

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER

NEWS

JULY 2023



KEEP YOUR COOL AND SAVE ENERGY: TOP SUMMER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

As the summer heat kicks into high gear, it's not uncommon to see a significant spike in energy consumption. However, with a few simple adjustments, you can keep cool and reduce your energy bills. To help you get started, we thought we'd share some effective energy-saving tips to help you beat the summer heat without breaking the bank.

Optimize Your Cooling Systems:

Ensure your air conditioning unit is properly maintained by cleaning or replacing filters regularly. Set the thermostat to a comfortable temperature, preferably around 72°F, and use fans to circulate the cool air. Consider using a programmable thermostat to adjust temperatures automatically when you're away from home.

Harness Natural Ventilation:

Make the most of cooler evenings by opening windows and letting fresh air circulate throughout your home. Use window coverings or shades to block direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day. Additionally, planting trees or installing awnings can provide shade and reduce indoor temperatures.

Seal and Insulate:

Properly seal your windows and doors to prevent warm air from entering your home and cool air from escaping. Consider adding insulation to your attic, walls, and floors to maintain a comfortable temperature inside, reducing the load on your cooling systems.

Embrace Energy-Efficient Lighting:

Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with

energy-efficient options such as LED lights. LEDs produce less heat, last longer, and consume significantly less energy.

Optimize Appliance Usage:

Plan your daily chores strategically to minimize energy consumption. Run major appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers during off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. Hang clothes outside to dry instead of using the dryer, and opt for energy-efficient appliances when it's time to upgrade.

Landscaping for Energy Efficiency:

Strategically plant trees, shrubs, and vines around your home to provide natural shade and block direct sunlight. This helps to cool your home and reduces the need for excessive air conditioning.

By implementing these simple yet effective summer energy-saving tips, you can keep your home comfortable while reducing your energy consumption. Stay cool, save energy, and make the most of your summer!



IT'S A WIN-WIN!

Save energy this summer and reap the benefits! Not only will you lower your utility bills, but you'll also help reduce strain on the power grid, leading to a more reliable and sustainable energy system. It's a win-win for both you and your Cooperative.

SUPPORTING
LOCAL BUSINESSES

03

FEATURED
SUMMER REBATES

04

ATTENTION LOAD MANAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS:

McLeod Co-op Power has started a multi-year initiative of replacing the radio receivers that are utilized as part of load control events. Existing receivers are being replaced with models that integrate with our new load control system. These will be replaced at no cost to participating members and members will be contacted in advance when their location is scheduled to have its receiver replaced. We appreciate everyone's assistance as we move ahead with the replacement process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the us at (800) 494-6272.

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Join us at the Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Co-op Power on Tuesday, July 11 at the Crow River Winery

9:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order

- Members are asked to RSVP for the meeting by calling (320) 864-3148 or toll free (800) 494-6272. RSVPs will also be accepted by email at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com.
- All registered members will receive a heavy duty 8 quart farm/garden bucket made by Miller Manufacturing in Glencoe.
- Door Prizes include a battery-operated leaf blower, weed whip, and several other prizes. (Must be present to win. Door prizes subject to change without notice.)
- Enjoy a delicious sit down, buffet style lunch, prepared by the renowned Chef Craig and connect with your fellow co-op members.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Members in Districts 1, 2, and 3 have the opportunity to vote for a director to represent their respective district.

Mailed ballots must be received in our office by 4:00 p.m. on July 10. If you prefer, you can bring your ballot with you to the Annual Meeting.

At McLeod Co-op Power, we recognize that the strength of our cooperative lies in the active participation and unwavering support of members like you. Whether you're a regular attendee or it has been a while since your last Annual Meeting, we encourage you to take this opportunity to join us. Remember, we are more than just our power lines. We are a community and we're excited to connect with you at our Annual Meeting.



CEO MESSAGE

As the days have been getting warmer, we have had some load control events being issued by Great River Energy (GRE) for members participating in our load management programs. This is probably a good time to explore the what and why of load control. Let's start with why.

From my point of view, there are two reasons for load control events. The first is for cost savings on our power bill from GRE. The second reason, although not as frequently, is to help keep the electrical grid stable.

Let's chat about the times when we might load shed for grid stability. The electrical grid is one of the largest machines in the world, and it operates in real time. As we need electricity, we produce it. To keep the electricity flowing across the grid, we must balance what we need with what we produce. If this balance starts tipping to one side of the other, it can lead to regional blackouts like we heard in recent years in other parts of the country.

There are times when the need is more than we can produce, and this is when we start to engage load shedding. Usually this is on the hottest or the coldest of days when heating and cooling demands are at their greatest. A lot of smart people spend a lot of time every moment of the day managing this balance, and load control is one of the tools they use to keep the lights on.

The more typical load control event we see every month is more related to the cost of electricity at the wholesale level. This is a basic economic supply and demand equation. As the hot days of summer show up, we see the demand for electricity go up and as we use more of the supply of electricity the prices increase as well. This is where we lean on our partnership with GRE.



CEO RON MEIER

GRE provides certain discounts on our power bill based upon our ability to shed load during peak times. We use these discounts to develop "off-peak programs". We have programs around electric water heat, air conditioning, and various types of electric storage heat. Most of these programs are coupled with our Interruptible and Energy Storage rate (Rate Sheet 3), which offers a discount (roughly 50%) to our normal rate for members assisting with "shifting" their energy use to off-peak times when it's cheaper to purchase power. Of course, you can browse our website to get detailed information, but know you can always give us a call and talk more in depth of what we can do so you can take advantage of these discounted rates. Combining all our load control programs, we currently have roughly 5,600 load controls in the field that are helping our members save on their energy bills.

As we look into the future, we are looking at new technologies that we can leverage to keep the lights on while controlling costs for our cooperative that we can translate into savings on your electric bill.

Cooperatively,

R1PL

JUNE 2023 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on June 27, 2023, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. Seven board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The outage report for May 2023 was provided with a total of 91 outages, affecting 328 consumers.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2023-06-01 Revision of Policy 3-1 Schedule of Charges.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the May financials.
- The Audit Committee reported on their review of the May expenditures.
- A motion was carried to approve changing the start time for the July board meeting (9:00 a.m. on 7/25/23).
- A motion was carried to approve Policy 5-25A Alcohol & Controlled Substance Testing DOT.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2023-06-02 Approval & Acceptance of Offer to Amend Power Purchase Contract.

FARMFEST 2023!

McLeod Co-op Power will be at FarmFest 2023 along with other Touchstone Energy Co-ops. Stop by, visit with us and don't miss your chance to win battery powered electric lawn care equipment!



AUGUST 1-3 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN • BOOTH 2301

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

You must be a member of one of the participating electric cooperatives to win.



PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

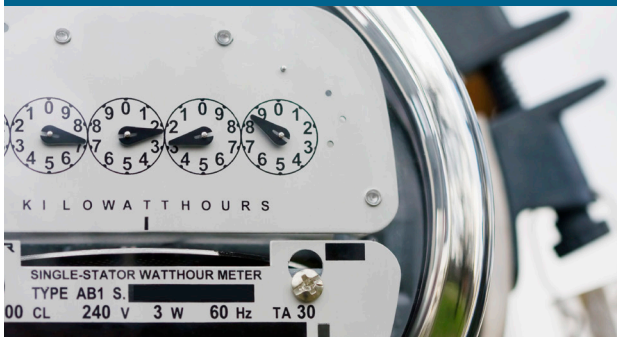
BRADY MILLER APPRENTICE LINE WORKER

Brady recently joined the McLeod Co-op Power's team as an apprentice line worker after working at Madelia Municipal Light and Power for the last year. He hopes to be an asset to the Co-op and looks forward to serving the members when they need him most - during a power outage.

Fun Fact: Brady loves to spend time with his wife and 10 month old daughter, fishing, hunting and golfing.



DO NOT REMOVE
YOUR METER
WITHOUT CO-OP
ASSISTANCE



Electricians and/or members are not authorized to pull an electric meter to perform work on a service. Electrical safety is a primary concern for McLeod Co-op Power. Removing or adjusting electrical equipment carries the potential to harm yourself and others. In attempt to prevent these risks, we stress the importance of never cutting the seal, tampering with, or removing a meter for any reason without the assistance from the Co-op.

Our policy requires a trained co-op employee, using the proper protective equipment, to pull and reinstall any energized meter. A notice of two business days is requested, so coordinate your work needs with our team in advance by calling (800) 494-6272 during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.).

WARNING: If an electrician or member does pull an electric meter to disconnect a service, significantly higher fees will incur. Disconnection or tampering of a meter sends a power outage alarm to the co-op. If a line crew responds to the outage, the member will be billed at the applicable line crew service call rate of \$335 during business hours, \$505 on evenings or Saturdays, and \$670 on a Sunday or holiday.

Your cooperation is appreciated. Our only goal is to protect you, your neighbors and our line workers from possible injury.



ENERGY
EFFICIENCY

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

MCLEOD CO-OP SUPPORTS
LOCAL BUSINESSES
WITH REVOLVING LOAN FUND

McLeod Co-op Power is proud of our ongoing commitment to economic development in McLeod, Renville, Sibley, and Carver Counties. Through our Revolving Loan Fund, we aim to provide vital gap financing for business projects in the region. This program was made possible through a USDA Rural Development Grant obtained in 2005 following the devastating tornado in 2003 that ravaged Main Street businesses in Buffalo Lake.

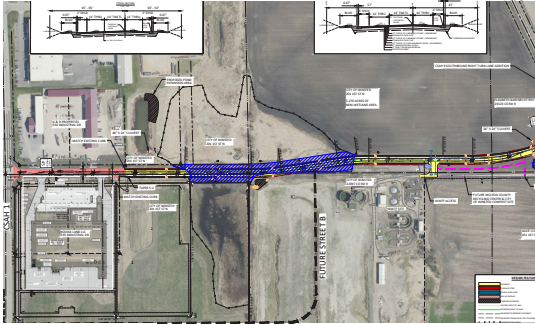
An initial loan was made to the Buffalo Lake Economic Development Authority to rebuild a grocery store. As the loan was repaid, the funds were granted to McLeod Co-op Power to establish a Revolving Loan Fund. This fund allows McLeod Co-op Power to extend economic development loans throughout the region whenever funding becomes available. Since then, the Co-op has been actively supporting the growth of local businesses and our communities. To date, McLeod Co-op has supported eight projects, with loans totaling over \$1 million.

The Economic Development Loan Fund is open to all business types and local government units in the four-county area. Eligible applicants can utilize the funds for various purposes, including land and building operations, construction and renovation projects, machinery and equipment, working capital, inventory purchases, and sewer and water improvements. It is important to note that the Co-op's involvement through the Revolving Loan Fund cannot exceed 50% of the overall eligible project costs. The loan amounts range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$200,000, with a primary focus on providing gap financing in conjunction with traditional bank financing and other loan programs.

The success of the Economic Development Loan Fund has been evident through the support extended to a diverse range of businesses in the region. Take a look at the recent examples below that showcase the fund's positive outcomes.

In May 2023, the City of Winsted took advantage of McLeod Co-op's support by securing a \$200,000 loan. This funding will play a pivotal role in the construction of Industrial Drive, a joint effort between the city and McLeod County. The project encompasses vital improvements such as storm sewer enhancements, sanitary sewer and water main extensions, as well as curb and gutter installations. The completion of Industrial Drive will significantly expand Winsted's industrial park, creating ample space for business growth and attracting new ventures. Anticipated to be finished by the summer of 2024, this project showcases the transformative impact of the Economic Development Loan Fund.

Another notable beneficiary of McLeod Co-op's commitment to fostering local entrepreneurship is FRH Motorsports LLC. Led by the experienced Fred R. Heidecker, a Ford-Certified Master Technician, FRH Motorsports specializes in various automotive services, from general repairs and electronic diagnostics to diesel repair, as well as off-road and competition vehicle construction. Thanks to an \$11,500 loan from the Co-op, FRH Motorsports was able to acquire a diagnostic scanning tool, enhancing their repair capabilities.



Aerial view of Winsted's planned street improvements.



The industrial park expansion will bring new jobs to the region.



FRH Motorsports is located in Browntown and can be reached at (320) 582-9755.



These success stories underscore the value and impact of McLeod Co-op's Economic Development Loan Fund. By offering accessible financing options and supporting diverse projects, the Co-op remains dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs, facilitating job creation, and strengthening our community's overall prosperity.

For more information or to explore funding opportunities, please contact McLeod Co-op Power's Manager of Member Services, Dan Ehrke, at (800) 494-6272.

SUMMER REBATE HIGHLIGHTS

Even though we're already in the midst of summer, it's not too late to make energy efficiency improvements in your home. By taking action now, you can still enjoy the benefits of reduced energy consumption and lower utility bills for the remainder of the season. Whether it's upgrading your air conditioning system, optimizing your lawn care equipment, or fine-tuning your pool pump, these summer energy efficiency improvements can make a noticeable difference in your energy usage.



One great way to boost energy efficiency during the summer is by installing an air source heat pump. These innovative systems can both cool and heat your home, using less energy compared to traditional heating and cooling systems. Additionally, they can provide year-round comfort and help you save on your utility bills.

If you're looking to upgrade your lawn care equipment, consider investing in electric alternatives. Electric lawn mowers, trimmers, and other tools not only eliminate the need for gas and oil, but they also produce less noise and air pollution.

If you're a pool owner, optimizing your pool pump is another opportunity to save energy

during the summer months. Upgrading to a more efficient pool pump can significantly reduce your energy consumption while still maintaining clean and clear water.

Lastly, don't forget to schedule an AC tune-up before the hot August weather sets in. Regular maintenance ensures that your air conditioning system is running at its peak efficiency, maximizing your comfort and energy savings.

To support these energy efficiency improvements, McLeod Co-op Power offers a range of rebates, including incentives for air source heat pumps, electric lawn care equipment, pool pumps, and AC tune-ups. Take advantage of these rebates to make your summer energy-efficient.

ASHP SUMMER SPECIAL REBATE

≥ 9.0 HSPF Ductless ASHP \$500

8.2-8.99 HSPF ASHP \$1,000

≥ 9.0 HSPF ASHP \$1,500

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

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

ENERGY STAR SWIMMING POOL

Air Source Heat Pump Pool Heater \$400

Variable Speed Pump \$200

AC TUNE UP

\$25

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DOWNED AND DANGEROUS

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away – so keep your distance.

35 ft.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE
(800) 927-5685

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