

# POWER*Talk*

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## Celebrate Being A Co-op Member



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Great Lakes Energy  
President/CEO

**S**ome things change, some things stay the same.

During the month of October—National Cooperative Month—we celebrate both.

Mostly, we celebrate the fact that this electric co-op is owned

by the members it serves. That hasn't changed in 81 years.

The idea that co-ops exist to meet a need previously unmet in the community hasn't changed, either. It's what drives us to put people first and be a trusted voice in our communities.

Since Great Lakes Energy is one of the largest electric cooperatives in the nation, as measured by our 14,000-plus

miles of line, we're privileged to serve many different communities throughout our 26-county western and northern Michigan service territory.

You, our members, guide our decisions. How? One form of guidance happened in August when members in three districts re-elected incumbent Great Lakes Energy board members. You won't find this type of grassroots democracy at any type of electric utility other than a co-op. Celebrate that!

For the past 15 years, we've provided our members with capital credit refunds. That is, we've paid back part of the capital investment you make in your co-op every time you pay a bill through refunding to you a portion of your co-op's profits as a bill credit in December. Over those 15 years, we've given our member-owners capital credit refunds totaling over \$66.4 million. We anticipate another round of capital credit refunds going out to you this December. Celebrate that!

The paths Great Lakes Energy takes are designed to best serve our members' needs, sometimes by changing their communities and even their lives. You'll see that in the form of initiatives such as the renewable energy programs we offer, economic development involvement, classroom grants, and People Fund grants made possible by our members' own generosity. Of course, the most visible recent example is the launch of Trustream, our high-speed fiber internet business that sprang from realizing the huge need our rural members have for such a service. Celebrate all that!

We recognize that each community has different needs. The co-op business model allows Great Lakes Energy to have its own members' best interests at heart and enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities we serve—now and in the future.

It's the cooperative difference. Celebrate that!

## Celebrating our Members!

October is National Cooperative Month and we're celebrating with free gifts for members plus a chance to win an LED TV. Stop into one of our offices during October and receive a free energy saving gift and Energy Optimization program information.

**You can also sign up to win one of three great prizes:**

**1st Prize:** 32" LED Energy Star-rated TV

**2nd Prize:** \$100 worth of LED lights

**3rd Prize:** \$50 worth of LED lights

One giveaway and one entry per account. Giveaways available while supplies last. LED light prizes were donated by Home Depot of Petoskey.

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# Have A Comfy Home *and* Save

Stay comfortable with a heat pump and save money, too.

**S**ave all year long because heat pumps heat and cool.

Qualifying members whose primary heating system is a heat pump (ground or air-source) can have it separately metered at a lower kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate.

The efficient electric heat rate offers a 3 cents per kWh credit year-round for qualifying ground-source heat pumps. Qualifying air-source heat pumps can receive the credit during the heating season (bills rendered November through May).

**Electric heat pump must meet these energy efficiency standards to qualify for the lower rate:**

- **Geothermal System** - minimum requirements of EER 17.1 COP 3.6 for closed loop water-to-air; EER 21.1 COP 4.1 for open loop water-to-air; EER 16.1 COP 3.1 for closed loop water-to-water; EER 20.1 COP 3.5 for open loop water-to-water; EER 16 COP 3.6 for direct geoechange.



- **Air-Source Heat Pump** - minimum requirements of HSPF 8.5, EER 12.5, & SEER 15 for split systems and HSPF 8, EER 12 & SEER 14 for package systems.

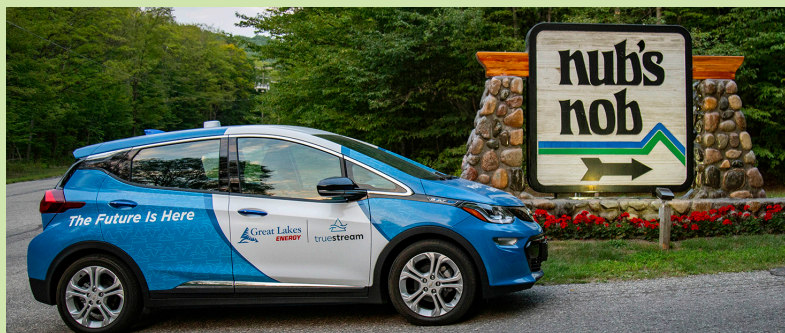
Rebates of \$500 (ground-source) and \$250 (air-source) are available for qualifying systems. For more information on the rebates and lower rate, call and ask for ext. 8957, or email us at: [glenergy@glenergy.com](mailto:glenergy@glenergy.com).

Additional heat pump rebates up to \$750 are available through our Energy Optimization program. Does the heat pump have an ECM (variable speed) blower motor and a wi-fi enabled or

smart occupancy sensing thermostat? Rebates are also available for them. Visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call 877-296-4319.

The Michigan Geothermal Energy Association can tell you more about heat pumps and dealers in your area by visiting their web site: [earthcomfort.com](http://earthcomfort.com).

Plus, ask your tax advisor about geothermal tax credits now extended through Jan. 1, 2022. Great Lakes Energy does not sell or service heat pumps.



## Championing *The* Truestream Cause

A crowd of 110 Great Lakes Energy members attended the first Truestream champions meeting hosted by Great Lakes Energy at Nub's Nob Resort to learn how they can help spread the word that high-speed, fiber-to-the-home internet service is coming to most of Emmet and parts of adjoining Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties. Visit [jointruestream.com](http://jointruestream.com) for more information on the new service.



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*Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Looking Out for You



JOIN



## JOIN PEOPLE FUND PLUS

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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 2017, the People Fund awarded \$216,155 in grants to local nonprofits. Visit [gtlakes.com](http://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](http://gtlakes.com).

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