



We're looking out for our members



Shaun Lamp
President & Chief Executive Officer

As a member-owned cooperative, each decision at Great Lakes Energy is made through the lens of our members' perspective. We are always looking for ways to help, from safety suggestions to opportunities for savings or added convenience.

With May being national electric safety month, it marks another opportunity for us to provide helpful information to ensure your home is safe and sound. It can be easy to slip into complacency with less-than-ideal safety conditions, so below is a best practices list for home electrical safety that we like to share each May.

Use this list to reflect on your home and personal behavior. You may find some opportunities for improvement.



Use a smart plug or power strip to turn off the power when devices are not in use.



Surge protectors offer protection from damaging power surges that can destroy electrical equipment.



Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.



For households with small children, implement safety caps for all unused outlets.



Never use electrical equipment near water.



Never yank an electrical cord from the wall.



Replace wobbly switches and outlets.



Avoid overloading outlets and never use extension cords as permanent outlets.



If outlets or switches feel warm and you're having problems with blowing fuses, tripped circuits, or flickering lights, call your local electrician.



Be sure to place lamps on level surfaces and away from things that can burn.



Never place anything that burns near a furnace, water heater, space heater, or stove.

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Aging appliances and inefficient HVAC systems can be a drain on your electric bill. Discover how you can save with Energy Wise.

▶ Visit gtlakes.com/energy-wise to learn more about the rebate incentives available to you.

GO ONLINE TO SAVE MORE!

Take control of your electric use. Monitor your weekly electric consumption, setup alerts for high or low usage, sign up for AutoPay or Budget Billing, enroll in the People Fund, or report an outage.

▶ **The power is in your hands at gtlakes.com.**



Electric industry inflation

SINCE 2017

Here is how just a few important costs have increased over the last five years.



Crossarms
increased by **21%**



Copper wire
spiked by **104%**



88% increase for overhead conductor



Bucket trucks
costs rose by **28%**



32% increase for overhead transformers



Underground cable
increased **49%**

Cost-of-Service study underway

New rate structures anticipated in 2023

Everywhere we look, costs are increasing. Great Lakes Energy is not immune to rising costs, and they are impacting the way we do business. To ensure we navigate this changing climate with the best interest of our members in mind, we partnered with a third-party utility rate consulting firm to review our existing rate structures and have begun assessing the current cost of service model in use at GLE. These rate structures, which were last updated in 2018, are designed to ensure we maintain a fair balance for our members, while factoring the sustainability and reliability of the services we provide.

The pandemic has shaped our lives and the cost of living them in many unforeseen ways. The inflation that would normally occur, has been disproportionately magnified in recent years. Standard equipment and materials, such as copper wire, have more than doubled in cost from what they were just five years prior.

Approximately every five years, we turn to independent industry experts for a cost-of-service study to review and align rate structures. As a not-for-profit cooperative with cost-based rates, we analyze the impact each rate class has on our business and then work to ensure we structure rates so each rate class is covering their costs and not subsidizing other members. The study will provide direction when reviewing all rate classes (residential, seasonal, commercial, industrial, etc.) and will ensure the cost for providing safe and reliable service is as fair as possible for all members.

The new study will conclude this summer and be shared with your GLE board of directors. If the results suggest a need for rate adjustments, the board of directors will consider the proposed rates at a meeting open to members.

Despite the recent cost pressures, we continue to maintain a robust right-of-way management program that helps reduce the number of outages caused by trees. When severe weather strikes and outages occur across our entire service area, lineworkers can restore electricity more efficiently due to the aid of advanced meters and fault indicators that help pinpoint the cause of disruption. High quality of service benefits such as these is why GLE has consistently exceeded performance standards for outage restoration each year. Our programs eliminate major sources of outages and increase service reliability resulting in fewer and shorter service disruptions.

If the cost-of-service study conducted by our rate consulting firm shows that rate adjustments are required, members can expect the same fair and sustainable consideration that has been demonstrated in the past. As a member-owned cooperative, our goal is to target the lowest cost possible without sacrificing quality and reliability. These measures for success are part of what makes cooperatives so great.



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