

POWERTalk

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ACRE Is A Valuable Ally



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

We rely on many partners to help us provide reliable electric service, including one you may not expect – a political action committee. ACRE, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification, is the political action committee of the nation's electric cooperatives.

Electric co-ops, like many other industries, rely on support from political leaders to ensure programs that benefit our industry and our members remain intact.

ACRE is a bipartisan effort to support co-op friendly candidates at both the federal and state levels.

We have state and national service organizations that utilize the ACRE program to make sure we have a voice in Lansing and Washington, D.C. Just as government issues affect our personal lives, they also have an impact on your electric co-op and its ability to do its job effectively.

A good example is the Rural Utilities Services (RUS) that provides low interest financing to rural utilities, including Great Lakes Energy. RUS loans help pay for power line construction that is important for maintaining reliable service. According to our national service organization, RUS loans contribute to federal deficit reduction because they are repaid with interest to the U.S. Treasury. In fiscal year 2017 alone, electric loan repayments netted more than \$300 million to the U.S. Treasury.

Contributing to ACRE is completely voluntary. It's supported by co-op employees, board members and even cooperative members. In 2017 our eligible employees and directors voluntarily contributed \$12,000 to ACRE. Rest assured, no money from your bill is contributed to ACRE.

Want to learn more? Great Lakes Energy members can contribute, too, by participating in the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® program. Visit gtlakes.com/co-op-owners-for-political-action or call 888-485-2537, ext. 8957, for more information.

Co-op Owners
ACRE
for Political Action®



Areas Scheduled for Tree Work

Tree re-clearing along Great Lakes Energy power lines is scheduled this year in the counties and townships below. Our annual vegetation management program helps us provide safe and reliable electric service. See the February issue of Michigan Country Lines for more information.

Allegan: Allegan, Dorr, Heath, Monterey, Overisel, Salem, Valley

Antrim: Banks, Central Lake, Custer, Echo, Forest Home, Helena, Kearney, Mancelona, Milton, Star, Warner

Charlevoix: Chandler, Hudson, South Arm

Cheboygan: Wilmot

Clare: Redding, Winterfield

Emmet: Friendship, Pleasantview, Readmond

Kalkaska: Clearwater, Coldsprings, Kalkaska, Rapid River

Lake: Cherry Valley, Peacock, Sauble, (South) Newkirk, Webber

Mason: Amber, Branch, Custer, Hamlin, Pere Marquette, Sheridan, Sherman, Victory

Mecosta: Big Rapids

Montmorency: Albert, Vienna

Muskegon: Casnovia

Newaygo: Ashland, Beaver, Bridgeton, Denver, Goodwell, Monroe, Norwich, Troy, Wilcox

Oceana: Colfax, Ferry, Leavitt, Newfield, Shelby

Osceola: Hartwick, Marion, Middle Branch, Sylvan

Otsego: Bagley, Charlton, Chester, Corwith, Dover, Elmira, Hayes, Livingston

Ottawa: Allendale, Blendon, Holland, Olive, Robinson

Great Lakes Energy Seeks Rate Increase

Great Lakes Energy is proposing rate changes that would result in a net increase of less than one cent per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential and seasonal accounts.

Under the proposed rates, the kWh rate for residential/seasonal members would increase \$0.0216 per kWh and the power supply cost recovery (PSCR) factor would decrease \$0.0165 per kWh. The result is a \$0.0051 increase per kWh. The monthly charge would remain the same for both rate classifications.

For the average residential member using 800 kWh per month this equates to a \$4.08 monthly increase. For the average seasonal member using 200 kWh per

month this equates to a \$1.02 monthly increase.

The increase, although small, would raise revenues to provide sufficient funding levels for maintaining reliable electric service, providing adequate margins and ensuring members receive the service they need to power their homes and businesses.

Members may direct any comments or questions by email to glenergy@glenergy.com or by mail to Great Lakes Energy, Attn: Rate Increase, PO Box 70, Boyne

City, MI 49712 by March 5.

The co-op's board of directors will consider adoption of the proposed rate changes at an open member meeting on March 21 in Boyne City. If approved, the new rates would take effect with June monthly bills. For more information about the member meeting contact us and ask for ext. 1331.

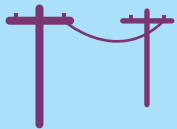
Proposed Rate Changes

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Change
Energy charge	\$0.0864/kWh	\$0.1080/kWh	\$0.0216/kWh
PSCR charge	\$0.0165/kWh	\$0.00/kWh	\$(0.0165)/kWh
Net increase			\$0.0051/kWh



We're Keeping the Lights On

Reliable service means fewer power outages. We're making improvements to provide you with better service.



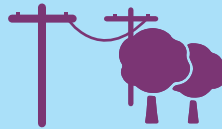
More Power Line Protection Devices



New Technology

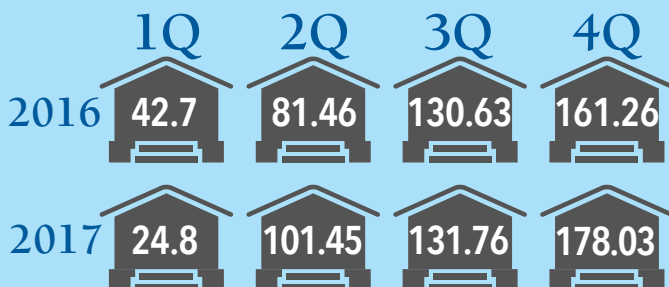


Major Power Line Improvements



Aggressive Tree Maintenance

AVERAGE OUTAGE MINUTES YEARLY COMPARISON



The 2017 goal of under 157 minutes wasn't met. However, we met the annual goal in nine of the last 12 years. We will work to maintain that good record in 2018.



See Us At The Home Show

Northern Michigan Regional Home Show

March 9 & 10

North Central Michigan College, Petoskey

Visit the Great Lakes Energy booth at the home show.

Stop by and speak to a representative to learn more about Energy Optimization programs designed to save you energy and money.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Looking Out for You

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Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.