

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER

NEWS

APRIL 2023

AVOID ELECTRICAL FIRES AT HOME



Fire departments respond to an average of **46,700 HOME FIRES** each year caused by electrical failure or malfunction.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):
OVER A RECENT 4-YEAR PERIOD...



Fires caused an estimated average of:
390 DEATHS
1,070 INJURIES

30%

happened in cold weather months (Nov. - Feb.)



Lighting, a lamp or a bulb was involved in the second largest number of fires.



Wiring and related equipment were involved in the greatest number of home electrical fires.

WARNING SIGNS OF ELECTRICAL ISSUES:

1. Damaged cords and flickering lights.
2. Discolored outlets and switch plates.
3. Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses.



Hire a licensed contractor to ensure that your home's wiring is installed to code and functioning properly.

It is estimated that more than 30,000 non-fatal electrical shock accidents occur each year and it's estimated that between 600 and 1,000 people die each year from electrocution. McLeod Co-op Power offers these tips to help you avoid becoming a part of these statistics:

Electrical Outlets: Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children in the home, check that unused outlets are covered.

Plugs: Never force a plug into an outlet and avoid overloading outlets with adapters or too many plugs at once.

Cords: Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or placed in high traffic areas. Never secure a cord to walls, floors or other objects with nails or staples. Use extension cords on a temporary basis only. They are not intended as permanent household wiring.

Light Bulbs: Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements and make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs): Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement and garage as well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they're working properly.

Appliances/Electronics: If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

Electrical Wiring: Wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark and flicker.

2023 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

HVAC

Wifi Thermostat \$25

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

Electric Thermal Storage Space Heating \$50 per kW

Ground Source Heat Pump \$400 per ton

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

ELECTRICAL LAWN EQUIPMENT
(APPLIES TO LAWNMOWERS, CHAINSAWS, TRIMMERS, LEAF BLOWERS, AND SNOWBLOWERS)

Purchase of \$149 or Less \$25
Purchases of \$150 and Above \$50



SPRING REBATE SPECIAL

SEE PAGE 3 FOR LIMITED TIME AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP REBATES UP TO \$1,500

Visit our website at www.mcleodcoop.com for complete rebate rules and requirements.

LIMITED TIME SPRING ASHP REBATE SPECIAL

03

SPRING PLANTING SAFETY TIPS

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OFFICE CLOSED

McLeod Co-op Power offices will be closed on Friday, April 7, 2023, in observance of Good Friday. Please call (800) 494-6272 or (800) 927-5685 in the event of an outage or emergency.

COLD WEATHER RULE ENDS APRIL 30

If your account is past due, you will no longer be protected under the Cold Weather Rule after April 30. Contact McLeod Co-op Power at (800) 494-6272 before the due date of your bill if you are worried about paying your electric bill on time.

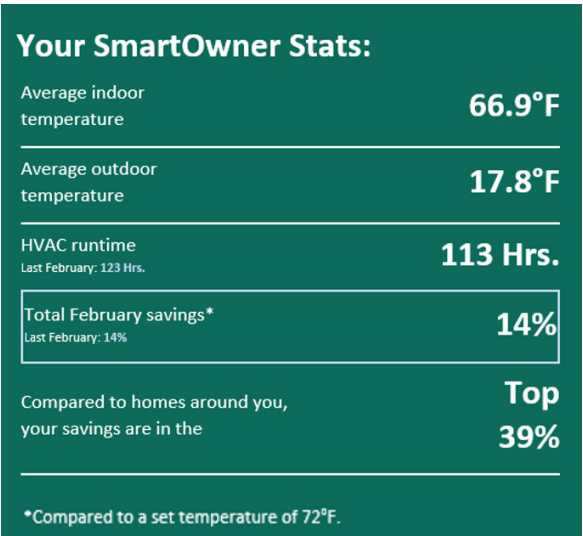


CEO MESSAGE

In case you missed last month’s musing from me, I used ChatGPT to write a 150-word essay about the challenges of EVs. ChatGPT is an Artificial Intelligence based internet tool that can answer questions, write essays, write computer code, and a lot of other things. It is the tip the technology iceberg that lies ahead of us.

Recently I read an article in the Washington Post (search for clean energy charging iPhone) about how Apple rolled out a feature for their iPhones related to charging the battery. If you have one of their phones, you can now find a toggle that turns on “Clean Energy Charging”. This feature basically sets the charging rate based upon how much clean energy is flowing into the grid at the time. I am not sure exactly how they do this, but it points to a continued evolution in technology and how it will impact how we use energy.

We already live in a time where technology can help save us money while managing our energy consumption. Some of these technologies, once setup, don’t even need much attention to keep it up. When I moved into my house, one of the first upgrades I made was installing a smart thermostat. One that learns the patterns of life in our home and with some guidance from me, it now adjusts the climate depending upon what is needed. Every month now, I get an email from it that shows how I am doing. The graphic here is from last months email.



CEO RON MEIER

I also had another experience where my thermostat warned me that my furnace was struggling and recommended that I get someone to look at it. Turned out the furnace was not installed correctly, which caused it to cycle on and off all the time. It was working a lot harder than it needed to, which was shortening the life of the furnace.

There are labs today in which appliances are communicating with one another and the utility company, essentially making energy decisions on behalf of their owners. When we couple technologies like these with electric rate designs, such as a time-of-use rate, we start to see a future that provides opportunities for all of us to use energy differently. This will help lower our bills at home while also providing tools for energy companies like McLeod Co-op Power, to further our goals of safe and reliable energy.

Imagine a thermostat that knows when you want the house to be warmer at a certain time of the day, but also knows that it can pre-heat the house during a period when it is less expensive to do so. Today, we do it with water heating and our load control programs. You can heat your water heater up with electricity that costs less if you sign up for McLeod Co-op’s program. We utilize a device that controls the heating period, and as an incentive, the member receives a rate that is practically half the cost of our normal retail rate.

The future is bringing a lot of changes to our needs for electricity. Today we are making decisions for that future.

Cooperatively,
R1PL

MARCH 2023
BOARD MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on March 28, 2023, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. Eight board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

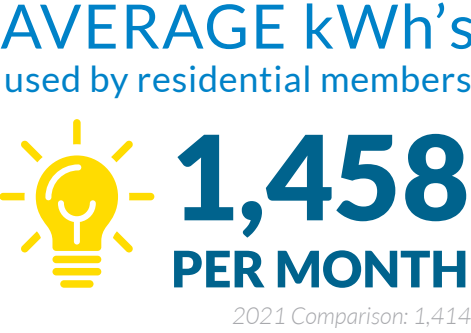
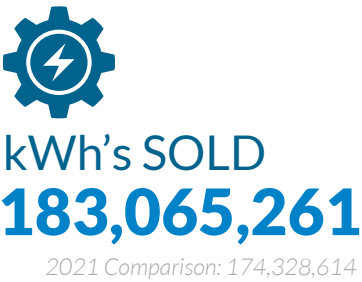
- Highlights of the meeting included:
- The outage report for the month of February 2023 was reviewed with a total of 26 outages, affecting 33 consumers.
 - A motion was carried approving Resolution 2023-03-02 Partial Release of Easement.
 - A motion was carried approving the Nominating Committee for 2023.
 - A motion was carried approving the Notice of Annual Meeting for July 11, 2023.
 - A motion was carried approving the Minutes of the Operation Roundup Meeting.
 - Manager of Finance, Steph Jakel reviewed the February 2023 financials.
 - A motion was carried approving Resolution 2023-03-01 Allocation of 2022 Margins.
 - A motion was carried approving Susan Anderson as the alternate voting delegate for the GRE Annual Meeting on April 5, 2023.

BY THE NUMBERS | Q4 2022

McLeod Co-op Power’s leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the Co-op’s operations, including ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



	2022	2021
Cost of Purchased Power	\$14,150,978	\$13,389,016
Other Operating Expenses	\$8,222,077	\$7,975,054
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$22,373,055	\$21,364,070



MEMBER
NOTICE



Crews are starting to change out older transformers and inefficient yard lights to new LED lights as part of our current work plan. Members who will see a power interruption or change in monthly fee for the upgraded light will be contacted prior to to the work being completed.

PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

JORDAN JUNGCLAUS

***NEW* EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT/HR SPECIALIST**

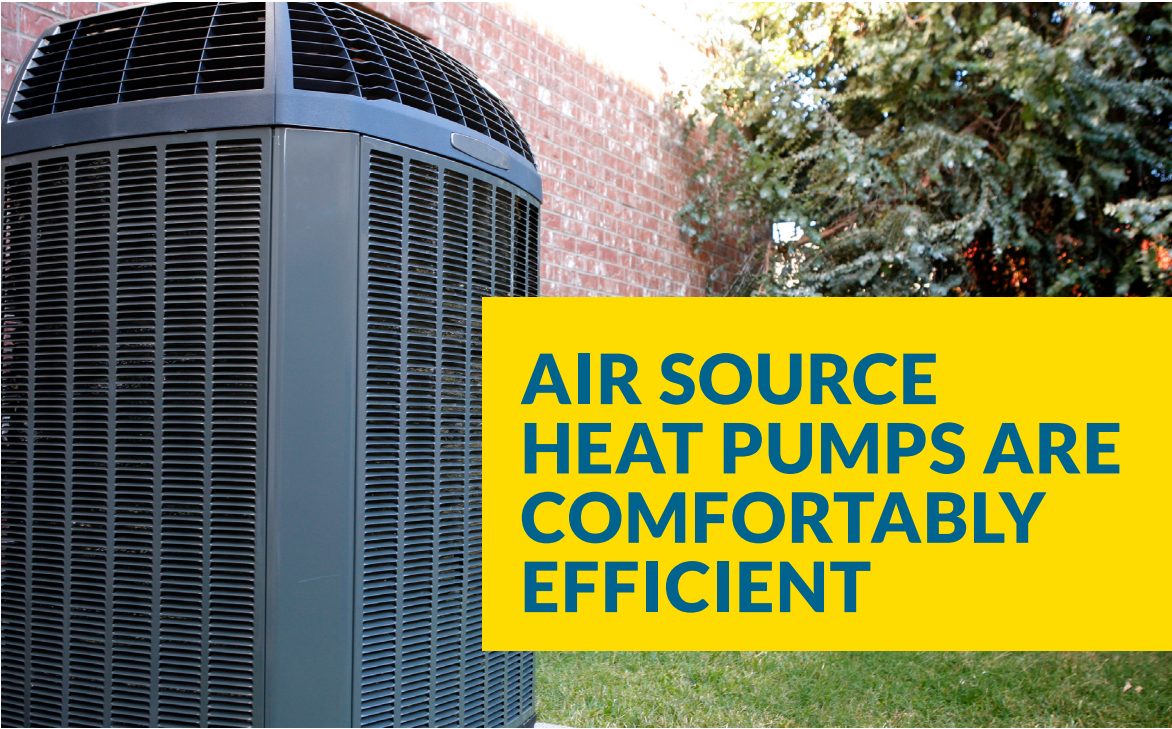


Jordan Jungclaus recently joined the McLeod Co-op Power team to take responsibility for the Executive Administrative Assistant/HR Specialist. Jordan joins us after working in a variety of roles at Imagine, a printing company in Shakopee for the last 8 years. In her new role, Jordan will provide support to our CEO and organize meetings for the Board of Directors. She'll also help employees with human resource questions.

Jordan is looking forward to being able to demonstrate the co-op's core values in honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. She's already enjoying the family feel of the co-op and connecting with her coworkers.

Fun Facts: Jordan's favorite things to do include spending time with her family and friends, as well as taking long walks with her two dogs.

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Heat pumps move heat in and out of your home to provide efficient heating, cooling and humidity control. Air source units are the most widely used type of heat pump. They use the difference between indoor and outdoor air temperatures to heat and cool your home. Learn how air source units work and how they can benefit your home.

HOW AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS WORK
Heat pump systems are another method for heating and cooling your home in a more energy-efficient and cost-effective manner.

Much like a refrigerator, heat pump systems utilize electricity to move heat from cool spaces to warm spaces and vice versa. Heat pumps extract heat from outside air and move it inside. They also efficiently cool like a traditional air conditioning (AC) unit, moving heat from inside to outside. Even in temperatures well below zero, heat pumps can take advantage of the heat in the air.

Because heat pump systems move heat rather than generate it, they are a more economically sound way of warming your home. This is because when properly installed, an ASHP can provide 300% more heat energy to a home than electricity used.

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP EFFICIENCY
Air source heat pump heating efficiency is measured by heating seasonal performance

factor — the total heating output of the unit during the heating season divided by the electricity consumed. The higher the HSPF, the more efficient the unit.

Cooling efficiency for air source heat pumps is indicated by seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) — the total amount of heat removed from the home during the cooling season divided by the energy used. Once again, a higher SEER is better.

Air source heat pumps can reduce your energy use for heating by 50% compared to conventional technologies, such as furnaces and electric resistance heating. High-efficiency heat pumps also dehumidify better than standard central air conditioning systems, resulting in improved comfort and lower energy usage in the summer.

Air source heat pumps work best in moderate climates with mild winters, though advances in technology have made them a good option for cold climates, as well.

If your heating or cooling system is older or you are considering an upgrade, an air source heat pump is a good choice for cost-effective year-round comfort.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.



Now through August 1, 2023, get up to a \$1,500 rebate from McLeod Co-op Power when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

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.

ASHP	PROMO REBATE
≥ 9.0 HSPF Ductless ASHP	\$500
8.2-8.99 HSPF ASHP	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF ASHP	\$1,500

(Bonus ASHP rebate promo dates April 1st – August 1st, 2023.)

Visit <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to-rebates/> 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.

REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY DURING SPRING PLANTING

As you prepare for planting season, don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety types in mind as you prepare for planting.



TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.



SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.



USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground, who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.



CALL 911

Call 911 to have your electric utility dispatched to de-energize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



DIG SMART, DIG SAFE

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? You must call 811 before you dig!

The safest and only legal way to dig is to know what's below ground before your shovel or equipment moves any dirt. Even small projects like planting a shrub require you to make advance arrangements before digging. Call 811 or visit gopherstateonecall.org.

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CELEBRATE the Power Behind Your Power.



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY April 10, 2023

Our lineworkers are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. They give their all to keep your power on. Say thank you with us on Lineworker Appreciation Day, April 10.

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