

# MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER

# NEWS

MAY 2022



## MONEY-SAVING PROGRAMS HELP MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ELECTRIC GRID

McLeod Co-op Power, our wholesale power provider Great River Energy, and members like you have helped to use the electric grid efficiently and economically for decades by reducing demand during periods of stress on the electric grid and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

### ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

This strategy — known as “demand response” — plays a role in keeping wholesale rates affordable; electricity reliably flowing to homes, businesses and farms; and also saves members money on their bills in the short- and long-term.

Members have the opportunity to opt-in to several demand-response programs offered by [McLeod Co-op that “control” or “cycle” electric devices in their homes such as air conditioners, water heaters and heat pumps on high-demand days when electricity is most expensive. In exchange, members receive a reduced electric rate and sometimes even upfront rebates for enrolling.

Programs available through McLeod Co-op include:

- Dual Fuel
- Cycled Air Conditioning
- Stored Water Heating
- Peak Shave Water Heating
- ChargeWise (Electric Vehicle Charging)
- Storage Space Heating

“Both the cooperative and consumer-member receive benefits through this strategy,” said Member Services Manager Dan Erhke. “These programs offer a direct link to avoid wholesale energy costs to the co-op while our members benefit from lower rates associated with controlled loads.”

When the time comes for these appliances to be used for demand response — usually on very warm or very cold days — Great River Energy “flips the switch” to alleviate demand. In addition to reducing

sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, this helps the cooperative to avoid making expensive purchases from the regional energy market which saves members money.

Without demand response, GRE and other utilities would need additional generation and transmission infrastructure to meet the region’s increasing electrical demand. Load management programs also help avoid building high-cost peaking plants or purchasing expensive energy in the wholesale market.

Great River Energy and its 28 member-owner cooperatives have built the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration. More than 370,000 appliances, along with irrigation systems, are enrolled in a demand response program offered by the cooperatives.

Call us at (800) 494-6272 for more information on available demand-response programs.

### PEAK ALERTS

Another way members can help the Co-op control costs is by responding to Peak Alerts. We share peak alerts with our members so they can help out by reducing their usage during times of high demand on the regional electric grid. Members can help us reduce demand by:

- Adjust your thermostat a few degrees
- Turn off any unnecessary lights or electronics
- Delay the use of major appliances like dishwashers and dryers until after the peak alert time period has passed
- Delay activities that require hot water, such as washing clothes, taking showers, or washing dishes
- Consider grilling outside instead of using the oven or stovetop

ORU SUPPORTS LOCAL  
FIRE DEPARTMENTS

03

PLANT TREES  
SAFELY THIS SUMMER

04

## DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR NOMINATIONS BY PETITION FOR DIRECTOR CANDIDACY

Cooperative members residing in Districts 7, 8 & 9 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2022 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, 2022.

## 2022 REBATES

### ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

Energy Star Dehumidifier \$25

Energy Star Electric Clothes Dryer \$25

### RECYCLING

Old Freezer or Refrigerator \$25  
(Proof of recycling required,  
limit of two per year.)

### ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Level II EV Charging Station \$500  
(Level 2 charger installed on the co-op's  
Storage/Off Peak Program)

### WATER HEATERS

Heat Pump Water Heater \$500  
(50-gallon minimum capacity)

Replacement Electric  
Water Heater \$50  
(40-gallon minimum capacity)

Electric Storage Water  
Heating Program \$400

### ENERGY STAR SWIMMING POOL

Air Source Heat Pump  
Pool Heater \$400

Variable Speed Pump \$200

### ENERGY STAR LIGHTING

Energy Star LED Yard Light \$60

### HVAC

Wifi Thermostat \$25

Central Air Conditioner or  
Air Source Heat Pump Tune-up \$25

Electric Thermal Storage  
Space Heating \$50 per kW

Air Source Heat Pumps  
See our limited time,  
summer special on page 4.

Ground Source Heat Pump  
\$400 per ton

ECM \$50  
(retrofit only, no new construction)

Maximum Annual Rebate Amount  
The maximum annual rebate  
amount per member is \$5,000. All  
rebates are on a first-come, first-  
serve basis while rebate funds  
remain available.



CEO MESSAGE

Evolution of the grid.

Before there was light, there was darkness. The darkness was pushed back by man, with the taming of fire and the development of the candle. It can be argued that this was the beginning evolution of the grid. It wasn't long before brilliant minds such as Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and all those who did not get the glory of invention learned the ways of electricity.

In a small town in Colorado, one of the first electrical plants using the flow of water was built with a power line going over the mountain pass to a mine to push back the darkness that was found within that mountain. It wasn't shortly afterward that larger hydro plants at Niagara falls started shaping the grid.

We soon developed methods beyond the flow of water to harness electricity. We learned to burn coal and oil to create steam that was used to spin electrical generators. We learned to split the atom and capture the release of energy to generate electricity. Also, we looked at the wind and sun and figured out ways to convert the energy found there to electricity. The grid grew and evolved.

Rural community members played a key part in this evolution when they came together to form the first cooperatives to replace the candles with the electric bulb on farms and homesteads. The business model evolved.

As these examples illustrate, the evolution of the grid has always been, but today it is at the front of our minds with the challenges our society faces in the future.

We don't have to look very far to see this conversation of the next evolutionary period. Depending upon where we look for the information we hear concerns about grid stability, costs of transitions, and futures of creative genius.

For some, I am a broken record when I talk about how I see the impact of the electrification of transportation, the evolution of the business model, and the empowerment of the member to



CEO RON MEIER

be more engaged in their interaction with their cooperatives.

I do see a future where individual members will have battery systems in their homes and businesses that the utility will call on to participate in the stability of the grid. I will even opine most of these battery systems will be in electric vehicles. When this happens, those members will be compensated for their participation. Today, I know of an electric school bus that just doesn't take energy from the grid but can provide energy back, creating a new value proposition for the school district.

That bus generates revenue for the school when it isn't needed to be on the roads. It hasn't been perfected yet and there has been at least one time where the utility pulled too much energy from it, leaving it without enough to move the kids for a day. It was a learning moment and another evolutionary point for the grid.

Yes, as we are seeing coal plants closing down and wind turbines going up. There will be a need for more transmission lines. They will need to be built in areas where the new sources of electricity will come from as the grid evolves. There has, and always will be, challenges keeping the lights on during the coldest nights and the hottest days. The grid continues to evolve.

Cooperatively,  
R1PL

APRIL 2022  
BOARD MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on April 26, 2022, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. Nine board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Operations Manager Brady reviewed the March 2022 outage report with a total of 37 outages, affecting 55 consumers. It was also noted that the Burnham Tree Crew are working near Preston Lake and Grafton townships.
- A motion carried to approve the Annual Meeting Notice for Tuesday, July 12 at the Hutchinson Event Center.
- A motion was carried to accept the minutes of the Operation Round Up Meeting held March 14. The Trust Board awarded \$34,050 to twenty-three applicants.
- Brian Stavenger from the accounting firm of Eide Bailly LLP presented the annual Audit Report for financial statements as of December 31, 2021
- A motion was carried to approve CEO Ron Meier as the Voting Delegate for the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) Director Election and Purposed Bylaw Changes.
- Motion were carried to approve CEO Ron Meier as the Voting Delegate for the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Annual Meeting and the CoBank Bylaws Amendments.



SAFETY MOMENT: KEEP IT CLEAR, WE WORK HERE

Keeping utility poles and electrical equipment free of signs, flags and other foreign objects helps keep the community powered and our line crews safe.

It may seem harmless, but nails, staples or other fasteners in utility poles present safety hazards to workers who have to climb the poles to repair or maintain the equipment. Sharp objects in the pole can lead to lineworkers snagging or piercing holes in their protective equipment, such as the rubber gloves that are meant to insulate workers from high voltage. Hanging things from utility poles also presents dangers to the community, putting individuals at risk of making accidental contact with energized power lines.

Pad-mounted transformers, those big green utility boxes commonly seen around town, serve the purpose of lowering high voltage to standard household voltage used to power electronics, appliances and lighting. Though

they may appear safe to use as workbenches and climbing obstacles, electrical equipment can still pose a risk to anyone who may come in contact with them. Members should always use caution and keep a safe distance.

McLeod Co-op Power crews also need safe access for repairs and maintenance. Barriers, such as landscaping and fencing, should be kept clear of electrical equipment. While it may be tempting to "camouflage" transformers with landscaping, please remember cooperative crews need at least 10-feet of clearance at the opening of a pad-mounted transformer and 5-feet at the rear and sides of the housing. The distance allows crews to safely use tools required for working with energized equipment. It also ensures crews have the ability to move about safely should problems arise.

**Safety is our number one priority. This is a reminder to do your part by keeping utility poles and equipment clear.**





# SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY: SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

McLeod Co-op's Operation Round Up® program has awarded over \$180,000 to local non-profit organizations and community service programs since the program's inception in 2004. In March 2022, the Cooperative and Operation Round Up® contributed \$34,050 to 23 area organizations.

## 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Brownton Bruins Organization	\$1,000
Buffalo Lake Ambulance	\$2,000
Buffalo Lake Fire Department	\$2,000
Gaylord Fire Department	\$2,000
GFW Dollars for Scholars	\$1,000
Green Isle Fire Relief	\$2,000
Hector Ambulance	\$2,000
Hector Fire Department	\$2,000
Hutchinson Area Women of Today	\$1,000
Mayer Fire Department	\$2,000
McLeod Alliance	\$300
McLeod Emergency Food Shelf	\$2,500
McLeod For Tomorrow	\$1,000
MN Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame	\$1,000
Minnesota K9 Search Specialists	\$1,500
New Germany Fire Department	\$2,000
New Germany Legion – Post 601	\$2,000
Sibley East High School Bowling Club	\$1,000
Silver Lake Ambulance	\$1,000
Stewart Fire Department	\$2,000
SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education	\$1,000
United Community Action Partnership Fiscal Host of HOMES	\$1,000
United Way of West Central Minnesota	\$750

**Learn More:**  
For more information or to apply visit [www.mcleodcoop.com/services/operation-round-up/](http://www.mcleodcoop.com/services/operation-round-up/) or call (800) 494-6272.



## MCLEOD CO-OP SUPPORTS AREA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITH GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

**McLeod Co-op Power launched Operation Round Up in October 2004. And what a resounding success it has been! Our members have overwhelmingly supported this charitable program to the great benefit of our communities.**

Through Operation Round Up, members donate pennies each month by volunteering to have their electric bills rounded up. On average, a member donates about \$6 a year and no more than \$11.88. Members' contributions are used to uplift our region by awarding grants to organizations within McLeod Co-op's service territory.

Operation Round Up is run by a five member board of trustees made up of McLeod Co-op Power members who review grant requests and issue awards.

In 2022, the board distributed \$34,050 to 23 organizations that breathe life into our communities. This money has gone to enrichment programs that meet the basic needs of our community. This year a number of donations funded equipment that saves property and lives. Seven area fire departments each received a \$2,000 grant to purchase new equipment.

"Volunteer fire departments are critical to our members' safety, especially in the rural communities we serve," says Bob Thomes, Assistant Member Services Manager. These volunteers respond to more than just fires. They also respond to car accidents, loose cattle, downed power lines—you name it. "Without their commitment to serving others, many families and businesses in our service territory would be at elevated risk." Volunteer firefighters work hard in rural areas like ours.

Just as communities depend on volunteer fire departments, the departments themselves depend on their communities. Many rely on individual donations and community giving. With Operation Round Up to the rescue, the heroes at our local fire stations can do even more of what they do best.

Funds distributed in 2022 will be used to purchase the following equipment:

- Buffalo Lake Fire Department** – Purchasing self-contained breathing apparatus air packs and face masks.
- Gaylord Fire Department** – Purchasing replacement boots for half of the department.
- Green Isle Fire Department** – Purchasing a new Automated External Defibrillator.
- Hector Fire Department** – Upgrading turn out gear, which is used on fire calls.
- Mayer Fire Department** – Purchasing batteries for automated CPR machines.
- New Germany Fire Department** – Upgrading communication equipment.
- Stewart Fire Department** – Upgrading self-contained breathing apparatus fill station.

"We appreciate the donation from McLeod Co-op Power members. The gear we are purchasing is critical for every fireman to do their job safely," shared the Hector Fire Department. The Mayer Fire Department also expressed their appreciation, "Our department is grateful for the donation. It's a donation that will literally save lives."

McLeod Co-op Power is proud to give back to such important organizations in our community.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

## NO POWER? NO WORRIES

**Protect your home and family from the expense and inconvenience caused by power outages.**

McLeod Co-op Power offers a "turn-key" sale and installation of fully automatic standby generator systems.

- Residential
- Farm
- Business
- 12-200 KW
- Turn-Key Installation
- Annual Maintenance

An automatic generator can operate your sump pump, furnace fan, lights, refrigerator, and more. McLeod Co-op Power sells and installs automatic generator systems by Briggs and Stratton. We also offer an annual maintenance program with the first year being free when you purchase your generator through us.

**Call (800) 494-6272 for more info!**





# PLANT TREES SAFELY

Know what and where you're planting. When making landscaping decisions, it's important to consider the type of care, appearance, location, and overall size (mature height) of trees and shrubs before planting – especially when planting near power lines. Follow these safe planting distances to help us avoid future problems and power outages and don't forget to call 811 before you dig to locate buried utility lines.

## LOW TREE ZONE

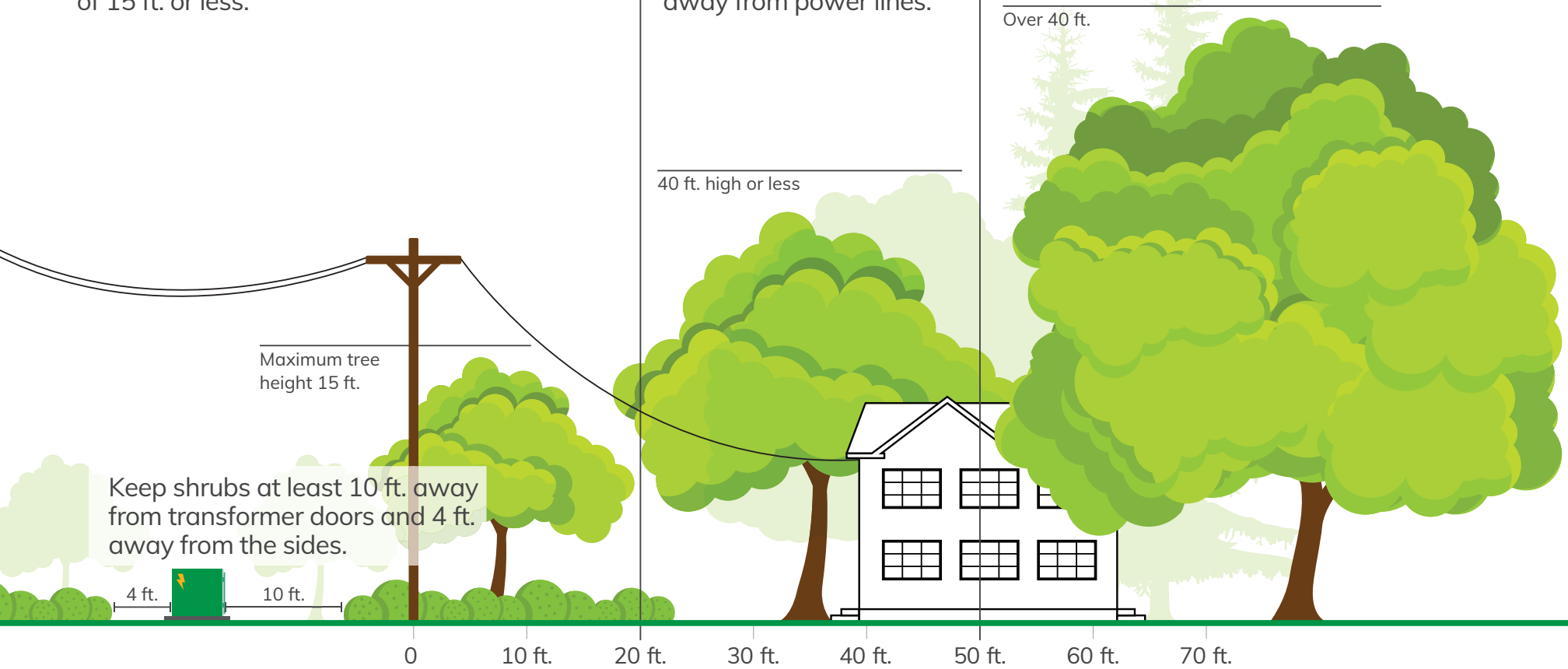
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

## MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

## LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



USPS 2220  
PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
HUTCHINSON, MN



# SPRING REBATE SPECIAL



## KEEP COOL AND SAVE

Now through August 31, 2022, get up to a \$2,000 rebate from McLeod Co-op Power when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

ASHP	PROMO REBATE
≥ 9.0 HSPF Ductless ASHP	\$500
≥ 8.2 HSPF ASHP	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF ASHP	\$2,000

Visit <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/rebates/> to learn more about these limited-time rebates!

Equipment must be installed by August 31, 2022, and rebate form must be submitted by September 16, 2022. Limited funds are available and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.



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[WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM](http://WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM)

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