

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

February 2020

Change in Member Service leadership

After 26 years at McLeod Co-op Power and 36 years in the rural electric industry, Sue Pawelk will be retiring May 1. She started at McLeod Co-op Power in 1993 as the Member Service Manager and has led the Co-op through many changes and new programs. The Member Service Manager oversees billing, collections, customer service, load management, communications, marketing and subsidiary service businesses.



Sue Pawelk

Pawelk said, "I have loved working with McLeod Co-op Power members. I have met so many great people over the years. However, I am ready to devote more time to my faith, family, and friends." She is hoping to spend time volunteering, reading, gardening, being active outdoors, and catching up on projects after she is no longer working full time.

McLeod Co-op Power is pleased to announce that Dan Ehrke has been hired as the new Member Service Manager. He started his duties at the Co-op February 3, to allow time for

training on the many duties specific to the Co-op.

Before coming to the Co-op, Ehrke was Assistant City Administrator for the City of Glencoe. As part of his duties he managed many Glencoe administrative functions, operations of the Glencoe City Center, economic development activities and grant writing for the City of Glencoe,

marketing and social media for the City Center and Glencoe Municipal Liquor Store. He also has previous experience as a community development specialist and City Park and Recreation supervisor.

Ehrke and his family are McLeod Co-op Power members. He was raised on a dairy farm in McLeod County before attending college and pursuing his career. He is active in community organizations and as a volunteer athletic coach.



Dan Ehrke

If you wish to say farewell to Sue Pawelk and also meet Dan Ehrke, we encourage

you to attend the Annual Meeting on April 14.

Annual Meeting is April 14



Mark your calendars for the Co-op's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 14 at the Hutchinson Event Center. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Musical entertainment by 2 Sisters, singing duo Ellen Tracy and her sister Julie Vrieze, beginning at 8:50 a.m. Business meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. with lunch to follow.

2 Sisters to perform at this year's annual meeting.



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www.mcleodcoop.com

McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION GLENCOE, MINNESOTA NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

TO THE MEMBERS OF McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION:

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be held at the Hutchinson Event Center at 1005 Hwy. 15 S. Plaza 15, in the city of Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on April 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 1, 2 and 3. The polls for the election of directors will be opened at the meeting place at 8:30 a.m. and will be closed at 10:15 a.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
3. To vote on proposed Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The polls for the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws will be opened at the meeting place at 8:30 a.m. and will be closed at 10:15 a.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
4. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 28th day of January 2020.

Doug Kirtz, Secretary

Office to be closed the afternoon of February 20

The Co-op office will be closed the afternoon of Thursday, February 20, beginning at 12:30 PM so employees can participate in an off-site meeting. Payments can be deposited in the drop box during this time. To report an outage or emergency, call the Co-op's 24-hour response center at 1-800-927-5685.

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Official publication of



RURAL Act and SECURE Act included in final budget deal

Minnesota Sen. Tina Smith led effort to pass legislation

Thanks to the strong advocacy efforts of electric cooperatives across the country — including those in Minnesota — and many of the congressional leaders who represent cooperative districts, the RURAL Act and SECURE Act provisions are included in the final U.S. FY 2020 budget agreement. The U.S. House and Senate passed the legislation and President Trump signed the bill into law.

The RURAL Act protects electric cooperatives throughout the nation from the risk of losing their tax-exempt status when they accept government grants for disaster relief, broadband service and other programs that benefit co-op members. The bill’s passage fixes unintended consequences of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which redefined government grants to co-ops as income rather than capital. That change made it difficult for many co-ops to abide by the 15% limit on non-member income to keep their tax-exempt status. The RURAL Act once again exempts grants from being counted as income and is retroactive to the 2018 tax year.

The legislation attracted more than 300 co-sponsors in the 435-member House and more than half of the senators. The effort was led in the House by Reps. Terri Sewell, D-Ala., and Adrian Smith, R-Neb., and in the Senate by Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Tina Smith, D-Minn.

The SECURE Act will lower the amount of premiums paid by co-op pension plans to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

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

New Year Brings New Advocacy Opportunities

When the calendar flips to the new year, many people set priorities for the coming months. Whether it is fitness, health or financial goals, it takes planning and a concerted effort to achieve results. When it comes to delivering electricity, your electric cooperative takes a similar approach. One area of preparation and action that comes into focus each year at this time is McLeod Co-op Power’s legislative advocacy efforts.

Minnesota has a complex electricity system, with more than 170 electric utilities, the third-highest total of any state in the country. The majority of the state’s land area and more than one-third of the state’s electricity is delivered by not-for-profit, locally controlled utilities, many of which are rural electric cooperatives. With an overall large and diverse coverage area, it’s essential for us to be active in the legislative process.

Telling the cooperative story is vital, particularly when it comes to unique challenges our members face. We advocate for flexibility so that electric cooperatives can operate efficiently and continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Our time-tested participation has contributed positively to the outcome of the legislative process.

As the 2020 Regular Session of the Minnesota Legislature convenes on Feb. 11, we resolve to have a seat at the table and advocate for policies that are in the best interests of our members. Government regulation and public policy have a significant impact on the affordability and reliability of electricity. Through our membership in the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, the state’s electric cooperatives work together and engage with legislators. The power of a unified voice is strong, and we want you to know we’re always committed to working on your behalf.

At the statehouse this year, electric cooperative advocacy efforts will focus on numerous key issues, including:

- Working toward changes in the Minnesota Conservation Improvement Program that will encourage and incent the adoption of emerging and relevant technologies, such as electric vehicles and water heating;

- Maintaining cost-effective policies for load control programs;
- Ensuring cybersecurity initiatives protect consumer data particularly when it comes to our members;
- Protecting members from one-size-fits-all approaches through mandates instead of incentives; co-ops must maintain their ability to make local decisions that don’t impose burdensome costs on members; and
- Balancing the needs for grid reliability, safety and with short- and long-term decisions related to sources of power generation.

All these issues are important to the members of McLeod Co-op Power and our fundamental commitment to provide you with electricity at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound management. Our stance on state, local and federal legislative policies always centers on supporting electric energy policies that balance safety, reliability, affordability and environmental sensitivity.

During the legislative session, McLeod Co-op Power’s board directors and management team will join our state’s other electric cooperatives to spend time at the Minnesota Capitol discussing these electric generation, transmission and delivery policy issues with legislators. We’ll be on the front lines explaining the cooperative position on recently introduced bills being considered so that legislators understand first-hand how they impact electric rates and reliability for rural co-op members.

If you have questions about a legislative topic, please reach out to me. Just like our voice matters at the Capitol, your voice matters at your cooperative.

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, sanderson@mcleodcoop.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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Editor: Sue Pawelk

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

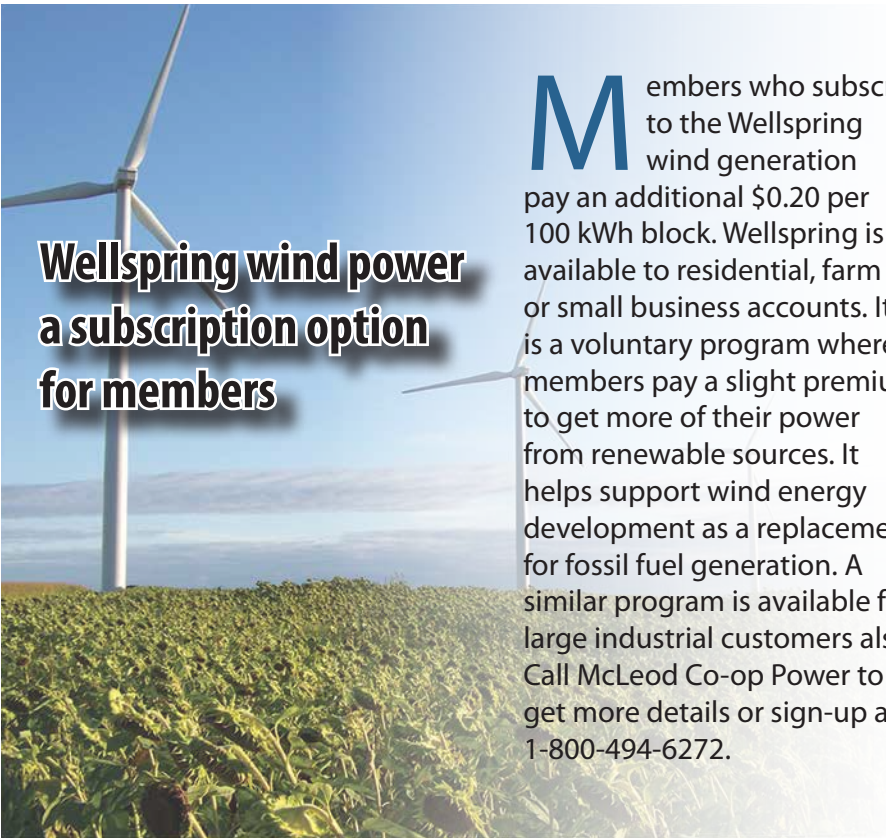
All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk at the address shown.

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

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

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



Wellspring wind power a subscription option for members

Members who subscribe to the Wellspring wind generation pay an additional \$0.20 per 100 kWh block. Wellspring is available to residential, farm or small business accounts. It is a voluntary program where members pay a slight premium to get more of their power from renewable sources. It helps support wind energy development as a replacement for fossil fuel generation. A similar program is available for large industrial customers also. Call McLeod Co-op Power to get more details or sign-up at 1-800-494-6272.

Notice of changes in fees

An updated Schedule of Charges was approved by the MCPA Board of Directors at its January meeting. The increased fees will be effective April 1, 2020.

The fees most commonly impacting members would be the late payment penalty and insufficient funds charge. The late payment penalty is going from \$3.00 plus 1.0%, to simply 1.5% (with a \$1.00 minimum) on the outstanding balance owed on an electric bill. This change could result in a lower charge for some members. The charge for any payment returned for insufficient funds, whether check or ACH/bank draft, will increase from \$25.00 to \$30.00.

The charges for services by line workers, electricians, and field technicians have increased as the Co-op needs to collect enough to cover increased labor and overhead costs. This includes reconnection fees and service calls. The most common charges are listed below.

Description	2019 Charge		Charges effective 4/1/2020	
Late Payment Charge	\$ 3.00 + 1.0%		1.5% with \$ 1.00 minimum	
Meter Reading Fee	\$ 50.00		\$ 65.00	
Insufficient Funds (Returned check/ACH)	\$ 25.00		\$ 30.00	
Delinquent Account Reconnection Fee (per trip charge)				
7:00 AM — 3:30 PM Mon-Fri	\$200.00		\$225.00	
3:30 PM — 7:00 AM Mon-Fri/Sat	\$400.00		\$425.00	
Sundays & Holidays	\$500.00		\$525.00	
Non-Delinquent Account Reconnection				
7:00 AM — 3:30 PM Mon-Fri	\$200.00		\$225.00	
Line Crew Service Calls (Minimum 2 hours). Over 2 hours billed at time, truck and materials				
7:00 AM — 3:30 PM Mon-Fri	\$200.00		\$225.00	
3:30 PM — 7:00 AM Mon-Fri/Sat	\$400.00		\$425.00	
Sundays & Holidays	\$500.00		\$525.00	
Electrician Service Call (Includes truck charge)	First Hour	Additional Hours	First Hour	Additional Hours
7:00 AM — 3:30 PM Mon-Fri	\$115	\$80	\$117.00	\$82.00
3:30 PM— 7:00 AM Mon-Fri/Sat	\$155	\$120	\$157.00	\$122.00
Sundays & Holidays	\$195	\$160	\$197.00	\$162.00
Temporary Disconnect (Member/electrician requested)				
Regular business hours only	\$75.00		\$80.00	
Meter Reseal Trip Charge	\$35.00		\$ 40.00	
Record Research & Retrieval Fee	\$ 35.00/hr		\$45.00/hr	

SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS — January 28, 2020

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2019 were approved.

General Manager Buckley reviewed the Service Reliability Indices 2003-2019 and the outage report for the month of December 2019.

The Member Service Manager position has been filled. The new employee will begin their duties on Monday, February 3.

Minor wording changes were approved to the policy covering Member Deposits.

The IT Manager reported on his recently completed SANS Security Training.

The Manager of Finance presented the preliminary Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the month of December for review. The 2019 Year End Preliminary margin results exceeded budget. This provides an opportunity to defer revenue into future years to mitigate rate increases. The Board approved a 2019 Revenue Deferral Plan in the amount of \$250,000

The Manager of Finance reviewed changes to the Schedule of Charges with the board. The updated fee schedule was approved and will have an effective date of April 1, 2020.

The Board reviewed a proposed change to the Inactive Service policy. The flat fee for inactive services has been changed to a formula to cover the costs of equipment at the inactive service. Also changed was the length of time a service can be inactive. A member has 3 years with no fee with the option to remove the service at any time. After 3 years, the formula is applied for up to an additional 12 years before the member is required to reactivate the service or have the service removed. The policy was approved.

The depreciation rates effective January 1, 2020 were approved.

The Board accepted the 2020-2022 Eide Bailly Engagement of Services Contract for financial auditing.

The Audit Committee reported on their review of the December expenditures.

All items on the Consent agenda were approved, including: Annual Meeting Notice, December General Fund Checks, Transfer of Patronage Capital & Refund of Patronage Capital to Estates, December New & Rescinded Memberships, Special Equipment Summary, and placing the December Financial Report on File for Audit.

The board went into Executive Session to discuss succession planning. The Regular Session reconvened.

The General Manager reported on Great River Energy (GRE) finances and results of their end user survey.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Cooperative Leadership Work Group has provided co-ops with a handout which illustrates practices that promote good Governance, commitment to transparency and accountability.

The Board approved General Manager Buckley to attend the Cooperative Network Sector Meeting in March in conjunction with the MREA Annual Meeting.

Five directors were approved to attend the Cooperative Business Issues Meeting in March in conjunction with the Co-Bank Regional Meeting.

The GRE rep also reported on board business at Great River Energy.

Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 20

Cooperative members residing in Districts 1, 2, or 3 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2020 director election in their district. To have another name on the ballot, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, 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 20, 2020.

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

District 1 includes: Hollywood Township in Carver County, Winsted Township in McLeod County, and Victor, Woodland, and Franklin Townships in Wright County.

District 2 includes: Hassan Valley, Sumter and Rich Valley Townships in McLeod County.

District 3 includes: Bergen, Helen, and Glencoe Townships in McLeod County.

Get Smart! Energy-Saving Apps and Devices



By Pat Keegan and
Brad Thiessen

Dear Pat and Brad: It seems like I'm always hearing about some new device or app that will save energy, but I wonder if they're worth the time and money. I want to learn about simple ways I can use technology to save energy. Any advice on where I should start looking? — Lily

Dear Lily: Every new piece of technology seems to come with a lot of promise, doesn't it? Then we have to find out for ourselves if it lives up to the hype. Here are a few products we recommend.

Smart Phone Apps

There are several energy apps available today, but two stand out. They're free, easy to use, effective and available for both Android and iOS devices.

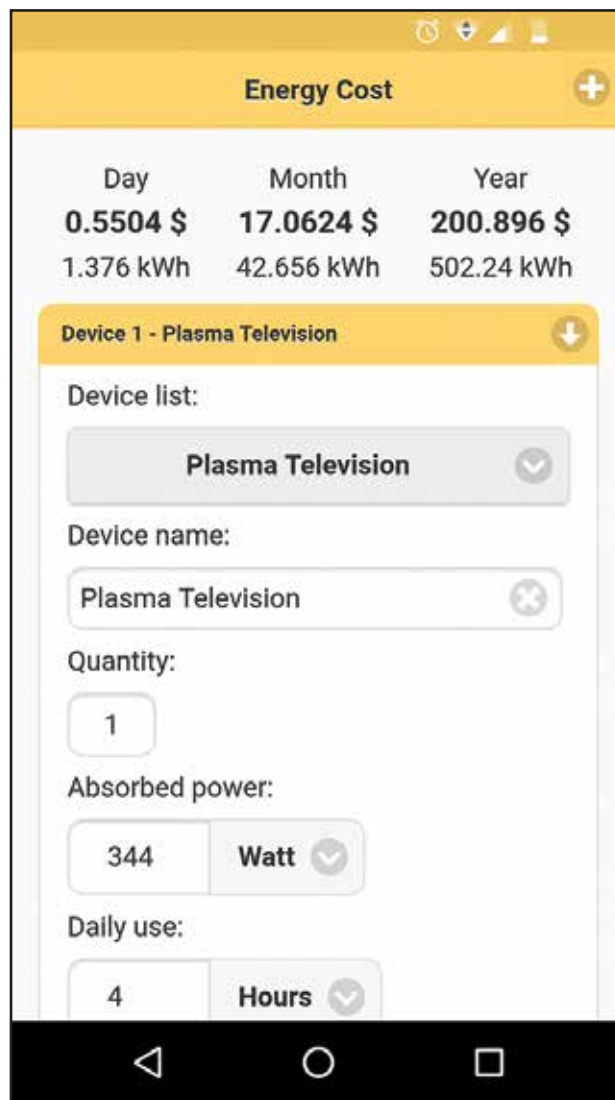


The JouleBug app lets you have fun saving energy while learning a thing or two along the way.

- JouleBug is a fun app that helps you save energy. You collect points for each energy efficient move you make inside the home, on your daily commute and in daily life. The app helps you make changes and build ongoing energy-saving habits. It's designed as a competition among friends and can help you and your family create an energy efficient household together. The app also includes fun, educational videos and links to helpful articles.



Smart phones and other devices make it easier than ever to take control of home energy use.



Smart phone apps like EnergyCost allow you to see how much common household items are costing you every month, and how much you can save by using them less.

- There are several energy cost calculator apps that help you identify where you use the energy most in your home. You can enter how many hours a day you use each appliance or electronic device (some have a dropdown of typical household items) and the rate you're paying for power, which you can find on your energy bill. The app creates a total operating cost for that specific device.

How much is that hallway chandelier costing you every month, and how much would you save by turning it off for an additional hour each day? How about that second freezer or the big-screen TV? The answers aren't exact, but they will give you a better

idea of your overall energy use and help you focus your efforts on the opportunities that will save the most energy.

Smart Thermostats

A smart thermostat connects to the internet and your computer and/or smart phone through your home's Wi-Fi and could shave \$50 off your energy bill every year. Most fall within the \$100 to \$250 range. If the price for a feature-rich model is more than you're comfortable spending, ask yourself if it's worth buying a lower-cost model, or if your current thermostat is doing the job.

If you participate in the Dual Fuel, heat storage or cycled air conditioning program, please consult with one of the energy experts at McLeod Co-op Power BEFORE purchasing a programmable or setback thermostat. Certain types of programmable thermostats will not be compatible with load control strategies or will reduce the high efficiency benefits of operating a heat pump.

Here are some features to keep in mind if you're considering a smart thermostat:

- Learning: A learning thermostat will figure out your habits and adapt — this is probably the best way to make the most of a smart thermostat's energy-saving potential.
- Geofencing: This will detect when you leave home and return, and adjust the temperature up or down so energy isn't being wasted.
- Additional features include remote room sensors and voice control.



More-advanced (and more-expensive) smart thermostats like the Ecobee4 can work with sensors that detect when someone is in a room and adjust the temperature accordingly. Photo Credit: Ecobee

Before you buy, learn what you can about the functionality of the smart thermostat's app. And take a look at how easy it is to program the thermostat unit directly. Finally, consider the installation. Some models are more difficult to install and may require re-wiring.

Continued on the next page

Smart Power Plugs and Switches

Smart outlets and light switches are still considered a relatively new technology, and we think there are improvements that will be made over time. That said, if this is a technology you're interested in, there are a couple of options that consumers seem to like.

Hub-based systems like the Curren Dual Smart Outlet and Philips Hue smart lighting systems are highly rated and cost about \$200 or more for eight to 10 smart outlets or light switches. That's a pretty big investment, so we

recommend using an energy cost calculator app first to decide if it's worth the additional cost.

We hope you these reviews will be helpful as you consider smart technology that promotes energy efficiency. Don't forget to check with your local electric cooperative on additional programs and services designed to help you save on your energy bills.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on energy-saving apps and devices, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Could a planned blackout happen here?

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) made strategic and unprecedented decisions in 2019 to temporarily shut off power to large swaths of its California customers to avoid a potential wildfire disaster due to high wind conditions.

Schools closed, people scrambled to purchase supplies, patients in need of medical care were forced to evacuate, homes went dark. It was all part of public safety power shutoff (PSPS) events intended to prevent PG&E electrical equipment from igniting wildfires during strong and dry winds. The San Francisco Chronicle reported that, by some economist estimates, the shutoffs could cost businesses and residents more than \$1 billion.

Great River Energy closely monitors how these types of disasters affect the electric system to learn from them and improve resiliency during disasters that can occur in this region, such as blizzards and ice storms.

Most of Great River Energy's crisis planning is centered around major storm events and recovery procedures to prepare for events like Winter Storm Wesley, the worst storm in the co-op's history, which damaged 355 power line poles and caused significant outage time to nearly 8,300 member-consumers.

It happened in California but could a similar widespread, planned outage happen here in the Midwest?

Natural disasters or crises will occur, but utilities plan and prepare for them. And Dick Pursley, Great River Energy's director of operations and transmission services, believes Great River Energy has the proper preparations in place to respond when they do.

The cooperative has a rigorous inspection program—including periodic ground-line pole treatments, annual ground line inspections, aerial patrols and infrared camera inspections of all its switches and substations, Pursley said.

"We also have a sophisticated fault location application to pinpoint where the damage occurred and dispatch crews accordingly to make necessary repairs," he said.

Most of Great River Energy's crisis planning is centered around major storm events and recovery procedures. For instance, in the first few months of 2019 alone, the cooperative dealt with both a polar vortex and Winter Storm Wesley.

These types of events highlight the need for operator simulation and scenario training. Annual training is also conducted for control center evacuations and black start grid operations. These are important drills so Great River Energy operations staff is prepared to deal with catastrophic events requiring back-up control center operations and restoration of the grid from a system-wide blackout.

Though it hasn't enacted as widespread a procedure as a PSPS, Great River Energy crews have de-energized individual circuits when there is a known danger to the public such as an energized conductor detaching from a structure that poses a public hazard. In rare circumstances, Pursley said, the cooperative has also de-energized sections of line when notified of structure fires or wildfires.

"We will take any and all actions necessary to protect the public," he said.

When asked if the blackout events in California would affect how Great River Energy thinks about potential crises it could face in the future, Pursley answered that he doesn't expect the cooperative to change its current focus around crisis planning unless weather or climate trends "change drastically in the future" since the set of circumstances that PG&E is experiencing is unique to that region of the country.

Meet the people behind your power

It is often the people behind the scenes that keep things running smoothly. Assisting the general manager, organizing meetings for the board of directors, or helping employees with human resource questions are all tasks that need to be done to keep the Co-op functioning. All the MCPA employees work to keep your co-op operating efficiently—some from a bucket truck, some on the phone when you call in, as well as support staff in the office.

Katie Ide
Executive Administrative Asst/HR Specialist
Community & Church Volunteer

**McLEOD
CO-OP POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Why do I need a security system?

According to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15.4 seconds. In 2010, there were over 2.1 million burglaries. On average, a burglary results in a dollar loss of over \$2,000.

Homes without security systems are 3 times more likely to be broken into than homes with security systems. A study found that most burglars try to determine if a house has an alarm system before attempting a home invasion. An overwhelming majority of convicted burglars say that they intentionally avoided homes with security systems.

You'll feel better knowing your home and family are protected not just from burglars, but from environmental hazards such as fire and carbon monoxide. You'll be able to leave your home knowing it's protected, whether you're gone at work or on vacation.

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December 2019 Outage Summary

During the month of December the Cooperative had a total of 46 outages, affecting 2,121 consumers. It was a very quiet month until December 30 when ice on lines in Renville County started galloping after winds picked up. The high winds caused the power to go on and off repeatedly, and then stayed off for many members in the western part of the Co-op's service area for part of the day and overnight.

The second largest outage for December affected 27 members northeast of Hutchinson on December 25 about 1:23 PM. Cause was unknown and power was restored in about 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.

Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



This is a great year for new organizations to apply

Community and civic groups, emergency responders and other 501(c)3 non-profit organizations are welcome to apply to McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up Trust for donation assistance. The trust is able to donate funds to worthy local projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver Counties. Funding is from the generosity of electric

cooperative members who round up their electric bills.

Application forms are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 or they are on the Co-op's website at www.mcleodcoop.com. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2020.

What is the process for installing solar on my home or farm?

The first step is to call McLeod Co-op Power to get help with the basic details of interconnecting, finding out about fees, if it is compatible with your load management equipment, and determine questions you should ask an installer. Call 1-800-494-6272 and ask for Justin.

Any member wanting to interconnect solar, wind, storage or other distributed energy resources (DER) to the grid on the Co-op's distribution system will need to apply and have their application be approved before installation work can begin. Application forms can be completed online. Go to the MCPA website www.mcleodcoop.com, click on Renewable Energy icon, click on the NOVA Power Portal name to access application forms, C-MIP requirements, technical requirements, Co-op tariff sheets, etc.

Applications and fees may both be submitted online via the portal.



The approved DER 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 \$623 (effective April 1, 2020) will apply prior to final inspection. Any costs for upgrading facilities to serve DER loads is the responsibility of the member installing the system.

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 27 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

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.

Cleaning out your garage or attic? Have farm machinery to sell?

Members may sell items for FREE using the classified ads in the Co-op newsletter! Ads run for one month. See details below.

For Sale Miscellaneous

- Farm raised feeder pigs. Sold by whole or halves. 320-583-2523
- Antique day bed. \$175/obo. 320-864-3282
- Five wallpapering brushes. BO. 320-864-3282
- Arctic Cat Purple powerlube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
- Meat grinder size 32, food grinder attachment for sunbeam mixmaster. 320-864-4051
- 1983 14ft X 70ft mobile home, needs work. Must move. \$1,000. 612-987-4009
- 2009 Crownline boat/trailer mint condition. \$15,500. 218-841-4330
- Lift 96 X 96. \$1,500. 218-841-4330
- 16in Husquarna 240 chainsaw, 4 sawchains, excellent condition. \$150. 320-864-3227
- Mid-size tractor tires for playground/sandbox. 320-582-1534
- Five-gallon pails w/lids. \$1.50/each. 952-657-2472

For Sale Farm

- Round corn stalk bales. 320-582-1534
- 2004 JD Bauer built 24 row 22in planter, starter insecticide. 320-583-5324
- Bearcat 950 grinder mixer, excellent condition. Always shedded. \$4,000. 320-510-2147
- 4in air system to move grain from dryer to bins. 320-582-1534

Wanted

- 24+ ice cream buckets w/handles. 612-618-1693

Giveaway

- Black Amana Electric stove. Works great. 612-803-4475
- Two bags Entrust plus disposable underwear, large 38in-50in. 320-779-0468

What makes a Marathon water heater better than other brands?

Construction Features

- **Energy Saving Pipe Wrap Kit** - reduces heat loss through plumbing lines.
- **Temperature and Pressure Relief Valve** - factory installed.
- **Watertight Grommets** - keep out overhead moisture and condensation.
- **Seamless Molded Non-metallic Inner Tank** - can't rust or corrode.
- **Fill Tube** - high temperature material to withstand thermal storage and other high temperature applications.
- **High-tech Heating Elements** - upper element fused to protect tank against "dry fire". Bottom element is low-watt density, stainless alloy for long life.
- **Polyethylene Outer Jacket** - resists dents and scratches during transit, installation and beyond.
- **Envirofoam®** - a great energy saver and friendly to the ozone layer—it's made without CFCs and HCFCs.
- **Filament-wound Fiberglass Tank** - has unmatched strength.
- **Recessed Drain Valve** - protected from damage.



Marathon water heaters have a super-insulated design to keep water hot for Co-op members participating in the Water Storage Program, which heats water for up to 8 hours a day and stores sufficient water for use during the 16 hours when it does not charge. The 85 and 105 gallon tanks store plenty of hot water for our member's daily needs.

On the Co-op's Water Storage Program, member's pay the off-peak electric rate, which is about 50% less than the general service rate. This results in a significant savings on each monthly electric bill.

Call the energy experts at
McLeod Co-op Power
1-800-494-6272

Marathon
WATER HEATERS

High-Efficiency Appliance Rebates for 2020

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

Cole Climate Heat Pump ...Coming soon

ETS Space Heat - per kW \$50

ETS Water Heating

100 gallon minimum capacity \$400

Heat Pump Water Heater

50 gallon minimum capacity \$500

LED Yard Light \$60

Swimming Pool

ASHP \$400

Pool Variable Speed Pump \$200

Electric Vehicle & Chargewise \$500

This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial rebates. There is a \$2,500 maximum rebate per member per year. Only ETS space heating and commercial grants/rebates have a \$5,000 maximum cap. All rebates are on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly.

Most downloadable rebate forms are on the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com. Please read the details on specific rebate forms, as some products have limits, require ENERGY STAR certification or other requirements.

Air Source Heat Pump rebate forms must be completed by the installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a QUALITY INSTALLER and is listed on the hvaceducation.net website. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on www.mcleodcoop.com website. There are no rebates for central air conditioners. The Co-op encourages any member replacing a central air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

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

Most Popular Reasons for Purchasing a Standby Generator



Power outages can cause either a simple inconvenience or a serious problem. Power outages that last a long time can come with large price tags such as the cost of repairs to your home from frozen pipes bursting while the heat is off, a flooded basement while the sump pump was off, or a freezer full of spoiled food.

Here are 11 common reasons why people have said they purchased standby generators:

1 "Keeping our fridge and freezer running during a storm has saved us a lot of money and wasted food."

2 "We travel often in the winter months and worry about the pipes freezing if the power is out and the house has no heat; not the kind of surprise we would want when we come home."

3 "I have livestock to water and cannot risk being unable to pump water for an extended period."

4 "I often travel on business and need to know that if the power goes out, my family and home are safe and secure when I'm not there."

5 "If our sump pumps don't run, our basement can flood very quickly. Battery backup for our sump pumps was an option but that only provided a few hours of backup and only supported the sump pump. A standby generator supports a whole lot more and ensures backup as long as I need it."

6 "I need the ability to work from home regardless of weather conditions. With a generator I ensure that I have access to the technology I need to keep business running as usual."

7 "We have a well and without electricity we have no water — no drinking water, no flushable toilets and no showers."

8 "Our standby generator increases the value of our home — future buyers will love the security and convenience of their already-installed emergency power source."

9 "Staying at a hotel is not a realistic option if the power goes out. Not only is it expensive and inconvenient, some hotels don't allow the four-legged members of my family!"

10 "Running a beauty shop in the home could turn into a disaster if a power outage occurred while I was doing a treatment to a customer. With a standby generator back-up, I don't have to worry about that."

Most popular reason:

11 "I did not want to hassle with my tractor-driven PTO generator any more. I wanted a generator that would start automatically, whether I was home or not. I did not want my wife worrying about how to get the tractor started and hooked up if I was on the road."

There are a lot of good reasons to install an automatic Briggs & Stratton generator that can power the entire house or farm. McLeod Co-op Power offers this turn-key installation and maintenance service. A complete, installed generator system for a residential home starts at \$6,300, depending on location. Final price depends upon location, wiring, and size of generator. Larger generators up to 200 kW are also available for farm, business or industrial applications. Call McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 for more details.



Have you dropped your telephone landline?

If you are now using a cell phone instead of a landline, please make sure you have shared that number with the Co-op. If we have your correct contact information in our data base it will make reporting a power outage faster for you. It will also provide us with an active number when the Co-op needs to notify you about a scheduled power outage in your neighborhood, to verify that your power has been restored or to contact you with a critical message about your electric service.

The current primary phone number we have on file for each member is printed in the box in the upper right-hand corner of your electric bill. Please verify that this is still an active phone number where we can reach you. Members may call our office M-F between 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM to report any changes or updated numbers. You may also drop us an e-mail at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com or put a note in with your electric payment. We are able to enter multiple phone numbers and an e-mail address into your contact information.

We appreciate your time and assistance to update your contact information with us.

Apply for lineworker scholarship by April 16

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

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



5 Reasons to apply for Youth Tour 2020

One McLeod Co-op Power Association (MCPA) youth representative will be chosen to fly to Washington D.C. and participate in the national youth tour June 20-25. High school juniors or seniors who attend school in or reside in McLeod, Sibley, Carver, or Renville Counties are eligible to apply. Applications are available on the Co-op's website at www.mcleodcoop.com. Applications should be submitted by March 2, 2020.

1

EXPERIENCE WASHINGTON D.C. FOR FREE

MCPA covers the total cost of the trip, including airfare. All you need is spending money for souvenirs. History will come alive as your visit all the D.C. sights, including museums and memorials.

2

BE HEARD

Spend a day on Capitol Hill with elected officials. This is a great opportunity to address your concerns directly with legislators.

3

MAKE FRIENDS

Meet teens from all over the country. It's like camp — without the bugs and bears. You can even apply for the Youth Leadership Council and return to Washington D.C., for a leadership workshop.

4

REPRESENT YOUR COMMUNITY

Learn more about electric cooperatives and how they help power communities just like yours. Remember, we're hometown people serving neighbors and friends.

5

STAND OUT

Being selected for Youth Tour is a unique accomplishment. Mentioning your leadership skills looks great on your college application or resume. It's never too early to network, either.



Benefit Your Community:

BE COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS

The 2020 Census is coming. The count is mandated by the Constitution to count everyone living in the U.S. and has happened every 10 years since 1790.

In March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will send every household an invitation to complete a simple questionnaire about who lives at your address on April 1, 2020. The 2020 Census is easy, safe and important.

To shape the future of your community, be counted!

Why respond?

Census results help determine how billions in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for services and programs, such as schools, clinics and roads.

Census results also determine how many seats Minnesota will have in Congress and your community's representation in the state Legislature.

How to respond?

The 2020 Census marks the first time people can respond online. You will also be able to respond by phone. If you do not respond online or by phone, you will eventually receive a paper questionnaire form in the mail. For households that do not self-respond, a census taker will follow up in person to have you complete the census.

The person completing the form should list all people living in the household as of April 1, 2020, including relatives and friends who are living there the majority of time.

What happens to my responses?

When you respond to the census, your answers are protected by law. The Census Bureau keeps your individual responses strictly confidential and used only to produce aggregate statistics.

What if I have other questions?

Get more info: 2020Census.gov

