mercury by up to 40 percent, nitrogen oxides by 20 percent and carbon dioxide by 4 percent in recent years, while operational adjustments allow the plant to ramp down production when market conditions warrant.

Great River Energy's renewable portfolio currently includes 468 megawatts (MW) of wind energy, 200 MW of hydropower, 4 MW of solar and 30 MW of biomass. Great River Energy has announced plans for an additional 300 MW of favorably priced wind energy by 2020. Renewable energy, particularly wind, is currently GRE's lowest-cost option for new generation resources.



Bear Lake Sunshine Society selected as 2018 Touchstone Energy Community Award winner

The Bear Lake Sunshine Society was the first organization selected as winner of McLeod Co-op Power's Touchstone Energy Community Award. The group received a plaque and \$500 for their efforts to make the community around them a better place. As the Co-op's award recipient, the Bear Lake Sunshine Society has also been nominated to contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award.

The Bear Lake Sunshine Society is a 108-year old organization that meets monthly to send greeting cards, fruit baskets or flowers to people who may be discouraged, depressed, ill, or grieving a recent death in the family. They send out over 50 cards a month to share with those in need of some "sunshine" at this time in their lives. This small but dedicated group of women seek to promote the well-being and mental health of those in need with a positive message of love.

They visit various assisted living facilities twice a year to have lunch and cheer the residents. They put on a Vets Thanksgiving Dinner. They donate excess funds to the food shelf twice a year and at the end of the year to many local organizations such as Common Cup, Victims of Domestic Violence, and many others.

The ladies contribute monthly dues to help pay for cards,

postage, and baskets. They also accept donations from individuals and other organizations. The second Friday in June they have an annual rummage sale, bake sale, and plant sale in Northwoods Park in Hutchinson. This is a fundraiser for the group. Any persons wishing to donate to the group or consider joining as a member should contact Beverly Moe at 320-587-2669.

The Bear Lake Sunshine Society was organized in 1910 by seven women who lived on Bear Lake, north of Hutchinson, with the goal of spreading sunshine and cheer to all in need. In the early 1900s it was a national organization. The Bear Lake group dropped out of the national group many years ago so they could keep all donations local.

The current members were very surprised and elated when their President Beverly Moe informed them at their December meeting that they had been selected as the Touchstone Energy Community Award winner. Someone commented that it would help them buy a bunch of postage stamps before the postal rates increased in 2019.

The group goes by the following motto:
*Have you had a kindness shown? Pass it on.
It was not given to you alone. Pass it on.
Let it travel down the years. Let it wipe another's tears,
Til in heaven the deed appears. Pass it on.*

In this issue...

- Fun, educational, low-cost family vacation 3
- How to read your new power bill..... 8
- New rebates for 2019 8

Official publication of



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Summary of Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 18, 2018
Line Superintendent reviewed the outage report. The number of outages were very low in November 2018.

Customer Service Manager reported on items that have been added to the newsletter and website to improve transparency to members.

Manager of Finance presented the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the month of November 2018 for review. Margins were sufficient going into the last month of the year.

The Board approved a 27-year Rural Utility Services loan term for refinancing of existing loans to new loans with lower interest rates, yielding long-term savings for the Co-op.

Approved the engagement letter from Eide Bailly detailing the scope of their auditing services.

The board approved a revenue deferral plan. The 2018 preliminary financial results are reflecting sufficient margins in excess of budget, to defer approximately \$250,000 of revenue to be used in 2019 if kilowatt hour sales are insufficient to meet budget or to be used to avert future rate increases. RUS allows borrowers to defer excess revenue into future years with board approval.

Other items approved: November Financial Report on File for Audit, November General Fund Checks, Transfer of Patronage Capital & Refund of Patronage Capital to Estates, November New & Rescinded Memberships, Work Order Inventories, and Special Equipment Summary.

Approved one director to be the voting delegate for all elections at the NRECA Annual meeting. Approved which directors would attend the upcoming regional meetings and statewide annual meeting. Approved two directors to attend a summit on Clean Electricity.

GRE representative reported on the Great River Energy (GRE) activities including preparing for a HVDC converter station upgrade.

MCPA Board approved a resolution as a member-owner of GRE, to vote in favor of GRE's proposed wind energy purchase.

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

You're More Than a Customer

Author Anthony J. DiAngelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects McLeod Co-op Power's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1935, McLeod Co-op Power was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create

the Co-op. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold an annual meeting, conduct a biennial Member Survey, and are available to personally listen to the concerns of members who contact us.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as farm energy audits, in-home energy use analysis, business energy grants, and off-peak programs. We also offer rebates for select energy efficient appliance purchases, electric vehicle charging, and participation in off-peak programs. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

McLeod Co-op Power members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community — just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we offer economic development business loans, support charitable organizations such as 4-H and Minnesota FFA, and support many local charitable organization projects through Operation Roundup. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

Proud to keep your lights on.
Carrie



Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



This is a great year for new organizations to apply

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 they are on the Co-op's website at www.mcleodcoop.com. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2019.

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, 320-583-7673
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, 320-583-0037
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.

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

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

Looking for a fun, educational, and low-cost family vacation?



Join our North Dakota motor coach tour July 17-19

The Co-op will be hosting a three-day motor coach tour July 17-19 to North Dakota. Mom and dad, children 10 years or older, grandparents, all MCPA members are welcome to sign up. The tour will include Coal Creek Station generating plant, Falkirk coal mine, Blue Flint ethanol plant, Garrison Dam fish hatchery, North Dakota Heritage Center, National Buffalo Museum and Frontier Village.

Cost is \$250 per person for adults and \$150 per person for children under 18 sharing a room with their parents or grandparents. Cost includes motor coach transportation, two nights in hotel with pool and amenities, and most meals. Call the Co-op to make your reservation or request a more detailed information packet.



Crews removing poles south of Hector after completing the conversion of overhead to underground lines.

Two overhead to underground projects completed



Linemen preparing to roll up old conductors being retired onto reel on the BE-5 job near Lake Marion in McLeod County.

MCPA line crews wrapped up two work plan projects the last week of December. HE-3, a three-mile road job that is south of Hector, from Renville County Road 16 east to a mile east of State Highway 4, converted a three-phase overhead line to underground conductors. The remaining line and poles were removed the end of December.

BE-5 was another project that just wrapped up. The south circuit out of Bell Substation on Highway 15 south of Hutchinson was retired off of the transmission poles south to the Sumter Substation by Brownston. Removal and retirement of line on this seven and one-half mile stretch along Highway 15 was also completed by the end of the year.

Wellspring wind power cost drops in half

Members who subscribe to the Wellspring wind generation premium will see a drop in 2019 from \$0.40 to \$0.20 per 100 kWh block. This is due to the declining cost to purchase renewable wind power.

Wellspring is available to residential, farm or small business account. It is a voluntary program where members pay a slight premium to get more of their power from renewable sources. It helps support wind energy development in Minnesota. A similar program is available for large industrial customers also.

Annual Meeting is April 9

Mark your calendars for the Co-op's Annual Meeting. It is planned to be a morning meeting this year on Tuesday, April 9, at the Hutchinson Event Center.



McLeod Co-op Power participated in Arlington's Arli-Dazzle lighted parade the evening of December 1. One of the MCPA line workers and his family volunteered to take the decorated bucket truck through the parade.

Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 15

Cooperative members residing in Districts 7, 8, or 9 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2019 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 15, 2019.

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

District 7 includes: Hutchinson and Hale Townships in McLeod County, and Collinwood Township in Meeker County.

District 8 includes: Collins and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County, Grafton, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, and Alfsborn Townships in Sibley County, and Martinsburg, Wellington, and Bandon Townships in Renville County.

District 9 includes: Camden, Watertown, and Young America Townships in Carver County.

Stepping into a history book Christmas

If you loved reading the Laura Ingalls Wilder books about her life in the mid to late 19th century, what would you give to see those times literally played out before your very eyes? To walk through the pages of living history?

Welcome to the Forest City Stockade.

The Forest City Stockade was built to shelter pioneers from the Sioux Indian uprising in 1862. It protected settlers during a ten-day siege that was finally broken by the arrival of Company B of the 8th Minnesota Volunteer Regiment. In 1976, the United State's Bicentennial, Meeker County undertook to rebuild the Stockade with the help of like-minded local individuals.

In 1978, a few dedicated volunteers passionate about early American history began to painstakingly research that era and build a historic community that Laura Ingalls would have felt very comfortable in, since she was born just five years after the Sioux uprising and lived much of her young life in Minnesota.

Bob and Betty Hermann of Litchfield have been part of this devoted volunteer group and have dedicated untold hours, manpower and vision to creating a living history experience for anyone who wishes to experience a simpler life. A core group of local residents that have included the Hermanns, Chuck Fuller and Dale Root, have been instrumental, along with untold others over the years, in researching archives, visiting other historical monuments, and building authentic buildings, furnishing them with what would have filled them all those years ago.

About 35 years ago, the group opened the Stockade to the public in what has been called the Rendezvous, which takes place over two days in August. The Pioneer Christmas was established 23 years ago and allows visitors one Saturday every December.

"It takes about 150 people to run each event," Bob said. "They are all volunteers."

The volunteers; doctors, teachers, community administrators and many others all share a love of history and a passion for making every Stockade event a success. These events have become such a way of life for the volunteers that several families have volunteers across three or four generations of family members.

"We are all different, but we all share the same vision," Bob said. "That's highly unusual. Every year, we never have to wonder if our



Carolers sing in the lodge.



Blacksmith making a tool.

Pioneer Christmas Features:

- Pioneer crafts
- Visit with Santa Claus
- Christmas Carolers
- Demos by a Blacksmith, Candle maker, Spinning, Weaving, and more
- Horse-drawn sleigh rides
- Winter encampment with tepee, tent and A-frame
- Much more

volunteers will be available. There's a love for what we do. They just know what they have to do and there's no question about whether they will be there or not.

While many people express an interest in becoming a volunteer, they are not automatically accepted to be part of the group.

"If someone wants to volunteer, we first put them to work at the two-day summer Rendezvous," Bob said. "If you still have a smile on your face at the end of Sunday, then we will seriously consider you. But if you've had enough, then you just aren't going to make it. It just isn't going to be your cup of tea.

The Stockade has 13 buildings, from a general store to a gunsmith;



The art of violin making.



Horse rides around the grounds.



Shy little one meets Santa.

from a newspaper office to a pottery and candle shop and school house, just to name a few. Each building has been researched and built by hand as it would have been in 1862. Chuck Fuller is in charge of the research and buildings. Within each building you will find activities that would have been carried out then, just the way it would have been done all those years ago.

"In the woodworking shop, there is no electricity, no drills or electric saws; it's done the way it was in 1862," Betty said. That also goes for the blacksmith shop, the candle making shop, the General Store and more. There was no electricity and no electric equipment.

"Items in the general store are items you would have found in the



Chapel in the pines.



Visitors eating hot fare on a cold day.



Fur pelts, moccasins, hats, and other items for sale.



Fiddling holiday carols in the chapel.

store in 1862," Betty added. "When we make our home-made ice cream, it's made by a hand crank, just as if would have been made."

"Many people have suggested we install a PA system or allow musicians with amplifiers, but we won't allow it," Bob said. "If we allow electrical items in, it will screw up peoples' thinking about the time period. People have said our village is the most historically accurate. That's why."

As a consequence, the events are not only a step back into history, but a step out of the world for a time.

"You just don't see people on their phones or kids playing video games," Betty said. "And we never have to walk the grounds picking up trash afterwards. People show so much respect for what we're doing, there's never any trash or water bottles thrown on the ground."

Besides local volunteers, the Stockade Committee prefers to not invite well-known musical or other talent that would be a draw for people. They would rather invite local musicians and artisans.

This past year the Pioneer Christmas visitors were blessed to be able to talk with local craftsman Eddie Dollerschell about how he hand-crafts beautiful, high-quality violins.

"Eddie has been making violins for 15-20 years," Betty said. "He has competed internationally and received very high marks. And this is a local man. It's so special to have him be a part."

Every year, the Rendezvous will attract four to five thousand people. The Pioneer Christmas pulls in roughly 1,700 people, with as many as 700 children.

"Kids under 12 are free," Betty said. It's inexpensive for large families. At the Pioneer Christmas we have a variety of activities and we push the education part so it's more than just fun."

Funding the Vision

The Hermanns are proud of the fact that the Stockade is self-sufficient. There are no grants, county or state funds that they



Volunteers making fry bread.

rely on. Although it is considered a county park and they are insured through the county park system, they are kept afloat through the gate receipts and private donations from others who believe in what the Stockade represents.

"We would rather have local people donate so they can come and inspect the work we have done and see that all of the money they gave went where we said it would," Bob said.

If they have a building or maintenance project, such as rebuilding the fence and/or buildings, they will do a fund drive to finance it. The work is done by volunteers.

Their last fund drive was to sell a log for \$25. They raised \$70,000 for the building fund.

"There's one story that I just have to tell," Bob said. "One year a couple from Illinois came to visit family and they came about a week before the Rendezvous and asked for a private tour of the Stockade. At the end of the tour they asked if they could make a donation. 'Sure,' I said, 'we always welcome donations.' They handed me a check for \$300. The next year they came again and asked for a quick tour of projects we had been working on. Again, they handed me a check and I just folded it up and put it in my pocket. Later, when I looked, it was \$500! The next year it was a \$300 donation again. It was just so unexpected and kind," Bob said, tearing up.

"We regularly host groups," Bob said. He and Dale Root conduct educational school group tours. But they also have musical groups, senior groups, and many more.

"We have a connection with a travel company out of Fargo that has about four groups a year come from Norway to Minnesota. One group flew into Minneapolis on a Sunday evening. They hopped aboard a Holt Tour bus at 8 a.m. Monday on their way to Fargo. But their first stop in the United States was for a 2-1/2 hour tour of the Stockade.

"The travel agent said these people wanted to experience what their ancestors experienced coming to Minnesota all those generations ago, and see how they must have struggled in their first years,"



Interior of fort from restored upper walkway.

An assortment of food:

- Hot home-made beef or sausage stew
- Fry bread
- Lefse
- Home-made ice cream
- Old-fashioned root beer
- Coffee

Bob said. "They want to come here because it's the most accurate depiction of what life was like then. That's what motivates us to do what we do for 40 years. If we didn't love it, we would have stopped years ago."

In addition to the two scheduled public events and tours, the Stockade is also open for private events.

"We have five weddings booked so far for 2019," Bob said.

Through word of mouth people from all over hear about the Stockade, even though they don't advertise outside the area to avoid crowds too large to handle. The people that come are genuinely interested in what the Stockade Committee has to offer and they want to tell their friends and relatives.

It's a family event for those that visit, but also for those that come together around the vision each year. Like a stone in a pond, their contribution has a ripple effect.

"We play a big part in peoples' lives," Bob said.

Laura Ingalls Wilder would have been proud to see an accurate picture of what she could only write about.

For more information about the summer Rendezvous, the Pioneer Christmas, volunteering, donating and more, visit their website at forestcitystockade.org.



All ages enjoyed rides around the Stockade property.



Line to purchase warm fry bread rolled in sugar and cinnamon.



Cooking pots of stew over fire.

November 2018 Outage Summary

During the month of November the Cooperative had a total of 32 outages, affecting 49 consumers. It was a very quiet month. There were no transmission or power supplier caused outages. The largest number of outages (9) were due to squirrels and critters. Planned outages due to service rebuilds and construction work on the system had seven scheduled interruptions.

The largest outage for the month affected 13 consumers north of Hutchinson on November 23 about 3:45 p.m. Power was restored in one hour and 46 minutes. Cause was a damaged fuse cut-out.

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.

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
- 4ft medicine cabinet w/mirror & light. Winsted. \$25. 320-420-2649
 - Loftness snow blower. 507-964-5683
 - OSB boards 32in X 32in X 7/16in. \$1/each. 952-353-2351
 - 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
 - Roll top desk \$15. 320-510-0404
 - Delta pick-up tool box. \$85/bo. 320-510-0404
 - 6 1/2ft 3pt garden disk. Very good condition, almost new. 320-395-2873
 - 2-50-gallon square rain barrels, never used. \$25/each. 320-395-2873
 - Arctic Cat Purple power lube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
 - 2007 Winnebago Adventurer motorhome. Excellent condition. Reasonable offer. 320-238-2506

- For Sale Farm
- 7ft snow bucket. 320-582-1534
 - 7ft 3pt snow blower. Cheap. 320-582-1534
 - 353 Detroit motor. 320-582-1534
- Wanted
- Round bale feeders. 507-964-5683
 - Schuld holding tank. 507-964-5683
 - Round hay bales. 320-582-1534
- Giveaway
- Good used 11X28 or 12X28 tractor tire. 320-864-3808
 - 40 inch electric kitchen cook stove in good working order. 320-300-8985
 - RCA TV in good working order. 320-510-0404

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.



Opportunity for veterans with disabilities

CoBank has partnered with No Barriers USA to honor and support disabled 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 more than just a mountain vacation. They provide an opportunity to challenge limitations — both real and perceived — and to create a network of support that can last a lifetime.

CoBank will sponsor two moderate-level expeditions and two difficult level expeditions that will take place during July and August, 2019. Exact dates for the expedition will be announced in 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. The difficult level expeditions will involve a more physically challenging, backcountry itinerary and a mountain summit attempt.

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.

If selected for the CoBank/No Barriers program, CoBank will cover all costs for the participating veteran, including travel expenses.

How does a veteran sign up?

McLeod Co-op Power is able to nominate an unlimited number of veterans from local communities 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 1-800-494-6272 or e-mail 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. Additional information on No Barriers and its veterans (Warriors) expeditions may be found at <http://www.nobarriersusa.org/warriors/>.

Power Line Worker Scholarships

Scholarships are available for persons enrolling in a power line worker program at a Minnesota vocational college. One \$500 scholarship is available through the Cooperative.

Application forms are available by calling 1.800.494.6272 or visit www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/. High school seniors looking for a career choice may want to study the Power Line Worker career brochure. They are available from McLeod Cooperative Power explaining the educational requirements, on-the-job training, daily work duties and salary range.

The Loneliest Home Appliance

What goes on behind closed dishwasher doors? For many, nothing. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reports that dishwashers are the least used home appliance. Of the 80 million U.S. households having a dishwasher, roughly 16 million (20 percent) never use it over the course of a year, according to DOE data.

For these households, that's a costly mistake. Cleaning a typical load of dishes in a dishwasher uses 37 percent less water than washing by hand, saving the average household nearly 5,000 gallons of water per year. Also, using a dishwasher, rather than hand washing, can cut your annual energy costs by more than \$40, according to ENERGY STAR®.

Stop the drain on your budget

- If your dishwasher isn't fulfilling its potential, stop wasting energy and water and start using it. Here are some money-saving tips:



- Scrape dishes instead of rinsing before loading them into the dishwasher. Pre-rinsing dishes can use up to 20 gallons of water.
- Only run your dishwasher when there's a full load and use short wash cycles for lightly soiled dishes.
- Use a rinse agent and the air-dry setting, rather than the heated drying cycle.

If your dishwasher is older or in need of repair, purchase a new ENERGY STAR certified unit. ENERGY STAR dishwashers use less energy and water than standard models.

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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. 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.

Office to be closed briefly February 26

The Co-op would like to notify members that the office will be closed from noon to 1:30 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 26 so our employees can participate in an off-site meeting. Payments can be deposited in the drop box during this time.

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



A New Look For Your Mcleod Cooperative Power Bill

McLeod Cooperative Power has adopted a new billing format. You will find the same information as previous bills, with a few enhancements. Follow the numbers as a guide to understand your new billing statement.

1. General contact information, our phone numbers and office hours.
2. The Billing Date, Account and Location Number, Amount Due and Due Date.
3. Activity Since Last Bill contains the beginning balance, payments, adjustments and balance prior to the current billing.
4. Message area to relay important information from McLeod Co-op Power Assn.
5. The service address, phone number on file, meter information and reading dates print in this area.
6. A monthly graph with 13 months of usage information.
7. The Current Charges Detail is shown here along with the total current charge amount.
8. The Total Amount Due and Due Date, along with the member's Account and Location number.
9. Be sure to return the bottom portion of the bill with your payment. Please make sure the address is visible through the return envelope. We also accept payments in person at our office.

On the reverse side of the bill find MCPA phone numbers along with terms and definitions.

Page 1 of 2

McLEOD CO-OP POWER
1231 Ford Avenue
PO Box 70
Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (800) 494-6272 or (320) 864-3148
To Report Outages: (800) 927-5685
Website: www.mcleodcoop.com

4510 1 AV 0.375 5 4510
ANY MEMBER C-14 P-30
4567 ANYPLACE ST
ANYWHERE MN 99999-9999

2 Billing Date 12/04/2018
Account Number 123456
Location Number 12-34-567
Amount Due 120.29
Current Charges Due Date 12/28/2018

3 Activity Since Last Bill
Previous Balance 121.62
Payments Received -121.62
Balance Prior to Billing 0.00

The office will be closed for the holidays, Monday & Tuesday, December 24th & 25th and Tuesday, January 1st. The General Retirement credit on this statement is for the remaining balance of 1999 and/or 20% of 2017 patronage capital credits. This amount is applied to the oldest years first.

5 Serv Addr: 4567 ANYPLACE ST Desc: Phone: (999) 345-5789

Meter #	Rate	Reading Dates	Days	Previous	Current	Meter	kWh
123456789	2T	11/01/2018	30	27202	28057	1	855
987654321	3T	11/01/2018	30	566	605	20	380

6 kWh Usage History

7 Current Charges Detail

Balance Prior To Billing	0.00
Energy Charge	475 kWh @ \$0.11990 56.95
Energy Charge	380 kWh @ \$0.06120 23.26
Power Cost Adj	475 kWh @ \$0.00401 1.90
Power Cost Adj	380 kWh @ \$0.00201 0.76
System Delivery Charge	36.00
General Retirement	-6.75
State Tax	8.17
Total Current Charges	120.29
Total Amount Due	120.29

You saved \$22.30 this month on your load management account.

8 Location # 12-34-567 Account # 123456
Total Amount Due 12/28/18 120.29
Amount Due After 12/28/18 124.49

Amount Paid \$

Your payment and any returned items may be processed electronically.

9 McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 70
GLENCOE MN 55336-0070

Please return this portion with payment. The late charge is \$3.00 plus 1% of net bill. A deposit box is located at our office in Glencoe for your convenience.

Rebate program rolled out for 2019

Significant rebates are available for heat pumps in 2019, whether installing a ground source or air source heat pump or a ductless (mini-split) unit.

ENERGY STAR rated dryers will qualify for a \$25 rebate this year. Electrically commutated furnace fan motors will qualify for a rebate of \$50 in 2019 for retrofits only (not with new installations).

Rebates for the purchase of ENERGY STAR rated refrigerators or freezers are \$25 and require documented recycling of the old, still working refrigerator or freezer that is being replaced, will be offered with a maximum of two rebates per member per year for recycling. The refrigerators or freezers that are recycled without the purchase of a new unit, are also required to be operating and must be units removed from properties served by

MCPA. 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, while supplies last. A \$2,500 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 2019.

Distributed generation application process and fees to change

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) recently updated the interconnection process for distributed generation with major changes. To comply with the state statute, the cooperative will be required to update its forms, processes, and tariffs in the coming months. If you are planning a solar or wind interconnection, please check with the co-op to get the most current information on interconnection standards. Forms will be updated on the Co-op web site www.mcleodcoop.com when they are approved.

High-Efficiency Appliance Rebates for 2019

Dehumidifiers..... \$25

Dryers..... \$25

Refrigerators & Freezer (Max of 2/year)

Refrigerator harvest \$25

Refrigerator w/recycling \$25

Freezer Harvest \$25

Freezer with recycling \$25

AC Tune Up (Max of 1 every 2 years)..... \$25

Ductless ASHP \$300

ECM (retrofit only) \$50

GSHF (\$/ton) \$400

QI ASHP

SEER 14.5 \$200

SEER 15 \$400

SEER 16 \$800

ETS Space Heat - per kW \$50

ETS Water Heating

100 gallon minimum capacity \$400

Heat Pump Water Heater

50 gallon minimum capacity \$500

LED Yard Light \$60

Swimming Pool

ASHP \$400

Pool Variable Speed Pump \$200

Electric Vehicle & Chargewise \$500

This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial rebates. There is a \$2,500 maximum rebate per member per year. Only ETS space heating and commercial grants/rebates have a \$5,000 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 hvaceducation.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 receipt from recycler/appliance store showing proof of recycling required.