

Celebrating **milestones** in connecting you to Truestream



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

The arrival of a new year is often a time when many of us reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and set our sights on new goals for the future.

That’s exactly what we’re doing at Great Lakes Energy (GLE), especially with our Truestream fiber internet service.

We recently celebrated two major Truestream milestones.

- ▶ In October we marked the five-year anniversary of connecting our first Truestreamer.
- ▶ More recently, our total number of Truestreamers eclipsed the 20,000 mark.

In the past year alone, we installed more than 850 miles of fiber optic lines and connected more than 4,500 members to the Truestream network.

The fiber optic lines we installed during the past year include many miles of trunkline that will connect electric substations in the Waters Service District. These trunklines are not only critical to our ongoing implementation of smart electric grid technology, but they also serve as a vital first step for much of our 2024 Truestream construction plan. This year, the construction of our Truestream network is slated to reach just over 10,000 homes and businesses who will then be eligible for fiber internet and voice services in rural parts of Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Otsego counties served by GLE. These areas generally include a region mostly east of I-75 from Gaylord to Grayling. Some areas west of I-75 are also included in the 2024 construction plan.

We are also very excited to have recently been awarded more than \$46 million in Realizing

Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) grants. The grants will support our continued expansion of the Truestream fiber network, providing high-speed internet access to nearly thousands of members in rural portions of Antrim, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Otsego, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Oceana, Crawford, Montmorency, and Otsego counties during the next three years.

One of the best parts of my job is seeing how GLE makes a difference in the lives of our members.

Truestream is a great example of this. Much like electric cooperatives had a major impact on the lives of their rural members by bringing electric service to unserved rural areas starting in the 1930s, GLE’s Truestream service is having a similar, life-changing impact for our members by bringing fast, reliable internet service to areas that previously had little to no access.

Amid all the excitement about our accomplishments and our plans for the coming year, I know there are also many members who are still eagerly waiting for Truestream service. I want to offer my thanks to our members for their patience as we work on a project that requires significant time and resources as we build out the massive infrastructure for the Truestream network. We look forward to connecting you to Truestream service and I want to reassure you that we are working hard to make that happen as quickly as we can.



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The Robotics Club at Big Rapids Middle School was awarded \$1,500 for robotics materials.



GLE awards more than **\$29,000** in classroom grants

Great Lakes Energy Awarded \$29,986.88 in grants to support 18 classroom programs in schools that educate children of the cooperative's members.

With the 2023-24 school year grants, the classroom grant program has awarded more than \$302,700 to 204 school projects since GLE launched the program in 2012.

These schools received classroom grants for the 2023-24 school year:

One high school teacher whose project was selected for a grant in a previous year said,

“

I have been doing my best to stay afloat this year in terms of managing fundraising for my classroom, and at times the pressure has weighed on me. I am so thankful for organizations like yours that can help make the dreams I have for my classroom come true.”

- ▶ Tri County Middle School, Howard City, \$2,000 for VR devices.
- ▶ Central Elementary, Petoskey, \$1,854 for Sphero littleBits.
- ▶ Patricia St. Clair Elementary, Hesperia, \$1,200 for a 3D printer.
- ▶ Grant Elementary and Grant Primary, Grant, \$500 for a light table.
- ▶ Shelby Middle School, Shelby, \$1,677.82 for 3D printing course supplementation.
- ▶ Ludington Elementary, Ludington, \$1,517.76 for PowerUp electric paper airplanes.
- ▶ Otsego Christian School, Gaylord, \$2,000 for iPads.
- ▶ Grayling High School, Grayling, \$1,992.16 for robotics materials.
- ▶ Ludington Elementary, Ludington, \$474 for wind-powered cars.
- ▶ White Cloud Elementary School, White Cloud, \$1,854.88 for STEM materials and a mobile STEM station.
- ▶ Harbor Light Christian School, Harbor Springs, \$1,914 for an interactive projector.
- ▶ Big Rapids Middle School, Big Rapids, \$1,500 for robotics materials.
- ▶ Boyne City Public Schools, Boyne City, \$2,000 for a 3D printer.
- ▶ Reed City High School, Reed City, \$1,806.90 for Limelight vision cameras and material.
- ▶ Pine River Middle School, Pine River, \$1,916 for Finch robots.
- ▶ Pellston Public School, Pellston, \$1,802.67 for Osmo learning kits.
- ▶ Boyne Falls Public School, Boyne Falls, \$1,976.69 Sphero littleBits.
- ▶ McBain Middle School, McBain, \$2,000 for Ozobots kit.





Online applications for the 2024-25 school year will open in September 2024.



To learn more about GLE's Classroom Grant Program, visit gtlakes.com/youth-programs/.



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