Percentage Breakdown

Here is what makes up the fixed costs in your monthly charge.

40.9%

Operation and Maintenance (40.1%). This ensures our power line system is properly distributing electricity to members.

Typical operating expenses include inspecting and monitoring lines, poles, meters and other distribution equipment; dispatching and engineering services, radio communications, and property taxes on lines and equipment.

Maintenance refers to the upkeep of our power line distribution system, and repairs due to storms and other damage.

18.7%

Support Services (18.7%). This pays for support services necessary to operate an electric co-op, including office staff, member services, accounting, IT, and communications.

31.90%

Capital Costs (31.9%). We have annual expenses on capital equipment. Costs for new poles, wires, transformers, computers, and office equipment are spread over their useful life.

Also included is interest owed on long-term debt. Our large capital expenditures, such as new power lines, are partially funded with low-interest loans from the federal Rural Utilities Service and other lenders.

8.4%

Margins (8.4%). When financial conditions allow, any profits earned by your cooperative are shared with members as capital credit refunds. Since 2003, Great Lakes Energy has issued over $82 million in capital credit refunds to members.

Learn More

What's the monthly charge? Find out how Great Lakes Energy ensures reliable services to all of its members.

Visit gtlakes.com/account-information.

GREAT LAKES ENERGY

Power. Purpose. **You**.

gtlakes.com (888) 485-2537

1323 Boyne Avenue
Boyne City, MI 49712

Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

UPDATED DECEMBER 2025

GREAT LAKES ENERGY

HOW ARE MY GLE DOLLARS SPENT?

Visit gtlakes.com or call 888-485-2537

What Your Bill Pays For

Great Lakes Energy is a cooperative. That means your electric rates are based on the cooperative's actual costs to serve you.

What are those costs? The simplest way to explain what you pay for is to split your bill into two parts — variable costs and fixed costs.

The electricity you use is a variable cost, paid for through the energy and PSCR charges on your bill and a portion of your monthly charge. For the average year-round member, purchased power costs account for well over half of their bill. Fixed costs, listed here, are not related to the amount of energy you use. They exist whether you use a great deal or little, if any, electricity.

COST COMPONENTS

Each year money is budgeted to continue providing reliable electric service. This is how those costs are allocated.

Substation

$50,000 in equipment installed in each substation for our automated meter reading system.

Total Employee Wages per Member

GLE: **$263**

Electric Co-ops Nationally: $330 (median)

Overhead and Underground Distribution Lines

$99,000 – $635,000 per mile

Tree Clearing

$6,500 per mile

Pole

$185 – $494

Transformer

$1,133– $2,425

Lineworker Gear

$4,900 – $5,100

Bucket Truck and Attachments

$422,427

Residential Meter

$115

Michigan Country Lines

52 cents per issue

Providing Reliable Electricity to Great Lakes Energy Members:

PRICELESS