

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

October 2016

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Official Publication of

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

www.meeker.coop

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

Cooperatives Build Member Benefits

Cooperatives are owned by the members they serve, be it electric cooperatives, or cooperatives in the field of agriculture, health care, housing, medical, food distribution, and more. Co-ops don't have to answer to outside shareholders; they care about meeting their members' needs.

As a member/owner of Meeker Cooperative, you are able to participate in a host of benefits that customers of municipal and investor-owned utilities can't. Cooperatives Build is the theme of this year's National Co-op Month because, in many ways, Co-ops are good for people and economies. Co-ops build in the following ways:

Co-ops Build Democracy

Co-ops represent democracy in action, with control exercised by a board of directors elected from the ranks of members; the board hires and directs management and is ultimately responsible to the members.

Co-ops Build Communities

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support



community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

One great example is your Co-op's Operation Round Up® Program which allows members to round up their electric bills and donate that change to non-profit organizations that work to better their local communities. Since the program began in 1998, an independent 9-member Electric Trust Board has granted more than \$600,000 to local community organizations. That's your money at work for the betterment of local families' lives.

Co-ops Build Economic Stability

Co-ops in the United States provide more than 850,000 jobs, providing \$74 billion in annual wages. There are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the U.S., serving 120 million people. Cooperatives

seek to shape policy to benefit their members through statewide and national representative entities that lobby hard to keep rates low and the economy strong.

The work doesn't stop within our own borders. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation works with electric cooperatives across the world to bring electricity to third-world countries, which aids in their economic and social stability.

Co-ops Build Autonomy and Independence

Each cooperative is managed by an independent board elected from its membership, and decisions are made that democratically benefit its members. You have a voice in the governance of your Co-op as you interact with the director from your district, as well as during the Co-op's Annual Meeting held every April at their Litchfield headquarters.

Co-ops Build Knowledge

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, managers, and employees, as well as information to the general public. Meeker Cooperative

Member Benefits continued on page 3

Applications Available for Co-op Board of Director Candidates

You, the member-owners of Meeker Cooperative, can apply to have your name on the ballot for election to serve as a Director of Meeker Cooperative. Directors are elected from each of Meeker's nine districts on a rotating basis. In 2017, director elections are scheduled in Districts 1, 2 and 6. The following townships are included:

District 1

- Roseville and Irving Townships in Kandiyohi County
- Paynesville Township in Stearns County
- Union Grove Township in Meeker County

District 2

- Eden Lake Township in Stearns County
- Harvey and Manannah Townships in Meeker County

District 6

- Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth and E. Lake Lillian Townships in Kandiyohi County

- Cosmos, Action, Danielson and Swede Grove Townships in Meeker County
- Brookfield and Boon Lake Townships in Renville County

Any member in the districts identified above that is interested in being placed on the ballot and meets the qualifications identified in the Bylaws must submit a completed Meeker Cooperative Application for Director Form by close of business on Monday, November 28, 2016.

Director Application Packets are available at the Cooperative's office or on the Cooperative's website at meeker.coop. On the home page, select Member Services; from its drop down list select Download Forms and choose the Director Application Packet.

All potential candidates must declare their intention to be placed on the ballot by submitting a completed application as described and be

declared qualified for placement on the ballot by the Qualifications and Election Committee. No write-in candidates shall be deemed valid.

The Bylaws state that the Board of Directors shall appoint a Qualifications and Election Committee (Q&E Committee) consisting of one Member from each of the Director Districts which is not up for election. It shall be the responsibility of the Q&E Committee to review all applications submitted and to determine that all candidates meet stated qualifications. The Committee will notify any potential candidate that does not meet the qualifications and allow seven (7) days for the candidate to comply with said requirements. The decision of the Q&E Committee will be final.

The Committee will have the authority to place qualified candidates on the ballot for election, and for any district in which there is only one candidate, waive the ballot process and declare the candidate

elected. The Qualifications & Election Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least seventy-five (75) days before the meeting the list of qualified candidates for Director elections for each Director District up for election.

If no Member from a district up for election is placed on the ballot, said position shall be deemed vacant following the annual meeting and the Board of Directors may appoint a Member from said district to fill said position until the next annual meeting and election of directors.

For complete director election information, qualifications and requirements, please see Meeker's website at meeker.coop for the Director Application Packet or contact Mary Alice Holm at the Co-op at 320-693-3231 to receive an application packet.



The Cooperative Difference

Co-op Job Descriptions

With October being Co-op Month, I thought I'd use this space to cover some of the roles we have as members, directors, and employees of Meeker Cooperative; a job description of sorts.

The following is from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) report, *Co-op Essentials: What They Are and the Role of Members, Directors, Managers, and Employees*.

Roles of Cooperative Participants

Cooperative organizations operate through the participation of members, directors, managers and employees. Each has a separate role to play in the life of the co-op, although they share the common interest of building a successful business.

Members – as owners of the business, they organize, incorporate, finance, and elect directors to set the cooperative's policy and to govern. Members use the cooperative and are the reason for its existence.

Directors – members of the board are elected by, and serve at the will of, the membership. While some serve limited terms, others may serve multiple terms. They have two primary responsibilities: hire competent management and guide the direction of the business by providing policy and oversight to its operation.

Manager – the manager reports to and works closely with the board of directors. He or she is responsible for the day-to-day operations and performance of the cooperative.

Employees—hired by the manager, employees work for the member-owners in carrying out their responsibilities in the cooperative's operation. Their work and responsibilities are dictated by the manager.

It should be noted that the roles of members, directors, and managers are basically the same in all types of cooperatives. The role of employees, as described in this report, is also the same for most cooperative types. But an exception to the employee role occurs when it comes to worker cooperatives.

Summary

People and businesses use cooperatives to serve their common interests and for mutual benefit. Cooperatives are complex organizations with unique principles, practices, member benefits, and structural characteristics. Geographic area, governance system, and functions performed explain organizational structure and size and scope of member service.

Cooperatives exist in many segments of the American economy today, providing purchasing, marketing, and service for member-owners. Members use purchasing cooperatives to buy food, consumer goods, and business and production supplies. Cooperatives are used by members to market and process their farm-grown commodities, and co-ops often add value to the raw commodities.

Some cooperatives provide members with transportation services, credit, housing, utilities, recreational equipment, building supplies, and other services and goods. Cooperatives often have branded products and some cooperatives perform two or all of the functions of purchasing, marketing, and service on behalf of their members.

Cooperatives consist of members, directors, management, and employees. All have important participation roles to play and responsibilities to fulfill.

Tax Battle

On behalf of our members, Meeker Cooperative

recovered funds from the State of Minnesota for sales taxes paid on Cooperative margins. Our theory was that sales tax should only be paid on goods sold. Electricity is a good that is sold. Margins are not goods sold.

Since your Cooperative is a non-profit, those margins are returned to you as the member owner in the form of capital credits. Those margins were originally included in the taxed amount but we believe they should not be.

I realize this gets complicated to follow so please bear with me as I try and break this down in simple terms. Let's say your electric bill for the year was \$100. You paid sales tax on the entire \$100. Now let's say the Co-op only needed \$90 to cover its expenses and the remaining \$10 represents margins. We believed that you should not have had to pay sales tax on those \$10 worth of margins because the cost of goods sold (the electricity) was actually only \$90. It is the sales tax paid on those margins we requested refunds for.

The State of Minnesota initially granted refunds for several years we requested them. Then they began denying them. The State then asked for some of the funds back again.

Meeker Cooperative, along with one other co-op, served as litigants against the State on behalf of all co-ops. As a side note, the legal costs were split among all the co-ops involved. After a several-year legal fight that ultimately went to the Minnesota Supreme Court, we lost. They said that the State is entitled to charge sales tax on the entire amount billed.

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Board of Directors

K. Bruce Krueger, President — District 7
Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Matt Woetzel — District 5
Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

Juanita Olson, Vice President — District 1
Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Mark Larson — District 6
Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

Karen Becker, Secretary — District 2
Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Ben Beckman — District 8
Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf, Treasurer — District 4
Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Karl Lundin — District 9
North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

Brad Donnay — District 3
Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Kim Keithahn — Attorney

Meeker Pioneer

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

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Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For 24-hour service call

320-693-3231 or 800-232-6257

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web site: www.meeker.coop

Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship."

Co-op Month: Touchstone Energy Member Benefits

Continued from Page 1

educates through its monthly Pioneer newsletter, its website at www.meeker.coop, through Facebook and Twitter, radio, newspaper and member events such as our annual member Energy Tour to North Dakota.

Co-ops Build Value

Meeker Co-op's mission is to provide safe, reliable electricity that our members expect, at a competitive rate. We help to keep rates low through money-saving energy management programs, excellent rebates and half-price electric rate. We are here to help with your heating and cooling system choices to fit your home and cut your energy use. In addition, we offer a loan program that even offers a 0 percent option to help with up-front costs.

Co-ops Build Connections

As part of our members' lives and our local communities, we naturally connect in ways that can bring advantages for everyone.

Nothing demonstrates this ability to connect more than Touchstone Energy's Co-op Connections Program. Most of you will recognize the



Connections Card that you can use to get discounts at local businesses to keep the money local. You may not know that you can also use the card to access many other benefits.

Log in to www.connections.coop for these discount programs:

Healthy Savings Discounts

Discounts at local providers of dental, vision, prescription medications and more. Location # 25-32-128

Business to Business Discounts

Find discounts on products and services for your clients and employees, or for yourself.

Rebates for Shopping Online

The Cash Back Mall program provides

cash back when you shop online at more than 4,000 retailers.

Coupons for Discount Shopping

Coupons.com offers hundreds of coupons for grocery and household items easily and quickly.

Simply Rewards

This is your ticket to get the best prices on hotels, cruises and rental cars, including a Best Price Guarantee. You'll also get savings on direct deals on brand name merchandise.

All of this is available because you are members of Meeker Co-op, which is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

If you see a Co-op benefit that you haven't yet taken advantage of and would like more information, please feel free to call with your questions at 320-693-3231 and ask for Becky.

We're proud to be a Cooperative owned by our members, and we're thankful for your partnership. Together, we are building strength and stability in our local communities and our country.

The Cooperative Difference: Taxes

Continued from Page 2

Had we prevailed, it would have meant the Co-op would have been able to receive refunds for sales tax on all margins of past years that we already filed for, along with future years.

This would have been a huge deal for Meeker's members. Unfortunately it is not to be. However, there is a small but brief light at the end of the tunnel concerning some of the sales tax funds returned to the Co-op. Although the Co-op was required to reimburse the State some of the sales tax funds they had previously refunded to the Co-op, the State could not request all the funds as the statute of limitation had expired on some of the funds. It is those funds, a total of about \$215,000 for the years 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006, that we are returning to the members that paid those sales taxes on the Co-op's margins.

If you were a member during those years and are currently still a member, your portion will be credited on your October bill. For former members, we will be

reimbursing them along with the regular retirement of capital credits.

A very complicated issue, no doubt, but one that the Board of Directors felt was worth the fight on your behalf. That is the cooperative way, ensuring we are working for you, the member-owners of Meeker Cooperative.

November 8th Election

Just as the USDA's report states, it is the duty of the members to "elect directors to set the cooperative's policy and to govern," it is important to vote in the general election to elect local, state, and national leaders to do the same.

DID YOU KNOW -

In the U.S. House of Representatives, only 34 districts are primarily rural. (The Agriculture Letter 2-14)



Meeker County Transfer Station offers free recycling of fluorescent bulbs, any size

Meeker Cooperative has offered recycling of fluorescent bulbs for members and businesses at a reduced rate once a year during August. Now that will no longer be necessary.

The Meeker County Transfer Station is offering FREE recycling of fluorescent bulbs of any size from Meeker County residents and businesses with a limit of 50 bulbs per visit. Location #22-30-202

Many other materials (compost, etc.) are only collected in certain locations at designated times. Please check their website or contact them for more information, times, locations and dates before making the trip with any of your recyclables.

You may call them at 320-693-2576 Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Or visit their website at www.co.meeker.mn.us/335/Transfer-Station.

The Clay Coyote lights the way to big energy savings

Anyone who loves pottery and other hand-made one-of-a-kind pieces of art will be familiar with the Clay Coyote just north of Hutchinson. Set amongst rolling acres of native grasses, flowers and a lovely lake, the Clay Coyote Gallery is a favorite destination for those who enjoy collecting pottery, and for shoppers looking for a unique gift for a wedding or other special occasions.

For more than two decades, Betsy Price and Tom Wirt stewarded their vision of crafting beautiful, functional and affordable pottery. They came a long way from first selling pottery pieces from their property's pump house on a honor payment system, to shipping pieces nationwide through their website's online store.

Three years ago Tom and Betsy decided to retire from full-time involvement in the business and began the process of selling the business to Betsy's daughter Morgan Baum and her husband, Ian. Morgan, after all, had been raised in the business and it was part of who she was.

"I had watched this business grow and I grew along with it," Morgan said. "I always knew this would be part of my legacy, I just didn't know how."

It took those three years to put all the pieces together to purchase the Clay Coyote and to move back to Minnesota from New York City, where she was a Director of Development for Consumer Reports. Ian works in the computer industry, so his



Morgan Baum (center) grew up watching the Clay Coyote grow and develop. Now she and her husband Ian purchased the Coyote from founders Betsy Price and Tom Wirt to create the only incubator for emerging clay artists anywhere in the U.S.

Submitted photo

business can be done virtually anywhere.

New business model

Tom and Betsy's pottery would no longer be produced at the studio, so Morgan and Ian brainstormed what direction to take the business.

"Everywhere I look there are aging potters," Morgan said. "We knew that we had to come up with a business model that would help to grow the next generation of Minnesota potters." That sense of responsibility and the desire to continue to provide pottery for the Gallery, the Baums hit on an unusual concept. They would invite promising pottery artists as potters in residence; not for only a few weeks as most residencies are, but for up to five years. These emerging artists would learn all the aspects of successfully launching a pottery business, from creation of their own signature pottery, to marketing, selling and managing a



The studio space includes three private work areas plus the shared spaces for glazing and firing. LED strip lights illuminate the space well for a fraction of the cost.

business, all the while producing pottery for display and sale in the Gallery. Essentially, the Clay Coyote would become an "incubator" of emerging artists, which could be the first program of its kind in the United States. This presents a unique and valuable opportunity for the artists.

"Displaying their pottery in the Gallery gives them the opportunity to hear from customers about what they like and don't like," Morgan said. "Customers really drive the artist's creative lines. They provide feedback about what people want. The artists can see what sells and what doesn't and adjust."

Currently, two potters in residence have been chosen, and a third will be added soon. Katie Teesdale and Levi Yankosky have already begun work at the Clay Coyote studio, which has been redesigned to provide three distinct spaces for their own private work, and a large collaborative space for detailing, glazing, and firing.

Teesdale hails from Philadelphia where she had been working at The Clay Studio, a nonprofit education institution dedicated to the development of ceramic artists.

For the past two years, she organized the Claymobile, a program to reach the under-served districts in Philadelphia through a mobile clay arts initiative. She also works as a part-time ceramics teacher for the Dassel-Cokato High School. She describes her pottery as organic and has been experimenting with nesting forms.

Yankosky, a native of southern Minnesota, attended Winona State University where he received a degree in history and political science. He is a self-taught potter, who is interested in exploring the history of clay arts and connecting it to modern, practical pottery. Most recently, Yankosky worked as a production potter for Dock 6 Pottery in Minneapolis.



Levi Yankosky demonstrates wheel throwing pottery.

Photo courtesy of Clay Coyote



Katie Teesdale's organic style pottery utilizes a lot of handwork to create one-of-a-kind pieces.

Promoters of cleaner electric grid zapped by roadblocks

Building new high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) power lines in the United States will help the nation's aging power grid handle more renewable energy. But the U.S. electricity transmission system is saddled with a sprawling regulatory process that vets proposed long-distance projects at a glacial pace.

In the West, it can involve as many as nine federal agencies. States sometimes delegate their role to multiple agencies. Even counties can get involved in the deliberations. The upshot is that going through the legal hoops and keeping investment capital at the ready for several of the proposed lines has set back construction for years. Congress tried to solve this problem in 2005 and failed.

In 2011, the Obama administration, which supports many of the projects, picked seven pending interstate AC and DC power lines, promising to push them through this bureaucratic mess by forming a "rapid response team for transmission."

That produced a hopeful moment for TransWest Express LLC, the owner of the only HVDC line and the longest among the seven the White House picked to move fast, but it's still running through the gauntlet of regulators after more than nine years. "I don't want to be critical of it, but I would say it has lost momentum," said TransWest President Bill Miller, referring to the rapid response team. "It hasn't done a whole lot."

~ClimateWire

Clean Power Plan: Court adds 10th Judge to hear arguments over landmark rule

In a surprise twist to the legal battle over the Clean Power Plan, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit expanded the panel of judges that heard arguments.

Judge Cornelia Pillard, who has sat out previous decisions on the litigation, will join all the court's active judges — except President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, Chief Judge Merrick Garland — to participate in the en banc arguments, the D.C. Circuit order says. Pillard's addition to the panel is yet another wrinkle in the fight over Obama's signature climate rule.

In an extremely rare move, the D.C. Circuit had pushed back arguments on the climate rule that were originally scheduled for a three-judge panel in June to September in front of the full court. The change could make it more difficult for challengers of the rule to succeed, said James Rubin, a partner at law firm Dorsey & Whitney.

~E&E Publishing



Switching to 35 LED can lights from 121 halogens cut energy use by 95% in the Gallery. The Gallery contains hand-made art from 150 artists from across the country. It's a one-stop Gallery for special occasion gifts.

Energy efficiency changes

Three electric kilns and one larger gas-fired kiln occupy the shared studio space. The electric kilns are on load management and the Co-op's half-price electric rate. The load management program controls the electricity to the kilns during peak electric use. However the artists are able to fire during off-peak times so it doesn't impact the pottery being fired.

All the pottery is fired twice; first in electric kilns, which fire to 1,860 degrees. Then once glazed, the pottery is fired in the gas kiln, which the Clay Coyote takes up to cone 10, or just over 2,300 degrees. The gas kiln can hold up to 100 pieces, depending on their size and shape. Due to its size, the gas kiln takes so much time to heat up, fire the pottery and cool down, it can only be used every eight days.

Along with the change in business model, the Gallery and Studio have also undergone a transformation of sorts. The Baums have invested in new energy-efficient windows, have rebuilt one studio wall to add insulation, and have painted and reorganized the studio.

Making the switch to LEDs

The biggest change to the pocketbook was in the realm of lighting. The Baums took advantage of the Co-op's commercial lighting rebate to switch out 121 50-watt halogen light fixtures to 35 11-watt LED

can lights. They also replaced T-8 and T-12 fluorescent lights with LED strips in the Studio. These changes will result in a reduction of 33,700 kWhs per year, saving the Baums around \$4,000 on their annual energy costs. The lighting rebate helped with the up-front costs, and the energy savings will result in a relatively quick payback of their initial investment.

"Our electrician told me our LED lights should last 50 years," Morgan said. "I like the fact that LEDs are safe, secure and efficient, and there is no fire hazard like there could be with the hot halogen lights."

An Invitation

The Clay Coyote Gallery carries the work of 150 artists from across the country. It also will carry the pottery of the three artists in residence. Morgan encourages fans of the Clay Coyote to see the new, fresh items these emerging artists are creating.

"The Clay Coyote was built from the ground up by the support of local people and communities," Morgan said. "We need that same support now. This is the only emerging artist incubator



Morgan occupies the space inside the gas kiln, which can hold up to 100 pieces of pottery.

in the country. We're excited to see what the next five years will bring."

Visit the Clay Coyote website at www.ClayCoyote.com. There you will find more about the emerging artists, see Gallery photos, have access to recipes, blogs and the online store for ordering products.

Upcoming Event:

The Clay Coyote will be hosting a Fall Open House Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 23, noon to 4 p.m. You will be able to meet the new potters, see studio demonstrations and enjoy some light refreshments.

Contact the Co-op for more information on rebates for energy management and commercial lighting programs.

Chocolate Hazelnut Cream Pie

Ethel Donnay submitted this month's winner for Favorite Pie Recipe: Chocolate Hazelnut Cream Pie. She will have \$10 credited to her electric bill.

Chocolate Hazelnut Cream Pie

16 Oreo Cookies

1/4 Cup butter, melted

1 8-oz. Pkg. cream cheese, soft

3/4 Cup Nutella

1/2 Cup Confectioners sugar

1 tsp. Vanilla extract

1 Cup Heavy whipping cream

Topping:

1/4 Cup heavy whipping cream

1 Tbsp. Light corn syrup

2 tsp. Butter

1/8 tsp. Salt

2 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, finely chopped

2 Tbsp. Hazelnuts, chopped and toasted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pulse cookies in a food processor until ground. Add butter, pulse until blended. Press mixture onto bottom and up sides of a greased 9-inch pie plate. Bake 15 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Beat the cream cheese, Nutella, confectioners sugar and vanilla until smooth.

In another bowl, beat cream until stiff peaks form; fold into the cream cheese mixture. Pour into crust, refrigerate 30 minutes.

In a small saucepan, bring the cream, corn syrup, butter and salt to a boil over medium heat. Remove from heat and add chocolate. Let stand 5 minutes. Stir until smooth. Cool to spreading consistence. Spread over pie and then sprinkle with chopped and toasted hazelnuts. Location #07-34-401

Refrigerate one hour.

For November, submit your favorite Holiday Recipe by October 28 to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Fall Rebate Special

Air Source Heat Pumps (QI) \$600/unit + \$100

- 14.5 SEER or greater
- Minimum 5kW resistance or an ETS Unit Without 5kW, \$100 + \$50 Rebate
- Metered separately
- Requires qualified automatic backup heat system

Air Source Heat Pumps \$300/unit + \$100

- Minimum 5 kW resistance or an ETS unit Without 5 kW, \$100 + \$50 Rebate
- Metered Separately
- Requires qualified automatic backup heat system

Cycled Air Conditioning \$100/unit + \$50

- Cycled control
- Metered Separately
- Free A/C tune-up (up to \$100) for units 5+ years old

Call 320-693-3231 for more Info!

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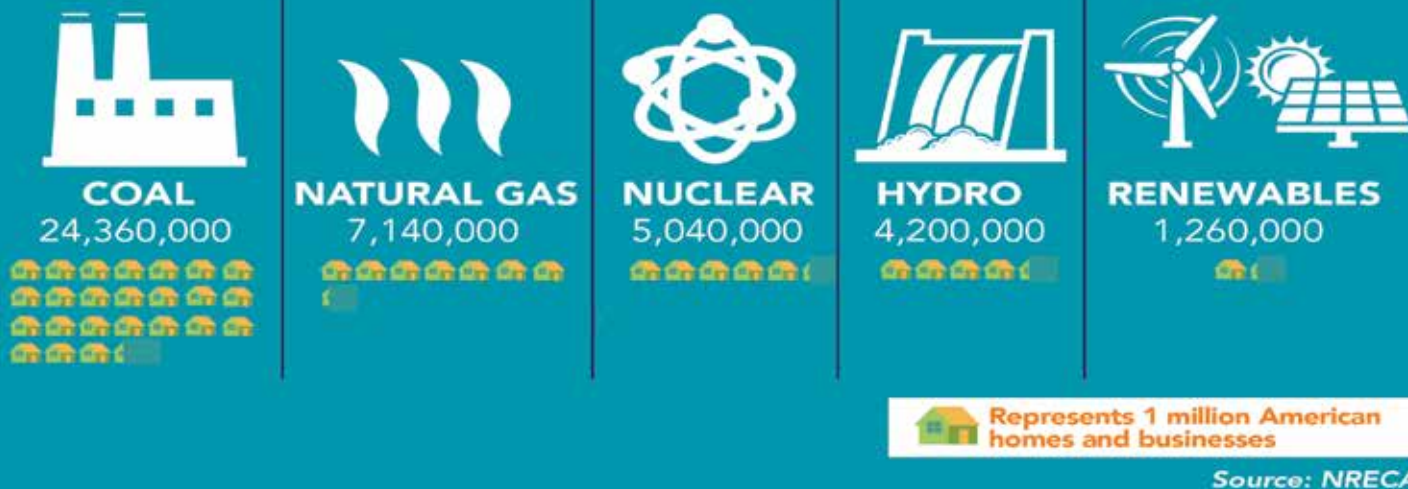
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WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM

These five types of central station power provide electricity for millions of American homes and businesses.



Get Your Questions Answered About Cold Weather Shut-Off Protection For Residents and Military Personnel

Q What is the Cold Weather Rule?

A The Cold Weather Rule protects some members from having their electricity shut off due to non-payment between October 15 and April 15.

Q Can my heat be shut off in the winter?

A Yes. 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 have done all the following things:

- Your household income meets the state guidelines (less than 50 percent of the state median income).
- You provide Meeker Co-op with a completed Application for Electric Shut-Off Protection; and
- You have a payment arrangement with the Co-op that you have remained reasonably current with.

Q What must I do to receive shut-off protection?

A If you are behind in your electricity payments and you will not be able to catch up, your first step is to [call Meeker Cooperative](#).

We don't want to shut off anyone's

electricity. We will work with you to set up a payment arrangement or help you to see if you qualify for shut-off protection. There is no way we can know what your financial situation is unless you tell us. At right is a list of providers that can help with your energy bills. It is up to you to contact them for help.

Q Will you disconnect me without my knowledge?

A No. You will receive a "Notice of Disconnection" in your bill, along with the list of agencies that may help you; a form for you to fill out stating you can't pay; a list of rights and responsibilities for you as well as the Cooperative; and a list of payment plans and other ways to prevent disconnection. If you receive this information, you MUST take the next step and [call us](#) or one of the agencies who can help you.

We will not disconnect electricity without first notifying you via a door hanger or phone call. We also won't disconnect the electricity on a Friday, a weekend, or the day before a holiday.

Q If my electricity has been disconnected, how can I be reconnected?

A In order to re-establish power, contact Meeker Cooperative for the total balance due, which may include additional fees and a deposit.

Our members are important to Meeker

Cooperative. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service. But everyone who needs help must ask for it by calling 320-693-3231.

Q Are Military personnel subject to shut-off?

A When a household member has been ordered into active duty, for deployment, or for a change of duty station, some customers may find it hard to pay their utility bills.

Minnesota law protects these military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their utility bills in full. For more information or to apply for protection and set up a payment plan, please contact Meeker Cooperative at 320-693-3231.

For more information or additional answers to your questions on the Cold Weather Rule, please call our office at 320-693-3231.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker counties

United Community Action Partnership

P.O. Box 1359,
200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
Toll free: (800) 992-1710
Kandiyohi: (320) 235-0850
McLeod: (800) 829-2132
Meeker: (800) 770-4081
Cosmos: (800) 992-1710

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330
(800) 247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

Renville County Energy Assistance Program

105 S. 5th Street, Suite 203H,
Olivia, MN 56277
(320) 523-5522
(800) 363-2533

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500

Stearns County area

Stearns Tri-County Action Programs

1210 23rd Ave. So.
P.O. Box 683
Waite Park, MN 56387
(320) 251-1612
(888) 765-5597

Pioneer Ads — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words (one word per line). **One phone number per ad.** Use the coupon printed below or available at Meeker Co-op's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Ad must be resubmitted to run again. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by **October 28** to be included in the Nov. issue. **We no longer accept "Service" or "For Rent" ads.**

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please check ad category

- For Sale, Misc.
 Agricultural
 Automotive
 Wanted
 Giveaway

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- FOUND: Blue blanket at Member Day at Stockade. Call to ID/claim. 320-593-4117.
- Deluxe playhouse; Drapes; Storage Shed; Speakers; Jelly jars. 320-693-7653.
- Original Nintendo NES, 4 games. Tested. \$30. 320-296-6887.
- Strobe light kit for plows/service/landscape trks. \$75/obo. 320-699-0082.
- Black cast iron wood stove, 25Wx13Dx18H. \$150. 612-710-8229.
- 3-7" hand grinders, \$50; Assrt. 7" sander discs, \$35; 1/2" drill, \$35. 320-275-3684.
- Canning jars: W/M pints or jelly. All w/rings. 320-510-2764.
- 1988 Word Book Encycl. Set, burgundy covers. \$20/obo. 320-221-3701.

- Shetland Ram "Ernie" makes nice lambs! 4-yr. old. \$125. 320-398-5563.
- Child's dresser, lime green w/crystal pulls. 30-1/4 W. \$40. 320-275-9285.
- Cedar, walnut, birch lumber; also weathered barn boards. 320-693-3962.
- Trac Vac 8HP leaf vacuum, 8" hose. New cond. \$1,250. 320-221-0963.
- Half & quarter Holstein beef, \$2/lb., mostly grass, no implants. 320-398-5563.
- Craftsman 6-in. woodwrkg. Jointer, 1.5HP motor w/stand. \$150. 320-275-3287.
- 1975 14-ft. Starcraft boat w/trailer; 55HP Evinrude outbrd. \$800. 320-764-2988.
- Snowblower, 2-stage 8.5HP, 27in. cut. Exc. Cond. \$495. 320-260-2955.

- Window, casement, 59"W x 52"H, 3-lite, 2 open. \$200. 763-522-8815.
- Table, round walnut. Dia. 52", some assembly; Oak door, 3'x6'8". 763-522-8815.
- 1-1/2HP Grizzly wood shaper w/carbide cutters. \$400. 763-482-9099.
- Fresh honey & honeycomb, various sizes. 320-221-4125.
- 4600 Yamaha generator. \$500/obo. 320-693-3229.
- Partially assembled cathedral window quilt. \$275. Call/text 320-282-8906.
- Location # 16-19-101
- Several pieces Princess House crystal. 320-905-0617.
- 16-ft. Lund 35HP outbrd., troll motor, trailer, boat, cvr. \$1,600. 320-398-2041.
- Two Duluth Packs, steel bookshelf, bed frames. 320-398-2041.
- 38" lawn sweeper, \$50. Walk-behind snowblower cab, \$50. 320-764-2584.
- Brown leather powerlift chair. \$300. 320-857-3037.
- 2013 Sprinter 30-ft. w/full wall closet & dinette set. \$17,900. 320-764-2592.
- Bunk beds w/spring & mattresses. \$20 or w/bedding, \$30. 320-275-2421.

- Three Western saddles w/silver trim. \$250 to \$500/obo. 320-974-3369.
- #49SD Jonsered chain saw, 18", four blades. \$75. 612-720-5197.
- 18" Olympic chain saw #264, two blades, \$50. 612-720-5197.
- 1,000-gal. propane tank, gd. cond. \$1,800/obo. 320-339-5020.
- Seasoned split ash firewood. \$135/cord. 320-296-1156.
- Kubota lawnmwr. ZG332, 72" zero-turn, 113 hrs. \$10,000/obo. 320-894-1787.
- 2-wheel trailer 4x8, 14" wheels. \$125/obo. 320-221-2822.
- Pull-type 44" leaf/grass sweeper, lk. new. \$100. 612-961-5625.
- Antique milk can cart w/steel wheels. 320-221-8264.
- Small rabbit hutch. 320-398-3525.
- Slipcovers for 66" sofa & chair. Never used. \$35 all pieces. 320-296-4174.
- Goose neck 24-ft. beaver tail, new deck, tandem axle. 320-333-5129.
- King Crow fishhse, 6-1/2x12-ft., lrg. stove & x-tras. Lk. new. \$3,500. 320-221-0465.
- Metal bar stool w/ brown leather seat & back. 320-693-8492.
- Sm. recliner/med. blue, exc. cond. 320-693-8492.
- 34-dwr. storage cabt. 14-1/2"W x 6-1/4"D x 14-1/2" H. All drws. filled. 320-693-8492.
- Dog kennel 6x12x6H w/lrg. dog hse. \$40/obo. 320-587-5270.
- Locally raised/ butchered beef, x-tra lean hamb., no hormones. \$4/lb. 320-221-2290.
- Grey-blue medical lift chair w/massage/heat. Gd. cond. \$300. 320-693-7162.
- Oak L-shaped desk, drws., upper cabts., locks, keybrd. Tray. \$325. 763-234-8402.
- 1993 Larson A.M. 19' 180 IB/MC trailer, new tires. \$4,500/obo. Nice. 952-476-0911.
- Boat/RV storage available. 320-275-3602.

- Water-to-air furnace, \$750. Also plenum heater, \$250. 952-445-2331.
- 1997 Indy Trail touring snowmobile, gd. cond. \$600/obo. 320-693-7798.
- 4 HP Simplicity garden front tine tiller. 40" pull-behind thatcher. 320-275-5447.
- Canoe. \$150. 320-221-3918.
- Deer tree stand. \$20. 320-221-3918.
- Off-white Kenmore elec. range, glass top. \$75. 320-693-8136.
- '90 Johnson V4 boat motor, oil-injected. \$350/obo. 320-693-8136.
- 7-ft. hide-a-bed, perfect cond. Best offer. 320-764-2592.

For Sale - Automotive

- 2002 Tahoe, hunter grn., 223,376 mi. \$1,500 firm. 320-552-2893.
- 2005 Chevy Equinox AWD, black, 120M mi., runs grt. \$4,500. 320-267-5803.
- 2008 Chevy HHR, loaded. \$5,995/obo. 320-282-8907.
- Two Yokohama tires P215/60R16, 1/2-tread. \$20/both. 320-275-9411.
- Goodyear tire P205/75R15. Mntd. w/rim, gd. tread. \$25. 320-275-9411.
- 2001 Cadillac Deville, clean, 137M mi., new brakes. \$3,600. 320-290-7043.
- 2008 VW Jeta, 113M mi. \$6,200/obo. 320-221-2464.
- 2006 Equinox AWD, very clean, new tires, 171M mi. \$4,100. 320-309-0906.
- 2010 Chevy Impala LT, Bluetooth, lk. new, 39M mi. \$10,500. 320-275-4639.
- Set of 4 radial tires P235/65R16. \$80/obo. 320-241-3206.
- 1998 Mercury Mountaineer. Haul 3 deer & all your gear! \$1,800. 320-221-3918.

For Sale - Agricultural

- Heavy laying hens, 6-months old, laying eggs daily. 320-293-8770.

- PTO-driven log splitter, dual stage, hvy. Duty. \$1,400/obo. 320-492-5396.
- Alfalfa hay. 320-249-4156.
- Mixed grass hay, no rain, sm. squares \$1.50, \$2, \$3/bale. 320-221-1954.
- Intl. M live hydraulic, exc. rubber. \$1,600/obo. 320-221-4231.
- Tasco calf barn, 14x20 stalls & tender-foot pads. \$2,500/obo. 320-221-1649.
- Sm. square bales grass hay. 320-220-1343.
- 2 tractor tires & rims 15.5 x 38 JD rims. \$85/ea. 320-693-4118.
- Will do garden rototilling. 320-275-2559.
- Locally-raised farm fresh hogs for butcher/roasting. \$200/head. 320-221-2469.
- 10 Rhodelsland Red pullets, started laying. \$9/ea. 320-693-3944.

Wanted

- Good used alum. canoe. 320-276-8336.
- Wire grain bin (sm./med.) Will remove. 320-260-6254.
- 3-bag bagger JD425 for John Deere garden tractor. 320-593-0190.

Give-Away

- Farm kittens. 320-249-4156.
- 2-yr. old male Lhasa Apso, shy, needs gd. home. 320-693-9006.
- 28" Phillips TV, non-digital, words gd. 320-693-7798.
- Murray 18HP riding mower. Cuts, runs, needs deck work. 320-295-9040.
- Roll-top desk, 40Hx46Wx22D, drk. finish, gd. cond., 8 drws. 320-510-2764.
- Fishing boat lift stored on Lk. Manuella. 763-537-6553.
- One Total Gym; 1 Body By Jake. 218-343-6715.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this *Pioneer*. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by October 28, you will have \$10 credited to your account! Pat (Matthew) Billo of Eden Valley found her location number and will have \$10 credited to her account. Good Luck!

