

They're The Power Behind Your Power



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

There is a group of professionals that jump into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging

conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. They must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, they wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential

injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more difficult.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our case, GLE lineworkers are responsible for keeping over 14,000 miles of lines across 26 counties working, in order to bring power to your home 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some lineworker tools have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. During dangerous weather conditions, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



Three openings on GLE board

Nominating petitions are available in three districts for Great Lakes Energy (GLE) members who wish to seek election to the cooperative's board of directors.

Three board positions, each for three years, will need to be filled. Qualifying GLE members who reside in districts 1, 2 or 7 can seek election to the board.

District areas are:

District 1: Emmet County

District 2: Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties

District 7: Oceana and Muskegon counties

The terms of directors Paul Byl of Shelby, Mark Carson of Boyne City and Paul Schemanski of Petoskey expire this year. The three incumbents plan to seek re-election.

To get their names on the ballot, qualifying member-owners of the electric cooperative who maintain a primary residence within its service area must file a nominating petition with the co-op secretary.

Petitions must be signed by at least 50 active GLE members within the candidate's district.

Petition circulators are advised, but not required, to collect well over 50 signatures because some may not be valid.

Signed petitions returned by mail or in person must be received in the co-op's Boyne City

office no earlier than Thursday, May 24 and no later than noon Friday, June 8.

Petition forms are available by contacting 888-485-2537, ext. 1331.

GLE members in each of the three districts will elect one candidate from within their district to fill the three positions on the board. Mail-in ballots will be sent with the July/August 2018 issue of *Michigan Country Lines*. Winners will be announced Aug. 22 at the GLE annual business meeting.



Paul Schemanski
District 1



Mark Carson
District 2



Paul Byl
District 7

Attend a Free Energy Seminar

A free energy seminar for Great Lakes Energy members will be held Saturday, June 9, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Ludington.



REGISTER NOW

SATURDAY, JUNE 9
FROM 10 A.M. TO NOON.

**Holiday Inn Convention Center
East Ballroom
4079 W. U.S.-10
Ludington**

Space is limited, so please register by calling 1-888-485-2537, ext. 8958, or email: events@glenergy.com.

Learn about home heating and cooling options with geothermal and air-source heat pumps and energy optimization (EO) programs that offer incentives to help co-op members save energy. They include rebates for the purchase of furnaces with variable speed blower motors, heat pump water heaters, Wi-Fi-enabled or smart occupancy-sensing thermostats, refrigerators, televisions, lighting and more. In addition, information on free online audits will be provided.

Local heating and cooling companies and Great Lakes Energy staff members will be on hand to answer questions related to heat pumps.

Co-op members will learn about other incentive programs offered by Great Lakes Energy, too.

Door prizes will be awarded. Winners will receive energy saving gifts.

Bill Changes COMING

Starting in June, your bill will have a fresh, new look with more information to help you better manage your energy needs.

Other changes are coming, too, as Great Lakes Energy switches to a new software system that will handle billing, accounting, engineering and all other business functions. The transition to the new system will be mostly seamless, with some member involvement needed to reset online access and establish paperless bill settings. Some account numbers may also change.

"We believe the new suite of integrated software programs will help us better keep up with the technological demands of our business and our members," says President/CEO Bill Scott.

New software and related services will be provided by the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) that serves electric cooperatives and telecommunications companies across the United States. NISC is an information

technology cooperative that develops, implements and supports software and hardware solutions for its member consumers.

Members who receive and pay their GLE bills online or by mobile app will be able to continue to do their business that way with a new mobile app and web solution. Additional features, such as the ability to track your energy usage on your mobile app, will be included.

New logins will be required to take advantage of the new web-based services as old logins will no longer be supported. Those who currently receive paperless bills will be required to sign up for that service again once they login to the new portal(s). During the changeover, paperless bill service may be temporarily interrupted if there is a delay in opting in for paperless billing delivery.

In addition to making bill payments and checking energy use, members can use the new mobile app and web solution to report service issues, power outages or contact GLE on other matters. GLE will be able to send important messages electronically to members.

Residential and seasonal members will have more data on their bill to help them manage their energy use. New information



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 2017, the People Fund awarded \$216,155 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
<u>\$ 2.00</u>	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.

on average daily kilowatt-hour (kWh) use and average daily cost will be shown. A bar chart will enable them to quickly see how their energy use for any month in the current 12 month period compares to the same month for the previous 12 month period.

Some members will see their account number change as longer account numbers will be shortened to fit the new billing software system.

Please watch for updates on the changes in future issues of *Michigan Country Lines*, *PowerTalk* bill inserts and on our website and Facebook site.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Looking Out for You

1323 Boyne Avenue, P.O. Box 70
Boyne City, MI 49712

WEB: gtlakes.com

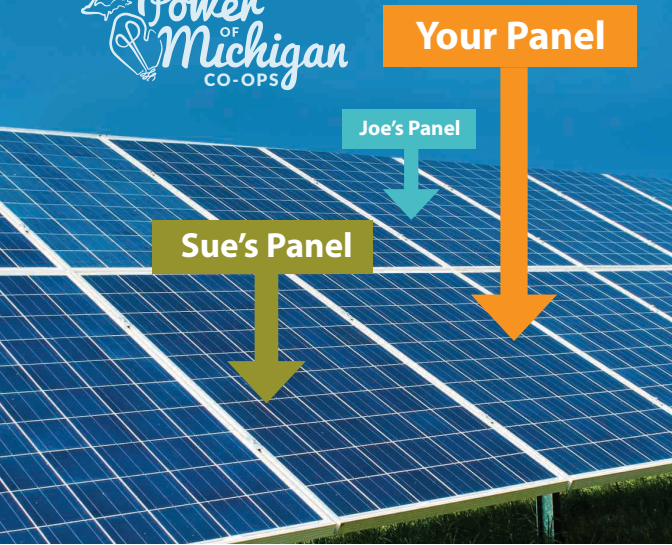
TEL: 888-GT-LAKES (888-485-2537)

EMAIL: glenergy@glenergy.com

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://www.facebook.com/greatlakesenergy)

Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Building a brighter tomorrow, together.



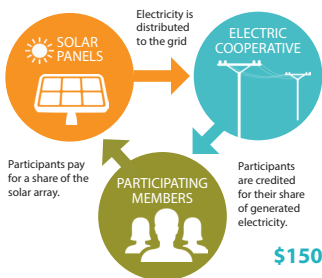
Go Solar With No Panels On Your Property

Great Lakes Energy is proud to offer a community solar program that gives our members an easy and affordable way to support renewable energy. Get a panel subscription through our SpartanSolar community array and start getting solar credits on your utility bill today. Learn more at spartansolar.com



3 Renewable Energy Options

1 Community Solar



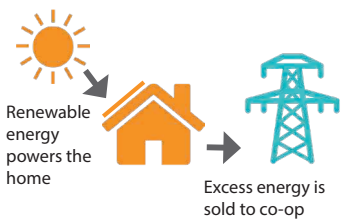
Option Details

- 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.*

**Subscription must be obtained by Nov. 30, 2018, to receive rebate. Other restrictions may apply.*

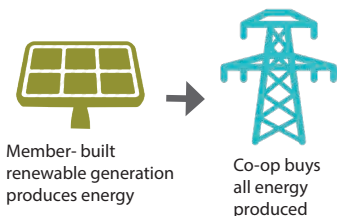
2 Net Metering



Option Details

- 10-year agreement
- Retail offsets for kWh produced and used in facility
- \$0.056/kWh generated and placed on the grid
- 20 kW cap

3 Buy-All/Sell-All



Option Details

- 20-year agreement
- \$0.10/kWh generated and placed on the grid
- One megawatt cap
- On premises