

The Cold Weather Law and Meeker Cooperative policy provide you with these rights and responsibilities:

The right to declare your inability to pay your utility bill. If you do so and if your household income is less than 50% of State Median Income level, your service affecting your primary heat source cannot be disconnected for nonpayment of your bill, provided that your account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15 or that you have entered into a payment schedule and are reasonably current with payments under the schedule. You will have to provide the cooperative with proof that you are unable to pay and are current in your payments to Meeker Cooperative. Your service cannot be disconnected during a certain period following the date of a disconnect notice (Days specified in Attachment 1.)

The responsibility, if you choose to declare inability to pay, to complete the enclosed "Inability to Pay" form and return it to Meeker Cooperative within seven (7) days,

The right to a mutually acceptable payment schedule with Meeker Cooperative. This payment schedule will cover your existing arrears plus the estimated usage during the payment schedule period. If you are able to pay but still wish to enter into a payment schedule, contact Meeker Cooperative immediately at 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231 to arrange a schedule.

The right not to be involuntarily disconnected on a Friday or on a day before a holiday.

The right not to be disconnected until at least twenty (20) calendar days after the postmark date of this notice and information or until fifteen (15) calendar days after this notice and information has been personally delivered.

The right, before you are to be involuntarily disconnected, to appeal your disconnect notice to Meeker Cooperative. Your service will not be disconnected until your appeal is resolved by Meeker Cooperative.

The responsibility, if you choose to appeal, to deliver or mail a personal letter of appeal stating your situation and issues in dispute.

Your letter of appeal must be in the possession of Meeker Cooperative before the day of disconnection. The Meeker Cooperative appeal board will review your appeal within ten (10) days after it is received. You must call Meeker Cooperative at 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231 for the date and time of the appeal review if you wish to be present.

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualifications and application information, contact your county social service or community action agency listed on the back of this document. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

Budget/Levelized Billing

Members requesting budget/levelized billing plans may have their yearly costs of electricity billed in equal monthly installments from September through July. Monthly payments are due by the 5th of each month.

All accounts using budget/levelized payments must be paid in full in August at the end of each budget/levelized payment year. If the budget/levelized account shows a credit balance, Meeker Cooperative will credit the account the following month.

Meeker Cooperative reserves the right to cancel the budget/levelized billing plan for late payments or to increase/decrease the budget/levelized payment as indicated by monthly energy use.

Automatic Payment Plan

You can save time, cut costs and quit worrying with the Automatic Payment Plan. Instead of writing a check, your payment will be electronically transferred from your checking or savings account to Meeker Cooperative on the 5th of each month.

If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the transfer will be made the following business day. Proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and on your monthly billing statement.

For your records, you will receive a monthly statement. The statement will show your monthly billing, which will be submitted to your bank.

Please contact Meeker Cooperative to receive an Automatic Payment Plan authorization form.

Electric Heating Sales Tax

Exemption

Electricity sold for residential space heating, when used as the primary source of heat, is exempt from Minnesota Sales Tax for the billing months of November through April. To qualify, members must complete a State of Minnesota Certificate of Exemption available from Meeker Cooperative.

Energy Assistance Providers

All Areas

Lutheran Social Service Southwest Office
333 Litchfield Ave. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
320-235-5459

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker County Areas

Heartland Community Action Agency
Colonial Plaza
PO Box 1359
200 SW 4th St.
Willmar, MN 56201
Toll Free: 800-992-1710
Kandiyohi: 320-235-0850
McLeod: 320-587-5244
Meeker: 320-693-7911

Renville County Area

Renville County Family Services
300 S. 7th St.
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-5522

Stearns County Area

Stearns Tri Community Action Programs
PO Box 683
1210 23rd Ave. S
Waite Park, MN 56387
Toll Free: 888-765-5597 or 320-251-1612

Wright County Area

Wright County Community Action
PO Box 787
130 W. Division St.
Maple Lake, MN 55358
320-963-6500