

# power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## Cool it with care



**Shaun Lamp**

President & Chief Executive Officer

In most parts of GLE's service area, August is typically the second hottest month of the year, just slightly behind July.

That means for many members, energy use for home cooling can drive up their electric bills. Fortunately, there are simple long- and short-term steps you can take to help reduce your summer cooling costs. GLE's Energy Wise program offers several incentives that can help you make some of these energy-saving steps more affordable.

Following the tips offered below will not only help you control your energy costs, but it will also help reduce demand on the electric grid on hot days.



### MADE IN THE SHADE:

Something as simple as keeping curtains and shades closed, especially on south-facing windows, can make a big difference on hot days. Sun shining in warms your home like an oven, and window coverings can significantly reduce this effect.



### SEAL LEAKS:

Cracks and other small openings around windows, doors, and utility cutouts allow warm – and sometimes humid – air from the outside to enter the home and cause your A/C unit to work harder. Seal or caulk leaks and holes.



### MAINTAIN YOUR A/C UNIT:

Have a professional check the central air conditioning system annually. He or she will perform a proper tune-up and may spot potential problems before they become emergencies. Always make sure outdoor A/C unit evaporator coils are clean and free of obstructions.

Change the filter on your HVAC unit regularly all year long.



### RUN CEILING FANS:

Running ceiling fans at a fast speed can go a long way to increasing your comfort on a hot day. Make sure the fan is turning counterclockwise to create a wind chill effect. If you use air conditioning to cool your home, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort. In some situations, ceiling fans may allow you to avoid using your air conditioner altogether. Be sure to turn the fan off when you leave the room because fans cool people, not rooms.



### USE YOUR THERMOSTAT WISELY:

Try to keep your thermostat as close to the outdoor temperature as you can while still being comfortable. During the cooling season, the U.S. Department of Energy recommends a setting of at least 78 degrees when you are home. Turn up the thermostat even higher when you are away to prevent your A/C unit from running unnecessarily. A programmable or smart thermostat automatically adjusts the temperature to ensure you are cooling your home when you need to.

When first turning on the air conditioner, don't turn the temperature way down. Your A/C unit doesn't work faster because the thermostat is set is lower, but it could cause it to run longer than necessary.



### BE SMART ABOUT APPLIANCES:

Only run full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.

Let your dishes air-dry instead of using the heat setting. Prop the door open once the final rinse is complete for faster drying.

Cook or grill outside when you can to avoid running your stove or oven. This both cuts electric use and avoids adding heat inside your home.

Consider purchasing Energy-Star certified appliances which operate more efficiently than non-certified ones.

## Make the Energy Wise choice



One of the best ways to enjoy long-term energy savings on cooling costs is to invest in an energy efficient heat pump system. These systems operate much more efficiently than traditional air conditioning systems and are available in many types and configurations to meet a wide assortment of cooling needs.

**Here's a bonus:** GLE's Energy Wise program offers rebates on the purchase and installation of many energy-efficient options. **Rebates ranging from \$1,000-\$1,500** are available on qualified central or mini-split air-source heat pump systems. Rebates are also available on qualified ground-source heat pump systems.

To further maximize your savings and to take even more control of your cooling costs, **rebates of up to \$75** are also available on the purchase of a qualified smart thermostat.



To learn more about these and the other incentives offered through the Energy Wise program, visit [gtlakes.com/energy-wise/](http://gtlakes.com/energy-wise/).



Headquarters:  
1323 Boyne Avenue,  
Boyne City, MI 49712

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

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

 [truestreamfiber.com](http://truestreamfiber.com)

 [facebook.com/jointruestream](https://facebook.com/jointruestream)

 (888) 485-2537

 [glenergy@glenergy.com](mailto:glenergy@glenergy.com)

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