

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

AUGUST 2025



JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

HONORING 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 11
9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

MCLEOD CO-OP HEADQUARTERS
3515 11TH STREET EAST, GLENCOE

COFFEE AND DONUTS!
FACILITY TOURS AND
SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

McLeod Co-op Power is proud to be celebrating 90 years of powering our communities and we want you to be part of the celebration! Please join us for a special Open House Member Event on Thursday, September 11, as we honor the people, progress, and partnerships that have shaped our cooperative since 1935.

Stop by for coffee and donuts, take a guided tour of our facility, and enjoy live demonstrations showcasing how your cooperative works behind the scenes. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the Co-op, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the services we provide, meet our team, and see how your membership makes a difference.

We're grateful for your continued support and look forward to celebrating this milestone with you!

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

At McLeod Co-op Power, every member is a part-owner and shares in the Co-op's financial returns. We allocate 100% of our margins (revenue minus expenses) to members who purchased electricity during the year. These margins are set aside to be retired (or paid back) when the Cooperative's financial position permits. These funds serve as operating capital, not only helping the Co-op in paying off debts and maintaining an appropriate equity-to-assets balance but also to support the ongoing maintenance and expansion of our distribution network.

Any unclaimed capital credits are returned to the Cooperative and we need your help to find the rightful recipients. You can search our online database or download a PDF list at www.mcleodcoop.com/about/capital-credits/.

If you have information that could help locate these members, please contact us at (800) 494-6272. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

2025 POWER
OUTAGE SUMMARY

04

ANNUAL MEETING
RECAP

06



YOUTH TOUR WINNER RETURNS FROM D.C.



This summer, thirty-five Minnesota students, including Sadie Kirtz from Hector, experienced the excitement and impact of the 2025 Rural Electric Youth Tour, a unique opportunity sponsored by McLeod Co-op Power and coordinated by the Minnesota Rural Electric Association. From June 16-21, students took part in an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they explored our nation's capital, met with legislators, toured national landmarks, and gained a deeper understanding of electric cooperatives and their role in shaping communities.

One of Sadie's favorite activities was taking a Segway tour around the National Mall at night, as well as visiting Arlington Cemetery and attending the Marine Corps parade. "The Segway tour gave us such a fun way to see all the monuments lit up, it was unforgettable," she shared.

Sadie was especially moved by the Holocaust Museum, which she called the most interesting museum of the trip. "It made everything that happened feel so real. Seeing their belongings, the shoes, and hearing stories from survivors was incredibly touching," she said. "It really helped put history into perspective."

Another highlight of the trip was meeting with Senator Tina Smith. "She explained how she stays in touch with everything happening back in Minnesota while working in D.C.," Sadie said. "It was interesting to hear how involved she is in her committees and how she balances it all."

Throughout the week, Sadie and her fellow delegates learned about the role of cooperatives in local communities. "I don't think we realize the impact they have," she reflected. "Co-ops don't just provide services, they reinvest in our communities and help strengthen them. This trip helped me see their value in a whole new way."

Sadie also found the friendships and conversations with other Youth Tour participants to be one of the most impactful parts of her experience. "Everyone had a story to share, and

just spending time together helped me learn more about myself and the world around me," she said.

In reflecting on her experience, Sadie expressed deep gratitude. "Thank you to the cooperative member-owners and the board of directors for making this once-in-a-lifetime trip possible," she said. "Opportunities like this come from people who believe in youth and the impact we can make. I came back with more wisdom, perspective, and connections than I ever imagined."

Sadie encourages any student thinking about applying to go for it. "Just do it," she said. "Don't let the nerves of traveling with strangers stop you. You'll make meaningful connections, learn so much, and have way more fun than you ever expected."



CEO MESSAGE

What a fantastic turnout we had at the Annual Meeting on July 15, and not just because of the free brownies (although let's be honest, they helped). We truly appreciate everyone who came out to spend lunch with us. It's always a highlight of our year to see your smiling faces, answer your questions, and discuss electricity. It's safe to say, we know how to have fun.

One of my favorite moments (other than the linemen being taxi drivers from the parking lot to the doors) this year was Steph's creative explanation of electric demand, where she compared it to rush-hour traffic. You know the drill: everyone piles onto the road at the same time, and suddenly it takes 45 minutes to get three miles. Well, electricity has its version of rush hour, usually in the early evening, when we're all home cranking the AC, cooking dinner, and power-ing up everything short of a space shuttle. That's when the system is working hardest and energy costs the most to supply.

Steph's comparison made it crystal clear: just like we wouldn't all try to merge onto the same freeway at 5:30 p.m. (or at least, we shouldn't), we're exploring ways to encourage spreading out our electricity use. And that brings us to our newest rate design idea: Todd.

Now, Todd isn't a guy in accounting, but instead it stands for Time of Day Demand. Todd's goal is simple: reward you for using electricity when the grid isn't in full-on panic mode. Think of it like happy hour for your appliances, same electricity, just cheaper at certain times. Use your dishwasher at 10 p.m.? Todd gives you a high-five. Charge your EV in the middle of the night? Todd's your biggest fan.

We're still in the early stages of this concept, and we promise to keep you informed as we test, tweak, and finalize Todd. Because around here, we like to keep things transparent, even if our acronyms are a little too friendly-sounding.



CEO RON MEIER

To wrap things up: thank you again for showing up at the annual meeting, asking great questions, and keeping us grounded in what matters, you. We couldn't do what we do without our members, and we wouldn't want to. We're already looking forward to seeing you at next year's meeting with more updates, more laughs, and yes, probably more sweets.

Until then, keep it safe, stay energy smart, and remember: Todd's visit to MCPA is approaching (but, like, in a good way).

Cooperatively

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**LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK**

www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop

Follow the McLeod Co-op Power Facebook page for outage updates, energy tips, community news, and member programs that keep you informed and connected.

JULY 2025 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on July 22, 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 June was reviewed with a total of 87 outages, affecting 4,876 consumers.
- A motion carried approving Policy 4-23 Tree Trimming & Clearing.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2025-07-04 Four Year Construction Work Plan.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the June financials.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2025-07-01 Amended Terms for Dodge County Wind Energy Purchase.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2025-07-02 Adoption of Contract for Legal Services.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2025-07-03 Land Purchase Hook Lake Substation.

⚡⚡⚡ 2025 ⚡⚡⚡ POWER OUTAGES

MONTH	OUTAGES	MEMBERS	AVG. MINUTES
January	61	78	49
February	25	37	65
March	49	416	77
April	45	1,130	60
May	73	261	84
June	87	4,876	73

WHAT'S CAUSING OUTAGES?



PLANNED
43.82%



MAINTENANCE
10.88%



PUBLIC
8.24%



ANIMALS
9.41%



OTHER
22.06%



WEATHER
5.29%



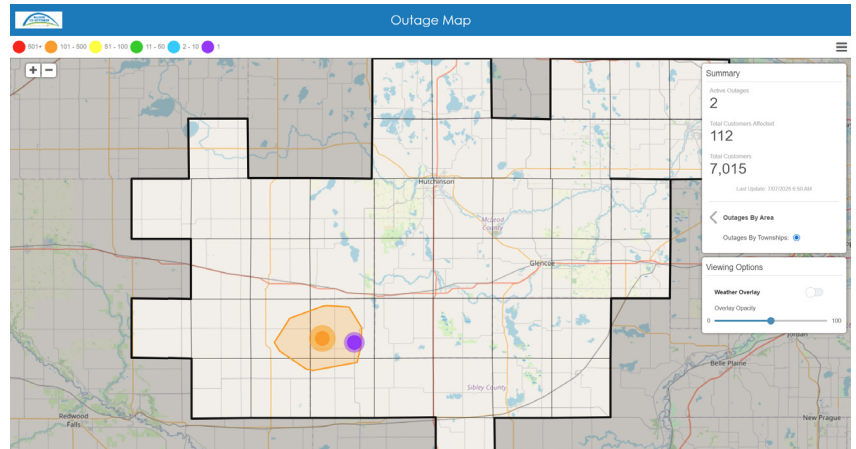
EQUIPMENT
0.29%



UNKNOWN
0%

NEW ONLINE OUTAGE MAP

We're making it easier than ever to stay informed when the lights go out. A new and improved outage map is now live on the McLeod Co-op Power website.



WHAT YOU'LL SEE:

- **More Precise Locations:** Outage areas displayed with greater accuracy and zoom capabilities.
- **Outage Counts & Scope:** Quickly see how many members are affected in your area.
- **Status Details:** Know when crews have been assigned and restoration is in progress.
- **Mobile-Friendly View:** Check updates from your phone, tablet, or desktop.
- **Weather Overlay:** View weather conditions alongside outage information to better understand the cause and impact of outages in your area.

An outage map lets you confirm whether the issue is widespread or local, track restoration progress, and reduce uncertainty while crews work. It also helps us communicate more efficiently with all members during major weather events.

UNDERSTANDING POWER OUTAGES

At McLeod Co-op Power, we work hard to maintain and upgrade our electric system to provide safe, reliable service. Despite our best efforts, outages can still occur due to weather, equipment failure, animals, and other unforeseen events.

As shown in the chart, June was a particularly active month for outages. Two major storm events on June 2 and June 12 caused widespread damage across our service area, requiring additional crews to assist with restoration efforts. The longest outage lasted approximately 16 hours and affected a single member after a tree fell during a storm. Alongside these weather-related events, there were also several smaller outages throughout the month, including some that were planned for maintenance. On average, power was restored within 73 minutes per affected member during June.

REPORT YOUR POWER OUTAGE

Power outages and emergencies may be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please be prepared to provide your name, account number, service address, phone number, and the cause of the outage if known.



PHONE
(800) 927-5685



ONLINE
Log into your SmartHub account.



MOBILE APP
Download the SmartHub app.

OUR STEP-BY-STEP POWER RESTORATION PROCESS



When a power outage occurs, we always work to restore power to the largest number of members first before inspecting individual sites.

#1

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES supply electricity to substations. While they rarely fail, these facilities must be repaired before substations will operate.

#2

DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATIONS can each serve hundreds or even thousands of members. When a substation is out of service, repairs must be made before electricity can flow to the feeder lines.

#3

FEEDER LINES carry electricity to large groups of members in a geographic area. A problem with a feeder line will disrupt the flow of electricity to section of line.

#4

LINE SECTIONS deliver electricity a lesser number of members. These lines are shorter in length and deliver power to tap lines that may serve one or a few members. A problem with a line section will disrupt the flow of electricity to tap lines.

#5

TAP LINES deliver electricity to the transformers. Transformers may be mounted on power poles or placed on pads for underground service to individual homes, farms, and businesses.

#6

INDIVIDUAL SITES may remain without power if a problem exists between the transformer and your premises. This is often the case if your neighbors have power but you do not. Always report outages to help line crews identify local issues.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

At McLeod Co-op Power, we understand that unexpected expenses or circumstances may come your way from time to time. If you are experiencing financial hardship, call our Billing Department during business hours so we can work with you to set up an acceptable payment plan.

In addition, the Minnesota Department of Commerce has energy assistance programs and resources available for members struggling to pay their utility bills. Contact the following agencies or visit mn.gov/home.

KANDIYOHI, MCLEOD & MEEKER COUNTIES United Community Action Partnership
(800) 992-1710
Willmar: (320) 235-0850
Hutchinson: (320) 587-5244

MCLEOD COUNTY AREA
McLeod County Social Service Center
(320) 864-3144 | (800) 247-1756
Hutchinson: (320) 484-4330

RENVILLE COUNTY AREA
United Community Action Partnership
(320) 523-1842

SIBLEY COUNTY AREA
Sibley County Public Health & Human Services (507) 237-4000 | (866) 396-9963

MN VALLEY ACTION COUNCIL
(800) 767-7139 Gaylord: (507) 237-2981
Mankato: (507) 345-6822

CARVER COUNTY AREA
Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency
(952)-496-2125

WRIGHT COUNTY AREA
Wright County Community Action
(320) 963-6500

2025 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The McLeod Cooperative Power Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at the Crow River Winery, with 285 members and guests in attendance. The meeting included a review of the Cooperative's progress and an opportunity for members to connect.

Steph Jakel presented the 2024 financial report, noting a strong year and a clean audit from CliftonLarsonAllen.

Presentations also included a spotlight on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., with participants Sawyer Guererro and Sadie Kirtz sharing their experiences, and a recap of the 2024 donations awarded by the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees.

CEO Ron Meier closed the meeting with updates on key projects and milestones from 2024 and answered questions from members.

Thank you to all who attended and continue to support your Cooperative!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We're more than just an electricity provider, we're your partner in keeping your home, farm, and business running strong. Your feedback is the key to understanding what's working, what could be better, and how we can serve you in the future.

Take a few minutes to complete our survey and make an impact on the decisions that serve you better.

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





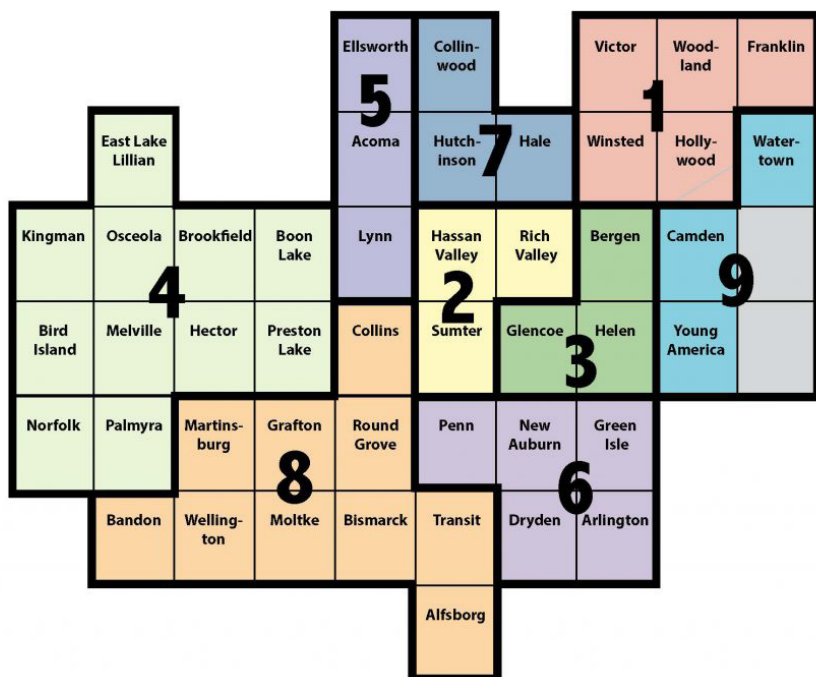
BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

We extend our gratitude to all the members who participated in this year's election and cast their votes for the Co-op's Board of Directors. Following the announcement at the Annual Meeting, we are pleased to introduce the candidates elected by the membership to represent their districts over the next three years: Jeff Kosek for District 2, Randy Hlavka for District 7, Jonathan Burgstahler for District 8, and Susan Anderson for District 9.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the other candidates: Rob Bell, Jeff Caswell, Nathan Mueller, and Marc Telecky, for their active involvement in this year's election and their interest in serving the Co-op. Their dedication and commitment to our Cooperative is sincerely appreciated.

MCLEOD CO-OP POWER DISTRICT MAP

Curious which director represents your area? Use the map below to find your district. Each district is represented by a member-elected director who serves a three-year term on the Board.



OFFICE PHONE

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE

(800) 927-5685

WEBSITE

www.mcleodcoop.com

EMAIL ADDRESS

mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ronald Meier

EDITOR

Dan Ehrke and Fuller Creative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1: Kirk Newman
(952) 955-3319

District 2: Jeff Kosek
(320) 510-1828

District 3: David Resch
Vice President
(952) 449-1793

District 4: Doug Kirtz
President
(320) 583-7673

District 5: Allan Duesterhoeft
(320) 587-9134

District 6: Gary Burdorf
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
(507) 964-5815

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

District 8: Jonathan Burgstahler
(320) 552-0273

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

**McLeod Cooperative Power
is an equal opportunity
employer and provider.**



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.



3515 11th St. East
Glencoe, MN 55336

WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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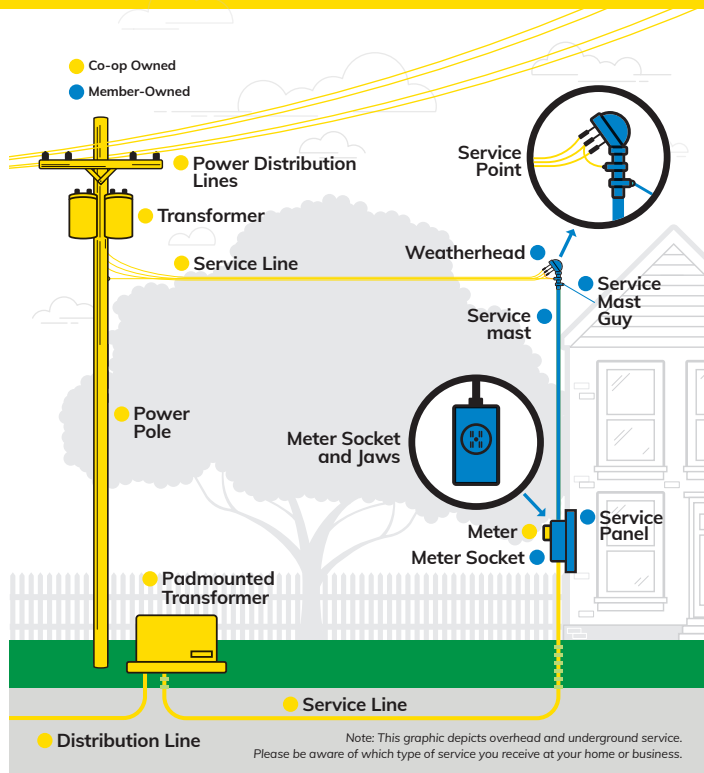
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WHO OWNS WHAT?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment



With so many different pieces of equipment that make up the electrical system, it can be confusing when it comes to who owns what equipment at your residence or business. One thing to remember is that McLeod Co-op Power maintains and services the electrical equipment up to the meter, and the member is responsible for the electrical equipment past the meter and into your building. This graphic is a quick reference for both overhead and underground electric services and which pieces of equipment the co-op is responsible for compared to members' responsibility.

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



THINKING ABOUT BURYING POWER LINES ON YOUR PROPERTY?

If you're considering burying any power lines near or on your property, McLeod Co-op Power is here to help. Reach out to our Operations Department to schedule a consultation and explore available options. Contact us at (320) 864-3148.