



## We know reliability matters to our members





**Shaun Lamp**President & Chief Executive Officer

Reliability is important in many areas in our lives. It's a trait we seek in our vehicles, friends, co-workers, and, of course in our utility service providers.

Recent survey results have shown that reliable and affordable electric service is very important to GLE members. **That's why we continue to make it a top priority.** 

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The steps we take to provide reliable service are many, complex, and regularly evolving.

An important piece of this reliability puzzle is routinely evaluating how GLE's electric rates are structured. Although perhaps not immediately obvious, rates and reliability are related. Of course, we need to make sure our rates provide the best value for our members while also ensuring the long-term operational and financial stability of the cooperative. But this relationship goes deeper.

In recent months you've likely heard about concerns many in the electric industry have voiced about the reliability of the power grid. These concerns have largely centered around how the industry will provide enough electric generation capacity to meet peak power demand while it shifts away from using fossil fuels. A common example of a peak demand period would be mid-afternoon on a hot summer weekday when extensive air conditioning use is added to typical residential, business, and industry power consumption. The industry's challenge is making sure there is enough electricity to keep the lights on for everyone during these high-demand periods.

One way to address concerns about the grid's capacity is to slowly transition to clean and new types of power supply so that we ensure intermittent sources like wind and solar are balanced with more reliable sources such as natural gas and nuclear. GLE currently provides a power supply mix that is more than 60% carbon free.

Another way is to encourage members to shift some of their electric use in ways that will reduce these peak demand periods. We are currently evaluating two rate structure options that would help address these demand concerns while also giving members more control over their monthly electric bill.

A time-of-use rate would offer members a lower rate for electric use during times of the day when the overall demand on the grid is typically lower. Under a demand rate structure, members who spread out their use of high-demand electric appliance over the day would pay less than those who use several high-demand appliances at the same time.

For example, on a time-of-use rate, you'd save by waiting until off-peak hours to use an electric clothes dryer. With a demand rate, you'd save money by avoiding running that same clothes dryer at the same time

you are using another high-demand appliance, such as an electric oven.

Both rate options would offer members the opportunity to have more control over their electric bills while helping minimize demand spikes that can threaten electric reliability. We will continue to evaluate these rate options, and we'll be sure to share updates as these plans evolve.