



# COOPERATIVE FACTS

## About Us

Headquartered in Boyne City, MI, Great Lakes Energy is one of the largest electric cooperatives in the United States with service centers in Hart, Kalkaska, Newaygo, Reed City, Scottville, Waters, and Wayland. With 14,508 miles of line, we are the second largest electric cooperative in the country in terms of miles of power line. As the largest member-owned electric cooperative in Michigan, we're committed to providing energy solutions to more than 126,000 member consumers in 26 counties in western and northern Michigan. Since 1937, our success has been built around the mutual trust we share with our members.

## Our Promise

To go beyond the expected to empower our member's lives. Built and led by the communities we serve, we have a mind for innovation and heart for service.

## Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first. Our cooperative principles are:

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

## QUICK FACTS<sup>1</sup>

• Number of Members	126,250 (19th in the nation, largest co-op in MI)
• Miles of Power Line	14,508 (2nd in the nation)
• Counties served	26
• Avg. Residential kWh/month	816
• Avg. Seasonal kWh/month	263
• Avg. Number of Members per Mile	6.17
• Avg. Number of Members per Employee	306 (39th in the nation)
• Offices	8
• Service Areas	9
• Board Members	9
• Employees (full time)	282
• Total property tax expense in 2019	\$5,578,771

<sup>1</sup> Based in part on 2019 KRTA data; out of 816 co-ops nationwide

## Reliability

When ranking our services, GLE members place reliable electric service at the top. Reducing average outage time is an annual goal at Great Lakes Energy. We met our annual reliability goal in eleven of the last fourteen years.

The addition of more line protection devices, use of new technologies, improvements to major power line circuits, and ongoing vegetation management to limit tree damage to power lines are all helping to get the lights back on safely and more quickly for GLE members during storms.

Reliability improvements in the last 15 years have benefitted thousands of members and led to GLE's success in repeatedly meeting state performance standards established to protect consumers from unacceptable levels of electric service and reliability.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone and outage reporting: 888-485-2537

Website: [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com)

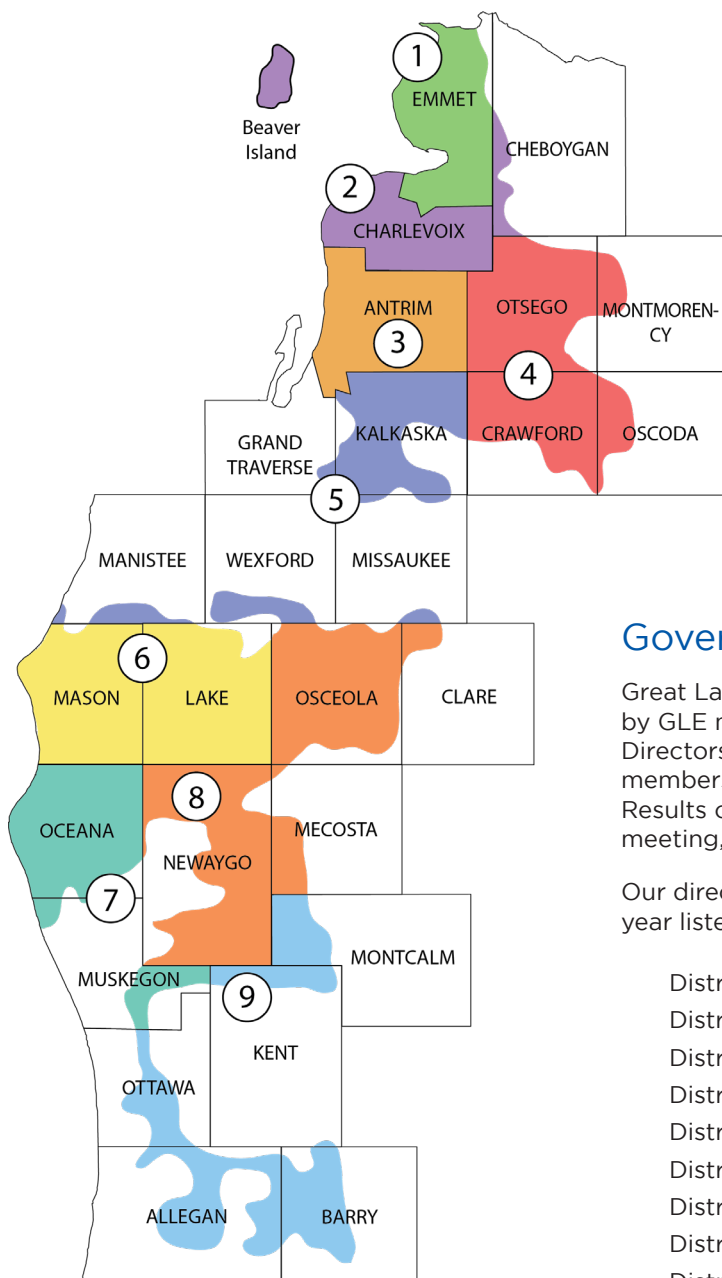
Facebook: [facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://facebook.com/greatlakesenergy)



## Service Territory

We serve parts of 26 counties along the western side of Michigan's lower peninsula. Counties include:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Allegan        | 14. Mason       |
| 2. Antrim         | 15. Mecosta     |
| 3. Barry          | 16. Missaukee   |
| 4. Charlevoix     | 17. Montcalm    |
| 5. Cheboygan      | 18. Montmorency |
| 6. Clare          | 19. Muskegon    |
| 7. Crawford       | 20. Newaygo     |
| 8. Emmet          | 21. Oceana      |
| 9. Grand Traverse | 22. Osceola     |
| 10. Kalkaska      | 23. Oscoda      |
| 11. Kent          | 24. Otsego      |
| 12. Lake          | 25. Ottawa      |
| 13. Manistee      | 26. Wexford     |



## Governance

Great Lakes Energy is governed by a nine-member board elected by GLE members within their district, but represent all members. Directors are elected to three-year terms by a mail-in ballot that members receive with Michigan Country Lines, their co-op magazine. Results of the annual election are announced at GLE's annual meeting, which is strictly a business meeting.

Our directors are listed below. Their terms expire in August of the year listed in parentheses.

- District 1: Paul Schemanski (2021)
- District 2: Mark Carson (2021)
- District 3: Richard Evans (2023)
- District 4: Shelly Pinkelman (2023)
- District 5: Dale Farrier (2023)
- District 6: Robert Kran (2022)
- District 7: Paul Byl (2021)
- District 8: Howard Bowersox (2022)
- District 9: John LaForge (2022)



# COOPERATIVE FACTS *continued*

## Energy Profile

Our power supplier is Wolverine Power Cooperative (WPC), a generation and transmission cooperative whose member-owners include Great Lakes Energy and four other electric cooperatives. We work closely with WPC to ensure we have adequate power supply that meets the needs of our members. WPC has taken a leadership role in the state in securing cleaner energy. The renewable power is backed up by the Alpine Power Plant, Wolverine’s 432 MW natural gas-fueled plant in Otsego County.

The energy WPC provides is derived from these sources (as of Dec. 31, 2019):

Coal	23.3%
Gas	15.03%
Nuclear	42.39%
Renewable Fuels	17.19%
Oil	0.18%
Hydroelectric	1.91%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Rates

One of the things our members value most is reliable, courteous service at an affordable price. By working to contain expenses, we consistently keep our annual average percent increase in costs below the average increase of the other 816 electric cooperatives nationwide.

GLE’s rates are cost based meaning they reflect the actual cost of providing service to members. Rates are based on a cost-of-service study that is performed every five years by an independent consultant. Our most recent rate increase took place in June 2018 for residential and seasonal rate classes.

Our residential, seasonal, and general service rates listed below.

The full rate book is available at [gtlakes.com/](http://gtlakes.com/).

Rate Class	Rate
Residential & Seasonal	Monthly Chg- \$32.21 Energy Chg - \$0.108/kWh
General Service – CSP (single phase)	Monthly Chg- \$32.21 Energy Chg - \$0.108/kWh
Additional Meter(s) RES, SEA or CSP rates on same transformer	Monthly Chg- \$9.94 Energy Chg - \$0.108/kWh

## Capital Credit Refunds

Great Lakes Energy has issued capital credit refunds annually to members since 2003. In that time, a total of over \$82.3 million in capital credit refunds were returned.

In 2020, members received \$5.84 million in capital credit refunds. It’s part of the cooperative difference.





### Energy Optimization (EO)

GLE offers EO programs for all members. Members pay an EO surcharge on their bills. GLE is part of the (MECA) collaborative, a group of 13 electric service providers that offer Energy Optimization programs. These programs reward energy-saving actions! Through EO programs members can offset costs by taking advantage of cash incentives for energy-saving equipment and efforts. Property values are improved and energy-efficient businesses tend to have healthier, more productive employees. Residents report feeling better in their homes. A list of current energy saving programs can be found at [michigan-energy.org/utility/GreatLakes/](https://michigan-energy.org/utility/GreatLakes/).

GLE also offers rebates for our members who purchase an electric vehicle (EV). We have also installed one level 3 EV charger at our Scottville office that is available for a fee and six free level 2 EV chargers throughout our service area. The free charging stations are located in Boyne City, Reed City, Scottville, Hart, Newaygo, and Wayland. For more information visit [gtlakes.com/energy-efficiency/](https://gtlakes.com/energy-efficiency/).

### Concern for Community

Through our People Fund program, participating GLE members allow us to round up their electric bill to the next dollar. That small amount of change each month adds up to fund grants that help meet our local community needs. Over \$3.7 million in People Fund grants have been awarded since 1999 to help senior citizen and youth programs, housing projects, medical and health services, educational programs and more. Grants are awarded by a volunteer board of directors divided into three committees based on areas – central, north and south. Directors meet twice per year to award grants to local organizations.

Twenty local classrooms benefitted from our Classroom Grant program in 2020, receiving \$25,608 in grants for technology and innovative projects.

GLE staff has shows their heart for service by donating to various causes throughout the year. In the past 10 years, employees have donated over \$250,000 to nonprofits in our service area including United Way, Betty Ford Breast Cancer Clinic, and Disabled American Veteran's Big Rapids, among many others.

### Truestream Fiber Network



In 2017, GLE's board of directors approved the building of a fiber network in one of GLE's nine service districts. The pilot project, which began build-out in 2018, connected its first Truestream internet subscriber in Oct. 2018. Three years later over 6,000 members are connected to this life changing service that is bringing high-speed internet and voice services to rural, underserved areas. For more information visit [truestreamfiber.com/](https://truestreamfiber.com/).

### Value Added Services

Members receive 10 issues of Michigan Country Lines magazine per year, a monthly bill insert newsletter, monthly e-newsletters, and communications through social media and other strategies.

GLE also offers a host of other value added products, services, and programs including rebates on heat pumps, community sponsorships, school technology grants, and an educational solar array. Community solar subscriptions and other renewable energy options are also available to members.

**For more comprehensive information about all of GLE's rates, programs, and services please visit [gtlakes.com/](https://gtlakes.com/).**