



EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN MCLEOD CO-OP POWER'S SERVICE TERRITORY

McLeod Co-op Power is proud to support youth development and education through two incredible opportunities available for area high school students.

WASHINGTON, D.C. YOUTH TOUR

High school juniors and seniors whose parents are members of McLeod Co-op Power can apply for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the 2025 Rural Electric Youth Tour. Taking place from June 16-21, 2025, this prestigious program offers a chance to connect with peers from across the nation, explore our country's political system, and participate in inspiring leadership development sessions.

Participants will tour iconic landmarks, meet with elected officials, and gain an insider's view of how our government works. This once-in-a-lifetime experience is designed to inspire future leaders and create lasting memories.

McLeod Co-op Power selects one outstanding student annually for this incredible opportunity. If you are a junior or senior who's passionate about leadership and learning, we encourage you to apply. The application deadline

is March 1, 2025. Don't miss this chance to grow your leadership potential while representing our local community in the nation's capital.

POWER LINeworker SCHOLARSHIP

For those interested in a career in the electric utility industry, McLeod Co-op Power offers a \$500 scholarship for individuals enrolling in a power lineworker program at a Minnesota vocational college. Lineworkers play a crucial role in keeping our communities powered, and this scholarship aims to support the next generation of skilled professionals.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to pursuing this essential career path. The application deadline is April 15, 2025.

APPLY TODAY!

Both programs exemplify McLeod Co-op Power's dedication to empowering youth and fostering education within our community. For application forms and additional details, visit our website or contact the office.

Take advantage of these opportunities to learn, grow, and make a difference!

REMINDER:

OPERATION ROUND UP APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 1

The deadline to apply for funding through McLeod Co-op Power's Operation Round Up program is March 1, 2025.

Operation Round Up lets members round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, donating the spare change to the McLeod Co-op Operation Round Up Trust. These small contributions—averaging \$6 per year—fund impactful projects in McLeod, Renville, Carver, and Sibley Counties.

Non-profits in community service, education, youth, emergency assistance, environment, or disaster relief are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on our website or by contacting the Cooperative office. Funds will be distributed this spring to support local initiatives.

Submit your application by March 1 to make a difference in your community. For details, call our office or visit our website today! For details, call our office or visit our website today!

YOUR VOICE, YOUR CO-OP: HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE!

At McLeod Co-op Power, everything we do is powered by you—our members. That's why we're asking for your input! By taking our member survey, you can help us improve our services, address your needs, and ensure we're on the right path for the future.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR CO-OP!

We're more than just your electricity provider - we're your partner in powering your home, farm, and business. Your feedback is the key to understanding what's working, what could be better, and how we can grow together.

Completing the survey is simple and only takes a few minutes. Plus, your input directly impacts the decisions we make to serve you better.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Scan the QR code OR visit
www.mcleodcoop.com/survey

Your feedback matters. Help us create a stronger, smarter co-op that works better for everyone.

**DON'T WAIT—
SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK TODAY!**

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 15 this year and this year's election will include Districts 2, 7, 8, and 9. The election process ensures that every member has a voice in the operation of this organization. Directors represent our members by responsibly overseeing the business of the co-op and determining its strategic direction.

Members in Districts 2, 7, 8, and 9; who meet the Bylaw qualifications and have an interest in serving as a director of McLeod Co-op Power should complete a director application at mcleodcoop.com/about/co-op-info by 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2025. If you have additional questions, need more information, or would like to request an application by mail please call (800) 494-6272.

DISTRICT 2:

Hassan Valley, Rich Valley, Sumter

DISTRICT 7:

Collinwood, Hale, Hutchinson

DISTRICT 8:

Alfsborg, Bandon, Bismark, Collins, Grafton, Martinsburg, Moltke, Round Grove, Transit, Wellington

DISTRICT 9:

Camden, Watertown, Young America

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The co-op is also seeking volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for Districts 2, 7, 8, and 9. Volunteers participate by reviewing candidate applications and submitting two applicants per district to the Board of Directors for approval. They also assist in collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting on July 15, 2025.

Members who serve on the Nominating Committee are paid a per diem for each meeting plus mileage. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call the Co-op at (800) 494-6272 no later than February 28, 2025.

CEO MESSAGE

Dan and I were talking about the topic for this month's newsletter. He mentioned that the North American Reliability Corporation (NREC) released its 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment at the end of last year. The report examines the nationwide electrical grid, highlighting reliability challenges over the coming years. One of the key findings from the report is that in our region, we are at a "high risk" for generation storage during the high summer heat or extremely cold winter snaps, starting this summer and going out over the next four years.

This finding is based upon the continued retirement of older generation units happening faster than the new generation coming online. There are many reasons for this happening, and quite frankly, those decisions are basically out of our hands at our cooperative. We are looking to our power supplies, Great River Energy (GRE), and Western Area Power Administration to manage generation resources. GRE is in the process of securing more generation while working on investing in new and existing transmission systems. WAPA is in the process of budgeting upgrades to their hydroelectric facilities that need refurbishment. According to the study, they both, along with others, have a lot of challenges ahead.

While we trust GRE and WAPA with the more significant challenges, we continue to work with our representatives in St. Paul and Washington, DC, on legislative challenges. One of the topics we are discussing in St. Paul is Minnesota's moratorium on nuclear power in context with our state's 100% carbon-free by 2040 requirement. This moratorium handicaps our industry's ability to move into the future while exporting jobs and economic development to other states.

Regarding our friends in Washington, DC, we are focused on the EPA's rulemaking to reduce emissions by nearly 90% before 2040, along with permitting reform and other policy issues at the federal level. While a new administration will lead with a more realistic outlook on energy, we will need to keep this issue in front of them until it is changed if we want to continue to



CEO RON MEIER

have reliable sources of electricity.

So, what can you do? Lots of things. As you invest in your homes and businesses, look for energy efficiency improvements. If you find time to replace older heating and cooling systems, check with your HVAC professional about new technologies that will save energy and bring savings. They might be a little more expensive to install, but these upgrades can lead to some long term savings. We have rebates that can help, so give us a call.

When it comes to discussing topics with our legislators, consider signing up at Coop Votes (<https://vote.coop/>). Our ability to be heard in St. Paul and Washington is based on our close relationships with our legislators and our numbers, as we share a common voice. This is where Coop Votes comes in. It is a resource that helps keep us up to date on policy topics and, from time to time, we will do a call to action to make sure our voices are heard.

Yes, the outlook for regional power supply is concerning. According to the recent report, we have challenges ahead, but we are working hard to keep the lights on.

Cooperatively

R1PL



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JANUARY 2025 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on January 28th, 2025, at McLeod Coop headquarters. Eight board members, attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The December outage report was provided with a total of 33 outages, affecting 587 consumers.
- Operations Manager Brady reported that work plan projects are continuing, such as pole change outs in New Auburn and testing transformers.
- Member Service Manager Ehrke provided an update on the billing team process improvements that were implemented this past June, transitioning to mailing 1st collection tickets instead of delivering them to members' physical locations. This adjustment has reduced costs and improved efficiencies.
- Assistant Member Service Manager Thomes reported that the contracted installers completed 119 load control change outs in the month of December. Nine out of the 39 townships have completed load control changeouts.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the December financials. It was also reported that the GRE allocation came in and was \$126,004 more than budgeted.
- CEO Meier provided a legislative update regarding the looming Minnesota Capital Session stating that the Minnesota cooperatives' legislative priorities focus on responsible energy policy and affordable and safe energy for members.

⚡⚡⚡ 2024 ⚡⚡⚡ POWER OUTAGES



MONTH	OUTAGES	MEMBERS	AVG.	LONGEST
January	38	109	55 min	145 min
February	31	122	39 min	195 min
March	50	58	60 min	307 min
April	75	412	79 min	241 min
May	68	415	74 min	234 min
June	77	519	111 min	253 min
July	53	507	103 min	259 min
August	87	1,049	137 min	1,135 min
September	66	152	79 min	360 min
October 1- 30	76	130	110 min	273 min
October 31 & November 1	During the two-day snow event from October 31 to November 1, 2,868 meters experienced outages, with the longest lasting approximately 27 hours. The average restoral time was 406 minutes.			
November 2-30	44	75	134 min	428 min
December	33	587	79 min	310 min

WHAT'S CAUSING OUTAGES?



OTHER
36.61%



PLANNED
34.05%



MAINTENANCE
9.61%



ANIMALS
8.08%



WEATHER
5.52%



PUBLIC
4.91%



EQUIPMENT
1.23%



UNKNOWN
0.00%

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

At McLeod Co-op Power, data drives our operations, and we need your help to ensure its accuracy. By providing your most current and complete contact information, we can continue delivering the reliable, high-quality service you expect. Accurate information helps us improve customer service, enhance communication, and efficiently report and repair outages. It also allows us to keep you informed about essential programs, events, and activities.

Up-to-date contact details can significantly speed up power restoration during an outage. The phone number you provide links your service address to our outage management system. When you call to report an outage, our system identifies your phone number, matches it to your account, and predicts the outage's location and cause. This information

streamlines the process, helping our crews address issues more efficiently.

While we strive to maintain uninterrupted service, planned outages occasionally occur for equipment updates, repairs, or replacements. With your updated contact preferences, we can notify you in advance. Additionally, accurate information allows us to reach you if questions arise about your energy use or billing.

Your contact information is kept private and used solely by McLeod Co-op for essential communications. Please update your details by calling us at (800) 494-6272 or logging into your SmartHub account. Thank you for helping us serve you better!



BE SAFE

Stay Clear of Downed Power Lines

NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED POWER LINE.

Always assume
it is energized
and call 911
immediately.

POWERFUL STORMS can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:

- Stay at least 50 feet away from it and assume it is energized. The ground may also be energized making the entire area extremely dangerous.
- Never touch anything that is touching a downed power line. It is as dangerous as the line itself.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside your vehicle until help arrives.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL!

Get
**\$50 off one
camera**

with three-year monitoring agreement



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BE PREPARED FOR ANY OUTAGE



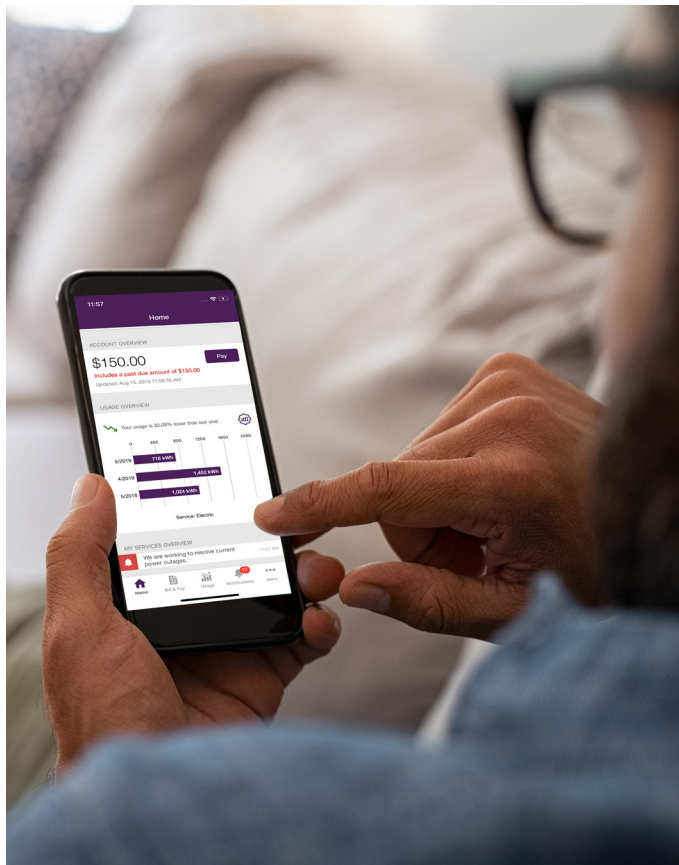
Power outages are unpredictable—don't let them leave you in the dark. With a fully automatic standby generator from McLeod Co-op Power, you can protect your home, farm, or business from the inconvenience and risks of losing power.

Whether it's a storm, equipment failure, or another unexpected event, our standby generators will automatically activate, ensuring your essential systems keep running. From keeping your sump pump and furnace fan operational to preserving food in your refrigerator and powering your lights, our generators provide seamless backup power when you need it most.

Here's why McLeod Co-op is your trusted partner for standby solutions:

- Our experienced team manages every detail, from system selection to setup, so you don't have to lift a finger.
- Perfect for homes, farms, and businesses with power needs of all sizes.
- Choose from reliable Briggs & Stratton generators, available in sizes from 12 KW to 200 KW to suit your specific requirements.
- Designed to power key systems and provide peace of mind, no matter the situation.

Call (800) 494-6272 today for more information and a price quote.



EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

McLeod Co-op Power offers multiple convenient payment options. Be sure to pay by the due date to avoid late fees. For any billing questions, call (800) 494-6272.

AUTOPAY:

Automatically pay on the 28th of each month via checking or savings. The enrollment form is online at www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/pay-options/.

SMARTHUB:

Manage your account and pay your bill through SmartHub online or via the app. You can also view usage, receive alerts, and more.

PAYNOW:

Make one-time payments online without a SmartHub account by clicking the "Pay Now" button on our website.

PHONE:

Pay securely 24/7 using our automated phone system. Call (320) 864-3148 or (800) 494-6272 and choose option #2.

FIVE TIPS FOR HIRING AN ELECTRICIAN

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



LICENSED & QUALIFIED

Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.
Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.



INSURED

Make sure the electrician is insured.
Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.



READ REVIEWS

Read all the reviews.
Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.



BUDGET & QUOTES

Determine your budget. Get two quotes.
Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).



TALK TIMELINE

Talk timeline.
Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

2025 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

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

Electric Thermal Storage
Space Heating \$50 per kW

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump
High Efficiency Systems ≤ 1 ton: \$150
(≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2)

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump
Premium Efficiency Systems ≤ 1 ton:
\$250
(2025 CEE Tier 1 listed)

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump
High Efficiency Systems ≤ 1 Ton - 5
Tons: \$750
(≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2)

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump
Premium Efficiency Systems ≤ 1 Ton -
5 Tons: \$1,000
(2025 CEE Tier 1 listed)

Ducted/Hybrid Air Source Heat Pump
High Efficiency Systems Up To 5 Tons:
\$750
(≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2)

Ducted/Hybrid Air Source Heat Pump
Premium Efficiency Systems Up To 5
Tons: \$1,000
(2025 CEE Tier 1 listed)

Ground Source Heat Pump
\$400 per ton

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

OFFICE PHONE

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE

(800) 927-5685

WEBSITE

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GRE Representative
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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.**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.



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Glencoe, MN 55336

WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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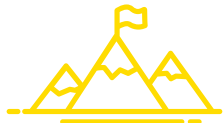
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MCLEOD CO-OP POWER AT A GLANCE

We are proud to have served the area since 1935. McLeod Cooperative Power is a member-owned cooperative that provides electricity to over 7,000 residents, businesses, and farms in McLeod, Renville, Sibley and Carver Counties.



MISSION:

To enhance the quality of life for our members through effective, safe, and innovative solutions.



7,006
MEMBER
CONSUMERS

VISION:

Exceed members' expectations for reliable energy and services.



965+
SQUARE MILE
SERVICE AREA



NINE
MEMBER-ELECTED
DIRECTORS

FOUNDED
1935

3.4
MEMBERS
PER MILE
OF LINE

7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community



TWENTY SIX
DEDICATED AND TALENTED
EMPLOYEES

.....
GLENCOE
HEADQUARTERS
.....



2,043
MILES OF LINE
(1,445 OVERHEAD,
598 UNDERGROUND)

SMARTHUB USERS

1,456



OVERHEAD LINE
1,445 MILES

UNDERGROUND LINE
598 MILES

CAPITAL CREDITS

\$275K



**KILOWATT-
HOURS SOLD**
168,524,398



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