



COVID-19 prompts changes in front office and field operations

As our nation continues to battle the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we feel it is important to let you know that McLeod Co-op Power is continuing to take proactive steps to ensure our employees stay healthy and electric service remains safe and reliable.

Many of our employees are now doing their jobs remotely using modern technologies. This decision was made to minimize any possibilities for our employees becoming infected with the COVID-19 virus. We are focused on maintaining a healthy workforce, to continue providing the service you need from us.

This starts with having our crews available for power outage restoration. Likewise, our member service representatives will be ready to help if you have questions or need assistance. We have suspended many of our non-essential out-of-office services; however, your electrical service will continue to be our highest priority during this national crisis.

- We have staffing plans in place to ensure dispatchers, line workers, member service representatives and our other employees continue delivering our critical services.
- The office is temporarily closed to walk-in traffic. Payments can be made by mail, bank draft, or put in the secure 24-hour drop box at the office entrance. Employees are available by phone **Monday through Friday 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** to accept credit/debit card payments.
- We have temporarily waived convenience fees for credit/debit card payments and are extending Cold Weather Rule protections past April 15 for residential customers due to this pandemic. Members having difficulty paying their bill should contact us to set up a payment plan.
- Check the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com or our Facebook page for regular updates.
- Members calling the office can be assisted by various department employees, however, we ask for your patience as responding remotely to inquiries may take a little longer than when the full staff is working at the Co-op. If calling in, please listen carefully to the list of menu options to reach the department that can best help you.

Please rest assured that your team at McLeod Co-op Power is committed to delivering your electricity. We take this responsibility very seriously. Thank you for your patience during these unprecedented times.

COVID-19 precautions necessitate major changes to Cooperative Annual Meeting



MCPA has had to postpone its 2020 annual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been tentatively rescheduled for June 16 at the Hutchinson Event Center, if it can be held in compliance with CDC recommended event gatherings at that time. Official notice will be mailed to members when a date is finalized. MCPA must attain attendance of the required quorum of 50 members for its annual meeting, however, there will be major changes to the event to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

It will consist of only a brief business meeting to comply with bylaw required actions. It will not include a meal or refreshments. There will be no exhibitor booths or entertainment. The program will not include speeches or non-essential presentations. Specific sanitation and safe-distance seating measures will be utilized. It is the Co-op's desire to complete the required meeting with the minimum possible risk to attendees and employees.

Election and bylaw ballots will be mailed to members a few weeks before the rescheduled annual meeting. Members are encouraged to return their ballots by mail using the postage-paid return envelope.

Our Board of Directors regrets having to make such dramatic changes to our meeting. They hope that this virus situation will improve in time, and that our members can join us for an open house event at the Co-op's new building later in 2020.

Expect an increase in energy use when you or family members are home more

Whether you have kids staying at home or you are home during the COVID-19 pandemic, you will probably notice that your energy bill will be higher than usual. If you normally have an empty house on weekdays and the new reality is kids home from school, college students moved back in for a time, and you or your spouse are working from home, you can be guaranteed the electric bill is going up.

Extra people doing everyday activities translates into greater energy use. Now there is more TV watching, more video gaming, DVD players are spinning, multiple computers or electronic devices are in use. Many of those devices require charging. The cell phones and iPads require charging. Extra people in the house means increased flushing, showers, bathing, laundry, and dishwashing, which



results in more hot water heating. Plus, the washer, dryer, dishwasher, well pump, septic pump, and other appliances get more of a workout. The lights are probably on in multiple rooms at a time.

This is just a reminder to provide you with an explanation of why the electric bill you receive in April or May (for March or April usage) may be significantly higher than normal. If you would like suggestions on how to get the kids to reduce their energy use, see the article on page 8.

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Official publication of

McLEOD CO-OP POWER
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

Through December	2019	2018
Operating Revenue.....	\$20,811,257	\$20,196,761
Cost of Purchased Power	\$12,988,279	\$12,302,380
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$7,482,499	\$7,173,305
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$20,470,778	\$19,475,685
Operating Margins.....	\$340,479	\$721,076
Non Operating Margins	\$869,001	\$726,246
Total Margins.....	\$1,209,480	\$1,447,322
kWh's Sold	170,217,824	167,197,672
Member Services Billed.....	6,873	6,818
Avg kWh Used, Residential/Month	1,476	1,480

Member photo contest for 2021 calendars

The contest is designed to spotlight the photography talents of our members, but just as importantly the scenic beauty and unique characteristics of our service territory. Members are encouraged to begin submitting photos with the deadline being August 1, 2020. Please consider submitting photos from all seasons (spring, summer, fall, winter). The photos submitted will be selected by a panel of judges with winners notified by September 1, 2020. Winners will receive a \$20 credit on their electric bill.



Photo Contest Guidelines:

1. Only McLeod Co-op Power members may enter the contest (photos must have been taken by the member submitting the photo).
2. Members may submit up to 5 photos; however, only one winning entry can be selected per membership.
3. Photos must be electronic and high quality in resolution for print quality (at least 2MB in file size).
4. The following information must be submitted with the photo to be considered: Name, address, phone, email, and location taken with short photo description.
5. Shoot your photos in horizontal/landscape orientation (not vertical).
6. Photos must not include a close-up of people.
7. Photos (and supporting information) must be emailed to dehrke@mcleodcoop.com by August 1, 2020.
8. By submitting photos for this contest photographers automatically give McLeod Co-op Power permission to use winning photos in the calendar in other publications, member presentations or shared electronically on the co-op's website and Facebook page.

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



This is an unprecedented time

The Covid-19 pandemic has upended our lives as we all struggle to do the right thing.

One thing we at McLeod Co-op Power know for a fact, is that we are an essential service. Our mission is to safely provide, maintain, and restore power to our Members. That mission could not be more paramount in our minds than it is during these times.

What follows is a brief summary of actions we have taken to serve you during this critical time. Our focus is on keeping employees safe and healthy and recognizing there may be a financial impact to members as a result of many business closures and layoffs.

- March 12 — Office closed to walk-in traffic
- All employee business travel suspended and increased use of teleconferencing communications.
- Employees instructed to practice social distancing and reduce as much exposure to the public as possible. Practices and strategies developed to do so.
- Encouraging the Center for Disease Control's guidelines for personal hygiene such as frequent and thorough hand washing.
- Rubber gloves issued to employees for handling of mail, checks, and cash.
- We are continuing to follow the Cold Weather Rule through a date longer than April 15

- Encourage members financially affected by the pandemic to call in for payment plans
- Waived convenience fees for credit card payments until further notice
- Penalty charges for late payments suspended until further notice
- Annual meeting postponed
- Work from home protocol was initiated March 19 for the line crews and on March 25 for the office
- March 26 board meeting held via teleconference
- March 31 adjusted office hours
- Member, Employee and Director regular updates.

To stay current, we encourage members to join us on Facebook and visit our website for the latest updates.

We are trying to keep our availability to members as "normal" as possible. I would like to thank our dedicated employees who are answering your phone calls from the office and from their homes, and especially our IT personnel that have made it possible for many employees to work remotely.

Let's work together, stay home, and stay safe. We will all be stronger as we get through this together, but at a distance.

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

kpetersen@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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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
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 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.



**Members have donated \$21,100 in
Operation RoundUp funds this year**

Over \$127,000 in past 16 years



Volunteer Operation Board members seated (l to r) Elizabeth Schwarze and Cheryl Beilke, standing (l to r) Virgil Stender, Curt Burns, and Mike Ruskamp.

The Operation RoundUps volunteer trust board met in March to select recipients for donations from the Co-op's Operation RoundUp fund. This year \$21,100 was awarded to 19 projects in our area.

Recipients include:

Aveyron Homes Inc.....	\$1,500.00
Buffalo Lake Ambulance	\$2,000.00
Buffalo Lake — Hector — Stewart Preschool.....	\$1,000.00
GFW Dollars for Scholars.....	\$500.00
Homes McLeod	\$1,000.00
Mayer Fire Department	\$2,000.00
McLeod Alliance	\$300.00
McLeod County Historical Society	\$1,200.00
McLeod Co. Toward Zero Deaths Safe Roads Coalition	\$500.00
McLeod Emergency Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
McLeod For Tomorrow	\$1,000.00
New Germany Fire Department	\$2,000.00
Buffalo Lake Fire Department	\$2,000.00
Silver Lake Civic Association.....	\$500.00
The Salvation Army Northern Division	\$500.00
Hutchinson Area Women of Today.....	\$100.00
GSL School District #2859 — JH STEM.....	\$1,000.00
Brownton Fire Department	\$2,000.00
BLHS Robotics — Hector	\$1,000.00

Operation RoundUp is an easy way for members to round their electric bill up to the nearest whole dollar each month. The difference in change goes to Operation RoundUp. The average donation is \$6.00 per year, and it will not exceed \$11.88 per year. The charitable donation receipt is shown right on your electric bill. Call the Co-op to sign up at 1-800-494-6272.

Healthy line crews are critical

The Co-op asks that if you see linemen on the job, to please keep your distance. It is important that they stay healthy, so any contact with the public is discouraged during this COVID-19 threat. Thank you.

**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 in 2019 clarifying our process when encountering tile or private utilities. The policy was 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.



Be Safe
Always call before you dig

**CALL 811
BEFORE
YOU DIG.**

**IT'S THE
LAW.**

UNDERGROUND POWER LINES can be just as dangerous as overhead power lines. Avoid serious injury and property damage by calling 811 before you dig to have underground facilities marked.

- Call Gopher State One Call at 811 at least two business days prior to a dig.
- Dial 811 or 1-800-252-1166 during normal business hours; this service is free for homeowners.
- Minnesota state law requires you to call.
- If you damage a line, you may be financially responsible for repairs.

You may also submit your dig information at gopherstateonecall.org/submit.

Take steps to protect yourself

Clean your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



Take steps to protect others

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.



To disinfect:

Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. Use disinfectants appropriate for the surface.

Options include:

- Diluting your household bleach.
To make a bleach solution, mix: 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water OR 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

- Alcohol solutions.
Ensure solution has at least 70% alcohol.

When the power goes out
and it keeps raining,

I won't need these
in my basement.

My sump pump is powered by an automatic
generator from McLeod Co-op Power.

McLeod Co-op Power sells and installs automatic home generator systems by Briggs & Stratton. An automatic generator will operate your sump pump, furnace fan, lights, refrigerators and freezers, and other important appliances even when you are not home. Call McLeod Co-op Power for more information 1-800-494-6272.



Allocation notices on April bill statement

The amount of capital credits allocated to each member for 2019 is shown on the electric bill mailed in mid-April. It is based on margins allocated. MCPA allocations may be refunded to the member at some time in the future when capital credits for 2019 are retired. The amount shown is not available to be deducted from the bill at this time. It is merely a notice of allocation. For many years the notice of allocation was mailed separately but due to high postage costs we are now economizing and listing it on your bill statement.



Outages hit Co-op in late March

On Saturday, March 28, during strong winds and snow, and overnight into Sunday, March 29, several outages occurred from Hutchinson to Hector. Several line crews responded to the various outages.

On Monday morning, March 30, a semi went in the ditch north of Winthrop. It hit and snapped off a transmission pole, initially

causing a transmission outage for over 3,000 MCPA members. That number was reduced to about 500 outages in a short time. Those 500 accounts were off until two substations could be backed, and repairs were then made.

We thank members for their patience during these unexpected spring outages.

Things to do while sheltering in place



We never could have imagined the situation we find ourselves in today. We know it has been a few challenging weeks, and that you are still trying to navigate this new normal. We know there's still much uncertainty, and you are operating in crisis mode.

If you are homebound, you will not have commute time, evening meetings, school activities or gathering with friends. Take advantage of the extra time to accomplish what you did not have time to get done before. Here are some suggestions:

- Complete your U.S. Census form. (It is critical that everyone in Minnesota, and especially in rural counties, be counted in the census to maintain our number of seats in Congress and the state legislature and our share of funding for roads and schools).
- Read a book or two
- Get up early, sit outside with your coffee, and listen to the birds sing
- Clean out your e-mail files
- Change/update your online passwords
- Clean out your clothes dryer vent (good fire prevention task)
- Check smoke detector batteries
- Change your furnace filter (should be done every 1-2 months)
- Start journaling
- Count your blessings on paper. Write down all the things that you have to be thankful for. Refer to the list whenever you are sad or fearful.
- Wash windows



- Try a new recipe using ingredients on hand in your pantry
- Watch old family videos of the kids or grandkids for a laugh
- Sort through old family photos and update photo albums
- Take a photo to submit to the Co-op photo contest
- Clean and vacuum the inside of your car or truck
- Call parents, grandparents, or anyone you know who is alone or isolated. It will brighten their day and it will be a blessing to you too.
- Play board games with family members. Clean out the closet and bring out games you have not played for a long time.
- Go for a walk and pick up garbage in the ditch (wear gloves and take a trash bag)
- Enjoy daily exercise
- Rake the yard
- Clean out cupboards
- Get groceries for an elderly neighbor when you make a trip to the store
- Call old friends on the phone to catch up on your lives
- Find safe volunteer opportunities in your community by helping at the food shelf or delivering Meals on Wheels
- Change/clean filters on your dishwasher, range hood, over-the-range microwave, or vacuum cleaner
- Care for yourself and family members that are ill by following recommended precautions from the Center for Disease Control (CDC)

SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS —

March 26, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held via teleconference due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All nine board members were participants, as well as the General Manager, attorney and senior staff.

The Line Superintendent reported that linemen began working from home on March 19. This measure was put into place to safeguard the linemen from virus exposure as the cooperative continues to provide an essential service during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Linemen on-call will only be responding to outages and emergencies.

The new combined facility is moving along as scheduled. Warehouse and wash bay have been painted and most sheetrock work has been completed in the office.

The Member Service Manager reviewed the department's pandemic contingency plan and temporary changes to services.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the 2020 Annual Meeting has been postponed. The current Nominating Committee was reappointed by the Board before the rescheduled Annual Meeting to be in compliance of the current bylaws.

The Notice of Annual Meeting approved January 26, 2020 was rescinded.

A new Notice of Annual Meeting with June 16 as a possible date (depending on the outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic) was approved. The cooperative will conduct a short business meeting without serving a meal.

Assistant Member Service Manager reported that the 2020 Play Ball Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic on Saturday, June 6, 2020 is still scheduled as of this time..

The Operation Round Up Board of Trustees received 22 applications and has awarded 19 projects with a total of \$21,100.00 to be distributed. The minutes of the Operation Round Up Meeting of March 9, 2020 were accepted.

The IT Manager reported that the Smart Hub "live" date will be pushed out due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Manager of Finance presented the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the month of February 2020, the final year end 2019 financial statements and the January 2020 financial statement for review. A Resolution to allocate 2019 Margins was approved.

The Co-op's policy on Payment of Accounts, was revised to cover emergencies such as a pandemic. The Cooperative has temporarily suspended disconnections, waived late payment charges, and rescinded limitation on amounts paid by credit cards. The emergency policy changes are being done to prepare for our response in the weeks ahead, to the financial effects on our members as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The General Manager summarized actions taken to safeguard employees during the pandemic threat. Manager Buckley was commended for being proactive during this crisis.

She reviewed the Great River Energy (GRE) February financials, key account visits, and progress on the new facility. Probable move-in dates to the new facility are still scheduled for late summer.

Heartland Security Services (HSS) announced a \$5,000 dividend payable to MCPA and all other partners. It was another successful year for HSS with record high margins reported in 2019.

Manager Buckley was approved to be the voting delegate for the CRC Director Election.

GRE representative gave a report on the Great River Energy activities for the past month.

The regular meeting adjourned. Following an executive session to discuss strategic business issues, the regular session reconvened.

A motion was approved authorizing the General Manager to engage Fahey Sales and Auctioneers and Appraisers to conduct a comprehensive market analysis in preparation of the sale of the existing headquarters and bare lot on the Northeast corner of 12th Street and Ford Avenue.

February 2020 Outage Summary

February had 39 outages, affecting 48 consumers. This is very low. More than 75% of the outages for the month were planned or due to transformer changeouts. Most outages affected only one individual account. The largest outage of the month affected nine members. The cause was unknown. It occurred on February 28, just after 8:15 AM and affected members near Buffalo Lake.

Localized outages 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.

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.



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 April 27 to be included in the May issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone number: _____

Please check ad category
☐ Giveaway
☐ For Rent
☐ For Sale
☐ Wanted

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

For Sale Miscellaneous

- 353 Detroit motor & radiator. 320-582-1534
- Round corn stalk bales. 320-582-1534
- Seven antique tractor seats 320-864-3282
- Lawn estate rake. 320-583-1200
- 20in electric hedge trimmer. 320-583-1200
- 1200 OMC Owtona Bob Cat w/2-64in buckets. 320-587-7746
- Lincoln electric arc welder, AC-225. \$250/obo. 320-333-4065.
- Estate sale, dining tables, chairs, futon, dishes. Please call. 763-219-9033
- 2000 27ft Conquest travel trailer camper. Excellent shape. \$5,500. 320-510-3616
- 55-gal steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- OSB panels 32in X 32in X 7/16in. \$1/each. 952-353-2351

For Sale Farm

- 18.4 X 34 hub duals. \$775. 320-333-2177
- 25ft header trailer. \$1,375. 320-333-2177
- 21.5L X 16.1 tire. \$175. 320-333-2177
- Cream separator and hammer mill. BO. 320-864-3282

Wanted

- 450 John Deere Hydo push spreader. Nice Condition. \$4,000. 320-522-1228
- 4in Air Systems. Grain dryer to bin. 320-582-1534
- JD disc. Great shape. \$2,500. 320-510-2555
- Rock picker. Good. \$1,100. 320-510-2555
- Clipper fanning mill grain cleaner. 320-587-9207

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.



AC tune-ups eligible for credit once every two years

Schedule an air conditioning tune-up with your contractor today.

Just schedule a tune-up of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (unit must be at least five years old and in working condition to qualify) and when your licensed professional HVAC contractor performs the service work, have them complete the rebate coupon. Send the completed rebate form to the Cooperative with a copy of the contractor’s invoice. This tune up must include the items on the coupon. After the Co-op receives your documentation, we will credit your electric bill \$25 within 4-6 weeks.

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Eligible for credit a maximum of once every 24 months

Owner _____
Acct. # _____
Address _____
Location # _____
Phone # _____
Company doing Tune-Up _____
Technician's Name _____
Company Phone # _____

CHECK LIST

Brand Name _____
Model # _____
Serial # _____
Tons/BTU Rating _____ SEER Rating _____

☐ Clean Outdoor Unit
☐ Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
☐ Check Blower Belt
☐ Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
☐ Compressor Amp Reading Check
☐ Blower & Oil
☐ Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
☐ Check Filter
☐ Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
☐ Blow Out Drain Line
☐ Visual Inspection of Cooling System

Recommendations _____
Technician Signature _____
Date _____

Meet the people behind your power

Our employees make sure the bill you receive is accurate, your payment is processed correctly, and they provide information on a variety of Cooperative services.



Becky, Patty & Deb
Billing/Customer Service Team

Protect yourself from scammers claiming to be your cooperative

A person or organization receives a call from someone who claims to represent the utility company. Most often, the individual claims the person is behind on their electric bill and threatens to shut down the power soon if the money is not paid. The scam artists usually ask people to pay the “balance” via prepaid debit card or wire transfer.

One MCPA member was recently contacted by a scammer that claimed their power would be shut off if their Xcel Energy electric bill was not paid. Our smart member hung up on them and called the Co-op to report it.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Verify the legitimacy of the call before acting. Before sending money to someone demanding payment, verify that the call actually came from your utility company by calling the number

Stop Scams— Know the Signs

Utilities will never ask or require a customer with a delinquent account to purchase a prepaid debit card to avoid service disruption.



on your bill or on its website. Scam artists will sometimes “spoof” the real number for a utility company, so even if your caller ID shows the company’s official number, it is best to hang up and call back if the call seems suspicious.

- Beware of unusual payment methods. If the caller demands you send payment via a prepaid debit card or wire transfer, that is generally a red flag that the call is part of a scam. Prepaid debit cards and wire transfers are difficult to trace, and it can be almost impossible to recover the money once it is sent.
- Be careful providing information over the phone and online. It is a good rule of thumb to avoid

providing any information — including credit card numbers, checking account information, or other personal information — over the phone to people who call you. The Co-op will not call and ask you for this information. You may provide that info when you initiate a call to us to make a payment at 320-864-3148 or 800-494-6272.

Reporting Utility Shut-Off Scam Calls

If you receive a utility shut-off scam call, you should report it to your utility company. You should also report the call to your local police department or sheriff’s office.

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

Cold Climate Heat Pump \$1,000 - \$2,000
(See ad on page 8)

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.



Ideas to Get Your Kids to Reduce Their Energy

Most kids understand that air, water and food are important to survival. Most kids have learned about pollution in school as well. However, sometimes it's hard for children to relate their own energy consumption (playing video games, running hot water, etc.) to environmental pollution. Talk to your kids about how many of their everyday activities require energy. Ask them to help Mother Nature by reducing their own energy consumption.

Energy Saving Routines

Here are 10 habits or routines that you can introduce to your children, one at a time. Of course, you'll want to modify each suggestion to your child's age and level of skills. We'll leave it up to you to find the best ways to introduce these habits and routines. We do suggest that you reward your children once they get the hang of each item.

TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.

Your home's lighting accounts for roughly 10% of your home's energy consumption. Getting kids to turn off the lights is no easy task (from our experience anyway), but it can be done. If your child can get in the habit of this, the items below should be easy.

DON'T TOUCH THE THERMOSTAT.

If your child is old enough, they realize the thermostat is the ultimate key to warmth or coolness. But have they thought about putting on a sweater during the winter or taking off those flannel pants in

the summer? If your kid can't get past this step, consider purchasing a thermostat guard with a lock. The \$20 you spend may be well worth the energy savings on your bill.

TURN OFF THE WATER WHEN BRUSHING TEETH.

Even the slightest turn of a hot/cold water faucet will increase energy use. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that children (and adults) brush their teeth for two entire minutes. Purchase an egg timer (\$1-\$2), write "turn the water off" on it, and get your child into two habits at the same time.

TAKE A SHOWER INSTEAD OF A BATH.

We realize this isn't logical for your small toddler, but older kids can get in this habit easily. In addition, make sure that your children aren't brushing their teeth in the shower. Instead, have them brush their teeth when they are out of their shower — and turn the water off!

ASSIGN AN ENERGY MONITOR.

Give your kids some responsibility

— and authority — by assigning one to the position of "Energy Monitor" (similar to a Hall Monitor). Let them be in charge of making sure everyone in the house is doing their part for Mother Nature (and your energy bill!). If you have more than one child, rotate the responsibility. One can set the timer to limit the length of their siblings shower to the reasonable number of minutes established by mom or dad.

Simple Stuff:

- Do homework next to a window with natural light instead of using a lamp.
- Turn off the TV, computer, and other electronics when not in use.
- Unplug cell-phone chargers when not in use.
- Don't open windows when the air or heat is on.
- Don't stand in front of the refrigerator with the door open for a long time.

This event has not been cancelled yet. It will be dependent upon the status of the virus and CDC recommendations for large events in June.

BASEBALL CLINIC

FREE

Arlington, MN
Saturday June 6, 2020
Arlington Baseball Field

Open to Boys and Girls
6-9 year olds: 10:00 AM
10-13 year olds: 11:30 AM
Register at www.playballmn.com
Equipment is provided
Kids should bring a glove
Clinic will be moved to Sibley East High School if inclement weather

Presented In Partnership

Hosted by McLeod Cooperative Power Association and Arlington Baseball Association

ENERGY WISE MN

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more and complete a quiz for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit!

WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Take advantage of these hot promo rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.
Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

Rebate good April 1 through June 30, 2020

Why a rebate based on HSPF?

The Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) rates a system's heating efficiency, making it the cool climate equivalent of Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER). If your property is located in a colder climate you should be shopping for a system with a higher HSPF.

To receive an ENERGY STAR label, an air source heat pump must have a SEER above 15 and a HSPF above 8.2 for single packaged systems, and 8.5 for split systems. Extra large rebates are being offered until June 30 for the installation of qualified heat pumps with the higher HSPF ratings shown above.