

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JULY 2026



YOUR MONTHLY PEAK DEMAND IS NOW EASIER TO TRACK

McLeod Co-op Power members will notice a helpful new detail on their monthly electric bill. Your bill now includes your monthly peak demand, along with the date and time that peak occurred.

This update is part of McLeod Co-op's continued effort to help members better understand how and when they use electricity in relation to Time-of-Day Demand billing, also known as TODD.

Demand is different from total energy use. Energy use measures how much electricity you use over time and is billed in kilowatt-hours. Demand measures the highest amount of electricity you use at one time during the billing period. For example, running the oven, clothes dryer, dishwasher and air conditioner all at once creates a higher demand peak than using those same appliances at different times of the day, or one after the other.

That peak matters because McLeod Co-op must plan and maintain the electric system to meet the highest levels of demand, even if those peaks only happen for a short period of time. When many members create high peaks at the same time, it places greater strain on the system and contributes to higher

costs for the cooperative from our power supplier Great River Energy.

By printing your monthly peak demand on your bill, McLeod Co-op is giving members a way to see when their highest use occurred. This can help you identify patterns and make small changes, such as shifting laundry, dishwashing or EV charging to off-peak times.

Members can also take a closer look through SmartHub, where daily demand information is now available. SmartHub allows you to see how your energy habits change from day to day, giving you more insight and control.

The goal is not to make energy use complicated. It is to give members better tools to understand their usage and make informed choices. Even small adjustments, like spreading out major appliance use or avoiding heavy electric use between 5 and 9 p.m. on weekdays, can help lower demand.

Watch your bill and SmartHub account to learn more about your monthly peak and how everyday habits can make a difference.

YOU ARE
INVITED!

McLeod Co-op Power members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, at Crow River Winery in Hutchinson. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., with the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and lunch to follow.

Please RSVP by calling (320) 864-3148 or emailing mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com.

ANNUAL REPORT

Review the Annual Report before the meeting for key cooperative updates.

DIRECTOR ELECTION

Members in Districts 1, 2, and 3 are encouraged to participate in this year's director election. Your involvement supports the cooperative principle of democratic member control.

MORE DETAILS

Learn more at www.mcleodcoop.com/about/co-op-info.

LEARN ABOUT WHOLE
HOME GENERATORS

02

SUMMER VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT WORK

04



IS A STANDBY GENERATOR RIGHT FOR YOU?



Power outages are never convenient, but for some homes, farms and businesses, even a short outage can create bigger challenges. That is why McLeod Co-op Power offers turn-key sales and installation of fully automatic standby generator systems designed to help keep essential systems running when the power goes out.

Unlike portable generators, standby generators are permanently installed outside your home, farm or business and connected to your electrical system. When an outage occurs, the generator will start automatically and provide backup power to key equipment and appliances.

You have a sump pump.

If your sump pump stops during a storm, water can quickly become a bigger problem than the outage itself. Backup power can help keep water out of your basement when heavy rain and outages occur at the same time.

You rely on a private well.

For rural homes, no power can also mean no running water. A standby generator can keep water available for drinking, cooking, showers, livestock and other daily needs.

You have freezers or extra refrigerators.

A longer outage can put stored food, meat, garden produce or farm products at risk. Backup power can help protect what you have worked hard to preserve.

You work from home or run a home-based business.

A generator can keep your internet equipment, computer, phones and other essentials operating, reducing downtime and helping you stay connected.

You have medical or mobility needs at home.

Backup power can support important equipment such as oxygen machines, CPAP machines, mobility equipment or refrigerated medications.

You travel often or spend time away from home.

Because standby generators start automatically, they protect your home even when you are not there, including heating systems, sump pumps, freezers and security equipment.

Plan Before the Next Outage

A whole-home standby generator is an investment, but for many members, it is also a way to protect comfort, safety and daily routines. The best time to think about backup power is before the next outage happens.

McLeod Co-op Power sells and installs Briggs & Stratton automatic generator systems ranging from 12-200 kW, with options for residential, farm and business needs. McLeod also offers an optional annual maintenance program to help ensure years of dependable operation.

To learn more about automatic standby generators, turn-key installation or annual maintenance options, contact McLeod Co-op Power at 1-800-494-6272 for details and a price quote.

Get a FREE environmental sensor

with any new monitored security system. Choose from temperature, CO, water, and fire sensors for added peace of mind.

Environmental sensor is free with a new 3-year agreement. Valid through 9/30/2026.

Security | Automation | Cameras | Medical Alerts

Know what's happening at home.

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CEO MESSAGE

The People Behind Your Cooperative

The rock band Rush's song "Time Stand Still" reflects on how quickly life moves and how easy it is to miss the people and moments around us. That thought feels especially appropriate at McLeod Cooperative Power Association today.

Over the past several months, we have seen treasured, long-term employees retire and others begin new chapters elsewhere. Each time that happens, it creates opportunities for others within our cooperative family. Through all those changes, one thing remains constant: the passion our employees bring to serving our members.

I suspect many of you know Shannon from his years at McLeod Co-op Power. When I arrived, I first got to know him as our "generator guy." Today, following his recent promotion, he is our Manager of Member Relations.

Shannon has a passion for energy, a gift for connecting with people, and an ability to share that passion with others. I know he will continue to meet our members' expectations as he helps set the direction for our member relations efforts.

Another story I would like to share is about Max, who is from the Brownston area. Max contacted us about completing a lineman internship as part of his education at lineman school. Knowing the importance of helping the next generation find its path, we said yes.

It did not take long for everyone to recognize the strong work ethic Max brought with him. He did not shy away from taking initiative or finding ways to support our linemen. Because he was just beginning his training, he could not work directly on energized lines, but he was always there doing what he could. He got equipment ready, asked questions, and looked for opportunities to learn.

The timing turned out to be right for both Max and McLeod Co-op.



CEO RON MEIER

We were in the middle of reviewing our succession plan, which tracks each position and when the employee holding it may become eligible for retirement. We had begun considering whether to include an apprentice lineman in next year's budget, knowing it takes approximately four years to complete an apprenticeship and become a journeyman lineman.

I suspect many of you already know where this story is going. We anticipate that one of our valued linemen may retire within the next few years. After seeing how Max showed up each day, we knew we should not wait until next year and risk losing him to another cooperative. We decided to move forward and offered him a position, which he accepted. Max has now begun his journey toward becoming a lineman at MCPA. That journey started with one simple phone call.

Shannon's promotion and Max's hiring are just two of the changes happening at MCPA that make me excited about our future. As time goes on, more of our employees will have the opportunity to retire or pursue other passions. Their departures will create opportunities for others to grow, take on new responsibilities, or join the MCPA family.

With all the changes here at the cooperative, I find myself returning to the message of "Time Stand Still." We cannot stop time or avoid change, but we can pause long enough to appreciate the people around us, recognize their contributions, and celebrate the moments we are experiencing today.

Cooperatively

JUNE 2026 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on June 23, 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:

- Assistant Operations Manager Hanson reported the line crew is replacing rejected poles associated with the Hector Substation.
- The outage report for May was reviewed with a total of 56 outages, affecting 221 consumers
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the May financials
- A motion carried approving Policy 1-3 Code of Ethics
- A motion carried approving Policy 1-5 Conservation of Energy
- A motion carried to approve Policy 2-6 Procurement
- A motion carried to approve Resolution 2026-06-01 Adoption of Rate #22 – Large Industrial Service with Behind-the-Meter Generation and Firm Standby Service
- Motion carried to approve Director Susan Anderson to attend NRECA's District 5 & 6 meeting in September.
- Member Services Manager Jerabek provided an update on the Annual Meeting being held on July 14.



CLEARING THE WAY FOR RELIABILITY

McLeod Co-op Power continues to take a proactive approach to vegetation management by clearing trees, brush and overgrowth from power line rights-of-way. This work helps maintain a safe, reliable electric system and reduces the risk of outages caused by trees contacting power lines.

Each year, McLeod Co-op Power identifies priority areas based on system needs, growth patterns, maintenance history and potential reliability concerns. Our vegetation management contractor, TreeStory, will continue this important work throughout 2026.

2026 PRIORITY AREAS

TreeStory crews are scheduled to work in the following areas:

- Collins Township
- Preston Lake Township
- Boone Township

Work is weather-dependent and may shift as crews move through the schedule. Some areas may take longer than expected depending on tree density, access, terrain and other field conditions.

WHY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Trees are one of the leading causes of power outages, especially during storms, high winds, heavy snow and ice. Keeping power line rights-of-way clear helps:

- Improve electric reliability
- Reduce outage risks
- Support faster restoration after storms
- Protect lineworkers, members and the public
- Maintain safe access to equipment and power lines

While tree trimming and clearing can sometimes be noticeable, this work is an important part of maintaining the electric system that serves our members every day.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Keep access clear.

Please avoid placing buildings, fences, equipment or other obstructions near power lines or utility equipment. Clear access helps crews safely complete maintenance and respond more quickly when outages occur.

Report problem trees.

If you notice a dead, damaged or leaning tree near a power line, please contact McLeod Co-op Power. We will assess the situation and determine whether it falls within our responsibility or whether the member should contact an independent tree service.

Never trim near power lines yourself.

Tree work near power lines is dangerous and should only be handled by trained professionals. Always contact McLeod Co-op Power if you have concerns about trees near electric lines.

Plant wisely.

If you are planting trees, please keep future growth in mind. Large, tall-growing trees should be planted at least 50 feet away from power lines to help prevent future conflicts. Smaller, low-growing trees and shrubs are better choices near utility rights-of-way.

Stay informed.

Follow McLeod Co-op Power on Facebook at McLeod Cooperative Power Association for updates on vegetation management, outage information and other important notices. Members may also call us at 320-864-3148 with questions.

KEEPING OUR SYSTEM STRONG TOGETHER

Vegetation management is a shared effort that helps protect reliability, safety and long-term system performance. Thank you for your continued support as we work to keep rights-of-way clear, power lines safe and service dependable for the members and communities we serve.

Know what and where you're planting. When making landscaping decisions, it's important to consider the type of care, appearance, location, and overall size (mature height) of trees and shrubs before planting – especially when planting near power lines. Follow these safe planting distances to help us avoid future problems and power outages and don't forget to call 811 before you dig to locate buried utility lines.

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. Only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

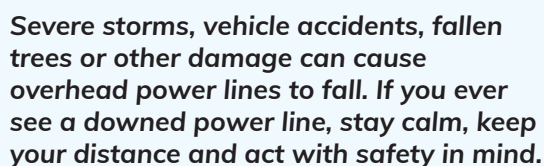
Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

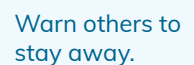
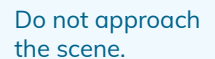
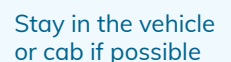
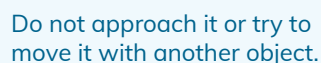
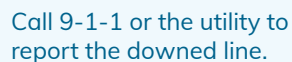
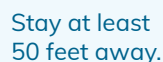
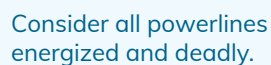
The diagram shows a cross-section of a landscape with various elements and their distances from a central vertical line (0 ft.).

- Transformer and Shrub Area (Left):**
 - A transformer is located at 0 ft.
 - Shrubs are placed at 4 ft. from the transformer and 10 ft. from the sides.
 - A label indicates: "Keep shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. away from the sides."
- Power Line Area (Center):**
 - A power line pole is located at 0 ft.
 - A label indicates: "Maximum tree height 15 ft."
 - A label indicates: "40 ft. high or less"
 - A label indicates: "away from power lines."
- House and Tree Area (Right):**
 - A house is located at 40 ft.
 - A large tree is located at 60 ft.
 - A label indicates: "Over 40 ft."

The horizontal axis is marked with distances from 0 ft. to 70 ft. in increments of 10 ft.



If you see a downed power line:



The safest choice is always to stay back, report the hazard and let trained utility crews handle the situation.

PLAYBALL! BRINGS KIDS TO THE FIELD



Seventy-seven young athletes took the field at Arlington Baseball Park on June 20 for the Twins 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 a fun, hands-on opportunity to learn and practice baseball fundamentals, including batting, fielding and throwing. Players of all skill levels were welcomed, and volunteer coaches helped create an encouraging environment focused on learning, teamwork and confidence.

McLeod Co-op Power is proud to support events like this that bring families together, strengthen community connections and encourage the next generation to stay active, build skills, and have fun.



CONNECT WITH MINNESOTA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AT FARMFEST 2026!

Join McLeod Co-op Power and Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives at Farmfest, August 4-6 in rural Redwood County.

Farmfest brings together thousands of farmers, ag professionals, rural leaders and community members for three days of exhibits, demonstrations, policy discussions and connection.

Stop by the Minnesota electric cooperative booths to explore tools and technology that make outdoor work easier and learn more about electrical safety through an interactive exhibit and live safety demonstration. These demonstrations highlight the importance of staying alert around power lines, especially when moving large equipment around the farm.

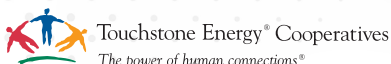
Minnesota's electric cooperatives are proud to serve farm families and rural communities in every county across the state.

**VISIT US
FOR A
CHANCE
TO WIN!**



FARMFEST 2026

AUGUST 4-6
28366 COUNTY HWY 13
MORGAN, MN (GILFILLAN)



MEMEBER INFO:

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____



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 an attempt to prevent these risks, we stress the importance of never cutting the seal, tampering with, or removing a meter for any reason without 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: 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 \$410 during business hours, \$615 on evenings or Saturdays, and \$820 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.

OFFICE PHONE

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE

(800) 927-5685

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www.mcleodcoop.com

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mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com

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McLeod Cooperative Power is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Running several major appliances at once, such as the dishwasher, laundry machines and oven, can spike energy demand and strain the grid, especially during peak hours in the late afternoon and early evening. Instead, spread appliance use throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak times when demand is lower. Simple changes, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can help improve efficiency, support reliability and reduce energy costs.



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WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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KEEP YOUR COOL THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures climb, your air conditioner often works overtime. The good news? A comfortable home does not have to come with a higher energy bill. A few simple habits can help your cooling system run more efficiently while keeping your home feeling good all season long.



START WITH THE THERMOSTAT.

Set it to 72 degrees when you are home and raise it a few degrees when you are away. A programmable or smart thermostat can make those changes automatically.



SHIFT CHORES TO COOLER HOURS.

Run appliances in the morning or evening, and avoid heating up the kitchen by grilling, using a slow cooker or choosing no-cook meals.



USE FANS WISELY.

Ceiling fans can help rooms feel cooler without lowering the thermostat. In summer, set them to rotate counterclockwise and turn them off when you leave.



TRY A NIGHTTIME RESET.

When evenings are cooler and humidity is low, open windows briefly to bring in fresh air. Close them again in the morning before temperatures rise.



BLOCK THE SUN.

Close blinds, shades or curtains during the hottest part of the day, especially on south- and west-facing windows. Thermal or blackout curtains can add extra protection.



SEAL AIR LEAKS.

Check doors and windows for gaps. Weather stripping, caulk and door sweeps can help keep cool air inside.



KEEP HEAT OUTSIDE.

Trim landscaping around your outdoor AC unit for better airflow, and use shade trees, awnings or exterior shades to block direct sunlight.



THINK LONG TERM.

Planting shade trees, adding insulation, installing a smart thermostat or choosing ENERGY STAR® appliances can improve comfort and efficiency year-round.

Small changes can make a noticeable difference, helping you stay cool while keeping energy use in check.