

# McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

February 2019

## Lower energy rate this month

Although January was very cold and will cause many of us to have an increase in our energy use for the month, an extra-large power cost adjustment (PCA) credit will help bring that energy cost down a little. The bill you receive in February (for January use) will have a PCA credit of 1.764 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). That means that for every 100 kWh you purchased, your bill will be \$1.76 less than the normal retail rate.

Members can thank our power supplier Great River Energy for much of that PCA credit. Great River Energy is the wholesale power supplier for most of the power we sell to our members. They had higher than expected margins at the end of the year, which they shared with their member-cooperatives. McLeod Co-op Power, in-turn, is passing that credit through to our members on the current bill.

For details on the PCA credit see General Manager Carrie Buckley's column on page 2.

## 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 p.m. 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. Outage calls will be taken by our after hours service.

## Attention land owners and renters: Policy to address drain tile and private utility damage

Increased installation of underground distribution lines has Co-op underground lines intersecting more and more with drain tile and other private utilities. Also, to meet the requirements of road rebuilding projects, the Co-op is having to convert more of its overhead distribution line to buried facilities located in the road right-of-way. When underground facilities and drain tile meet, it has occasionally caused issues for landowners or farmers and the Cooperative.



To proactively address the situation, McLeod Co-op Power (MCPA) drafted a policy clarifying our process when encountering tile or private utilities. The policy was approved by the MCPA Board of Directors at its January meeting. The policy is designed to ensure prompt, consistent, and fair consideration if tile or private utility damage occurs while the Co-op is performing installation, repair, or replacement of underground line.

The policy lays out the advanced notice the Co-op will provide to private property owners if work is planned on their property or in road right-of-way abutting the owner's private property where tile or private utilities may exist. It also addresses responsibility of the owner to locate and mark their tile or private utilities, and who is responsible for the cost of repairs.

During the research to prepare the policy, the Co-op was made aware that Minnesota Statute Chapter 216D states that the owner of any tile or private utility located in the road right-of-way is expected to have registered their facilities with the township, county, or state (depending on type of roadway), as well as with Gopher State One Call System. Gopher State One Call notifies all land owners when digging is requested.

The full policy is available on the Co-op's website at <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/safety/gopher-one-call/>. Scroll to the bottom on the Gopher State One Call page for a link to the policy.

## Are you driving an electric vehicle?

McLeod Co-op Power would like to know if you are currently driving an electric vehicle (EV). It can be a car or truck, a hybrid or an electric-only vehicle. You can own it or lease it. We are asking any members that drive an EV to please contact the Co-op so we can share with you EV charging incentives and rates. Maybe you would like to share with us how satisfied you are with your new technology? And maybe you would consider sharing your EV experience with other members at our 2019 Ride & Drive Event this spring?

We'd love to hear from you! There is no commitment of any kind. We just ask that you either **mail us the completed form with your electric bill or you can scan and e-mail the form to [mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com)**. Thank you.



### I drive an EV!

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Hybrid: \_\_\_\_\_ or Battery EV: \_\_\_\_\_

Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Official publication of



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

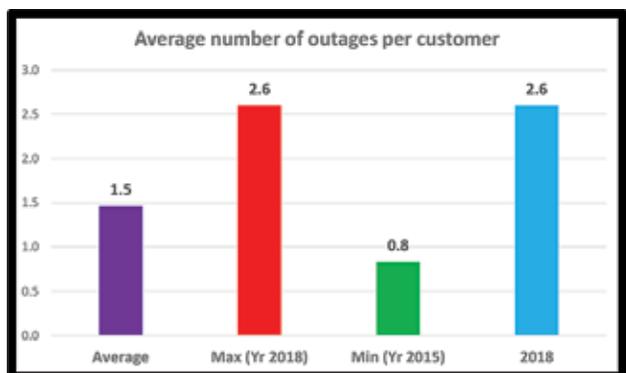


## Looking Back and Looking Ahead — A Quick Review of 2018 and a Glance at What to Expect in 2019

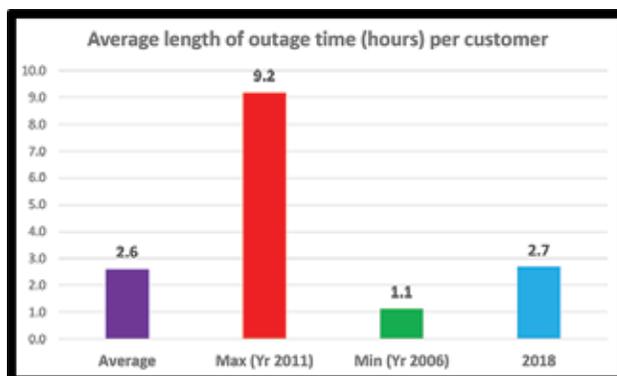
Our Cooperative had another productive year in 2018. Our financial results were very good, driven by strong kilowatt hour sales and continued cost containment. We maintained a strong equity position and our margins amply exceeded our debt service requirements. Unlike 2017 when our margins did not reach reasonable levels until November, in 2018 we were fortunate that our strong kilowatt hour sales, due to more normal winter and summer weather, provided consistent margins throughout the year.

McLeod Cooperative Power, like any electric co-op, has significant plant assets in the form of buildings and equipment as well as distribution poles and wires. All of our assets are built and maintained for the ultimate purpose of delivering energy and improving our system reliability. One of our major construction work plan projects has been converting to underground, our overhead distribution lines which were built under transmission lines. Converting to underground reduces the risk of extended distribution outages due to transmission outage events. I am very proud to report in 2018 we completed conversion of 21.5 miles of overhead to underground line.

Here is a snapshot of our 2018 outages compared to years 2003-2018. We get important information from this data on the amount and duration of outages by comparison to previous years. In 2011, there was a multi-day widespread outage due to wind events, so it continues to be overall the worst year for outages. 2018 had interesting results which ranged from worst, to average, to 3rd best for certain indices over the 15 years. Here are the results:



• Average number of outages per customer=2.598; 2018 had the highest average number of outages per customer of all 15 years. Ouch! This was clearly due to the high number of transmission outages affecting so many customers each time.



• Average length of outage time per customer=161.282; Averaging 161 minutes of outages per customer was slightly higher than average. So, even though there were a lot of outages, they were not very long in duration. Again, this relates back to the high number of transmission outages, but the lights came back on fairly quickly.

• Average length of time per outage=62.083 minutes; At 62 minutes for the average length of an outage, it was good news. The average over the 15 years was 104.870 minutes.

• Percentage of time the average customer had power=99.969%; Put another way, not having power, on average, .031% of the time was about average for the 15 years.

Maintenance of and improving our system reliability is one of our top priorities. Our 2018 tree clearing plan was 100% accomplished, which helped reduce the tree related outages.

When we have transmission outages we work diligently with GRE and Xcel to restore service as quickly as possible. Throughout the year we communicate and cooperate on transmission planning with Great River Energy to help manage the transmission system reliability.

Glance at What to Expect in 2019 - The Board approved the 2019 Operating Budget and Construction Work Plan back in December. Our goal is to serve the long term best interests of the members. Financial stability through adequate revenue and cost containment are essential to reliability, safety, affordability, and peace of mind. I thought I would share with you some of the numbers and activities we are planning for this year.

The Board of Directors adopted a 2019 budget with total operating revenue of \$20.6 million and total cost of electric services of \$20.3 million. Our operating margin is projected at about \$342,000 or 1.7 percent of revenue. Our non-operating income will add approximately \$500,000 for a total margin anticipated of \$838,000. Non-operating items include capital credits allocated from cooperatives such as our power supplier, Great River Energy, and interest earned on investments. It also includes modest margins from our new generator sales business, contract services for the City of Arlington, and our emergency medical pendant service.

I am very pleased to report there is no rate increase needed in 2019! Continued cost containment measures and good margins from 2017 and 2018 have paved the way to rate relief in 2019.

The cost of the wholesale power we purchase is by far our largest expense at \$12.7 million. This comprises 63% of our total cost of electric services. Power cost in 2019 is expected to remain flat compared to 2018. In fact, on February bills you will see a PCA credit of 1.76 cents per kilowatt hour. This is mostly a result of a refund of power cost from our power supplier Great River Energy. Changes to power costs are passed onto you through the monthly power cost adjustment on your bill. The average monthly power cost adjustment in 2018 was a credit of two tenths of a penny per kilowatt hour. We expect the average in 2019 to be around the same.

With 63 cents of every dollar going toward wholesale power cost, the balance of the revenue we receive provides the cash to pay all our operating expenses, depreciation expense, interest expense, and provide a margin. Nearly \$2.3 million goes to operations and maintenance of the 1,911 miles of line and 7 substations that comprise our distribution system. Included in this amount is payment to vendors of \$500,000 for tree trimming and right-of-way maintenance. The 2019 plan continues to clear trees from our line at an aggressive rate since they are a significant cause of outages.

We are excited for another productive year to come while we constantly try to improve our performance. My thanks to our employees who show up to work every day with a can-do attitude and willingness to serve.

Proud to keep your lights on.  
Carrie

### 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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Send to Sue Pawelk at the  
address shown.

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

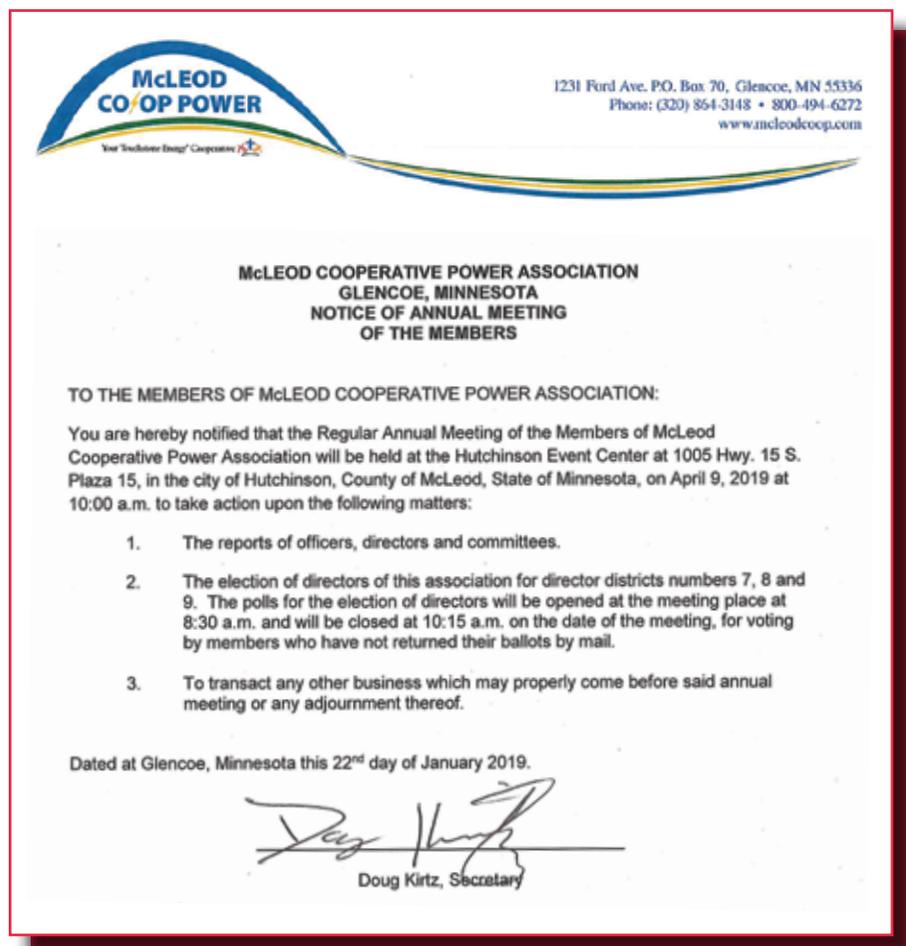
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Fax: 320-864-4850  
Web site:  
www.mcleodcoop.com**

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

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

# Annual Meeting is April 9

Mark your calendars for the Co-op's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at the Hutchinson Event Center.



## Summary of Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

The Line Superintendent gave the Operations/ Engineering Report. In 2018, there were 359 work orders completed, and 407 work orders staked by the engineering department. There were 3 work plan projects completed in 2018; WI-3 Winthrop Sub (10 miles), HE-3 Hector Sub (4 miles), and BE-5 Bell Sub (7.5 miles). He also reviewed the Service Reliability Indices 2003-2018 with the Board.

With the increased amount of installation of underground distribution lines, there is more intersection with drain tile and / or other private utilities. Newly created Policy 4-27 Tile or Private Utility Damage is intended to provide guidance to Cooperative personnel and members regarding the process the Cooperative will use in providing notice to the owner, expectations of locating of the private utility, and responsibility of repair in the case of damage to the private utility. Policy 4-27 Tile or Private Utility Damage was approved.

Changes to the distributed generation charges listed in Policy 3-1 Schedule of Charges were approved and will be effective April 1. Other fee schedule items remained the same from 2018.

The monthly summer peak-shave credit for participating in the Cycled Cooling Program was reduced from \$6/month to \$5/month, resulting from Great River Energy's adjustment to wholesale charges.

Employees responsible for purchasing showed substantial savings in December by converting

single/three phase overhead transformers (already in stock), to single/three phase underground pad transformers.

IT Manager completed and reported on cybersecurity measures implemented. He explained progress on coordinating multiple systems so the co-op vehicles appear on the outage map.

Manager of Finance presented a preliminary overview of the 2018 Revenue vs Budget and the 2018 kWh Sales vs Budget after the deferral of revenue.

The board approved Annual Depreciation Rates for 2019, the 2019 Nominating Committee, Annual Meeting Notice, December Financial Report on File for Audit, December General Fund Checks, Transfer of Patronage Capital & Refund of Patronage Capital to Estates, New & Rescinded Memberships, and work order inventories.

General Manager gave monthly report and reviewed Great River Energy's (GRE) financial results for 2018. GRE rep reported on board actions at GRE.

The board approved for Co-op to vote in favor of renewable power purchase agreements by GRE. They approved specific persons as voting delegates for MREA and NRECA annual meetings. They approved several directors to attend upcoming meetings and selected possible dates for a special board meeting to discuss strategic business issues.

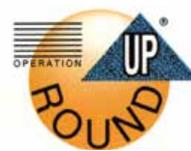


Standing (l to r) Dean Loehrs, Rodney Maetzold, Jim Sallstrom and Marlin Kohls. Seated (l to r) LuAnne Kucera, Bruce Svanda, and Ronald Swenson (Curt Burns and Brad Baumgardt not pictured).

## Nominating Committee working on slate of candidates for 2019

The members of the 2019 Nominating Committee met January 24 and will meet again on February 14 to finalize their slate of two candidates in each district having an election. This year Districts 7, 8, and 9 will be having director elections. Members serving on this year's Nominating Committee: Ronald Swenson from Hutchinson, Bruce Svanda from Silver Lake, and LuAnne Kucera from Silver Lake for District 7, Brad Baumgardt of Buffalo Lake, Jim Sallstrom from Winthrop, and Curt Burns from Stewart for District 8, and Rodney Maetzold from Mayer, Dean Loehrs from Young America, and Marlin Kohls from New Germany for District 9.

## 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](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2019.

## 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.

# Entrepreneurs Prove That Electricity and Water Sometimes Do Mix

Vascular Solutions company CEO Howard Root needed to unplug from his high-profile job and on-going legal battle with the federal government for which he was eventually exonerated. So he and a friend, Bart Jones, would spend part of their weekends customizing boats in Jones' workshop.

During their time in the workshop, Jones shared a dream he had to create an electric pontoon.

"That was 2017, after I had won my case and was still working at Vascular Solutions," Root told Twin Cities Business. Root has since sold the Maple Grove based medical device company.

Shortly following his retirement, the two men started working on an electric pontoon prototype. They began with an old, rust-bucket of a pontoon which they nicknamed the "Rat Rod." They replaced the pontoon's original engine and swapped it with a new electric motor, drive and battery. Their first test drive was on Lake Minnetonka.

"There I was with this really ugly pontoon boating around that summer and lo and behold it did really well," says Root.

The two men went on shortly after to design their first commercial prototype which was unveiled for the first time at January's Minneapolis Boat Show. It was branded as the first electric luxury fiberglass pontoon.

## A striking, sleek design

Root admitted "I never liked the look of pontoons. It's just barrels with a dance floor and a living room stapled to it." So the team designed a sleek, modern design that incorporates the barrels into the hull of the pontoon, rather than under it. This, along with other innovations, gives the new electric pontoon its unique shape.

The men are marketing this new electric pontoon from a Mayer-based company called Elux Marine. They will manufacture just four boats in its first production year.

The regular going rate for an Elux Marine pontoon will be \$85,000, which a price shift likely in 2020, when the company opens their design up for customization.

Elux is branding its 24-foot electric pontoon as designed specifically for Minnesota lakes.

"Most boats out there are designed for the big water and then they try to sell them here," Root told TCB. "[Our pontoon is] designed for a three-hour sun cruise, not to be a boat you take down a river or across the ocean."

Fitted with a 72-volt, 420-amp lithium battery, the Elux pontoon can reach speeds up to 14 miles per hour.



Bart Jones (left) and Howard Root on the electric pontoon they designed in Jones' workshop. (Photos courtesy of Elux Marine)



The logo sports a bolt of electricity to signify its power source.

Charging the battery is simply done by plugging it into a standard electric outlet, which will take up to 12 hours to charge from half to full and can run more than 10 hours at cruising speed on a single charge. Elux pontoons have a smart charger system to insure the battery won't overcharge or drain to a point that would damage the battery.

## Land of Lakes top spender on boating

According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, Minnesota has a long history of being one of the country's top spenders on boating. Sales have increased over the last eight years and in 2017, sales totalled \$807 million, a 12 percent increase over 2016. Only four states spend more on boats than Minnesotans do.

Jones and Root are betting that their nice boat will eventually have a market in small numbers and that they will do very well.

While the Elux Marine pontoon price will be out of the price range of most folks, it's a great example of what can be accomplished by people who are thinking outside the box and using electricity in new and innovative ways.



Designed to seat one to 12 for cruising, swimming, fishing and more.

## Features of the Elux electric pontoon include:

- Seating for 12
- Two-foot swim platform with under-mount telescoping ladder
- GPS with Simrad GO9 XSE 9-inch display and TotalScan transducer sonar
- Eight built-in speakers with subwoofer
- LED bow and stern lighting
- Handheld electric portable vacuum
- Multiple USB chargers
- Slide-out cabinets to discretely store a beverage cooler, trash and recycling containers
- Lockable storage space for valuables
- Flip-up storage for pool noodles and other equipment
- Removeable shade sail for sun and rain protection
- Removeable transom gate and table

Source: Story elements used by permission of Twin Cities Business online magazine, Sam Shoust, Digital Editor

# An outlet for energy savings



The Insteon® On/Off Outlet is one of many options for smart, energy-saving outlets. Both outlets can be controlled remotely, but consumers will need to purchase the Insteon Hub first, which costs about \$40. Photo credit: Insteon®

Technology keeps advancing and just when you think you've seen it all, there's another new device. Fortunately for us, there are devices that help keep a tab on our energy use—the energy saving outlet.

These next-generation devices afford the same surge protection as their predecessors, but also tie in the “smart” functionality of an internet-connected device.

There are several different kinds of energy-saving outlets available, but there are two factors you should consider. First is size; there are many different sizes ranging from a single external outlet to a power strip with multiple sockets.

The second thing you'll want to consider is Wi-Fi connectivity; internet-connected outlets, commonly known as smart plugs, may enable you to fully realize the potential of these energy savings. This is because you'll have greater remote control of the outlet through your smart phone, tablet or home assistant (like Google Home or Amazon's Alexa).

You'll also want to consider where you'll be using the energy-saving outlet and what you'll be using it for. Answering these questions will make it easier to choose the device that works best for you.

With smart plugs or smart power strips, a few clicks and swipes on your smart phone will enable you to fully shut down the electrical currents to your high-powered devices to prevent them from consuming electricity even when switched off. Several devices found inside your home are commonly referred to as “parasitic loads,” “phantom loads” or “energy vampires.” In fact, most entertainment systems consist of several parasitic loads, such as televisions, DVD players and video gaming consoles. These outlets can potentially curb these loads, which can cost the average household an extra \$200 per year.

In addition to preventing unnecessary energy consumption, these energy-saving outlets are affordable for most folks who are looking to trim their use. The average smart outlet costs around \$10 to \$20 on Amazon.com and has the potential to pay for itself



ThinkEco also offers smart, energy-saving outlets. Shown here is the modlet (or modern outlet), which can be controlled remotely and even adjust to your personal schedule. Photo credit: ThinkEco

within two years or less depending on how often you use it.

Smart plugs typically come with simple instructions to download an accompanying app on your smart phone and then connect the plug to your home's Wi-Fi. The convenience in being able to turn the device on and off using your phone cannot be understated. Advanced smart plugs and smart plug apps also have the ability to automate the use with your schedule and even your presence in the home.

You can also have large-load devices turn off at a set time each night and turn on every morning when you're ready to use them. If you want to use your television, for example, at a time that's outside of the preset hours, you can easily switch the device on through the smart phone app. Through automation, you're able to power down these energy-intensive devices and prevent unnecessary energy use.

For folks who are looking to optimize their energy use and eliminate vampire loads, smart plugs may be your best option. For others who want more of a hands-off option to save additional dollars, energy-saving outlets and power strips without the Wi-Fi connection may be a better choice. Either way, energy-saving outlets are just one of many energy efficient options out there, and as technology continues to evolve, we'll likely see additional options emerge in the future.

*Kaley Lockwood writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

## Co-op Policy Priorities for the New Congress

Every time a new Congress convenes, electric cooperatives have the opportunity to educate new lawmakers on issues that matter most to their consumer-members and the communities they serve. The 116th Congress kicked off in January with more than 100 new members in the House and Senate.

Since then, co-ops have been working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives, to introduce ourselves to new members on Capitol Hill. Here are several priority issues that we're bringing to lawmakers' attention.

### Energy Policy and Infrastructure

The potential for energy and infrastructure legislation presents a significant opportunity as electric cooperatives work to meet the growing needs of their local communities. NRECA will work to ensure that any infrastructure package focuses on more than roads and bridges, including opportunities to modernize the electric grid and expand rural broadband access. This is critical to ensuring that rural America is not left behind in the 21st century economy.

### Environment

NRECA will promote and encourage bipartisan support for renewable energy research and development programs—including programs that focus on finding a viable use for carbon capture, utilization and storage, which comprise a suite of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Cooperative renewables use has increased substantially in recent years, more than doubling since 2010.

### Grid Resilience

Protecting our nation's vast power grid is a national priority and focus for electric cooperatives. Ensuring appropriate information sharing and preserving existing partnerships and structures are essential to these efforts. We will advocate for resources and technologies that meet the unique cybersecurity and recovery needs of small and medium-sized utilities to help protect our systems.

Advocating for the interests of our consumer-members and the communities in which they live is at the very heart of our business.

*~Dan Riedinger, for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc.*

## Distributed generation application process and fees to change

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, along with stakeholder groups, have been working on new distributed generation (DG) interconnection standards and processes. The new Interconnection Application Process Fees have been approved by the MCPA Board of Directors and will replace the current application fees on April 1, 2019. The new Interconnection Processing Fees are \$100 for the simplified process track, \$100 plus \$1 per kW for certified system process track, \$100 plus \$2 per kW for the non-certified system process track and \$1,000 plus \$2 per kW down payment (additional fees may apply) to the study

track. For approved projects, a standard Interconnection Charge of \$585.00 will apply prior to final inspection. Any costs for upgrading facilities to serve DG loads is the responsibility of the member installing the system.

Following official approval, the Co-op will be updating its forms, processes, and tariffs in the coming months. If you are planning a DG interconnection, please check with the co-op to get the most current information on interconnection standards and fees. DG information will be updated on the Co-op web site [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) when approved.

## 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 February 28 to be included in the March 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

- 45in Oak dining table w/2 leaves/4 chairs. 320-296-6222
- Arctic Cat purple power-lube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
- Electric wheelchair, used less than 6 months. \$2,000/bo. 320-234-7181
- 1500-gallon water tank w/pump & 5hp Briggs engine. 507-327-1869
- Delta pick-up toolbox. \$75/bo. 320-510-0404
- 1998 Polaris Indy Lite Deluxe. Great shape. \$1,250/bo. 320-510-0404
- 353 Detroit motor. 320-582-1534
- Trade 2001 F250 crew-cab w/plow for skid loader. 612-619-7283
- 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
- Double barrel wood stove \$25. 320-300-8985
- Kitchen table w/4 chairs. 320-510-1752

### For Sale Farm

- 800-gallon round fertilizer tank. 320-864-4496
- Pair used 10 X 36 tractor tires. Good tread. 612-803-4475
- 225-bushel gravity box. 320-582-1534
- 7ft snow bucket. 320-582-1534
- Round hay bales. 320-582-1534
- Two-year Polled Hereford bull. 320-328-5272
- Small square hay bales. \$2. 320-300-8985
- Electric grain bin spreaders. 320-333-2177
- 10 X 60 auger w/pto. 320-333-2177
- Butcher pigs for sale. We haul to Hector Meats. 320-583-2523

### Wanted

- Pony drag or spring tooth harrow on cart. 320-510-0993

### Giveaway

- 36 X 68 brown plaid hide-a-bed w/foam mattress. You move. 320-583-0471
- Wooden desk w/chair. 320-510-0404
- Cable piano w/bench. 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.*

## Power Line Worker Scholarship

A scholarship is available for someone 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/](http://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.

## Get your FREE MN State Parks map



Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have again partnered with the State of Minnesota Parks and Trails on sponsorship and distribution of the 2019-20 Map and Visitor Guide. Free maps are available to MCPA members in the Co-op office.

The colorful maps feature all of Minnesota's trails and parks on the map, a list of camping, lodging, and recreation facilities at each park, and a list of online resources to check out before you visit a state park. Minnesota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have been marketing partners with the state parks for many years and work together to promote use of the parks to our members.

## December 2018 Outage Summary

During the month of December the Cooperative had a total of 22 outages, affecting 519 consumers. It was a very quiet month except for one power supply/transmission outage on December 27, 2018 about 5:25 p.m. that interrupted power to 455 MCPA consumers fed from the Sherman Substation, west of Winsted. An Xcel power supply issue interrupted the electricity for one hour and 22 minutes. This one outage represented 88.6% of the our consumer outage hours for the month.

Six outages were planned outages due to service rebuilds and construction work on the system. Five had unknown causes.

The second largest outage for December affected 15 members east of Glencoe on December 10 about 8:05 a.m. It was due to an OCR failure and power was restored in less than an 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.

# Reliability upgrade for an HVDC system

Great River Energy will soon complete one of the most significant transmission projects in its history

Since 2011, electric generation and transmission cooperative Great River Energy has been preparing for a major upgrade to its high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) transmission system. Such systems are unique, and Great River Energy's is one of a few of its kind in the world. It is also one of the utility's most valuable assets because it delivers nearly all the power from Coal Creek Station, the Co-op's largest power plant, in Underwood, N.D. to Minnesota, where its 28 member-owner co-ops are located.

Great River Energy and ABB, the manufacturer of the utility's HVDC system, will complete the upgrade in spring 2019 during a planned 74-day



Great River Energy's high-voltage, direct-current system is like a 436-mile extension cord delivering electricity from North Dakota to Minnesota. It's being upgraded this spring!

HVDC system outage. The project will merge today's HVDC technology with the existing system, helping to ensure we can count on continued reliability for the next 30 years.

Great River Energy's HVDC system is made up of a 436-mile (702-km),

400-kV transmission line and two converter stations, one at Coal Creek Station and one at Dickinson Station near Buffalo, Minn. The converter stations are where power is converted from alternating-current (AC) power to direct-current (DC) power and vice versa. They are composed of two mirrored and separated sections called poles. Each pole can deliver one-half the total capacity, or 550 MW, and uses one of the two transmission line conductors. The overall system has a total design capability of 1100 MW. The two-pole converter configuration provides system operational flexibility and reliability during fault conditions. The Great River Energy HVDC system is also one of the last in the world to use complex air-cooled

valves, whereby a glycol-based system with cooling towers, water treatment and heat exchangers are employed to provide a steady stream of cool air across the power electronics.

Great River Energy's HVDC system has been one of the most reliable HVDC systems in the world since it was constructed in 1978, supplying nearly 70% of the co-op's total generation capacity at nearly 100% availability. While its performance has been exceptional, the system is now 40 years old. It has long been expected, without a major investment, reliability would likely drop below Great River Energy's high standards beyond the 2020 time frame.

## Is your second refrigerator a thief?

You have a thief in your house. The thief might be in your garage. The thief might be in your basement or a utility room. Security systems do not stop this thief either. You might not even notice what this thief steals unless you are looking for it, but every month this thief is stealing money from your pocketbook. The thief is a second refrigerator, usually an older model second refrigerator that is used to store extra food or drinks.

Do you have a second refrigerator in your garage or basement? If so, it enjoys plenty of company. About 30 percent of American households have a second refrigerator, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, a number that's doubled over the last 20 years.

That's not cool when you consider that more than half of these devices are 10 years old or older and very inefficient by today's standards. While technology advances have made today's refrigerators more efficient than ever, the growing trend of homeowners buying a new model and keeping the old energy guzzler is wiping out those efficiency gains.

### Flip that fridge

If you have a second refrigerator, get rid of it. It'll free up space in your home and on your energy bills. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that you can save up to 1,200 kWh a year or about \$155 in annual energy costs by removing and not replacing a second refrigerator.



### Recycle the old refrigerator

When you send that extra fridge packing, make sure it's recycled properly. About 95 percent of refrigerator parts can be recycled and used to make other products. How do you recycle a refrigerator? The EPA's Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) program provides some tips. Of the more than 9 million refrigerators and freezers disposed of in the U.S. each year, about 10 percent are managed under RAD guidelines.

### Reach for the Energy Star

If you're looking for a new fridge, make sure it's Energy Star™ certified. Energy Star refrigerators are about 10 percent more efficient than standard models. Use the Savings Calculator to find out exactly how much money you'll save by replacing your existing refrigerator ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov); search for refrigerator savings calculator). Use it to also learn how much that second refrigerator is costing too.

Plus, keep in mind that your electric cooperative offers a rebate for recycling an old, but still working, refrigerator or freezer. Refrigerator recycling rebates in box at right.

— Information courtesy of Questline



DG Energy Services- Dielectric Testing Division recently tested safety equipment used by line workers. The company brought their mobile trailer to the Co-op to test grounding equipment, hot sticks, insulated coverups and other protective equipment.

## High-Efficiency Appliance Rebates for 2019

Dehumidifiers .....	\$25
Dryers .....	\$25
<b>Refrigerators &amp; Freezer (Max of 2/year)</b>	
Refrigerator harvest .....	\$25
Refrigerator w/recycling .....	\$25
Freezer Harvest .....	\$25
Freezer with recycling .....	\$25
<b>AC Tune Up (Max of 1 every 2 years) .....</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Ductless ASHP .....</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>ECM (retrofit only) .....</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>GSHP (\$/ton) .....</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>QI ASHP</b>	
SEER 14.5 .....	\$200
SEER 15 .....	\$400
SEER 16 .....	\$800
<b>ETS Space Heat - per kW .....</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>ETS Water Heating</b>	
100 gallon minimum capacity .....	\$400
<b>Heat Pump Water Heater</b>	
50 gallon minimum capacity .....	\$500
<b>LED Yard Light .....</b>	<b>\$60</b>

### 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](http://www.mcleodcoop.com). Please read the details on specific rebate forms, as some products have limits, require ENERGY STAR certification or other requirements.

Air Source Heat Pump rebate forms must be completed by the installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a QUALITY INSTALLER and is listed on the [hvacaducation.net](http://hvacaducation.net) website. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://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.



## System performed well through extreme cold

Coal Creek Station in North Dakota operated at full capacity to deliver much-needed electricity to consumers in Minnesota during the sub-zero temperatures. The steam rising from the cooling towers in the cold temperatures creates much of the white fog shown.

Record low temperatures across the Midwest put the electric grid to the test the last week of January.

Locally, McLeod Co-op Power had about six power outages during the polar vortex. They affected a small number of members and were each repaired in 1-3 hours. Line crews responded in the sub-zero windchills to replace fuses and make repairs caused by stress on equipment in the cold temperatures.

Our wholesale electricity provider, Great River Energy, carefully operated and monitored the electric system to ensure energy continued to reach homes, farms and businesses across the state. Great River Energy's transmission system, which carries bulk electricity over long distances, proved resilient, even in -50 degree wind chills. Employees worked around the clock to keep the grid operating for our member-consumers.

Great River Energy also worked with the regional grid operator, known as the Midcontinent Independent System Operator or MISO, and neighboring utilities to prepare to be dispatched on short notice.

On Jan. 30, MISO declared a maximum

generation emergency event. By 2 p.m. that day, all available Great River Energy power plants were called upon to operate through the evening. Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station and Spiritwood Station power plants, which are designed to run without interruption, operated at full output throughout the extreme cold weather. The baseload plants provided critical resources to meet energy demands during the polar vortex, especially when natural gas supplies were strained and when wind generation in the region was producing below forecasts. Great River Energy also had multiple peaking plants available to help supply power to the grid.

A hearty thank-you to members who voluntarily conserved energy the evening of January 30 and to load management participants who had Dual Fuel and water heaters controlled during the cold spell or who operated peak alert generators. Our apologies to any members that experienced an extra-long control period on January 30, as some radio receivers had difficulty restoring to normal operation when temps were below -20 degrees F. The load management programs are very important as they help MCPA reduce demand costs and they add stability to the grid during critical times.



Hotel accommodations at Staybridge Suites



Big machinery at Falkirk Mine



World's largest buffalo statue

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

*Join our North Dakota Energy Tour July 17-19*

The Co-op will be hosting a three-day motor coach tour July 17-19, 2019 to North Dakota. The tour will include Coal Creek Station generating plant, Falkirk coal mine, Blue Flint ethanol plant, Garrison Dam fish hatchery, North Dakota Heritage Center, and a drive-by tour of Garrison hydro dam. A stop in Jamestown, North Dakota, includes the world's largest buffalo statue, live buffalo herd and Frontier Village.

Cost is \$250 per person for adults and \$150 per person for those under 18 sharing a room with their parents or grandparents. Cost includes motor coach transportation, two nights at the Staybridge Suites hotel with pool and amenities, and most meals. Call the Co-op to make your reservation or request a brochure. The information is also available on the Co-op's website [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) at the bottom of the homepage under Community News.

Members participating in the tour need to be physically able to climb stairs and do a significant amount of walking. Children must be ten years or older to go along on the trip.

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



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.

Storm season has been a blunt reminder of how inconvenient life can be when Mother Nature knocks out the electricity.

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.