

A Closer Look At Fiber Internet Service



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

We plan to take a closer look at high speed fiber Internet service now that we have a clearer picture of what Great Lakes Energy members think about it.

Nearly 5,200 surveys were returned last year when we polled members on their interest in high speed fiber Internet. The favorable response is one of the things that prompted your board of directors to have a more

thorough study done.

A feasibility study for deploying fiber is in progress that will more accurately identify the costs involved and potential number of subscribers, and revenue, to expect. It will address the challenges involved in attaching fiber optic cable to the many miles of poles that cross rivers, hills and swamps. A private consultant with extensive experience in fiber Internet deployment is conducting the study in a section of our service area. Their findings will be shared with the board later this year.

High speed communication capabilities would benefit more than just members who want super-fast Internet speeds. It should improve our automated metering capabilities and the ability to “communicate” with other parts of our electric distribution system. Everyone would benefit by the improved reliability we could see when we are able to identify and correct problems more quickly on our electric distribution system. As more renewable energy shares the grid with conventional energy sources, faster communication between the two will also be an important reliability factor.

Should we find the service can be justified from a business standpoint, it could initially become available in part of our service area as a pilot project. We could then monitor the new program in action to better analyze whether it's meeting our expectations.

Expansion of the service into other areas would be the goal if the pilot project is implemented and found to be successful. It would take years to complete the expansion due to the large territory we cover.

Please continue to check PowerTalk, Michigan Country Lines and our website and Facebook pages for further updates.

VOTE Next Month



Great Lakes Energy members in director election districts 3, 4 and 5 will receive a mail-in ballot with their July/August issue of Michigan Country Lines.

Members in each district will vote to fill one director opening with three directors to be elected for three-year terms.

COUNTIES BY DISTRICT ARE:

- District 3 - Antrim County
- District 4 - Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda and Crawford counties
- District 5 - Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford counties.

The terms of directors Ric Evans of Ellsworth, District 3; Larry Monshor of Gaylord, District 4; and Dale Farrier of Kalkaska, District 5 expire this year. The three incumbents plan to seek re-election.

In addition to the mail-in ballot, the candidates' profiles will appear in the July/August election issue that will be sent to members in Districts 3, 4 and 5. Other members will not receive a ballot and candidate information with their issue.

Winners will be announced Aug. 23 at the cooperative's annual business meeting in Boyne City.

Watch for your ballot next month!



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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!

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HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

\$65.42	Bill
\$00.58	People Fund Round-Up Amount
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\$68.00	Total Bill

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

How Much Did I Earn Last Year?

Part of the value of being a Great Lakes Energy member is that you are entitled to a share of the margins or profits the cooperative earns.

We maintain an annual record of your share of these margins. Your share is referred to as a "capital credit allocation" and remains with the cooperative until financial conditions permit us to return the earnings to you.

A short message will appear on your June 2017 bill to inform you of the capital credit allocation amount you earned in 2016. This amount is not a refund, but a record of your annual investment in your cooperative.

You will be notified when part of your allocations are to be returned to you as a refund, which is expected in December. Details will be shared later in Michigan Country Lines.

How Is My Share Determined?

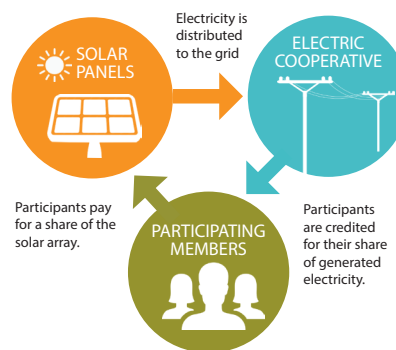
Capital credits are allocated based on the total amount members pay each year for electricity. If the total you paid last year was more than your neighbor's, your allocation amount will also be larger.

What does the co-op do with my capital credit allocation money?

Capital credits represent operating capital provided by the membership to the cooperative and are a major source of equity and operating funds for Great Lakes Energy. Capital credits help make it possible for us to secure loans, improve electric service reliability, and expand our system to meet the demands of our membership.

**At Great Lakes Energy, you are
more than just a customer;
you're a member. The capital
credits program is another
way we look out for you.**

Community Solar Subscriptions Available



OPTION DETAILS

- 15-year agreement
- Credit of \$0.10/kWh generated
- \$600/panel upfront or \$10 monthly (for 5 years) payment subscription

**\$150 rebate for
residential/seasonal
members who pay
upfront.**

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Looking Out for You

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Prepare your home for maximum energy savings today!

Standard programmable thermostat

- Customizable daily temperature schedule
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Central A/C or heat pump tune-up

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ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.



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Get \$50 for your old refrigerator or freezer.

Have an extra working refrigerator or freezer? Don't let it sit there wasting energy. Turn it in. You'll receive a \$50 rebate from the Energy Optimization (EO)

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ONLINE: michigan-energy.org **PHONE:** 877.296.4319



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