

power talk



Your Voice, Your Co-op

A message from Shaun Lamp, President & CEO



At Great Lakes Energy, being a member means more than receiving reliable power. It means

having a voice in how our co-op is guided and how decisions are made. Membership brings a level of ownership and participation that ensures your perspective helps shape the future of the organization.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, GLE is governed by a board of directors elected from and by the membership. These directors are your neighbors, bringing local perspective and community understanding to each decision. That's the cooperative difference in action.

Each year, members in three of our nine voting districts elect a representative to serve a three-year term on the board. Every membership carries one vote, ensuring fairness and equality across our entire co-op, whether you represent a household or a business.

Why does this matter? Because board decisions influence everything from electric rates to long-term investments in infrastructure and technology. When you participate, you help ensure your co-op reflects the priorities of the communities we serve.

That member voice is just as important beyond our local communities. Recently, I traveled to Washington, D.C., alongside board treasurer Dale Farrier and Director of Broadband Operations Taylor Sides for the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference. Together, we shared our members' perspectives with policymakers and advocated for reliable, affordable, and resilient energy. You can read more about that work on the next page.

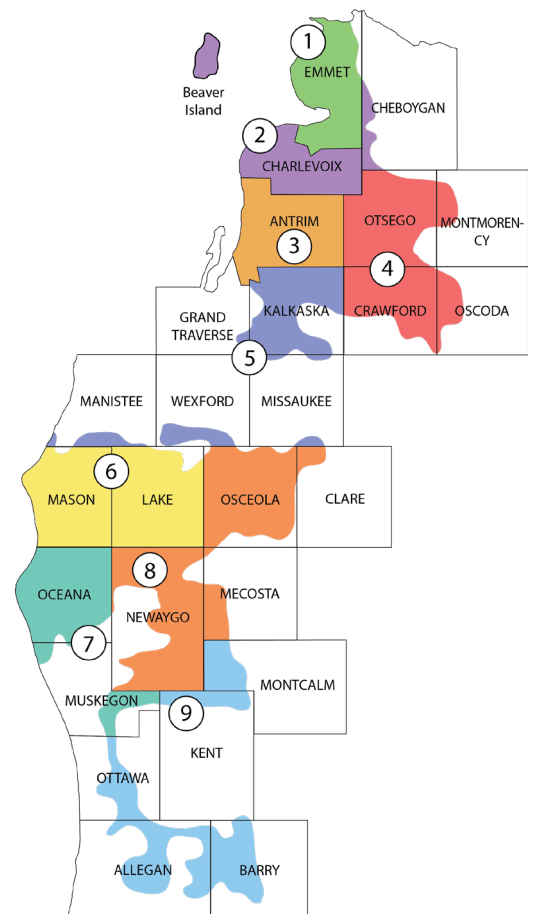
Strong advocacy begins with engaged members. Your participation here at home strengthens the voice we carry when we represent you at the state and national level.

We have also worked to make participation in voting easier. Three years ago, we introduced online voting alongside traditional mail-in ballots. In the first year, about half of the votes were cast online. Over the past two years, that number has grown to two-thirds. This year, elections will take place in districts 3, 4, and 5. Members in those districts can learn more about their respective candidates in the July/August issue of Country Lines. Other members will have the opportunity to vote in 2027 or 2028.

Members in voting districts will receive their ballots and instructions via email and on the cover wrap included with Country Lines. Voting is administered securely by Survey Balloting Systems. Please submit your vote by 5 p.m. on Aug. 20. If voting by mail, allow enough time for delivery by the deadline.

When you participate, you help shape the future of our co-op and the communities we share.

That's the power of your voice and the cooperative difference.



DISTRICT BY COUNTY 2026 Election

District 3 -- Antrim County

District 4 -- Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Otsego counties

District 5 -- Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties

Advocating for Our Members on a National Stage



In April 2026, more than 1,500 electric cooperative leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference, bringing a unified rural voice to critical energy discussions.

Great Lakes Energy CEO Shaun Lamp, Board Treasurer Dale Farrier, and Director of Broadband Operations Taylor Sides attended, representing GLE members on Capitol Hill. As a member-owned cooperative, advocacy is central to GLE's mission, and the team met directly with policymakers to address issues impacting rural communities.

Key priorities included advancing "smart energy policies" to ensure reliable, affordable, and resilient electricity as demand grows. Cooperative leaders also emphasized the need to streamline federal permitting, improve FEMA disaster response, reduce wildfire risks through better land management, and strengthen the Rural Utilities Service loan program that supports rural infrastructure.

Conference sessions highlighted the urgency of investing in grid expansion and modernizing the nation's electric system. However, the most impactful moments came during face-to-face meetings with lawmakers, where GLE's delegation connected national policy decisions to real impacts on local members.

The message was clear: when electric cooperatives speak together, rural communities are heard. GLE remains committed to advocating for its members and delivering safe, reliable service.



Truestream Reaches 30,000 Subscribers

Great Lakes Energy reached a major milestone in May, surpassing 30,000 Truestream subscribers. That means tens of thousands of homes, farms, and businesses across our service area now have access to fast, reliable fiber internet—many for the first time.

For members, Truestream is more than fast, reliable internet. It opens the door to telehealth, remote work, online learning, and stronger connections with family and community.

This growing fiber network is also strengthening GLE's electric system. Enabling faster communication between equipment and operators helps reduce outage times and improve overall reliability.

Construction continues to move forward, and the network build is 66 percent complete. The full network is on track to be completed by 2029-2030.

Learn more and check availability in your area at truestreamfiber.com.

Do You Have an Online Account?

Take control of your account with convenient online and mobile tools. Explore easy-to-follow info on your bill and payments and sign up for notifications, including outage information.

If you haven't yet set up your online account, you can register in a few simple steps either through the app's login page or by visiting gtlakes.com and clicking on the red "log in to your account" box.



 gtlakes.com

 facebook.com/greatlakesenergy



 truestreamfiber.com

 facebook.com/jointruestream

Headquarters:
1323 Boyne Avenue
Boyne City, MI 49712

 (888) 485-2537

 glenergy@glenergy.com