

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JULY 2025



BE PREPARED – OUTAGES WILL HAPPEN! STAYING SAFE DURING SUMMER STORM SEASON

As summer heats up, so does the potential for severe weather. Thunderstorms, high winds, lightning, and even tornadoes can all threaten our electric system. While McLeod Cooperative Power works hard to maintain reliable service, summer storms can bring down trees, damage power lines, and knock out electricity sometimes for hours or even days.

So, the real question is: How prepared are you to be without electricity for an extended time period? Could your household manage if the power was out for a week?

This summer, we encourage all members to consider how they would handle an extended outage. Some planning now can make a big difference when the lights go out.

PLANNING AHEAD IS KEY

You don't need to go through survival training or build a bunker but having a few basic items and following some essential safety tips can help you and your family stay safe and comfortable if a storm knocks out the power.

Here are the critical supplies every household should have on hand, especially during storm season:

- A telephone that doesn't need electricity to operate. Cordless phones won't work in a power outage. Keep a corded landline phone or a fully charged cell phone with a backup battery or power bank.
- Water. Store at least three gallons of bottled water per person to get through several days without running water.
- Flashlights and extra batteries. Avoid candles, if possible, due to the risk of fire. Flashlights are safer and more reliable. Make sure to have extra batteries on hand!
- Canned food and a manual can opener. A pantry with non-perishable items means you won't be relying on perishables that spoil in a powerless refrigerator.

Continued on page 2.

OFFICES CLOSED

McLeod Co-op Power will be closed on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 until 1:30pm for our Annual Meeting. In the event of an outage or emergency, please call (800) 927-5685.

YOU ARE INVITED!

**JOIN US FOR MCLEOD CO-OP
POWER'S ANNUAL MEETING
ON TUESDAY, JULY 15 AT
CROW RIVER WINERY.**

9:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Meeting Begins

Enjoy a member gift, door prizes (including Twins tickets!), and lunch by Chef Craig. Director elections will be held for Districts 2, 7, 8, and 9. Mail-in ballots must be received by July 14, or bring yours to the meeting.

RSVP TODAY AT:

(320) 864-3148,
(800) 494-6272, or
mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com

2025 VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT

04

AIR SOURCE HEAT
PUMP INCENTIVES

06



STORM SEASON...

- First aid kit and prescription medications. Make sure your medications are refilled and accessible, especially if you rely on refrigerated meds.
- Candles and matches. If you need to use these, do so cautiously as a backup lighting source. Keep them out of reach of children and never leave burning candles unattended.
- A battery-powered or hand-crank radio. Weather updates are critical during emergencies, especially if cell service is interrupted.
- A generator. While not a necessity for every home, generators can power essential items. If you choose to invest in one, always follow manufacturer instructions and never run a generator inside your home or garage due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

LISTEN AND STAY INFORMED

Weather conditions can change rapidly, and early warnings are critical. Pay attention to local weather updates, especially during watches and warnings for thunderstorms, high winds, freezing rain, or severe storms. Having a reliable source of weather information helps you make informed decisions about your safety and when to prepare for possible outages.

Also, review storm safety protocols with your family members, especially young children. Make sure everyone knows where the safest part of the house is during severe weather and understands when and how to take shelter. Having a designated plan can prevent confusion and save lives when minutes matter.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

McLeod Cooperative Power takes storm preparedness seriously. We work year-round to maintain our lines, trim trees, and prepare our crews to respond quickly to outages. When a storm hits, our lineworkers and staff jump into action to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. But widespread or severe damage can take time to repair, especially if poles or transformers are down. That's why we encourage all members to have a plan. Your preparation can help reduce stress, protect your loved ones, and make riding out an extended outage more manageable.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Summer storms are a fact of life in Minnesota, but being caught off guard doesn't have to be. Taking a few simple steps now can go a long way in protecting your home and loved ones. Preparedness is key to staying safe, calm, and resilient when the power goes out.

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.

CEO MESSAGE

You're Invited: Join Us at the Annual Meeting on July 15 at Crow River Winery

I'd like to personally invite you to McLeod Cooperative Power's Annual Meeting on Monday, July 15, at the Crow River Winery just east of Hutchinson. As your CEO, the annual meeting is one of the most meaningful events I'm involved with. It's a chance to gather with you, our members, to reflect on what we've accomplished together, look ahead to the future, and celebrate what makes our cooperative special.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., and the meeting will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

This year, we'll be counting ballots for four of our nine Board of Directors seats. One of those seats is currently vacant due to the retirement of Keith Peterson, who is moving out of the area. Keith has been a dedicated and thoughtful board member, and I want to thank him for his years of steady leadership and service to the cooperative. He'll be missed both personally and professionally.

As always, we'll have some great food and fellowship. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk with the people who make McLeod Cooperative Power run. Most of our employees will be in attendance, and I encourage you to take a moment to visit. Whether it's our linemen, member services team, operations staff, or engineering group, these are the folks who work behind the scenes (often out in the elements) to keep your lights on and power reliable.

We're also proud to feature our Youth Tour representatives from the past two years as they share their stories about visiting Washington, D.C., as part of the national electric cooperative program. It's always inspiring to hear how this leadership experience opens new perspectives, and as a special treat, one of these young people will be performing the National Anthem.



CEO RON MEIER

There will also be a Q&A session where you can ask questions and hear more about what's happening at your cooperative, and then we'll enjoy lunch catered by Chef Craig. And of course, we'll wrap up with some fun door prizes to thank you for being part of this cooperative journey. You can RSVP for the meeting by calling 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272.

Your participation matters. As a member-owner, you have a voice in how we operate, and participating in the Annual Meeting is one of the best ways to make that voice heard. This isn't just a business meeting. It's a community gathering, a celebration of our shared values, and a chance to connect with the people (board, employees, and fellow members) who make McLeod Cooperative Power strong.

We will see you on July 15 at the Crow River Winery.

Cooperatively

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www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop

JUNE 2025 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on June 24, 2025, at McLeod Coop headquarters. Nine board members, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The outage report for the month of May was provided with a total of 73 outages, involving 261 consumers.
- A motion carried approving an out-of-budget spend of \$54,000 to fix Digger Truck #1.
- Member Services Manager Ehrke provided an update on the Annual Meeting being held on July 15.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the May financials.
- A motion carried approving Policy 3-2 Investment of Cash.
- A motion carried approving Policy 3-3 Internal Control of General Funds.
- A motion carried approving the Strategic Plan Action Matrix.
- A motion carried approving Director Susan Anderson to attend the NRECA 2025 Regions 5&6 Meeting.

2025 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

McLeod Co-op Power takes a proactive vegetation management approach to clear trees and overgrowth from power line rights-of-way with the goal of maintaining a safe and reliable electric system.

Our contractor, TreeStory, is continuing to work through our 2025 vegetation management priority areas, covering the following areas:

- Rich Valley
- Bergen
- Camden
- Young America
- Helen
- Glencoe (if time allows)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Watch for Notifications – If work is scheduled in your area, you'll receive a door hanger notification about two weeks before it begins. Crews from TreeStory, our vegetation management partner, are working in marked vehicles with the company's logo for easy identification.
- Plant Wisely – If you're planning to plant trees on your property, remember that large, tall-growing trees should be at least 50 feet from power lines to prevent future conflicts.
- Report Problem Trees – If you spot a compromised tree near a power line, call us! We'll assess whether it falls under our responsibility or if the member needs to work with an independent tree service for assistance.

KEEPING OUR SYSTEM STRONG TOGETHER

By working together, we can ensure a more reliable electric system and a safer environment for everyone. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our right-of-way clear and our power lines safe.



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.



JULY SPECIAL!

**\$100 OFF A NEW
SECURITY SYSTEM**



888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com

THANK YOU, KEITH, FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

After 15 years of dedicated service, McLeod Cooperative Power thanks Keith for his leadership and commitment as Director of District 8.

Keith was first elected to the board in 2010, the same year the cooperative celebrated its 75th anniversary. Encouraged by the nominating committee and guided by his interest in the utility industry, Keith accepted the opportunity to serve. Over the years, he brought thoughtful perspective and steady leadership to the board, including several years as board president.

Reflecting on his time with the cooperative, Keith shared that he especially enjoyed learning about the energy industry and connecting with directors from across the state and nation. "Most people had an interesting story," he said. "It was great to meet and learn from others who share the same goals of serving their members well."

One of the most meaningful projects during his time on the board was the development of the new cooperative facility. "The new building gave us offices, truck storage, and a warehouse that made things so much more efficient for our employees," Keith said. "It was a big step forward."

During Keith's time on the board, the co-op also implemented improvements in billing, record keeping, and meter management. These systems have become more streamlined and continue to improve with new technology.

His advice to future board members is to keep an open mind to new advancements in the industry and to be willing to learn how the entire system works. We are grateful to Keith for his years of service, insight, and dedication to McLeod Cooperative Power. We wish him all the best in his next chapter.



WELCOME KALEIGH RUMRILL, TO THE MCLEOD CO-OP FAMILY

Please join us in welcoming Kaleigh Rumrill as the newest team member at McLeod Co-op Power! She started her role as our Billing Clerk on June 5th. Kaleigh brings a background in customer service and billing to the position.

She has been a great addition to our co-op family, and we are excited to have her on the team!



HLAVKA ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF GREAT RIVER ENERGY BOARD

McLeod Co-op Power congratulates board member Randy Hlavka on his recent election as vice chair of the Great River Energy Board of Directors. Randy has served on the GRE board for several years and has been a dedicated advocate for both our cooperative and its members. His leadership and experience will be a valuable asset in this new role. We wish him continued success as he takes on this important responsibility.

HOMETOWN BASEBALL FUN HITS IT OUT OF THE PARK



More than 80 young athletes representing 23 communities gathered at Arlington Baseball Park on June 27 for the PlayBall! MN Youth Baseball Clinic, co-hosted by McLeod Co-op Power and the Arlington Baseball Association.

With support from Great River Energy, the free clinic gave kids of all skill levels a chance to sharpen their game; learning fundamentals like batting, fielding, and pitching while building teamwork and confidence. Volunteer coaches brought energy and encouragement, creating a memorable day of fun and growth.

We're proud to support events that bring families together, strengthen community ties, and invest in the next generation.

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP INCENTIVES



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MNASHP.ORG

Learn more here!



LOW-COST FINANCING | DEPENDING ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) offers financing for energy upgrades, including heat pumps, through several loan programs such as the MHFA Fix Up Fund, city-specific programs, and more. Approval is subject to program guidelines, please review all loan terms before applying.

STATE REBATES | UP TO \$4,000 (COMING SOON!)

Additional Minnesota state rebates will be available for heat pumps. To qualify, customers must:

- Apply for and/or receive the related federal rebate
- Have an energy audit within the last 18 months
- Perform necessary insulation upgrades
- Purchase and install heat pump of contractor-recommended capacity

This program is still under development. Please refer to the MN Department of Commerce webpage for the most current updates.

MCLEOD CO-OP POWER REBATES | UP TO \$1,000

Curious what rebates are available? Check out page 7 for McLeod Co-op Power's offerings based on system type and size.

FEDERAL TAX CREDITS | UP TO \$2,000

Heat pumps installed between 1/1/2023 and 12/31/2032 may qualify for the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit (also known as the 25C tax credit). The amount of credit that can be claimed for a heat pump is equal to 30% of total project costs, up to \$2,000. A dual fuel system where a heat pump and furnace are both installed could qualify for \$2,600 (qualifying furnaces are eligible for an additional \$600 tax credit). Tax credits are subject to federal program availability.

UTILITY ELECTRIC RATES

Many utilities offer special electric rates that lower the cost to operate a heat pump. Visit our cost of heat comparison resource for help estimating your annual energy costs of operating a heat pump with different system configurations, utilities, and rate types.

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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District 7: Randy Hlavka
GRE Representative
(320) 583-0037

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

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.



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CATCH US AT FARMFEST: AUGUST 5-7, 2025

Join McLeod Co-op Power and fellow Minnesota electric cooperatives at this year's Farmfest, August 5-7 in Redwood County. As Minnesota's premier ag event, Farmfest draws nearly 30,000 attendees and features over 500 exhibitors focused on the future of farming and rural life.

We'll be on hand to highlight the tools, technology, and safety resources that help make outdoor work more efficient and safer. Stop by our booth to explore hands-on equipment displays and see our live electrical safety demonstrations. You'll learn what to watch for when working near overhead lines and why staying alert around power infrastructure is critical during harvest and fieldwork.

Farmfest is more than an ag showcase, it's a chance to connect, learn, and stay informed on the issues shaping rural Minnesota. We're proud to power farms across the state and support the communities that keep Minnesota growing strong.

Whether you're coming for the conversations, exhibits, or equipment, we hope you'll visit us while you're there!

VISIT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Stop by, visit with us at FarmFest 2025 for your chance to win battery powered electric lawn care equipment! Prizes include a pole saw, leaf blower, chainsaw, cordless string trimming, and even an ice auger.



**FARMFEST
2025**

August 5-7

**28366 County Hwy 15
Morgan, MN (Gilgillan)**



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