

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026



SMALL CHANGES, LASTING SAVINGS

For more than 20 years, McLeod Co-op Power member Ann Riewer has been making thoughtful choices about how and when she uses electricity. What started as a way to save money has become a practical approach that works well for her home while helping the cooperative manage demand.

When Ann moved her home from the edge of Hutchinson to the country in 2004, she compared her heating options and enrolled her electric thermal storage heating system, air source heat pump and water heater in MCPA's load management programs. More recently, she added off-peak electric vehicle charging.

"Basically, the load management and the cost savings is what made me think to do that," Ann said.

After all those years, the programs have simply become part of everyday life.

Her storage heating system heats up ceramic bricks during off-peak hours, storing electricity as heat for use throughout the following day. Ann says it has been comfortable and dependable through more than two decades of Minnesota winters.

"I really haven't had to make any adjustments," she said. "It's been very dependable."

The same is true for her storage water heater. Ann chose a larger tank so heated water could be stored for use throughout the day. Even when five people lived in the home, she remembers running out of hot water only once.

Ann also participates in McLeod Co-op's cycled cooling program with her air source heat pump. During periods of high demand, the cooperative can briefly cycle participating equipment to reduce the load on the electric system.

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FIND THE PROGRAM THAT FITS

McLeod Co-op Power offers several energy management options designed to help members save while reducing demand during peak times. Programs include:

DUAL FUEL HEATING:

Use electric heat at a reduced rate with an automatic backup heating source, including heat pumps.

STORAGE HEATING:

Store heat during off-peak hours for use throughout the day.

STORAGE & PEAK SHAVE WATER HEATING:

Shift water heating away from high-demand periods.

CYCLED AIR CONDITIONING:

Allow brief cycling during peak summer demand, including heat pumps.

OFF-PEAK EV CHARGING:

Charge your electric vehicle overnight at a reduced rate.

Rebates and incentives may also be available for qualifying equipment. Contact McLeod Co-op Power to learn which programs could work for your home.

COLD WEATHER
RULE NOTICE

04

STAY SAFE THIS
HARVEST SEASON

06



SAVINGS CONTINUED...

During a recent high-demand summer event, she only knew something unusual was happening because McLeod Co-op asked members to conserve energy. She adjusted her thermostat a couple degrees and used fans to stay comfortable.

That idea of shifting electricity use is at the heart of load management. Electricity can cost the cooperative more when demand across the grid is highest. By moving energy use to lower-demand hours, such as heating water overnight, storing heat for later or charging an EV after the evening peak, members can help McLeod Co-op reduce wholesale power costs.

When many members make those small shifts, the savings add up and can help keep electric rates more affordable for everyone.

Ann carries that mindset into other parts of her routine, too. She uses timers to run her washing machine and dishwasher early in the morning and has encouraged her son to avoid laundry during busy evening hours.

“I’m doing it to save some money, but I also realize it’s taking the stress off the grid,” she said.

In 2023, Ann added off-peak EV charging after purchasing a Tesla Model 3. She spent nearly a year researching electric vehicles and comparing charging costs with gasoline.

Today, she drives about 20,000 miles a year and estimates she saves approximately \$2,500 annually in fuel costs after

accounting for the electricity used to charge at home. Ann says “the biggest convenience is the home charging. If you live out in the country, the off-peak is where you really save.”

For members curious about load management, Ann’s advice is simple: ask questions.

“Contact McLeod Co-op,” she said. “Or talk to somebody who has load management about their experience.”

After more than two decades, Ann says that many of the “what ifs” people worry about never really become an issue. Her experience shows that load management can be comfortable, convenient and cost-effective while helping the electric system work better for everyone.

Want to Learn More?

Energy management or off-peak programs can help you save money while helping McLeod Co-op Power reduce demand during peak periods and manage wholesale power costs for all members.

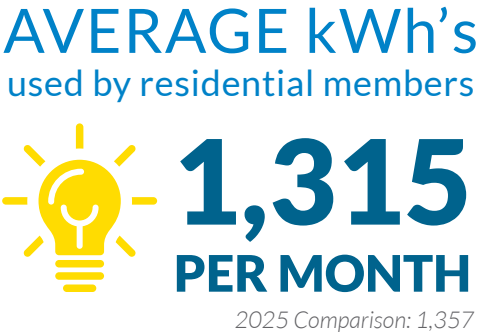
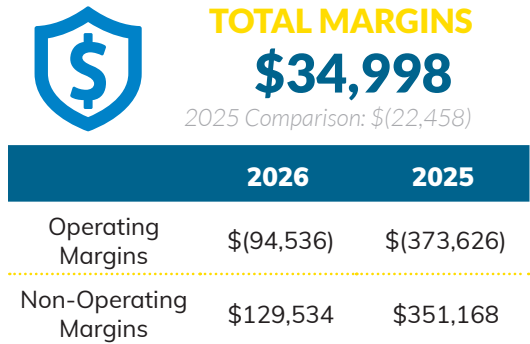
Explore available programs and rebates at www.mcleodcoop.com, or contact the cooperative to find out which options may be a good fit for your home.

BY THE NUMBERS | Q2 2026

McLeod Co-op Power’s leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the Co-op’s operations, and ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our Second Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



	2026	2025
Cost of Purchased Power	\$6,921,962	\$7,453,939
Other Operating Expenses	\$4,985,854	\$4,746,423
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$11,907,816	\$12,200,361



CEO MESSAGE

September always feels like a month of transition.

School buses are back on the roads. Families are settling into new routines. The days are getting shorter, and across our service territory, farmers are preparing for harvest. Soon, combines will be moving through fields, temperatures will fall, and our thoughts will turn toward winter.

The seasons change, and so does the work we do at McLeod Co-op Power Association.

When people think about an electric cooperative, they probably picture poles, wires, substations, and bucket trucks. Those are important parts of what we do, but only part of the story. Behind that equipment are the people who keep your cooperative working every day.

Our line crews are often the most visible members of our team, easily recognized by their hi-vis vests and McLeod Co-op yellow trucks. Whether they are building new services, maintaining the system or restoring power after storms, please give them plenty of room to work safely. Behind the scenes, many other employees are also working to keep electricity flowing safely and reliably.

Our operations and engineering teams plan system improvements, design new services, and prepare for changing needs. Member services answers questions, explains programs and rates, and helps members make changes at their homes, farms, and businesses.

Billing and finance process thousands of meter readings, payments, and transactions each month. Other employees support communications, energy efficiency, technology, safety, regulatory requirements, and the many details it takes to operate a cooperative.



CEO RON MEIER

Most members will never see all that work, and in many ways, that is a good thing. When electricity is reliable, bills are accurate, and questions are answered quickly, the work behind those things often goes unnoticed.

But it takes a team.

That is especially true as our workforce changes. We are welcoming new employees while experienced employees share years of knowledge about our system and members. Training, mentoring, and cross-training help ensure that knowledge is passed from one generation to the next and that we continue providing the service members expect.

It is also part of what makes a cooperative different.

The people working here live in the same communities you do. We shop in the same stores, drive the same roads, attend the same schools and community events, and experience many of the same challenges.

As harvest begins, schools get underway, and another Minnesota winter approaches, the work at your cooperative will continue to change with the season.

Our responsibilities may be different, but we share the same purpose: serving our members and the communities we call home.

Cooperatively

AUGUST 2026 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on August 25th, 2026 at McLeod Co-op's headquarters in Glencoe. Nine of the board members, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Brendan Buros of Star Engineering presented MCPA's Long Range Plan.
- Operations Specialist Debbie Ebert reviewed the July outage report, which included 52 outages affecting 189 consumers.
- Assistant Operations Manager Curt Hanson reported that MP Nexlevel is scheduled to begin the next 3.5 miles of single-phase line work in Camden Township, pending DNR waterway crossing permits.
- Member Services Manager Shannon Jerabek reported that load control and high temperatures contributed to increased bills and additional Time-of-Day Demand conversations.
- MCPA also presented a local member with a \$500 Jay A. York Scholarship through Nobles Electric.
- Manager of Finance Steph Jakel reviewed July financials and the Financial Forecast.
- CEO Ron Meier reported that staff continue to address member concerns regarding Time-of-Day Demand and the need for additional communication.
- Nobles Electric CEO Adam Trombley presented on data centers.

WINTER BILLING HELP AND MEMBER PROTECTIONS

As colder weather approaches, McLeod Co-op Power wants members to know about programs and protections that may help if paying an electric bill becomes difficult. The Cold Weather Rule, military disconnection protections and local energy assistance resources are available to eligible households. If you are concerned about your bill, contact the cooperative early so we can help you understand your options.

COLD WEATHER RULE

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule (Minn. Stat. 216B.0975) protects residential utility customers during the cold winter months. Under this rule, McLeod Co-op Power will not disconnect your electricity from October 1 through April 30 if you meet the Cold Weather Rule requirements.

In order to qualify for winter shut-off protection, you must meet all of the following conditions:

- Your total household income, not individual, is less than 50% of the state median income.
- You contact the Co-op to set up a payment arrangement, and are reasonably current with scheduled payments.

It's important to understand that the Cold Weather Rule still allows electricity to be shut off for non-payment. You will only be protected if electricity provides your primary source of heat and you meet the conditions above.

Before disconnecting service to a residential member during the cold weather months, McLeod Co-op will provide a disconnect notice, statement of member rights and responsibilities, a list of local energy assistance providers, and available payment plans or options to the affected member. Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

At McLeod Cooperative Power our members are important. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service. If you are worried about paying your electric bill this winter, reach out to us at (800) 494-6272 before the due date of your bill.

MILITARY DISCONNECTION PROTECTION POLICY

Minnesota law provides certain protections from electric service disconnection when a member of a household has been ordered to active military duty, including deployment or a permanent change in duty station. Eligibility and payment requirements apply under Minn. Stat. 325E.028.

To receive protection, members must:

- Notify McLeod Co-op Power and provide required verification.
- Enter into and maintain an eligible payment arrangement with the cooperative.

Failure to meet or maintain these requirements may result in loss of protection and possible disconnection. For more information or to request protection, contact McLeod Co-op Power at 320-864-3148.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

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



3 WAYS TO SAVE THIS FALL

As temperatures begin to cool, a few small adjustments can help your home stay comfortable while keeping energy use in check.



KEEP

Keep taking advantage of mild fall weather.

- Open windows when outdoor temperatures are comfortable.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate air instead of relying on your HVAC system.
- Let natural sunlight warm your home during cooler parts of the day.



CHANGE

Change a few everyday habits as the season shifts.

- Adjust thermostat settings as heating needs increase.
- Reverse ceiling fans to clockwise at a low speed once heating season begins.
- Close curtains or blinds at night to help keep warmth inside.



CHECK

Check your home and heating system before colder weather arrives.

- Replace or clean your HVAC filter.
- Schedule annual heating-system maintenance.
- Check doors and windows for drafts or worn weatherstripping.
- Make sure vents and registers are clear of furniture, rugs and other obstructions.

A little fall prep now can help your home stay comfortable and efficient all season long.

MCLEOD CO-OP WELCOMES BRYON STILLEY



McLeod Co-op Power is pleased to welcome Bryon Stilley, Manager of Operations and Engineering to the team.

Bryon brings more than 30 years of experience in the electric utility industry. He began his career working on the lines as an apprentice and has since held a variety of engineering, operations and leadership positions with electric cooperatives.

In his new role, Bryon will oversee McLeod Co-op Power's engineering and operations functions and work closely with lineworkers and outside contractors. He was drawn to McLeod Co-op after hearing great things about the cooperative's team and leadership.

Bryon says he is looking forward to getting to know the team, sharing lessons learned throughout his career and helping tackle projects and challenges as they arise. Most importantly, he wants members to know that serving them is always the priority.

A native of Albert Lea, Bryon enjoys spending time with his wife, Ashlee, and their three children, Ava, Beckett and Georgia. Outside of work, he enjoys attending his kids' sporting events, golfing, fishing and hunting.

Please join us in welcoming Bryon to McLeod Co-op Power!



MAKE SAFETY PART OF EVERY LOAD

Harvest is a busy season, and grain handling can quickly become routine. But working around grain bins, augers and other equipment, a familiar task can become a dangerous one in seconds.

Taking time to recognize the hazards before work begins can help everyone make it through harvest safely.

LOOK UP AROUND THE BIN

Power lines can be easy to overlook, especially when your attention is focused on positioning an auger, moving equipment or filling a bin. Before moving or setting up equipment, identify nearby overhead lines and plan how to safely work around them.

Keep augers and other tall equipment a safe distance from power lines, and always lower an auger before moving it. Never raise equipment or truck boxes beneath or near an overhead line.

STAY OUT OF FLOWING GRAIN

Moving grain creates one of the most serious hazards around a grain bin. Never enter a bin while grain is flowing or being unloaded. Grain can pull a person down rapidly, making escape difficult or impossible.

Avoid entering a grain bin whenever possible. If entry is necessary:

- Shut down and secure grain-moving equipment before entering.
- Never enter the bin alone.
- Use appropriate safety equipment, including a properly secured safety harness or lifeline when required.
- Make sure others know you are entering and are prepared to respond in an emergency.
- Never walk on or beneath bridged or crusted grain.

SHUT IT DOWN BEFORE YOU REACH IN

Augers help keep harvest moving, but their moving parts can cause serious injuries.

Before making an adjustment, performing maintenance or attempting to clear a blockage, turn the auger off and make sure it cannot unexpectedly restart.

Never reach into an operating auger. Keep hands, feet, loose clothing and tools away from moving parts, and make sure guards and shields are properly in place.

A FEW SECONDS MATTER

Harvest puts a premium on time, but no load of grain is worth taking unnecessary risks. Remember, before moving an auger, entering a bin, or working on equipment, stop long enough to identify the hazards around you.

A few extra seconds for safety can make all the difference.

HARVEST SAFETY CHECK

Before the next task, take 10 seconds:

- **STOP:** Don't let the pace of harvest rush the next move.
- **LOOK UP:** Know where overhead power lines are before moving or raising equipment.
- **LOOK AROUND:** Check your surroundings, equipment, and electrical cords for damage or other hazards.
- **SHUT IT DOWN:** Turn equipment off before making adjustments, clearing blockages or performing maintenance.

IF YOU CONTACT A POWER LINE

Stay in the cab and call 911. Warn others to stay away from the equipment and surrounding area. Only leave the cab if there is an immediate danger, such as fire. When doing so, jump out and away from the vehicle with both feet together. Make sure to never touch the ground and vehicle at the same time.

FARMFEST BRINGS CO-OPS AND MEMBERS TOGETHER



McLeod Co-op Power was proud to be represented at Minnesota Farmfest, August 4-6, where farmers, agribusinesses and rural communities from across the state gathered to connect and explore what's new in agriculture.

The three-day event featured agricultural equipment and technology demonstrations, farm safety and wellness programs, an antique tractor display, the popular Skid Steer Rodeo and educational and agricultural policy forums. Farmfest also recognized America's 250th anniversary by celebrating agriculture's role throughout the nation's history.

McLeod Co-op Accountant Kaylee Hansch worked at the Touchstone Energy® booth August 5-6 alongside Amy Ervin, Executive Admin and HR at Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, and Christopher Radel, Member Energy Solutions Analyst at Kandiyohi Power Cooperative.

Throughout the event, the team answered questions, visited with attendees and connected with members from several electric cooperatives. Kaylee was especially glad to see so many McLeod Co-op members stop by the booth.

Visitors could also enter a raffle for EGO battery-powered yard tools using tickets shared in previous McLeod Co-op newsletters and on the Cooperative's Facebook page. McLeod Co-op member Brian Davis was one of the lucky winners, taking home an EGO pressure washer. After Farmfest, Member Services Manager Shannon Jerabek delivered the prize to Brian.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hello. We enjoyed connecting with our members and Minnesota's agricultural community!

OFFICE PHONE

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE

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



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating/cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.



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WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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YOUTH TOUR 2026: LEARNING, EXPLORING AND CONNECTING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

When McLeod Co-op Power did not receive any local applicants for the 2026 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour, the cooperative still found a way to support the next generation of cooperative leaders.

This year McLeod Co-op Power sponsored Cadin Carmichael, a student from Nevis High School and member of Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative, for the seven-day trip to Washington, D.C. After returning home, Cadin visited with MCPA's Board of Directors to share highlights from the experience and what he learned along the way.

A WEEK TO REMEMBER

The Youth Tour gave Cadin the opportunity to explore the nation's capital, learn more about government and the cooperative business model, and connect with students from across the region.

A few highlights from his trip included:

- Seeing the Jefferson Memorial at sunset, which he named as his favorite moment of the week.
- Meeting new friends he continues to stay in touch with after the trip.
- Learning how electric cooperatives interact with government and advocate for the communities they serve.

- Experiencing a packed schedule of tours, activities and events, often staying busy until returning to the hotel around 10 p.m.
- Traveling with a big group of students. In fact, there were more students in his Youth Tour group than his entire graduating class at Nevis High School.

During his presentation to the Board, Cadin shared both the fun and educational sides of the trip, offering a firsthand look at why the Youth Tour continues to be such a memorable opportunity for students.

COULD YOU BE NEXT?

Each year, the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour gives high school students an opportunity to experience the nation's capital, meet other young people and learn more about electric cooperatives and government.

Watch for details about McLeod Co-op's 2027 Youth Tour application process in upcoming newsletters and on our website. Your Washington, D.C., adventure could be next.

