

# power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## Exciting Truestream times ahead



**Shaun Lamp**

President & Chief Executive Officer

When I look back over the year that just ended and ahead at the year that's just beginning, I'm filled with pride about what we've accomplished and excitement about what the future will bring when it comes to making a positive impact on the lives of our members. This is especially true for our Truestream fiber internet service.



Over the past six years, we've connected more than **24,000 Truestreamers** to our fiber network and received various grants for the project including a \$46 million Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure (ROBIN) grant in 2023.

In 2024 alone we added an additional 900 miles of trunkline to our fiber network, and as the year was drawing to a close, our complete fiber network build-out had just passed the halfway point.

Thanks to the gains we made in our construction last year, in the fall of 2024 we were able to get a head start on some of our 2025 construction plans by beginning fiber construction in the Kalkaska service area. We've already begun accepting registration for service in some of these areas with more to follow soon.

In 2025, we will continue leveraging the ROBIN grants we were awarded in 2023 in four construction phases, eventually making Truestream service available to more than 9,000 GLE members in our Kalkaska, Scottville, Waters, and Hart service districts, which include rural parts of Kalkaska, Antrim, Grand Traverse, Crawford, Oceana, and Mason counties.

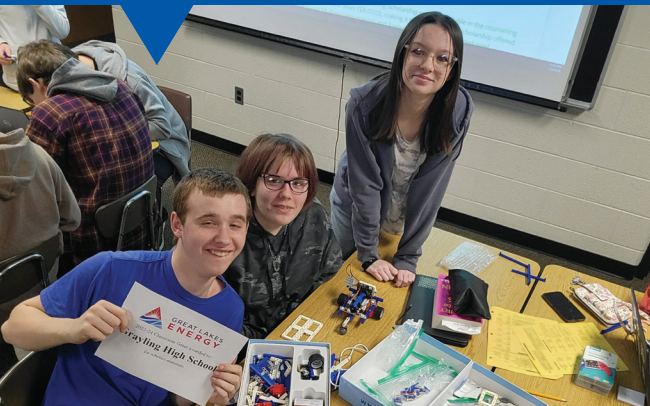
While last year's work focused heavily on our Waters service district in Otsego and Crawford counties, this year, we are moving much farther into our Kalkaska service area and southern portions of our Waters service district that we couldn't reach in 2024. We'll also be making our first inroads into our Scottville service district in portions of Mason and Oceana counties outside of Pentwater.

Although our not-yet-served area continues to shrink, I know many members are still eagerly awaiting Truestream service. I want to offer my thanks for your patience as we work on a project that requires significant time and financial resources to 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 efficiently as we can.



Scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit [truestreamfiber.com/new-truestreamer/#buildingfiber](https://truestreamfiber.com/new-truestreamer/#buildingfiber) to watch a video explaining the Truestream construction process.

*Seeing the continued growth of our Truestream network is especially rewarding because its life-changing impact on the lives of our members mirrors the impact electric cooperatives had on their members by bringing electric service to unserved rural areas starting in the 1930s.*



# GLE awards more than **\$30,000** in classroom grants

**These schools received classroom grants for the 2024-25 school year:**

In November, Great Lakes Energy Awarded \$30,017.24 in grants to support **18 classroom programs** in schools that educate children of the cooperative's members.

The grants are intended to help implement innovative projects and target projects that typically fall beyond the scope of school budgets. Grants are awarded up to a maximum of \$2,000 per school district.

A total of 50 applications were submitted for the 2024-25 grant cycle. The applications were evaluated according to published standards by a panel of volunteer employee judges from various departments at GLE. School names and districts were hidden during the evaluation process to allow for judging based on project merit and the quality of the application submitted.

With the 2024-25 school year grants, the classroom grant program has awarded more than \$332,700 to 222 school projects since GLE launched the program in 2012.

Oceana Christian School teacher Marissa Snider said, "This is such a huge blessing to our school and STEAM classroom! I am beyond thankful and excited!"

- ▶ Boyne City Middle School, Boyne City, \$2,000 for microscopes
- ▶ Charlevoix Elementary School, Charlevoix, \$1,265 for DASH robots
- ▶ Coopersville Middle School, Coopersville, \$2,000 for a laser engraver cutting machine
- ▶ Grant Elementary School, Grant, \$1,568.76 for broadcast programming and equipment
- ▶ Grayling High School, Grayling, \$2,000 for cameras and equipment
- ▶ Harbor Light Christian School, Harbor Springs, \$700 for PocketLab's G-Force cars
- ▶ Inland Lakes Schools, Indian River, \$1,339.98 for a MakerBot 3D printer
- ▶ Ludington Elementary School, Ludington, \$2,000 for electrical circuits and electromagnets
- ▶ Mason County Central Schools, Scottville, \$1,899.50 for GoPiGo kits and Raspberry Pi
- ▶ McBain Middle School, McBain, \$2,000 for Snap Circuit kits and 3D pens
- ▶ Newaygo Elementary School, Newaygo, \$2,000 for Ozobots
- ▶ Oceana Christian School, Hart, \$2,000 for Cubelets Robot Blocks
- ▶ Patricia St. Clair Elementary School, Hesperia, \$1,920 for indi robots
- ▶ Pentwater Public School, Pentwater, \$599 for a classroom hydroponics growing system
- ▶ Shelby High School, Shelby \$1,800 for programmable robots
- ▶ St. Stanislaus School, Dorr, \$2,000 for the robotics program
- ▶ Tri County Middle School, Howard City, \$1,925 for Bit Board Rovers
- ▶ Wolverine Elementary School, Wolverine, \$1,000 for a BenQ board



**Online applications for the 2025-26 school year will open in September 2025.**



To learn more about GLE's Classroom Grant Program, visit [gtlakes.com/youth-programs/](https://gtlakes.com/youth-programs/).



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