

## Electricity's value still shines



Bill Scott  
Great Lakes Energy  
President/CEO

Home heating and cooling costs are often as unpredictable as the weather. Who would have thought April would bring major snowstorms and freezing temperatures followed by record electricity usage due to a heat wave in June and July?

**E**lectricity is the normal gadgets found in your kitchen, craft nook or workshop. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a good value, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly. I'd like to share information gathered by our national service organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association:

Since 2011, medical care, residential rental rates and education have increased at rates of 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs have been up by more than one to 2 percent annually, and even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average.

Electricity costs nationally rise over 1 percent a year, but electric co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're

so comfortable in our homes and connected to the modern world, but its cost is often more stable than other types of energy we buy. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count up your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music and video players and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Great Lakes Energy. Add in

## Scam Alert Reminder

A wary Great Lakes Energy member alerted us of a scam call he recently received. His caller ID said GREAT LAKES ENERGY, but it was a trick. The scammers threatened to shut off his power if payment wasn't made.

Great Lakes Energy members are reminded to be aware of impostors who may call them claiming to be from Great Lakes Energy.

Any GLE member who receives a call from someone claiming to be from Great Lakes Energy and feels pressured for immediate payment or personal information is advised to hang up the phone and call their electric cooperative. Great Lakes Energy members can call 1-888-485-2537 and speak to any GLE member service representative. Co-op members, or any consumer, should never give out personal information, including financial account numbers or social security numbers, over the phone or internet to someone they do not know.

Members should also report the incident to local law enforcement authorities.

doing more things with less energy.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why we're here to help you be more energy efficient. Please visit [glakes.com/heat-pumps](http://glakes.com/heat-pumps) to learn more about special rates and rebates for heat pumps. It's another way we're looking out for you.

## 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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# Free Energy Seminars

**TWO OCTOBER EVENTS OFFER MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT ENERGY SAVINGS.**

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, free online audits and more.

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

Door prizes will be awarded and all attendees will receive an energy saving item. Join us for this interactive and informative event!



## REGISTER NOW AND ATTEND EITHER SESSION:

- Saturday, Oct. 6 at the GLE Boyne City office
- Saturday, Oct. 13, at the GLE Newaygo office

Both seminars will be from 10 a.m. to noon. Space is limited, so please register by calling 1-888-485-2537, ext. 8958, or email: [events@glenergy.com](mailto:events@glenergy.com).

## Board Election Results Summary

### District 1



**PAUL SCHEMANSKI**  
*(Incumbent)*  
Petoskey - WINNER  
246

### District 2



**MARK CARSON**  
*(Incumbent)*  
Boyne City- WINNER  
326

### ROBIN LEE BERRY

Boyne City  
182

### LARRY FAILING

Boyne City  
121

### District 7



**PAUL BYL**  
*(Incumbent)*  
Shelby - WINNER  
317

### ANNE PAWLI

Montague  
279

## Report Outages Online

**Outage reporting is easy and fast when you report it online at [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com) or through our mobile app.**

GLE will be able to send important messages electronically to you, too.

You can also access your account anywhere and anytime on the GLE website or mobile app to:

You can continue to call **1-888-GT-LAKES (485-2537)** to report an outage, too. Do not report your outage by email or on social media, as such messages are not monitored 24 hours a day.

- **View and pay your electric bill**
- **Sign up for paperless billing**
- **Track your electricity use**
- **Set up or modify Auto Pay**
- **Update your personal information**
- **View power outages**
- **Schedule payments**

Visit Storm Central on [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com) for current outage information.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Looking Out for You

1323 Boyne Avenue, P.O. Box 70  
Boyne City, MI 49712  
**WEB:** [www.gtlakes.com](http://www.gtlakes.com)  
**TEL:** 888-GT-LAKES  
**FAX:** 231-582-6213

Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# Introducing Truestream.

Fiber internet powered by Great Lakes Energy.

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## **Announcing a connection that will change your life.**

Truestream, Great Lakes Energy's fiber network, will bring the unbeatable service you need from a name you can trust. With speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second (1,000 Mbps) available, Truestream will offer high-speed fiber internet and phone service to homes and businesses throughout Great Lakes Energy's service area. Limited service will be available in parts of Emmet and Charlevoix counties as soon as the end of this year.

**Learn more at [jointruestream.com](http://jointruestream.com)**

Or call at 888-485-2537



**truestream**

powered by Great Lakes Energy

