

Energy That's Sunny and Bright



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

Not only does the warm sun make us feel good inside, it can provide energy that will make you feel good in another way.

Our Community Solar program is a simple, relatively inexpensive option that enables you to support the use of clean, renewable energy powered by the sun. With this program, you can buy a subscription and help put solar energy on the electric grid. For as little as \$600 per panel or, if you prefer to pay over time, \$10 per month for 60 months, you can purchase a solar panel subscription. In return, you receive solar credits on your monthly bills. There are no solar panels to buy, install and maintain on your roof. Energy Optimization rebates up to \$150 per solar panel are also available for a limited time if you pay the full \$600

subscription upfront.

For those with their own renewable energy generating system, our Net Metering program allows you to connect your system to the electric grid. You buy less energy from us and receive bill credits for any excess energy you put on the grid. What is the cost to have your own system? A professional who installs them can help you with that information.

We have a third option for the more serious investors who install a generating system large enough to produce renewable energy that can be sold commercially. If your goal is to be in the business of selling renewable energy, the Buy All/Sell All program is designed for you.

If you're not able to take advantage of these programs, Great Lakes Energy has you covered. Nearly 20 percent of the electricity we provide already comes from renewable energy sources. That's due in large part to the investment our power supplier has made in wind energy generation in Michigan.

So, as we welcome back the warm weather and more sunny days, consider using the power of the sun, or other renewable energy sources, to get more involved in renewable energy with one of our flexible options. Select the one that works best for you and contact us or visit our website to learn more.



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.

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.

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@gleenergy.com.

Bill Changes Coming

Starting in June, your bill will have a new look. Some members will be reassigned a new account number. To serve you better, our online payment options and app will also change. You will need to re-establish your username and password for online account access. All paperless e-billing accounts will revert to a paper bill and members will need to re-enroll. Preview a bill sample on gtlakes.com.



Special Payment Alert

Due to computer software upgrades, all bill payments submitted from 5 p.m. May 29 through 8 a.m. June 4 must be made at a GLE office or by mail. Payment methods accepted during this time will be cash, money order or check only. Online, mobile app or phone payments using credit card or e-check will not be accepted during this time. Thank you for your patience.

Rate Increase Effective In June

Rate changes recently approved by the Great Lakes Energy board of directors will result in a net increase of \$0.0051 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential and seasonal accounts. It will go into effect with the June bills.

A \$0.0216 increase in the energy charge and a \$0.0165 decrease in the power supply cost recovery

(PSCR) factor results in a net increase of \$0.0051. (\$0.0216 minus \$0.0165 equals \$0.0051). The monthly charge will 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. Amounts don't include state sales tax.

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.

Approved Rate Changes

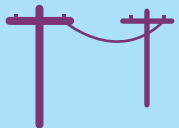
*Effective with June 2018 bills.

	Current Rate	New 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.



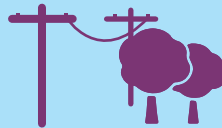
More Power
Line Protection
Devices



New
Technology

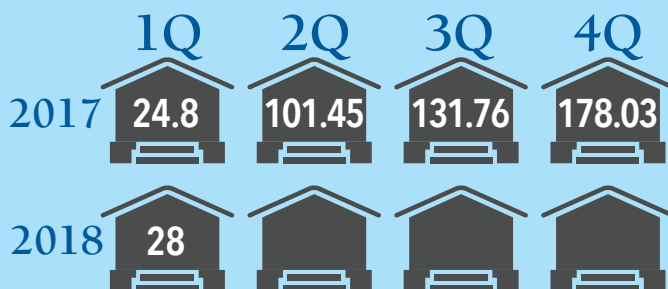


Major
Power Line
Improvements



Aggressive
Tree
Maintenance

AVERAGE OUTAGE MINUTES YEARLY COMPARISON



Our Yearly Goal:
Under 166.3 Minutes

Capital Credits

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, which is referred to as your capital credit allocation.

A short message appears on your May 2018 bill to inform you of the capital credit allocation amount you earned in 2017. 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, 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.

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.



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

Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

JOIN



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 have 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.

Example:

With People Fund: Bill Amount \$65.42 + \$.58 for People Fund = \$66.00

With People Fund PLUS: Bill Amount \$65.42 + \$.58 for People Fund + \$2.00 for PLUS = \$68.00

Fill out the back or call us today to join People Fund PLUS.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Interested?

✓ **Yes!** I would like to join the People Fund. I agree to have my bill rounded up and contribute:

- ☐ \$1/each month on my bill
- ☐ \$2/each month on my bill
- ☐ \$5/each month on my bill
- ☐ \$_____/each month on my bill*
- ☐ \$_____ one-time contribution on my bill*
- ☐ \$_____ one-time contribution by check
(enclosed and made out to GLE People Fund)

☐ Round-up my bill to the nearest dollar only

Select option above and return with your payment.

*Whole dollar increments only.

Sign up and be entered to win a \$100 bill credit in June and December.
Currently enrolled? You're already entered.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account # (see enclosed bill): _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Voluntary monthly
contributions may be
cancelled at any time.

**Prefer to enroll by phone
or online?** Call 888-GT-LAKES
or visit gtlakes.com.

*Contributions are tax-deductible.
Donors of \$500 or more may be
recognized in our publications.*