

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

September 2019



Look up! Equipment that can be extended, such as a grain elevator or stack mower, requires the utmost care when near a power line.

Power line safety down on the farm

Harvest season is right around the corner as tractors, and combines come out of the barn and get ready to do their work. We at McLeod Co-op Power want to remind the community to look up and look out for power lines.

If you do come in contact with a power line:

- Call 911 as soon as possible and keep the area clear until help arrives.
- If you can do so without risking your machinery or damaging utility infrastructure, drive at least 40 feet away.
- If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time, and land with feet together. Hop to safety in small steps to avoid electric shock by breaking the current's path.

Other tips for operating farm equipment around power lines include:

- Physical contact with a power line is extremely hazardous and may cause a lethal shock. Equipment should not be operated under a power line in a manner that would cause contact or near-contact with the wires.
- Do not lift, elevate, build or pass under a power line any object, tool or vehicle that may make contact or near-contact with the wires.
- To help prevent arc flashing, it is recommended that equipment, antennas and people stay at least 15 feet away from any energized power line wire.
- Equipment that can be extended, such as a stack mower or grain elevator, requires the utmost care when near a power line.

Nominate a community organization for the 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award

McLeod Cooperative Power is seeking nominations for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes local businesses, non-profit and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make their local community within McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver Counties a better place to live and work is eligible to be nominated for the \$500 cash award.



2019. Mail application form to McLeod Co-op Power, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe MN 55336.

“As an electric cooperative serving this area, we have a high regard for community involvement,” General Manager Carrie Buckley said.

“This award allows us to highlight and encourage those organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to the community.”

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing an application form. Applications forms are available at McLeod Co-op Power, 1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe MN 55336 or by calling the Co-op office 1-800-494-6272. Questions may be directed to Sue Pawelk. The application will require a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at McLeod Co-op Power's office by October 31,

The local \$500 award recipient will be announced in November and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$1,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting in 2020.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 750 electric cooperatives in 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

It is important that members call us to report a power outage

The Co-op's automated metering system provides improved notification when your power goes out. This is helping us dispatch repair crews faster and reduce the length of outages for our members. **However, it is still very important that members call in by phone to notify us when their power goes out. Call 1-800-927-5685 to report an outage anytime 24 hours a day. Or you can call the office if it is during regular business hours.**

While technology has improved, we cannot rely upon it to report every meter that goes out, especially following a large outage or when a storm moves through. First-hand information from members is still the best. A member can tell us if they heard a loud

bang, if they can see a tree down across a line, if they know where there is damage, or if they have partial power; all which help dispatchers determine what is occurring out on the distribution system and where they need to send crews. The phone calls from members also help verify the notifications we get from meters.

So, if your power goes out, please pick up the phone to let us know. Your help is appreciated. If you do not have a refrigerator magnet with the Co-op's outage number on it, please call to request one. We want our office and outage numbers posted right on your refrigerator so you know where to find them in the dark.

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Official publication of



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Dirt work and excavation began in August on the site of the future home of MCPA.

Co-op awards two scholarships to Ridgewater College students

The Ridgewater College Foundation has awarded two \$500 scholarships from McLeod Co-op Power to students Lane Miller and Jase Witucki for the fall semester 2019. Each year the Co-op donates \$1,000 from its unclaimed capital credit fund to be used by the Ridgewater College Foundation for scholarships for local students furthering their education. Congratulations to both students.



Lane Miller is from Brownton. He is a graduate of GFW High School. This fall he will be studying Farm Operation & Management on the Willmar campus.



Jase Witucki is a graduate of Dassel Cokato High School and currently lives in Silver Lake. He is in the electrician program on the Hutchinson campus.

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

Why self-governance benefits members

Recently, some groups and news articles from other regions have falsely asserted that electric cooperatives are not regulated and question the value of self-governance or why cooperatives are different from other utilities. I would like to set the record straight on these points.

Like all electric cooperatives in the state, McLeod Co-op Power is owned by the people we serve and is a not-for-profit entity. Because of this member-ownership structure, the directors you elect to govern the Cooperative are entrusted to make decisions that are in the best interests of all members and our local communities. To do so they undergo extensive training and have a fiduciary responsibility to the Cooperative and face personal liability for breaching that duty.

To govern effectively, our directors bring a diverse and well-rounded background to the boardroom. They have the financial skills, industry knowledge, an understanding of regulatory and legislative policymaking, and an aptitude for determining the ongoing and future strategic direction of the Cooperative.

This type of self-governance is successful in many forms — through schools, churches, credit unions, and various types of cooperatives. It enables you, a member, to run for the board of directors and serve your neighbors, friends, and community in a meaningful way. Even if you don't run for the board, you can hold the board accountable by attending the annual meeting, voting in elections, and voting on bylaw amendments.

While this structure allows for local decision-making, it's imperative to recognize that self-governed organizations — including McLeod Co-op Power — must adhere to all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Electric cooperatives are, in fact, significantly regulated and audited.

We have considerable oversight through hundreds of Minnesota statutes and by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). We follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, National

Electrical Safety Code standards, and Environmental Protection Agency regulations, just to name a few.

Where PUC regulation primarily differs for electric cooperatives is in rate regulation. The PUC plays a regulatory role for investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in the rate-making process to provide checks and balances between shareholders and ratepayers. Without this oversight, it could be in the IOUs interest to charge as high of rates as possible to return profits to their shareholders.

Because the board members, who are setting rates for McLeod Co-op Power, are also rate-paying members of the Cooperative, there is no benefit in charging any more than necessary for power. We undertake extensive cost-of-service studies to ensure rates are appropriate and adequate to solely cover the costs of providing service and are fair to all classes of ratepayers.

Please know that most cooperative boards and managers conduct themselves with high ethical and moral standards and "live by" the Cooperative Principles. It is important to note that who you elect to the McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors makes a difference. For this reason, I encourage you to vote when you have the chance and to do some research on the candidates who are running for board positions.

For more than 80 years, the cooperative business model and the Cooperative Principles have been guiding us as we make long-term decisions to ensure reliable, safe, and affordable energy for our members. We are proud of our track record of powering homes, businesses, schools, and other essential services in our communities. If you have questions about our policies or our cooperative structure, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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 - Susan Anderson, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer, 20valve90@gmail.com
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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1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe, MN
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Editor: Sue Pawelk

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

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

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 320-864-3148, 1-800-494-6272
24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685
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.



Evan Lee tours the nation’s capital

Evan Lee, son of Michael and April Lee of Lester Prairie, was among nearly 1,500 high school students from across the country participating in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour held in Washington D.C. June 15-20, 2019. There were 38 student participants from Minnesota. Evan Lee represented McLeod Co-op Power as our Washington D.C. Youth Tour delegate.

Youth participating in the event learned first hand what it is like to be involved in politics and community service and what today’s pressing issues are in the energy industry. Highlights included meeting their elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, learning about energy issues, increasing their knowledge about electric cooperatives, and touring the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Smithsonian Museum, Arlington Cemetery and the National Cathedral.

The tour is a joint effort of local electric co-ops like McLeod Co-op Power, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, and the National Rural Electric Association. Since 1964 over 40,000 high school students have participated in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour Program.



No checks in **pink** ink — just black or **blue** will do

Please use **blue** or **black** ink when writing checks for your **monthly payments**. Using other colors of ink may result in having your check be rejected by our check processing company. So please remember that only black or blue ink will do. *Thank you for your cooperation.*

Attention All Storage Heat and Storage Water Heating Participants:

Charging hours are set to change starting in October

All storage heating and water heating loads have historically received a charge from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. This is changing beginning in October to a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. charge time. This will affect water heaters, Steffes storage furnaces, room storage units, and under-slab storage heating systems. This one-hour shift is not temporary but long-term.

The one-hour shift will help the Co-ops and our power supplier Great River Energy avoid 7 a.m. transmission system peaks, which are occurring more frequently. It will provide significant financial savings and help us lower transmission costs.

Avoid the Big, Green Box

Keep kids and plants away from pad-mounted transformers

Electricity might flow into your property over your head, or under your feet. It is easy to spot wires on top of those wooden poles and figure out how electricity gets delivered by overhead lines. But more and more services today have underground lines. Look for green metal boxes about the size of a small refrigerator sitting in your yard.

They are called pad-mounted transformers and they do the same thing as those grey cans up on top of the poles — step higher voltage electricity down so it is more useful and safer for your home. The major difference is a pad-mounted transformer connects to underground power lines.

No one except trained electrical line workers wearing protective equipment should ever look inside of a ground-level transformer box. Those locked boxes are routing a lot of electricity and are very dangerous to anyone not trained to work on them.

NEVER USE PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS AS BENCHES. KIDS SHOULD NEVER PLAY ON THEM OR AROUND THEM! IF YOU SEE A TRANSFORMER BOX WITH EITHER A BROKEN OR MISSING LOCK, REPORT IT TO THE UTILITY IMMEDIATELY.



Do not plant landscaping around them or enclosures over them as our linemen need to access the boxes and roots can interfere with the underground wires. Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer — always dial 811 first before beginning any outdoor projects that require digging so conductors can be located.

Remember, whether you are around underground or overhead utility equipment, the same safety rules apply — stay away from power lines.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.

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
GSHP (\$/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 hvacaducation.net website. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on www.mcleodcoop.com website. There are no rebates for central air conditioners. The Co-op encourages any member replacing a central air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

LED yard lights must be installed on consumer owned building or facilities. Lights cannot be installed on Co-op power poles. Rebate for recycled refrigerator or freezer must be for removal of old but still operating unit from location served by MCPA, and receipt from recycler/appliance store showing proof of recycling required.



ENERGY SAVING MADE EASY

SHOP

Please verify your information

72

VISIT OUR NEW ONLINE STORE!

EnergyWiseMN.com

What Can You Do With \$1 Worth of Electricity?



Watch TV for 47 hours

July 2019 Outage Summary


During July there were 86 outages reported on the Cooperative's system. Seventeen were caused by lightning and 14 by trees hanging into power lines. Thirteen were planned outages and 14 were scheduled pole changeouts. These were the most common causes of outages in July.

The largest outage, affecting the most members, was on July 4 about noon. It affected power to 265 members northeast of Hutchinson and was caused by a tree hanging into a power line. Members were out of power for one hour and 41 minutes. The second largest outage affected 99 accounts on July 11 about 11 AM. It was caused by someone digging into the Co-op's primary line northeast of Hutchinson. Members were out of power for one hour and 22 minutes.

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.


Save Some Serious Green with this Limited Time Offer



Save \$800 when you purchase an electric vehicle charger

Be one of the first 200 people to purchase an electric vehicle (EV) charger from our online store and receive \$800 off at time of purchase. We'll even set up the installation, making it easier than ever to purchase and install an EV charger.

Shop our online store at energywisemnstore.com to purchase your EV charger and take advantage of our limited time \$800 rebate.

ENERGY WISE  MN

EV Charger special incentive for first 200 purchasers statewide

This special \$800 rebate to help with cost of a 240-volt electric car charger and installation is being offered by Great River Energy, McLeod Co-op Power, and the EnergyWiseMN.com online store. The first 200 EV owners to purchase their chargers through the online store qualify for the rebate. Your Co-op will help set up the installation for you. You can access the store by going to EnergyWiseMN.com or via the link on the Co-op's website at www.mcleodcoop.com.

The EnergyWiseMN website also offers a wealth of information on electric vehicles, EV chargers, and many energy efficient programs and products. Check out the site today.

Power Up! Four Steps to Charging Your EV at Home

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Dear Pat and Brad: I'm seeing more information about new models of electric vehicles with longer ranges and better prices. Is it worth making the switch from gasoline to electric? And how would I charge the battery at home?



Dear Damien: You're right! Electric vehicles (EVs) are getting more attention these days. Electricity as a vehicle fuel is typically one-half to one-third the cost of gas or diesel, and EV batteries now enable longer ranges. The upfront price of an EV is still higher than its gas-powered cousin, but the cost is coming down.

The Chevy Bolt, for example, has a range of up to 238 miles on a full charge and costs about \$36,000 before incentives. The number of models is also increasing, and we could even have an electric pickup truck option in the near future.

It's important to note you may have to pay upfront costs to charge your EV at home, but it depends on which charging option you select. Let's take a look at the important steps.

Step one: Choose your EV.

There are two basic types of EVs: the all-electric vehicle, which is commonly referred to as an AEV or EV, and the plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, also known as the PHEV, which can run using an electric motor or a gas engine. Unlike the gas/electric hybrid that started with the Toyota Prius in 2000, where the battery assists the gasoline engine, yet the car is fueled solely by gasoline, the PHEV features a larger battery that fuels an electric motor, which can power the car independently. A PHEV can run solely on electricity for about 15 to 50 miles depending on the model. This electric-only range may be sufficient for running errands or for those with a shorter daily commute.

Step two: Select your charging level.

McLeod Co-op Power currently offers a promotion for \$800 savings on the purchase and installation of a 240 volt charger. See details on page 4 or call the Co-op at 1-800-494-6272.

There are two levels of charging to consider for your home. A Level 1 charging unit is the most basic. It's usually included with the vehicle and plugs into a typical 120-volt outlet, so it is the easiest charging solution.

A Level 2 charging unit is more powerful and needs to be purchased separately. It is hardwired or plugs into a 240-volt outlet (the type used for larger appliances like a clothes dryer), which most of us don't have in our garages or outside our homes, so there's an additional cost to have the outlet installed.



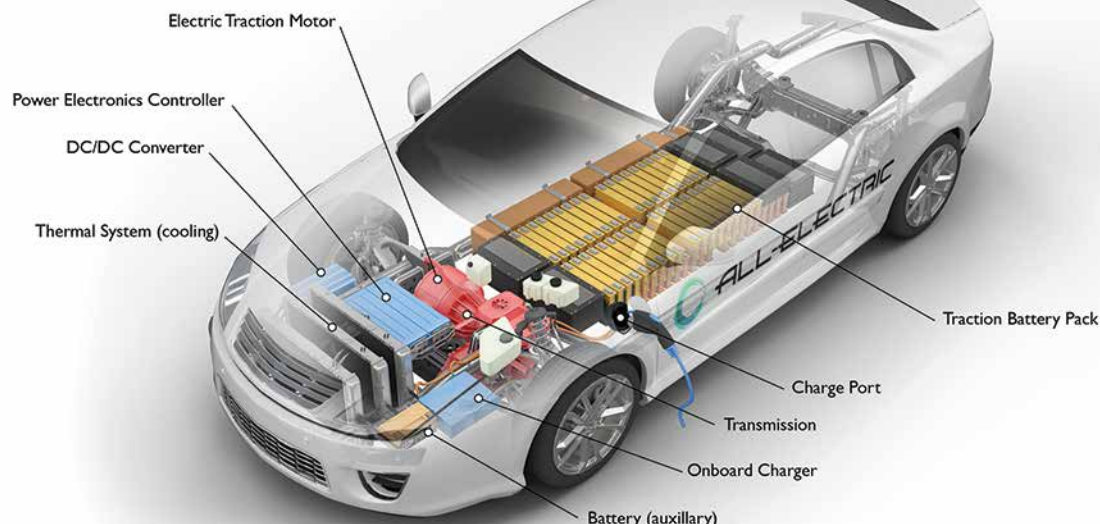
This is a 240-volt outlet for a Level 2 charging unit.

Photo Credit: Dennis Schroeder/NREL

Step three: Know your needs.

Most EVs travel 3 to 4 miles per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Level 1

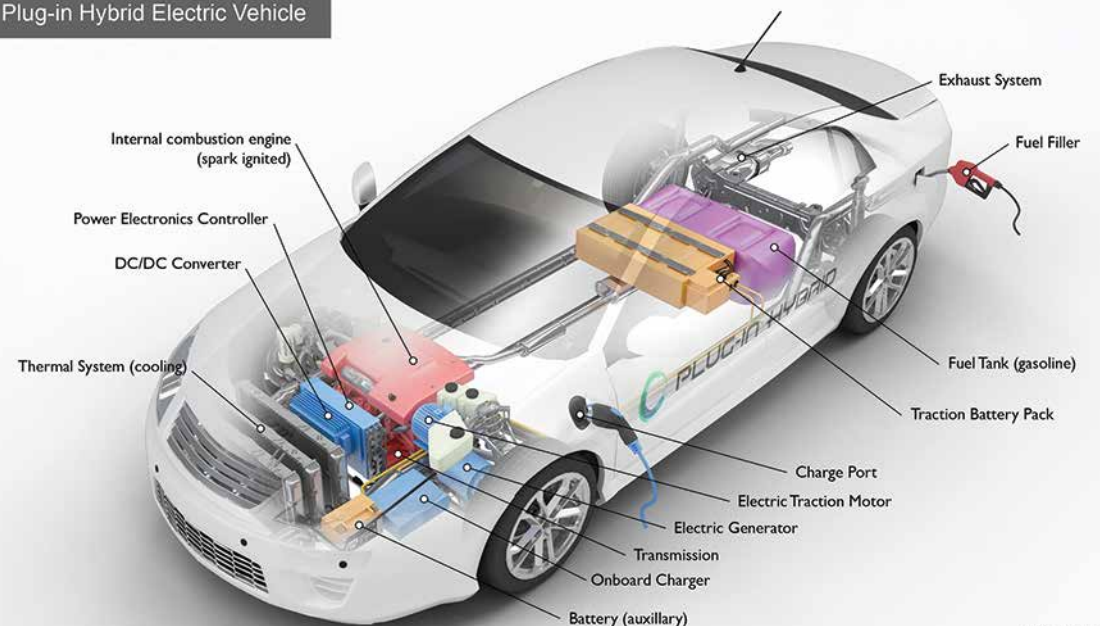
All-Electric Vehicle



afdc.energy.gov

An all-electric vehicle (AEV or EV) can have lower overall costs of ownership than a gasoline-fueled vehicle due to its lower number of moving parts. Photo Source: Energy.gov

Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle



afdc.energy.gov

A plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) has a gas engine that takes over if the large battery runs out of charge. Photo Source: Energy.gov

charging units distribute charge to the battery at 1 to 2 kWh, giving the battery roughly 3 to 8 miles range per hour of charging. So, if you drive your car 40 miles or less during the day and can charge it for 10 hours a night, this will probably be adequate. Level 1 charging makes the most sense for PHEVs and early EVs with smaller batteries and shorter ranges.

Level 2 units typically supply power levels from 6 to 12 kWh, depending on the amperage of the circuit and the power level the EV can accept. This means the Level 2 chargers will provide between 18 and 48 miles of range per hour of charging.

2 charging unit can cost \$500 to \$700, with installation between \$500 and \$2,700 depending on how far your electrical panel is from where you will be charging the EV.

Now that you know the basic options, you should talk to your electric co-op before making your EV charging decision. Many electric co-ops offer special incentives for members installing Level 2 chargers or members willing to schedule EV charging during non-peak energy hours. Give them a call to learn more!

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency.

For more information on home charging your electric vehicle, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Step four: Count the costs.

A Level 1 charging unit comes with the car and will meet the needs of most PHEVs and early-model, short-range EVs. A Level

Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments

The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

Make plans now to pay your bill to avoid being without electricity this winter.

McLeod Cooperative Power regularly disconnects the electrical supply of members who do not pay for the electricity they use. While we dislike having to disconnect members, it would not be fair to our other members if we allow some members to use electricity for free while our other members pay.

The Cold Weather Rule was adopted to protect some people from having their primary source of electric heat disconnected between October 15 and April 15. However, this law doesn't mean there won't be disconnections. The law says that a person must be making regular payments or have set up a payment plan and be honoring those arrangements to avoid being disconnected. If you are behind in your payments and are counting on the Cold Weather Rule to protect

you from making any payments during the winter, think again. McLeod Cooperative Power will be doing disconnections this winter in accordance with the law.

Please read the full Cold Weather Rule summary below. The list of agencies who can provide assistance to qualifying residents having trouble paying their bill is on this page and is also listed on the back of any electric bill with a delinquent balance.

It is up to the member to make payment arrangements or seek assistance to avoid disconnection. Please do not wait. The sooner you contact us, the greater the chance you will have electricity all winter long. Call today at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 for details about applying for shut-off protection or to make a reasonable payment arrangement.

Cold Weather Rule Summary

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year if the customer has met the requirements under item 1 below. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- You have contacted MCPA, have set up a payment arrangement, and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

If all of these items are not satisfied the electricity may be shut off due to non-payment.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather months, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.
- A statement of the customer's

rights and responsibilities.

- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.
- Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.

Our members are important to McLeod Cooperative Power. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule. Names and contact numbers for energy assistance providers are listed on this page.

Attention military personnel

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential member for nonpayment, that has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available upon request.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker Counties

United Community Action Partnership

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
218 Main St. S., Suite 108,
Hutchinson MN 55350
Toll free: (800) 992-1710
Willmar: 320-235-0850
Hutchinson: 320-587-5244

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330 (Hutchinson
Toll-Free)
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

United Community Action Partnership

500 East DePue Ave,
Olivia MN 56277
320-523-1842

Sibley County area

Sibley County Public Health & Human Services

111 8th Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000
1-866-396-9963

MN Valley Action Council

110 6th Street, P.O. Box 87
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-2981
706 N. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-6822
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency

712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952)-496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500

SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 25, 2019 were approved.

Line Superintendent reviewed the outage report for the month of July and gave the monthly Operations/Engineering Report. The Capital Work Project (CWP) Brookfield three-phase underground has been installed. The line crews are switching over and retiring the overhead line. CWP Project Hollywood Substation circuit 2 has begun. Crews are also working on an underground fault at Helen Sub.

An update was given on the progress at the new facility site. Soil is being moved in preparation for the footings.

The Safety Report was reviewed and approved for the month of July 2019.

Customer Services Manager updated the board on the Co-op's economic development revolving loan fund and the status of one loan recipient which is going through bank foreclosure proceedings and has not paid off their remaining loan balance to the revolving loan fund as well.

IT Manager explained that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is offering a free RC3 SANS program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, to improve cyber security and resiliency capabilities of the electric cooperative community. SANS is a world-renowned cyber security training, certification and research company. This is an online training and typically cost between \$2,500 to \$6,000 each. MCPA's IT Manager was recently selected to participate in the program.

Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the month of July 2019 were reviewed. The Audit

Committee reported on their review of the July expenditures. Consent agenda items were approved including: July financial report on file for audit, accepted July general fund checks, approved transfer of patronage capital & refund of patronage capital to estates, accepted July new & rescinded memberships and accepted special equipment summary.

MCPA Board voted to accept a new tentative agreement with IBEW 160 Local Union, which represents the MCPA line workers.

General Manager Buckley reported that Heartland Security Systems Board of Governors has accepted the co-ops offer to sell the Medical Monitoring business to them. The sale should be completed by October 1, 2019 and notification to program participants will occur before that date. The Co-op is an ownership partner in Heartland Security Services.

General Manager Buckley reported on items at Great River Energy (GRE) including their Construction Work in Progress being at \$6.8 million, which is the lowest investment since 2005. Participants from the Great River Energy (GRE) CAPX 2020 Project will be participating in a transmission study addressing "What will transmission need to look like in light of Legislative goals of 100% carbon free and more renewables?"

Every two years, GRE conducts surveys of end consumers (our distribution members) for feedback on their needs. GRE will share results with each participating co-op

Co-op's GRE Board representative reported on activities at the GRE Board meeting and the director's visit to Stanton Station, Coal Creek Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, and Spiritwood.

Meet the people behind your power

ELECTRICITY ISN'T SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY

Powering your everyday life with safe, reliable electricity. As a member of your local Touchstone Energy cooperative it's something you can depend on. And that's a powerful feeling, because electricity is more essential to energizing our lives and keeping communities connected than ever before.

Kevin LaCourse
Lineman

McLeod Co-op Power member
Pheasants Forever member
Brownton Rod and Gun Club director

McLEOD CO-OP POWER

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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 September 28 to be included in the October issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

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☐ Giveaway

☐ For Rent

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- For Sale Miscellaneous
- 5 step metal ladder. \$25. 320-587-8784
 - 7 step metal ladder. \$35. 320-587-8784
 - Gas leaf blower. \$75. 320-587-8784
 - Porta dock 4,000#, 113in wide boat lift w/ canopy. 320-420-2649
 - Pontoon lift \$1,800/obo. 320-587-8741
 - Horse hair blanket tanned lined for sleigh rides original. \$90. 320-583-9164
 - 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
 - OSB panels 32in X 32in X 7/16in. \$1/each. 952-353-2351
 - Barnwood. 320-238-0110
 - New juicer. 320-238-0110
 - New electrical supplies, outlets, switches-cheap. 320-238-0110
 - Butcher pigs, ready Sept/Oct, haul to Hector Meats. 320-583-2523
 - Giveaway - Egg cartons 320-238-0110
 - Giveaway - Trees for firewood. 320-238-0110

- For Sale Farm
- Jani sickle mower with gas engine. 320-587-4681
 - Three wood throw bale racks. 320-587-6863
 - Three small galvanized wagons. 320-587-6863
 - Three silage wagons. 320-587-6863
 - King Kutter 5 1/2ft 3pt disc. \$600. 612-505-7498
 - International #21A ear corn elevator, 45ft, hydraulic lift. \$250. 612-219-3649
 - New Idea corn picker, two-row, manuals included. \$350. 612-219-3649
 - 315 New Holland bale thrower. Excellent condition. \$375. 651-248-6940

- Wanted
- Two point equipment for IH Tractors. Two point only. 320-979-3580

Homeowner impressed with replacement generator and quality installation

Jon and Norma Schwichtenberg's home in Hutchinson had an automatic generator when they purchased it. However, a circuit board in the generator failed and Jon could not find replacement parts anywhere. He called McLeod Co-op Power when he saw an ad that the Co-op installs Briggs & Stratton generators.

They opted to have McLeod Co-op Power install a new 12 kW Fortress generator made by Briggs and Stratton, when it was confirmed that there was no way to get the old unit operating again. The new 12 kW generator takes up less physical space than the old generator but delivers a lot more power to the home. Theirs is powered by natural gas, however, in the rural areas a generator is usually powered by propane.

"I am really impressed with the new system," said Jon. "The old generator only powered a few isolated circuits. Our new generator is a whole-house system. It can power all of our appliances, and if necessary, it limits itself through modules to shut off the range, oven, or dryer before we overload its capacity. The new system is an improvement over the old one!" explained Jon.

It is common for home owners to replace their older non-working generator or manual operating generator with a new automatic system. The Co-op has assisted several members with an upgrade to a new and more user-friendly system. The Briggs & Stratton system utilizes a Symphony II automatic transfer switch with a 12 kW or 20 kW generator for most residential applications.



Jon Schwichtenberg of Hutchinson was very happy with the installation of a replacement generator by the Co-op. The new generator powers the whole house, instead of a few select appliances.

The generator exercises itself to make sure all components are working. It automatically starts and powers the home when power from the electric company goes out, even when no one is home, and automatically shuts off a short time after a consistent power supply is restored.

Jon said they bought a replacement generator because their house was set up for it. He added, "Some guys have boats or other toys that they seldom use. I have a generator that I hope I don't have to use, but if I need it, I will be able to open my garage doors, run my sump pump and other appliances."

When asked if he was satisfied with the purchase and installation process, Jon said, "I was very happy with the guys from the Co-op who installed the generator." As a retired owner of a large contracting business, he watched to see how the installation went.

He said, "From the estimate to the installation, it all went well. The job was done quickly and cleanly. The guys (electricians from McLeod Co-op Power) both worked well and took no short cuts."

The Schwichtenberg's other reason for purchasing from McLeod Co-op Power was to have someone local to call for any ongoing service work. The Co-op can do annual maintenance on the units for owners, like changing oil, filter, and spark plugs, as well as assisting with any future service issues.

Whether you live in the country or in a local municipality, McLeod Co-op Power can assist you with the purchase and turn-key installation of a Briggs & Stratton generator system from 12 kW to 200 kW. Just call Shannon or Justin at 1-800-494-6272.



Anything You Can Do
I Can Do Better!

No You Can't!

Yes I Can!

It's the best of both worlds. ASHPs provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces and you can switch between

Upgrade to an air source heat pump before rebates expire

Install a high efficiency air source heat pump (ASHP) before rebates expire. The Co-op is currently offering rebates of \$200-\$800 for installation of qualified air source heat pumps.

Qualified Installer ASHP Rebates

SEER 14.5	\$200
SEER 15	\$400
SEER 16+	\$800

An ASHP will handle both your heating and cooling needs. In the summer months it will extract the existing heat from

inside your home and move it outside, often outperforming standard central air conditioners in the process. The cycle is reversed for heating: by extracting warmth from the outdoor air and pumping it into your home. This will allow you to run your furnace less. During the spring and fall, you may not even need to run the furnace at all.

ASHPs achieve all this while consuming less energy than an air conditioner and furnace. Install your ASHP on the Co-op's off-peak program and save approximately 50% on all the kilowatts the ASHP uses. Call today for details. 1-800-494-6272.

