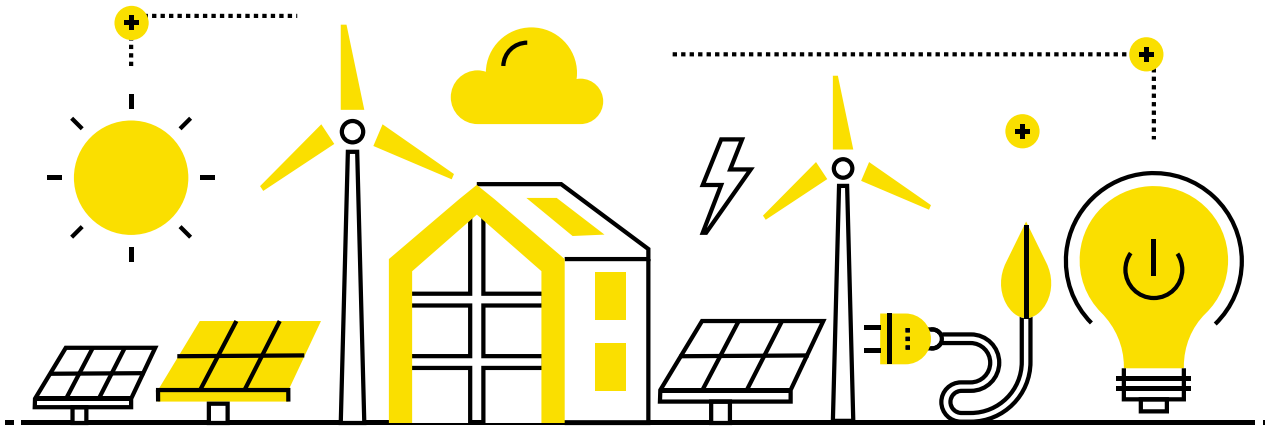


MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

MAY 2021



BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION: PLUG IN FOR THE GREENER GRID!

If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas, and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs. In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As McLeod Co-op Power and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here's how this concept impacts you. It means that electric appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven, and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When McLeod Co-op Power takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member.

ELECTRICITY IS GETTING CLEANER

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high-efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for a 10-year lifespan.

As McLeod Co-op Power is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy-efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

SMALL STEPS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools, and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers, and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

HOW WE ARE DOING OUR PART

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, McLeod Co-op Power is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means McLeod Co-op Power can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable, and affordable power to our community.

We also promote energy efficiency through programs like Stored Water Heating, Dual Fuel, and Storage Heating. In addition, through our upcoming SmartHub app, we offer our members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their energy use. To save you money, we also offer rebates for appliances, electric vehicles, and other energy efficiency upgrades.

We care about our community because we live here too. We hope you'll reach out McLeod Co-op Power, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about more ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for all of us.

ASK AN EXPERT:
ENERGY MANAGEMENT

03

GRANTS HELPING
OUR COMMUNITY

04

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR NOMINATIONS BY PETITION FOR DIRECTOR CANDIDACY

Cooperative members residing in Districts 4, 5 & 6 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2021 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 Co-op Power electric members residing in your district. The last day that a petition can be submitted is May 28th, 2021.

SMARTHUB LAUNCHES IN JULY!

WHAT IS SMARTHUB AND WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

McLeod Co-op Power is launching an innovative tool for account management. With SmartHub you'll be able to pay your bill, contact our customer service team and get the latest news through the web, or on your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS).

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.



You'll also be able to see important notices with SmartHub. You'll have the option to select how you want to be notified, including email and text messaging. Reporting a service issue is also a snap with a computer or mobile device. There's no need to call the office, just let us know about the issue with a few clicks.

HOW WILL YOU REGISTER FOR SMARTHUB?

After we launch in July, those wanting to use SmartHub will need to register online as a new SmartHub user.

WHERE CAN YOU LEARN MORE?

The June newsletter will have more in-depth information on SmartHub and its applications. You also can find more information on our website at mcleodcoop.com/about/smarthub.



CEO MESSAGE

STRESS, WHAT A THING IT IS

When machines have too much stress, they break. As recently demonstrated during the polar vortex in Texas, too much demand for electricity without enough capacity creates stress, leading to blackouts. With summer on its way, electrical systems can experience similar stress related to heatwaves.

Much like the polar vortex, heatwaves create more need for electricity as people cool their homes and businesses. The good news? McLeod Co-op Power along with our partner Great River Energy (GRE) plan for these events. GRE works hard to provide enough electricity and balances those efforts by creating demand response programs that help reduce the need for electricity. According to GRE, more than 200,000 residents participate in programs that allow GRE to cycle their air conditioner, water heater, or other load for a period of time when demand is high. These programs allow GRE to control 15% of its peak load — or the equivalent of reducing electricity demand by more than 200,000 homes on a normal summer day.

We know the need and demand for electricity is only going to continue to grow. Even now you see all the major car companies promotion their electric vehicles (EVs) during every commercial break. I am not sure how quickly we will be adopting wide-scale use of electric vehicles in our area, but when I go to the cities, it doesn't take long to spot them. Don't tell my wife, she likes her truck, but my next car will probably be an EV.

As you might guess, at the Co-op we are already planning for the future. First, we



CEO RON MEIER

will be installing a haring station here at the Co-op in the coming months to help us get an understanding of how they work and help educate our team. We are also setting up programs, like our Off-Peak Charging program that incentivize vehicle charging when there is room on the grid, basically in the middle of the night. In the future perhaps the middle of the day when the sun is shining and solar panels are generating the most.

GRE is also constantly planning for future needs. They are looking at what types of generation systems will be needed to meet the demands of our cooperative and the rest of their members. Today, they have natural gas generators with a backup supply of fuel oil. These generators are available at a moment notice if more capacity is needed to meet demand when the wind is not blowing and the sun is not shinning. Tomorrow it might be something different such as utility scale batter storage. This level of planning is a crucial part of their relationship and partnership with us.

Stress is manageable and healthy when we plan for it. We are doing just that here at the cooperative.

Cooperatively,

R1 PL

APRIL 2021 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on April 27, 2021 at MCPA headquarters. All nine board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The outage report for the month of March 2021 reflected a total of 67 outages, affecting 1,050 consumers.
- The monthly Operations/Engineering report included underground inspections on Bell Substation and pole inspections on Winthrop Substation.
- The Membership Survey was mailed in April as a bill insert.
- An overview was provided for hosting the Annual Meeting at the Hutchinson Event Center on July 13. There also are plans for an Open House at the new facility in October for National Cooperative Month.
- The accounting firm of Eide Bailly LLP presented the annual Audit Report via teleconference for Financial Statements as of December 31, 2020 and 2019.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2021-04-01 Security Bank and Trust Company Certification of Authority for the Co-op's bank accounts.
- A motion was carried to approve changes to Policy 3-1 Schedule of Charges.
- A motion was carried to approve the changes to Rate 21 for Industrial Service with Firm Standby Service.
- A motion was carried to support the Strategic Plan as presented.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NOTICE OF CHANGE FEES

An updated Schedule of Charges was approved by the McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors at its April meeting. The increased fees will be effective July 1, 2021.

DESCRIPTION	NEW RATES
Record Research & Retrieval Fee	\$50/hr
Lineman Service Calls: (Per Trip Charge)	
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	\$310
3:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (Monday - Saturday)	\$465
Sundays and Holidays	\$620
Electrician Service Calls (Per Trip Charge)	1st Hour/Add'l Hours
7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	\$120/\$85
Outside of regular business hours (Mon. - Sat.)	\$180/\$125
Sundays and Holidays	\$240/\$165
Temporary Disconnect Trip Charge	\$85
ESTIMATES FOR PURPOSES OF DEPOSITS	
Single Phase and Secondaries:	Working Hours/Overtime
Fixed Charge	\$260/\$320
Plus a Per-Crossing Charge	\$260/\$320
Multi-Phase:	
Fixed Charge	\$515/\$640
Plus a Per-Crossing Charge	\$515/\$640
Labor Line Work:	
Regular Time Rate per Man-Hour	\$95
Overtime Rate per Man-Hour	\$145
Double-Time Rate per Man-Hour	\$190
Electrician Time per Man-Hour	\$85
Vehicle Charges per Hour:	
Aerial – Bucket	\$80
Digger	\$95
Plow	\$100
Riding Trencher	\$100
Walking Trencher	\$60
Pickup	\$45
Mini Excavator	\$105
Skidsteer	\$100
EZ Spotter/Attachments	\$100
Dump Truck	\$40
UTV	\$40
Pole Trailers	\$40

SPRING REBATE SPECIAL

ASHPs heat and cool your home – plus they’re efficient! So whether temps rise or fall, your energy bill will stay cool.

It’s the best of both worlds! Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) provide home cooling and supplemental heating with less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. The technology concentrates heat in the air and moves it into or out of your home depending on the season. ASHPs are one of the most effective ways to improve your home’s energy efficiency.

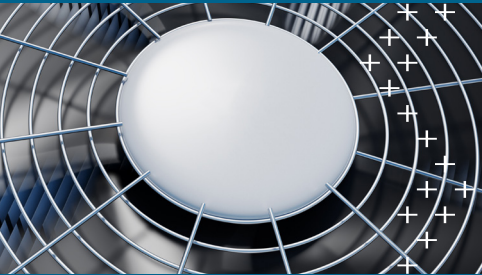
Now through June 30, 2021, get up to a \$2,000 rebate from McLeod Co-op Power when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

(Equipment must be installed by June 30, and rebate must be submitted by July 12, 2021.)

ASHP	PROMO REBATE
Ductless ASHP	\$450
≥ 8.2-8.99 HSPF ASHP	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF ASHP	\$2,000

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more about these limited-time rebates!

Funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice due to limited funding being available for this promotion.



ASK AN EXPERT: THE 411 ON ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Did you know you can save money while helping the Cooperative keep rates reasonable and stable by enrolling in one of McLeod Co-op Power’s energy management programs? This month, Member Services Manager Dan Ehrke is sharing the 411 on these win-win programs.

“Energy Management programs are energy conservation at work. They allow the Co-op to reduce the demand put onto the electric system during peak energy times,” Ehrke said. “Members who choose to participate in one of our energy management programs benefit from a discounted rate for the energy used by appliances on these programs.” Check out McLeod Co-op Power’s program options below.

STORAGE WATER HEATING PROGRAM
Off-Peak Water Heating conserves energy by heating water during off-peak hours when electric costs are the lowest. Your water heater heats overnight and then distributes it throughout the day.

- Eight-hour charging window.
May – September: Monday-Friday 11 p.m. - 7 a.m.
October – April: Monday-Friday 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.
- Weekends and Holidays: Minimal control except for peak conditions, high energy prices, or system emergencies.
- Requires a 100 gallon or larger capacity water heater (Or a 80-gallon tank and a mixing valve.*)
- Hot Water Recirculation units (gravity or pumped) are not recommended for this program.
- \$400 rebate for new program enrollments.

*The mixing valve, when installed on the discharge hot water pipe of the water heater, is designed to mix cold and hot water to deliver the desired temperature at the faucet. McLeod Coop recommends installing, setting, and maintaining the mixing valve to the manufacturer’s specifications.

DUAL FUEL ELECTRIC HEAT
The Dual Fuel program uses electric heat as the primary heat source for your home, with an auxiliary or backup source of heat that can be used during peak energy demand periods. When electricity demand is high, the electric heat source is shut off, or controlled while your home’s backup system provides the heat to keep you warm and cozy (control times are up to 400 hours per year maximum).

- An electric heating system (at least 5 kW min. capacity) is used as the primary heating source and will receive the reduced Off-Peak electric rate.
- A fully automatic fossil fuel heat source is used as the back-up heating source.

STORAGE ELECTRIC SPACE HEATING
Storage heating systems deliver heat to homes, shops, and commercial buildings 24 hours a day, even though they do not use electricity during the day. Members participating in the Storage Heating Program have electric heat that operates on a daily schedule of 8-hours on/16-hours off.

- By using electricity only during non-peak hours, all storage loads qualify for the low off-peak electric rates.
- Storage Space Heating rebates are currently \$50.00 per kW installed.

“McLeod Co-op Power offers a wide range of programs and technologies to our members to help manage electricity while ensuring reliability and saving them money,” Ehrke shared.

*Note: To participate in the “Off-Peak” programs outlined above, a Load Management receiver and meter equipment are required and currently supplied free of charge by McLeod Coop Power. The Radio controller and metering will need to be located outside the home. The installation of the off-peak equipment along with any other required installation needs are at the expense of the member.

Visit our website or call us at (800) 494-6272 to speak to one of our energy management specialists to learn about these programs.

PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

CRAIG MARTI LINE FOREMAN

Craig has been serving McLeod Co-op Power in the line department for 22 years. He enjoys being outside and that his role is never repetitive. Line work is dangerous and safety is a priority. Craig works safe everyday for his wife, kids, and hobbies.

The best safety advice he’s been given is, “Always keep your mind on the task at hand.”



Photo Credit: Jim Jordahl

MCLEOD CO-OP MEMBERS DONATE \$22,000 TO 20 LOCAL AND WORTHY CAUSES

Your spare change adds up, allowing 2021 Operation Round Up® grants to be distributed to support our community. Learn about how these funds support Silver Lake Ambulance below!

Through the Operation Round Up® program, McLeod Cooperative Power allows our members to give back to the community. Each month the rounded-up funds (between 1¢ and 99¢) are placed in a trust fund and administered by the volunteer Trust Board. In March, Silver Lake Ambulance was one of twenty local organizations to benefit from this grant program. They received funding to support operations at the volunteer-based station.

Silver Lake Ambulance Chief Steve Hackbarth shared his gratitude for our donation, “Organizations like McLeod Co-op are very important to our service. If we need to respond to you or your loved ones’ emergency medical problem, we cannot get your heart to start beating again with our good intentions. We need the right equipment and the right people.” The station is dependent on community donations to run its active and effective life-saving services.

“While these improvements might not seem as important as medical equipment, it is vital to creating a safe and comfortable environment for the EMTs serving our community,” Hackbarth said.

McLeod Co-op is guided by a set of principles that influence our business decisions and ensure that our actions are in the best interest of our members, which means being a responsible member of the community and doing all we can to meet needs in our service territory. The Operation Round Up® grants we distribute improve the quality of life in our service area, and the success of this program is a direct result of the members who participate. It’s members helping members.

McLeod Co-op Power’s Operation Round Up® is an opt-out program. Residential accounts are automatically enrolled, and electric bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar unless the account has been opted out. If you would like to opt out of the program and haven’t yet done so, please call (800) 494-6272 or complete the form available at www.mcleodcoop.com/services/operation-round-up/.

“In recent years, we’ve had trouble hiring Emergency Medical Technicians because of the steep qualifications and requirements of the role,” shared Hackbarth. If an EMT lives more than 8 minutes from the station, they need to spend their 12-hour shift at the station. Operation Round Up® funds will be used to improve the station’s living area by upgrading the small fridge and microwave to a full kitchen.



USPS 2220
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
HUTCHINSON, MN

2021 OPERATION ROUND UP RECIPIENTS

Alina Health Hospice (Blizzard Blast Charity Event)	\$1,750
Arlington Area Ambulance	\$1,000
Arlington Fire Department	\$2,000
Common Cup Ministry	\$1,000
Crow River Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000
Dollars for Scholars – Hutchinson Hight School	\$500
Equul Access, Inc.	\$1,000
Gibbon Fire & Rescue Dept. – City of Gibbon	\$2,000
Glencoe Booster Club	\$500
Hutchinson High School Robotics Team	\$750
Lester Prairie Schools – DARE Program	\$500
LSS Meals & Meals on Wheels – Hutchinson Site	\$1,000
Lutheran Social Services	\$1,000
Norwood Young America Fire Dept. Relief Association	\$2,000
Silver Lake Ambulance	\$500
Silver Lake Sportsmen’s Club	\$500
Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,000
Stewart Area Historical Society	\$500
Teuby Continued (DBA 2B Continued)	\$1,000
Winthrop Lions	\$1,000

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY: SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

McLeod Co-op’s Operation Round Up® program has awarded nearly \$150,000 thousand totaling 183 donations to local non-profit organizations and community service programs since the program’s inception in 2004. **In March 2021, the Cooperative and Operation Round Up® contributed \$22,000 to 20 area organizations.** (See the complete list to the left.)

LEARN MORE:

Operation Round Up funds are given to local civic organizations and worthy causes through an application and selection process. For further information or to obtain an application form, visit <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/services/operation-round-up/> or call (800) 494-6272.



3515 11th St. East
Glencoe, MN 55336

WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

The McLeod Cooperative Power News (USPS 2220) is published monthly by McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 3515 11th St. East, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070. Subscription rate: \$7.38 per year for members and \$14.76 per year for non-members.

Periodicals Postage Rate is at Hutchinson, MN, 55350 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: McLeod Coop Power News, 3515 11th Street E, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

OFFICE PHONE
(320) 864-3148
(800) 494-6272

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE
(800) 927-5685

WEBSITE
www.mcleodcoop.com

EMAIL ADDRESS
mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Ronald Meier

EDITOR
Dan Ehrke and Fuller Creative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1:
Oria Brinkmeier
(320) 485-2554

District 2:
Joe Griebie, Vice President
(320) 779-1101

District 3:
David Resch, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
(952) 449-1793

District 4:
Doug Kirtz, President
(320) 583-7673

District 5:
Allan Duesterhoeft
(320) 587-9134

District 6:
Gary Burdorf
(507) 964-5815

District 7:
Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative
(320) 583-0037

District 8:
Keith Peterson
(320) 583-0997

District 9:
Susan Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer
(952) 250-3109

McLeod Cooperative Power is an equal opportunity employer and provider.