

Balancing **reliability and value** in your electric service



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

We all strive for balance in our lives, whether it's between our work and personal lives, in our relationships with friends and family, or in our household budgets.

At GLE, one of our top priorities is providing our members with the **reliable electric service** they depend on at a good value. To achieve this goal, we must regularly balance the investments we make in the maintenance and operation of our infrastructure to maintain reliability with the rates we need to charge to cover those investments.

The leading cause of power outages is falling trees or tree limbs that take down power lines or otherwise damage electrical distribution equipment. That's why we have a **robust vegetation management program** that seeks to reduce these tree-related outages by regularly trimming or removing trees and/or tree limbs that could pose a threat to our lines if they fall during a storm or for some other reason.

Each year, we strategically target various locations across our 26-county service area for this work using specially trained contracted tree-trimming crews. This process, known as re-clearing, takes place on a rotating basis about once every seven years on all 11,000 miles of GLE's overhead power line rights-of-way.

In 2025, we will invest significant resources to re-clear 1,250 miles of power line rights-of-way in 72 townships across 16 counties. That's an increase of about 100 miles from last year.

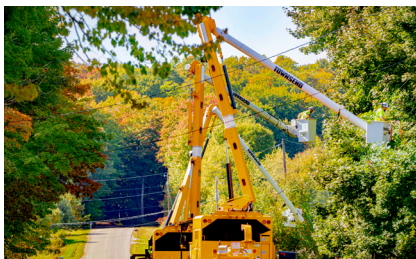
But this year, we will be taking our vegetation management reliability enhancement efforts a step

further. In 2025, we will expand our hazard tree mitigation program, which will target dead trees outside of the right-of-way. This additional work will prioritize areas that are most prone to tree-related outages. About \$1.2 million of this expanded work will be paid for through Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Grid Resiliency Program grant funds.

Other critical investments that bolster our continued reliability include replacing aging equipment and infrastructure such as power lines, poles, transformers, switches, and meters. We are also making technological upgrades to make sure we are prepared to meet the current and future demands of our ever-evolving industry. Additionally, we make regular investments in our fleet of vehicles to ensure our employees can quickly and safely respond to our members' service needs.

Reliability is not just a core value at GLE, it takes center stage in our vision statement, which reads, "We will empower and enrich our members' lives with reliable service."

These proactive reliability enhancement investments are critical both in our pursuit of this vision and in our quest to avoid more costly expenses in the long run.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:

gtlakes.com/generalinformation/#clearingtheway

to watch a video about our vegetation management program.





Annual vegetation management program begins

This winter, contracted tree-trimming crews will start removing trees and limbs near power lines throughout the Great Lakes Energy service area.

The work is part of the cooperative's annual vegetation management program to improve electric service reliability and safety. In 2025, GLE will invest more than \$12.1 million to re-clear trees along 1,250 miles of power line rights-of-way (ROW) in 16 counties and 72 townships. About \$2.3 million of that total will be used to develop a more robust hazard tree program, that will target dead trees outside of the rights-of-way. This additional work will start in areas that typically have the most outages. About \$1.2 million of this expanded work will be paid for through Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Grid Resiliency Program grant funds.

Great Lakes Energy members will be notified by postcard, email, and phone if ROW re-clearing work is scheduled in their area. Please be sure we have your current billing address, email address, and primary phone number for your service location.

► **You can verify and update this information by logging into your online account or by calling (888) 485-2537.**

This will help ensure we are able to reach you.

Tree-related power line damage is a major cause of outages. Re-clearing of the co-op's entire power line distribution system is performed on six- to seven-year cycles. The amount of trimming to maintain adequate power line clearance depends on the tree type, location and growth, and type of line voltage. In addition to weak and dying trees, healthy trees may need to be trimmed or removed if they pose a threat to your electric service. As always, we will address any trees, both in and out of the ROW, that pose an imminent threat to our lines as needed throughout the year.

If you have questions about our re-clearing program or concerns about a tree that may be a hazard to our lines, contact our **vegetation management department** at **(888) 485-2537, ext. 8221** (all areas south of Cadillac) or **ext. 1295** (all areas north of Cadillac).



Counties and Townships Scheduled for 2025 Re-Clearing

Allegan County: Gun Plain, Martin, Otsego, Watson

Antrim County: Banks, Central Lake, Custer, Echo, Forest Home, Helena, Kearny, Mancelona

Charlevoix County: Chandler, Hudson

Cheboygan County: Wilmot

Emmet County: Friendship, Readmond, West Traverse

Kalkaska County: Cold Spring, Excelsior, Rapid River

Kent County: Nelson, Solon, Tyrone

Lake County: Chase, Dover, Ellsworth

Mason County: Amber, Custer, East Grant, Freesoil, Hamlin, Pere Marquette, Sherman, Victory, West Grant

Mecosta County: Aetna, Grant, Green

Montmorency County: Vienna

Muskegon County: Casnovia

Newaygo County: Ashland, Barton, Big Prairie, Denver, Ensley, Everett, Garfield, Grant, Sherman, Troy

Oceana County: Benona, Colfax, Golden, Hart, Leavitt, Newfield, Shelby

Osceola County: Burdell, Hersey, LeRoy, Richmond, Sherman

Otsego County: Bagley, Chester, Charlton, Corwith, Dover, Elmira, Hayes, Livingston



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