

Here Comes The Sun ... **With Energy For You!**



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

What if there was an easy, inexpensive way for you to support the local generation of clean, renewable energy?

If you considered solar as a part of your home's energy mix—but were dissuaded by high costs or maintenance requirements—we're happy to tell you that solar energy is more accessible than you might think!

We are joining our power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, in a community solar project. Later this year Great Lakes Energy members will be able to purchase a community solar subscription in a new solar array being built near Wolverine's Cadillac headquarters.

It will consist of 4,352 solar panels that together can generate up to 1.7 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year.

What type of program is this? Community solar programs harness natural energy from the sun and often cost less than installing a solar system at your home or business.

The community solar model is easy to understand. You purchase a share of the energy produced, similar to taking out a subscription. The energy is distributed to the power grid and subscribers receive credits that lower their electric bills. Most of all, you benefit by helping to put clean energy on the grid.

Participating in a community solar program also eliminates maintenance costs and concerns that can be irritating for those who own and maintain their own residential solar system. With community solar, your electric cooperative takes care of installation, maintenance and all ongoing costs, making it easy for members to participate.

We're currently doing the planning and preparation work necessary for us to effectively implement the program. Once that's done we can begin signing up subscribers. In the meantime, visit spartansolar.com for updates.

We're excited to offer members this opportunity to help build a cleaner energy future. *It's another way we're looking out for you.*



Win A Trip To Washington, D.C.

The Washington, D.C. Rural Electric Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership opportunity for high school sophomores and juniors whose homes are served by Great Lakes Energy.

Selected students will spend June 10-15 touring the nation's capital. The tour includes stops at the Gettysburg Battlefields, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Institution Museums, Capital Hill and Performing Arts, monuments, memorials and more. They'll also visit Michigan legislators on Capitol Hill and attend a Washington Nationals baseball game.

They will gain a chance to better understand the leadership and sacrifice that shaped this country, along with learning the important role our government plays in the operation of electric cooperatives.

The leadership travel opportunity also enables participants to build friendships with other electric co-op students from across the country.

Additional information and online application are available at cooperativemyouthtour.com.



Join People Fund Plus

Now, you can make a greater impact in your local community with People Fund PLUS.

Choose a People Fund donation level in addition to your rounded-up amount. Your donations are awarded in the form of grants to local community nonprofit groups.

All People Fund contributors earn the chance to win a \$100 bill credit twice per year. In 2016, the People Fund awarded \$204,752 in grants to local nonprofits. Visit gtlakes.com to see the list of grant recipients in your area.

JOIN TODAY!

Working together, we can help enhance our local communities and meet the needs of so many.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

\$65.42	Bill
\$00.58	People Fund Round-Up Amount
\$ 2.00	People Fund PLUS Amount (or any even amount you choose)
\$68.00	Total Bill

Sign up today by contacting us at 1-888-GTLAKES or visit gtlakes.com.

GLE awards over \$22,000 in learning grants

For the fifth straight year, Great Lakes Energy showed support for local communities through its Touchstone Energy Classroom Grant Program. Grants totaling just over \$22,200 were awarded to 13 school districts in the GLE service area to promote learning, innovation and technology in the classroom.

Classroom grants awarded for the 2016-2017 school year include:

Allegan Public Schools (for North Ward Elementary and Dawson Elementary): \$1,885 for Osmo iPad educational game package.

Boyne City Elementary: \$253.60 for Waves & Sound scientific lab stations.

Daisy Brook Elementary, Fremont: \$1,925.47 for Dot & Dash robot program and four Kindle Fires.

Grant Christian School: \$2,000 for 25 tablets with programs to enhance language, math and science skills.

Kalkaska Middle School: \$1,999.65 for 35 Kindles and e-books to create a digital library.

Morley Stanwood Elementary: \$1,973.90 for robotics and coding materials.

Newaygo Middle School: \$2,000 for technology tools for scientific data collection, analysis and visualization.

Page Elementary, Middleville: \$2,000 for creation of a Makerspace in the classroom.

Pentwater Public Schools: \$1,953 for MiniOne™ System used in a hands-on DNA biotechnology process.

Petoskey High School: \$479 for iPad Air and Plickers app to better assess students' comprehension levels of subject matter.

St. Mary Cathedral School, Gaylord: \$2,000 to help cover cost for SMARTBoard and projector.

St. Mary School, Big Rapids: \$1,900 for 3-D printer and printing cartridges to produce prosthetic hands for Haitian children.

West Shore Educational Service District, Ludington: \$1,897.23 for iPads and apps to help non-verbal students communicate.

Preference was given to projects and programs involving use of technology or tangible equipment that enhance learning and are not currently being funded through the school's budget.

Pay My Bill Photo Contest Winner

Terry Euper, of Hersey, is the 2016 winner of Great Lakes Energy's Pay My Bill Photo Contest.

The winner received a credit up to \$200 that was applied to the Great Lakes Energy member's December 2016 electric bill.

The winning photo was selected in a random drawing of all entries that appeared in *Michigan Country Lines* in 2016, and was published in the July / August issue.

Thank you to the many GLE members who participated. Members are welcome to send in photos for our 2017 contest. See p. 9 of the January issue of *Michigan Country Lines* for details.



Looking Out for You

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Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

JOIN

Co-op Owners
ACRE
for Political Action[®]



The ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action[®] program is an exciting opportunity for you to join other co-op members in raising your voice and participating in the political process. Funds raised by this grassroots network are donated to the political campaigns of candidates whose positions on issues support those of electric cooperatives.


ACRE supports political candidates who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives.

No rate dollars are used for this program. All contributions are 100% voluntary.

When you join this grassroots network you help with the long-term success of electric cooperatives like Great Lakes Energy.

Fill out the information on the back to join or receive more information.



Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Interested or want to learn more?

✓ **Yes!** I want to contribute to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action (*select amount below*).

\$2/month on my bill

\$5/month on my bill

\$10/month on my bill

\$_____/month on my bill

Maybe. I'm interested in learning more. Please send me more information.

After selecting one of the options above, please fill out and return this card with your bill payment.

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account # (see enclosed bill): _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Voluntary monthly contributions may be cancelled at any time.

On auto-pay? Contact us for more information at gtlakes.com/acre or 888-GT-LAKES, ext. 8957.

Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® are not tax deductible. All contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. Contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal. No corporate checks or contributions accepted. Only residential and seasonal members are eligible to contribute.