



BEAT THE HEAT AND SAVE ENERGY

As summer heats up, we all want to stay cool and comfortable without breaking the bank. Did you know there are simple steps you can take to reduce your electricity bill? By implementing these summer energy-saving tips, you can stay refreshed while being mindful of your wallet.

ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT:

One of the easiest ways to save energy in the summer is by adjusting your thermostat. Set it to a slightly higher temperature when you're at home and utilize fans to create a cooling breeze. When you're away, consider setting the thermostat to a higher temperature or using a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature for daily planned outings.

EMBRACE NATURAL VENTILATION:

Don't underestimate the power of natural ventilation. Take advantage of cooler mornings and evenings by opening windows to let in fresh air. Utilize window coverings such as blinds

or curtains to block out direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day, keeping your home naturally cooler.

OPT FOR EFFICIENT APPLIANCES:

Invest in energy-efficient appliances to cool your home more efficiently. Look for appliances with the Energy Star label, as they meet strict energy efficiency standards. Energy-efficient air conditioners, fans, and other appliances can help reduce your energy consumption.

REDUCE AIR CONDITIONING USAGE:

While air conditioning provides instant relief, it's essential to use it wisely. Instead of solely relying on air conditioning, use a combination of fans and natural ventilation to cool you and your home. Ceiling fans or portable fans can circulate air and create a wind-chill effect. Remember to turn off fans when you leave the room, as they cool people, not spaces.

Continued on page 2 ...

SOLAR PANELS AVAILABLE

Two solar panels recently became available in the McLeod Co-op Power owned Community Solar Garden due to a member moving off our system. These two panels are available for another member(s) to purchase the remaining life of the panel. These panels were installed in 2015 and members purchased the monthly output (kWh production) from their panels. The monthly output equates to a bill credit every month. Members wanting more information on the 2 available panels can call (800) 494-6272 to speak with Bob Thomes about pricing.

LOAD MANAGEMENT NOTICE

McLeod Co-op Power is replacing radio receivers in Collins and Acoma Townships. These are the receivers that are utilized as part of load control events. They are being replaced with models that integrate with our new load control system at no cost to our members. We appreciate everyone's assistance as we move ahead with the replacement process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (800) 494-6272.

SUMMER EFFICIENCY CONTINUED...

MAINTAIN YOUR COOLING SYSTEM:

Regular maintenance of your cooling systems is crucial for optimal performance and energy efficiency. Clean or replace air filters regularly to ensure proper airflow. Keep the outdoor condenser unit free from obstructions, such as leaves or debris, to maintain its efficiency. For central air and ductless heat systems, be sure to have a certified HVAC technician look at your equipment at least annually.

SEAL AIR LEAKS:

Air leaks around windows, doors, and other openings can let cool air escape and warm air enter your home. Take the time to inspect and seal these leaks using weatherstripping or caulk, which will help maintain a comfortable indoor temperature.

HARNESS THE POWER OF SHADE:

Strategic landscaping can work wonders for keeping your home cool. Consider planting trees or installing awnings and shades on windows to block direct sunlight. The natural shade will reduce the amount of heat entering your home and decrease the need for excessive cooling.

USE APPLIANCES STRATEGICALLY:

Appliances such as ovens, stoves, and clothes dryers generate heat while in use. To avoid adding unnecessary heat to your home, try to use these appliances during the cooler parts of the day, such as early mornings or late evenings. This way, you'll minimize the strain on your air conditioning system.

This summer, take control of your energy consumption and save money while staying cool. By implementing these simple yet effective energy-saving tips, you can make a significant impact on your energy usage and reduce your electricity bills. Remember, every small step. So, stay cool, stay energy-efficient and make the most of this summer season while being mindful of your energy usage!

EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS

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 energy efficiency improvements can make a noticeable difference in your energy usage.

CHECK OUT OUR 2024 REBATES FOR EVEN MORE SAVINGS!

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

Central Air Conditioner or

Air Source Heat Pump Tune-up \$25

Electric Thermal Storage Space Heating \$50 per kW

Air Source Heat Pump

8.2-8.99 HSPF or ≥ 7.5 HSPF2

SUMMER SPECIAL \$700 (through September 1)

Air Source Heat Pump

≥ 9.0 HSPF or ≥ 8.1 HSPF2

SUMMER SPECIAL \$1,200 (through September 1)

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

> 9.0 HSPF \$300

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

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

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

WEATHERING FINANCIAL STORMS: A MID-YEAR REFLECTION

When it rains, it pours. June has brought its fair share of showers, and like many of you, we long for a break with some sunshine and warmth. This sentiment rings true as we assess our financials midway through the year. Dark clouds have gathered, rain has poured down, and we eagerly await the next glimpse of sunshine.

Creating a budget for the future year is always challenging. It requires extensive effort to project our revenue streams, which include selling energy to our members, receiving cash retirements from our power supplier (Great River Energy), and keeping expenses as low as possible. While several factors influence our budget, these key elements are the most significant, often changing with little or no control from our management or employee group.

As the year began, a few dark clouds appeared on the horizon. Many of you might recall that we had an unusually mild winter. The average temperature in our area at the beginning of the year was well above freezing, with some days reaching the low 70s. As a result, in 4 out of 5 months, we have seen energy sales fall below budget. Although we have a system delivery charge to help cover part of fixed expenses, we still need some revenue to cover the additional fixed expenses and the cost of purchasing electricity from our supplier. To put it simply, our cooperative relies on average energy sales during the winter and summer months to cover all the costs. While I am not hoping for the usual warmer summer days this year, we wouldn't mind it at the cooperative.

The dark clouds grew even darker when Great River Energy informed us that their original projected cash retirements would be cut by half.



STEPH JAKEL

This aspect of the budget is crucial for maintaining our loan covenants. With the reduced amount, we quickly realized that even after using all of our deferred revenue, this last-minute change in our retirements from our power supplier would be a downpour on our financials.

But let's talk about the sunshine. Despite these challenges, our employees have kept expenses at or below budgeted amounts. This achievement is due to strong communication, understanding, and management across all cooperative operations. Another ray of sunshine is that the current month is shaping up to reflect past years, indicating that energy sales will align with our budget projections.

In summary, this year has presented its share of unanticipated circumstances in our financial weather patterns. Moving forward, we will no longer have deferred revenue as a buffer, and our power supplier's new cash retirement schedule is leaner than it has been in the past, challenging our financial health. Consequently, we are already engaging in another cost-of-service study to guide the cooperative in determining a potential revenue rate increase for 2025. While it has been a bit trickier to forecast the weather, we are doing what we can to weather it.

Cooperatively,

JUNE 2024 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on June 25, 2024, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. The nine board members, attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Power System Engineering is on their next process of the Cost-of-Service study with the findings expected to be presented to the Board later this summer.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the May financials.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the Budget vs Actual 2024 Budget Summary.
- Assistant Operations Manager Nistler reviewed the outage report for the month of May 2024 with a total of 75 outages, affecting 415 consumers.
- Assistant Member Service Manager Thomes reported that ballots were mailed out on June 14th for districts 4, 5, and 6.
- A motion was carried approving Directors Susan Anderson and Kirk Newman to attend the 2024 Regions 5&6 Meeting in Minneapolis, MN on September 16-18.

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT IF THERE IS A DOWNED POWER LINE

An overhead power line can become damaged or fall due to a severe storm, car accident, public damage or other reasons. If you see a downed power line, take these actions:



Consider all powerlines energized and deadly.



Stay at least 50 feet away.



Call 9-1-1 or the utility to report the downed line.



Do not approach it or try to move it with another object.



Do not get out of a vehicle or cab.



Do not approach the scene.



Warn others to stay away.



Turn around and go another way.

Even if you do not see a downed line, realize one could be hidden by storm debris, water, snow or ice.



OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

- Energized downed lines spread voltage through the ground or nearby objects.
- If you go near a downed line, you can become electricity's path to ground.
- You cannot tell if a power line is live just by looking at it.
- Even if a power line appears coated, it's never safe to go near it.
- While transmitting and distributing power is typically safe, extreme scenarios like downed power lines are extremely dangerous. Never approach a downed power line.

WORK ZONE AWARENESS



If you see utility or emergency crews working on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over when possible and give them extra space to work. Can't move over? In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews.

The Minnesota Move Over Law is intended to keep emergency workers safe and prevent motorists from crashing into stopped vehicles. This law includes and protects utility crews. There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before you dig, click or call Gopher State One Call for the location of underground utilities. Specifics about the project location and lead time are required. Do not start digging or excavating until you are given a start date from Gopher State One Call. Once the utilities have been marked on the ground with flags or paint, keep your digging at least two feet away from the markings.

Before you dig
call 811 or visit
gopherstateonecall.org





(left to right: Emerson Brady, Operations Manager and Brady Miller)

CONGRATS BRADY!

We are proud to announce that Brady Miller, one of McLeod Co-op Power's lineworkers, has successfully completed his Journey Lineworker Certification, a significant milestone in his career. This accomplishment reflects Brady's dedication and hard work, as it requires 7,550 hours of on-the-job training and mastery of four comprehensive training books. Each book represents roughly a year's worth of study and testing, culminating in the final journey lineworker exam.

This certification not only highlights his technical proficiency but also his dedication to ensuring the safety and reliability of our electrical services. Please join us in congratulating Brady on this achievement. We are proud to have him as a part of our team and look forward to his continued contributions to McLeod Co-op Power. Well done, Brady!

BEYOND THE PLUG: THE LOCAL GRID

We live in an increasingly power-dependent world. Every day, we rely on electricity in a variety of ways to help us run our lives. It gives us light, keeps our refrigerator running and charges our mobile devices.

At a basic level, the electric grid is a system of interconnected wires connecting the places where energy is produced to where it is used. Great River Energy, the wholesale power supplier to McLeod Co-op Power, generates electricity and uses the grid to move it to ensure reliable electric service as well as quick response times when there is an issue on the electric system.

The local grid delivers electricity from distribution substations, like those owned by McLeod Co-op, to members at the end of the line like you. At substations, higher voltages are "stepped down" to lower, more usable levels. Then it is sent along smaller distribution lines to be delivered safely to neighborhoods and farms.

In residential areas, pad-mounted transformers — the big green boxes sitting on the ground in the corner of some properties or pole-mounted transformers — make the power safe to use. That energy then runs along lines to power homes, schools, farms and businesses.

The local grid is one important key to helping deliver the power we rely on every day.

THREE LEVELS OF TRANSMISSION

BIG, STRONG,
SERVES THE MARKET

REGIONAL TRANSMISSION

Transports bulk electricity across the region at high voltages. Are usually supported on tall metal towers. Often 230-kV and up.



MEDIUM SIZED,
CONNECTS COMMUNITIES

LOCAL TRANSMISSION

Transmission lines that deliver electricity to the communities we serve. Generally supported by wooden poles. Often 41.6 to 115-kV.



SMALLER, CONNECTS HOMES,
FARMS AND BUSINESSES

DISTRIBUTION

Delivers lower-voltage electricity to homes, farms and businesses over a shorter distance. Generally supported by wooden poles. In certain situations, distribution lines are buried underground. Often 35-kV and under.



ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Join us at the Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Co-op Power on Tuesday, July 16 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 McLeod Co-op Power insulated reusable grocery bag.
- Door Prizes include a battery operated leaf blower, weed whip, and several other prizes.
- A lunch will be provided following the meeting, prepared by Chef Craig.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Members in Districts 4, 5, and 6 have the opportunity to vote for a director to represent their respective district.

Ballots submitted by mail must be received by July 15. Alternatively, you can bring your ballot to the Annual Meeting.



McLeod

Co-op Power publishes an annual report for our members that details the successes and challenges of the previous year. View the report at www.mcleodcoop.com/about/co-op-info/



CONNECT WITH MINNESOTA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AT FARMFEST 2024!

Join Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives, including McLeod Co-op Power, at Farmfest from August 6-8! As Minnesota's premier agricultural event, Farmfest attracts nearly 30,000 attendees and hosts over 500 exhibits and vendors in rural Redwood County each year.

Farmfest serves as a vital platform for addressing political and educational issues impacting farmers and rural communities across Minnesota. From policy discussions to showcasing the latest technological advancements in agriculture, the event offers valuable insights and networking opportunities for all attendees.

Minnesota electric cooperatives have a long history of participating in Farmfest and connecting with our agricultural partners. Be sure to visit our booths where we will be showcasing tools and technology to make outdoor work easier and demonstrating our commitment to safety with an interactive electrical safety exhibit. Learn firsthand about essential safety measures to keep you and your family safe. See a live safety demonstration illustrating the need for caution when working near or moving large equipment around powerlines. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with Minnesota's electric cooperatives and discover how we're empowering farmers and rural communities across the state.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives are proud to supply the electrical needs of most farms across the state, serving members in every Minnesota county.

VISIT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Stop by, visit with us at FarmFest 2024 for your chance to win battery powered electric lawn care equipment! Prizes include a nine gallon wet/dry vac, pole saw, backpack leaf blower, 39 inch ice auger, and a 16 inch chainsaw.



AUGUST 6-8 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN • BOOTH 2201

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

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



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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.

Safety is a top priority 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. To coordinate your work needs with our team, please provide a notice of two business days in advance by calling

(800) 494-6272 during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 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 \$370 during business hours, \$550 on evenings or Saturdays, and \$740 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.



SEND US YOUR BEST SHOTS

Don't forget to enter the McLeod Co-op Power photo contest for our 2025 calendar! Showcase your photography skills and the beauty of our service area. Submit photos of all four seasons by August 1, 2024. Winners receive a \$20 credit on their electric bill.

LEARN MORE

Guidelines and details at mcleodcoop.com/calendar-photo-contest/.



By entering the photo contest, you agree to give McLeod Co-op Power rights to use your photo in the Co-op's calendar, newsletter, future contest promotions, and other publications or digital media.

OFFICE PHONE

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE

(800) 927-5685

WEBSITE

www.mcleodcoop.com

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mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com

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(320) 583-0997

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

McLeod Cooperative Power
is an equal opportunity
employer and provider.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.



3515 11th St. East
Glencoe, MN 55336

WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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JOIN US A FOR A FREE YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC!

It's summer and a great time to grab your glove for some baseball and softball fun! McLeod Co-op Power is happy to announce that along with the Arlington Baseball Association we're hosting a FREE Twins Youth Baseball Clinic this summer.

The Twins Clinic, established in 1961 by the esteemed Twins scout Angelo Giuliani, aims to foster a love for baseball and softball among children residing within the Twins Territory. The Play Ball! Minnesota Youth Clinics boasts an exceptional instructional team with a collective experience of over 200 years in baseball coaching and playing. Comprising former players, coaches, scouts, and teachers, these experts travel in teams of three to four instructors to conduct each clinic.

McLeod Co-op's wholesale provider Great River Energy (GRE) has partnered with the Minnesota Twins to bring this FREE Youth Baseball Clinic to Arlington, MN on Saturday, July 20 from 1:00pm–3:00pm. The event will take place at the Arlington Baseball Park (410 2nd Ave NE, Arlington, MN 55307) and is open to everyone ages 6-12.

While the event is FREE, all participants must register in advance. To register or find out more information, visit www.playballmn.com. The youth clinic is designed to teach the basics of the game, with a focus on hitting, fielding and base running. Space is limited, so please register as early as you can!

WHO:

Children Ages 6-12

WHERE:

Arlington Baseball Park
410 2nd Ave NE, Arlington, MN 55307

WHEN:

July 20, 2024 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM

INFORMATION:

www.playballmn.com

Twins
COMMUNITY FUND

REGISTER TODAY!

