



**CHARGE SMART.
STORE SAFELY.
DISPOSE PROPERLY.**

May is Electric Safety Month, a timely reminder to pay attention to the devices and equipment we use every day. Lithium-ion batteries power many common items, including smartphones, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, and lawn equipment. While these batteries are efficient and convenient, improper charging, storage, or disposal can create a serious fire risk.

A few simple precautions can help protect your home and family.

Always use the charger and equipment recommended by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger, or one that is damaged, can cause a battery to overheat. Charge devices on a hard, nonflammable surface, not on beds, couches, or other soft materials that can trap heat. Avoid charging devices unattended or overnight.

Watch for signs of damage. A battery that has been dropped, crushed, punctured, or exposed to water may be damaged internally, even if it looks normal. Swelling,

leaking, unusual heat, strange smells, or odd noises can all signal a problem. If you notice any of these warning signs, stop using the battery immediately and move it to a safe, nonflammable area away from people and structures.

Proper storage also matters. Store lithium-ion batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and heat sources. Avoid storing them in garages, vehicles, or near furnaces where temperatures can fluctuate. Keep spare batteries away from metal objects that could cause the terminals to short-circuit.

When a battery reaches the end of its life, dispose of it properly. Lithium-ion batteries should never be placed in the trash or recycling bin. Instead, take them to an approved battery recycling or household hazardous waste collection site.

With a little extra care, lithium-ion batteries can be used safely and responsibly while helping reduce the risk of fire.

NOMINATIONS BY PETITION NOTICE

Cooperative members residing in Districts 1, 2, and 3 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2026 director election in their district. The nomination by petition process allows another name on the ballot, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee. The petition form can be found online or by contacting our office. The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Co-op Power electric members residing in your district. The last day that a petition can be submitted is May 31, 2026.

LINE INSPECTIONS UNDERWAY

McLeod Co-op has partnered with STAR Energy Services to conduct pole inspections in the area served by the High Island Substation. Work began in late April and will continue in the coming weeks as crews inspect poles and related equipment to help maintain safe, reliable electric service.

This year's inspections include poles located in the townships of Glencoe, Dryden, Arlington, Green Isle, Helen, and New Auburn.

During this time, members may notice vehicles or side-by-side UTVs marked with the STAR Energy Services logo and a "Line Inspection" decal. We appreciate your patience as crews complete this important work for your home, farm, and community.

PENNIES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It's amazing what a few cents can do when neighbors come together to help neighbors.

Through Operation Round Up, members volunteer to have their electric bills rounded up each month, donating just a few cents at a time to support local causes.

In March 2026, McLeod Co-op Power and Operation Round Up contributed \$28,000 to 29 organizations. Since the program began in 2004, nearly \$400,000 has been distributed to local groups and community projects.

Those small monthly contributions add up to make a big impact, helping support worthwhile programs and improving quality of life across the communities we serve.



2B Continued	\$500
Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce	\$500
Buffalo Lake Ambulance	\$1,500
Buffalo Lake Fire Department	\$1,500
Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Middle School	\$500
Common Cup Ministry	\$500
Crow River Youth Choir – Hutchinson Center for the Arts	\$500
Gaylord Fire Department	\$1,500
GFW Dollars for Scholars	\$500
Glencoe Concert Association	\$200
Glencoe Police Department	\$1,500
Green Isle Fire – Rescue	\$1,500
GSL Junior High STEM Trip	\$100
Hector Historical Center	\$500
Hector Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,500
Holy Trinity School	\$500
Lutheran Social Service of MN/LSS Meals McLeod County	\$1,000
Mayer Fire Department	\$1,500
McLeod County Sheriff's Office K9 Program	\$1,000
McLeod Food Shelf	\$1,400
New Germany Fire Department	\$1,500
Prince of Peace Senior Apartments Inc.	\$500
Sibley County FoodShare	\$1,400
Sibley County Public Health & Human Services	\$500
Southwest Carver County Food Shelf	\$1,400
Stewart Fire Department	\$1,500
SWWC Foundation for Innovation of Education	\$500
United Community Action Partnership	\$1,000
Winsted Police Department	\$1,500

Standby Power You Can Count On

When a power outage occurs, a Briggs & Stratton standby generator is built to protect what matters most and give you greater peace of mind. With reliable backup power, you can help keep your home safe, comfortable, and running smoothly when the electricity goes out.

Protect your home and family from the expense, stress, and inconvenience that unexpected outages can bring.

Call (800) 494-6272 or (320) 864-3148 for more information.



CEO MESSAGE

This past month, the people of McLeod Co-op Power joined three neighboring cooperatives for safety training focused on preparing for acts of violence and other emergencies that, unfortunately, have become far too common. The discussion was led by two owners of Blue Ethos, both from law enforcement backgrounds. They shared real-life examples, lessons from active-shooter incidents, and practical guidance on the importance of staying mentally prepared for situations we all hope never happen.

As difficult as that topic is, the broader message was not about fear. It was about preparation, awareness, and looking out for one another.

That message fits closely with the safety culture we work to build every day at McLeod Co-op Power. Safety is a cornerstone of what we do. Our lineworkers follow rules and procedures designed to protect them on the job, but those rules only work when they are followed consistently. Just as important, our employees take care of one another. When someone is struggling, whether physically or mentally, we encourage people to check in, speak up, and offer support.

That same mindset applies beyond the workplace. We may never face a violent incident or major emergency, but taking time to think ahead can help us respond more calmly and effectively if something unexpected happens.

When I talk with our lineworkers about what concerns them most on the job site, the answer is often traffic. Not high-voltage lines, heavy equipment, or even the work itself. It is the drivers passing by work zones while distracted, in a hurry, or simply not paying attention. That is why slowing down and moving over for utility crews matters so much. Most of our members do exactly that, and I sincerely thank you. That simple act of awareness helps protect the people working to keep your lights on.

In the coming weeks, McLeod Co-op Power employees will be sitting down in small groups to reflect on the training we received and discuss what we learned. We will talk about what we



CEO RON MEIER

can do better, how we respond to risk, and how we continue strengthening our safety culture. That follow-up matters because preparation is not something you do once and forget.

I would encourage our members to take that same approach in their own lives. As you sit in church, at a movie theatre, in a restaurant, or even at home, take a moment to ask yourself a few simple questions. Where are the exits? What would I do if there were a fire? Where would I go if a tornado warning was issued? How would I respond if someone became aggressive in a public place? What if a family member suddenly had a heart attack or another medical emergency?

These are not easy things to think about, but taking a few moments to consider them is not about living in fear. It is about building awareness and being more prepared. A simple mental plan and greater awareness of your surroundings can make a meaningful difference.

Looking out for one another is not just something we do on the job. It is something all of us can practice every day, at work, at home, and in our communities.

Cooperatively

RIP L.



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FACEBOOK**

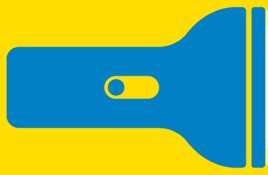
www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop

APRIL 2026 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on April 21, 2026, at MCPA's headquarters in Glencoe. Nine of the board members, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The outage report for March was reviewed with a total of 35 outages, affecting 1,062 consumers.
- Other operations updates included that a candidate was chosen for the open Staking Technician position with a projected start date of May 4, and Tree Story is scheduled to start tree trimming in May.
- A motion carried approving the proposal from Power Systems Engineering for a Loss of Revenue analysis.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reported that the audit is complete, and the audit financials will be presented at the May board meeting.
- A motion carried approving the Audit Engagement with CLA.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2026-04-05 Retired Capital Credit – Gain Account.
- Manager of Finance Steph Jakel reviewed the March financials.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2026-04-03 Approval of Apex Clean Energy – Amended Terms for Big Bend Wind Energy Purchase.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2026-04-04 Approval of Invenergy – Terms for South Deuel Wind Energy Purchase.



PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES

Power outages can happen any time.

Storms, accidents, and other unexpected events can damage power lines and leave homes without electricity. Preparing ahead of time can help keep your family safer and more comfortable when the lights go out.

HAVE AN EMERGENCY KIT AT HOME THAT INCLUDES:



Flashlights or battery-powered lanterns.



Portable chargers, phone banks, and extra batteries.



Blankets and warm clothing.



A first-aid kit.



Non-perishable food items and water for up to three days.

KNOW HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME IN THE COLD.



Keep your faucets dripping during outages to keep pipes from freezing.



Make sure windows and curtains are closed to avoid warm air escaping.



Test fireplaces or wood stoves early to make sure they are working properly.

IF A DOWNED POWER POLE OR LINE IS NEAR YOUR HOME, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:



Stay far away, and be sure others stay away as well (including pets).



Call McLeod Co-op to report the damage at (800) 494-6272 or (320) 864-314.

Community Awareness Helps Keep the Lights On

Substations, power lines, transformers, and other electric equipment play an essential role in powering our homes, farms, businesses, and communities. Because this infrastructure is so important, it also needs to be protected.

McLeod Co-op asks members to stay alert and report anything unusual around electric facilities. A quick call can help prevent damage, reduce safety risks, and protect the reliability of the electric system we all depend on.

WHY IT MATTERS

Damage, vandalism, or tampering involving electric infrastructure can lead to:

- Power outages
- Safety hazards
- Costly repairs
- Service disruptions

Protecting the grid is not only the job of utility crews. It is something we can all support by staying alert and speaking up when something does not seem right.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Be aware of:

- People or vehicles lingering near equipment without a clear reason
- Cut fences, open gates, or damaged panels
- Unauthorized drones near electric facilities
- Tools, packages, or other objects left near infrastructure
- Unusual sounds such as alarms, buzzing, or clicking

WHAT TO DO

If you notice something suspicious:

- Call local law enforcement
- Notify McLeod Co-op at (800) 494-6272 or (320) 864-314
- Keep a safe distance
- Do not confront anyone or investigate on your own

A SIMPLE REMINDER

Whether you are driving by, working outside, or walking nearby, staying aware of your surroundings can make a real difference.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Working together helps keep our electric system safe, secure, and reliable. If you see something that does not look right, say something.



MEMBER PARTICIPATION POWERS A STRONGER GRID

More than 370,000 appliances owned by cooperative members like you are playing a role in managing the reliability of the regional electric grid and saving the entire membership money at the same time.

McLeod Co-op Power and the other 25 member-owner cooperatives that receive wholesale electric power from Great River Energy offer voluntary programs that empower members to use the grid efficiently and economically by reducing demand during periods of stress and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

By choosing to enroll an electric appliance, such as a water heater or air conditioner, into one of your cooperative's "demand response" programs, you are helping keep electricity reliable and affordable.

McLeod Co-op provides two ways for its members to make contributions toward helping manage the grid while receiving rebates or other incentives for their participation, such as interruptible programs and off-peak programs.

Using the example of an electric water heater, a member who enrolls this home appliance into an interruptible program gives permission for their cooperative to pause service to the water heater to eliminate all or part of its load from the system for up to eight hours when wholesale energy market prices are high.

"Through the flip of a switch, this strategy helps reduce our monthly billing peak," said Dan Erhke, McLeod Co-op's Member Services Manager. "Water heaters enrolled in this program do have sufficient storage capacity to supply hot water over the peak period while service is paused so members aren't left in the cold."

By enrolling appliances like water heaters and air conditioners in McLeod Co-op Power's demand response programs, members help reduce strain on the electric grid, lower wholesale power costs, and support reliable, affordable service for everyone.

Participants are often alerted in advance of a control event by McLeod Co-op and have regular access to a website that shares the schedule up to a day in advance. This strategy is employed mostly to avoid high wholesale energy prices and to reduce the monthly billing peak of Great River Energy's member-owner cooperatives.

Members who are interested in the off-peak program would receive a rebate for a high-efficiency water heater that is "charged" overnight with sufficient storage capacity via less expensive electricity to supply your home's hot water needs. Program participants can expect their water heaters to recharge for eight hours, typically between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the winter season and 10 p.m. to 9 a.m. in summer. This strategy only applies to weekdays, excluding weekends and holidays unless billing peak control is needed.

"Participation in this program helps provide significant economic relief to the overall membership by shifting heating load to the overnight hours, resulting in more favorable rates," said Erhke. "This also helps us defer wholesale energy purchases to off-peak hours that would otherwise cost more to purchase during on-peak hours."

Contact McLeod Co-op for more information on our demand responses programs and how you can get enrolled.

The Value of an **AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP**



Heating and cooling account for a large share of the energy used in most homes. That means the system you choose can have a big impact on both comfort and cost.

WHAT IS AN AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP?

An air-source heat pump, or ASHP, is a heating and cooling system in one.

- In summer, it works like an air conditioner by moving heat out of your home.
- In winter, it pulls heat from the outdoor air and transfers it inside.
- When temperatures drop very low, or during off-peak control periods, a backup heat source helps maintain comfort.

Today's air-source heat pumps are built to perform much better in colder climates, making them a practical option for many Minnesota homes.

WHY IS IT SO EFFICIENT?

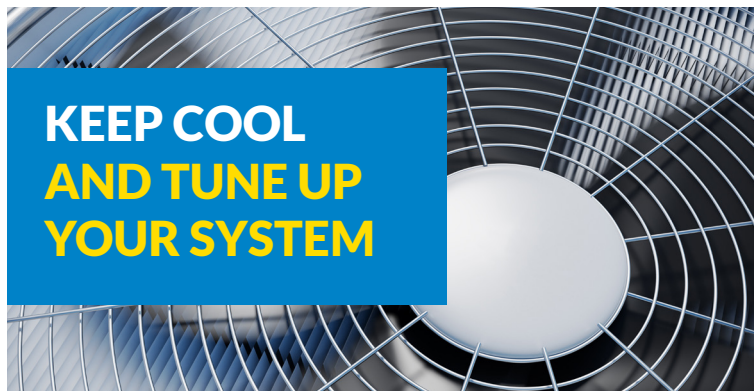
Unlike a furnace or baseboard heat, a heat pump does not create heat. It moves heat from one place to another. Because of that, it can heat your home using less energy than many traditional systems.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **LOWER ENERGY USE**
Because heat pumps operate so efficiently, they can help reduce the amount of energy your home uses for heating and cooling.
- **POTENTIAL COST SAVINGS**
Members who connect a qualifying system to an off-peak program may benefit from a reduced energy rate. Rebates may also be available to help offset installation costs.
- **LESS FUEL PRICE UNCERTAINTY**
A heat pump can reduce your reliance on propane or natural gas, helping protect against fuel price spikes and supply concerns.
- **COMFORT IN EVERY SEASON**
With both heating and cooling in one system, an air-source heat pump provides reliable, consistent comfort throughout the year.

THE BOTTOM LINE

An air-source heat pump can help you use less energy, manage costs, and enjoy efficient comfort in every season.



**KEEP COOL
AND TUNE UP
YOUR SYSTEM**

BENEFITS OF A TUNE UP



**INCREASE
EFFICIENCY**



**SAVE
MONEY**



**EXTEND LIFE
OF A/C UNIT**



**LOWER
HUMIDITY**

McLeod Cooperative Power members may receive a \$25 rebate for a central air conditioner tune-up or a \$50 rebate for an air-source heat pump tune-up completed by a licensed HVAC contractor.

Small issues like clogged coils, low refrigerant levels, plugged drain lines, and other routine maintenance concerns can significantly reduce your air conditioner's efficiency and lead to higher energy bills. Keeping your system properly tuned can help lower utility costs by 5 to 25 percent, extend the life of your equipment, improve reliability, reduce the need for repairs, and increase cooling performance. Just as importantly, it can give your family greater peace of mind throughout the cooling season.

Learn more at www.mcleodcoop.com/products/rebates/

DON'T STACK YOUR ENERGY USE.

During On Peak Times (Mon.-Fri. 5-9 PM)



LOWER YOUR PEAK, SAVE MORE

There are a few simple ways to reduce demand and save money on your electric bill.

Start by spreading out high-use activities like laundry, cooking, and running the dishwasher, especially during on-peak hours from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Using several major appliances at once can quickly raise your peak demand. Members with EVs can also save by charging during off-peak times.

Another option is enrolling in McLeod Co-op's Energy Management programs. Programs like Off-Peak Water Heating, Dual Fuel Heating, Off-Peak EV charging, and Storage Heating help shift energy use away from peak hours and may qualify you for lower rates and rebates.

Smart thermostats, timers, and delay features can also help you manage energy use with little disruption to your routine.

Small changes can make a real difference. If you have questions or want help finding the best option for your home, call McLeod Co-op at 320-864-3148.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

As temperatures rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool, but do not overlook small gaps around windows and doors. Air sealing is not just for winter. In summer, tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping let cool air escape and hot, humid air seep inside. That makes your air conditioner work harder and can raise energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping, and seal leaks. A tighter home helps improve comfort and manage energy use.

OFFICE PHONE

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE

(800) 927-5685

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



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A BIG DAY OF BASEBALL FUN

Summer is here, and McLeod Co-op Power is excited to partner with the Arlington Baseball Association to bring a FREE Twins Youth Baseball Clinic to the community. It is a great opportunity for kids ages 6–12 to learn baseball fundamentals, build skills, and have fun on the field.

McLeod Co-op Power is excited to once again partner with Great River Energy and the Minnesota Twins Community Fund to bring a free Youth Baseball Clinic to Arlington.

The clinic will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Arlington Baseball Park, 410 2nd Ave. NE in Arlington. It is free to attend and open to all kids ages 6–12.

This fun, skills-based clinic gives young players a chance to learn the fundamentals of baseball in an encouraging, high-energy setting. Participants will work on key skills like hitting, fielding, and base running while enjoying a memorable day at the ballpark.

McLeod Co-op is proud to host this event alongside the Arlington Baseball Association and help bring this opportunity to local families.

Advance registration is required. To register for free, visit twins.com/clinics.

WHO:

Children Ages 6-12

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

June 20, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

INFORMATION:

www.playballmn.com

Twins
COMMUNITY FUND

REGISTER TODAY!

