

PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source



June 2020 • www.clpower.com

One thing that is certain in uncertain times - **OUR COMMITMENT** to you and the local communities we serve.



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CLP, the Certain in Uncertain Times

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Supporting the Communities We Serve and Beyond

During these times of uncertainty, it is more important than ever that we continue to support our community. Recently, CLP held a “Community Donation Drive” for its employees and board members. The purpose of the drive was to raise money for community organizations offering assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. With CLP matching dollar for dollar all donations made by the employees and board members.

As you may already be aware, we have amazing employees and board members at Cooperative Light & Power! Member account number seven hundred thirty two thousand eight hundred thirty four. CLP had 100% participation in this donation drive raising \$2,750! With the CLP matching dollars, \$5,500 was split among four different community organizations helping those directly affected by the pandemic. Way to step up CLP employees and board members!

COVID-19, Where We Are Today

As I write this article, Governor Walz has just lifted the stay at home order and has started allowing some businesses to reopen. CLP continues to put the health of our employees, their families, and our members first. At this time, our offices remain closed to the public. Our office staff will continue to work from home, and our off-site call center will continue to answer phone calls, and messages will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel. The CLP line crew will be working modified shifts and will be responding to outages 24/7.

We look forward to seeing our members again and have formed a task force of staff and employees to assist with the reopening of business when it is acceptable to do so. Safe social distancing and additional safety protocols will be followed as we try to achieve a sense of normalcy amid the pandemic.

We thank you for your continued support and understanding. We are in this together!





GRE/CLP Leads the Clean Energy Frontier with 95% Renewable Energy Coal Replacement by 2023 and Grid-Scale Battery Innovation

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Great River Energy/Cooperative Light & Power leads the Clean Energy Industry by replacing coal with >95% carbon-free renewable Energy for its member-owners by 2023. The reduction in carbon emissions will actually be greater than 99%. However, since we still need the opportunity to buy energy from the open (MISO) market, some of that might not be carbon-free, hence the >95% carbon-free.

Coal Creek Station is being retired, and that energy will be replaced by newly built renewable wind power in Minnesota. CLP/GRE and its members will have the cleanest energy in the country not by 2030, 2040, or 2050 as most Energy Companies are projecting but by 2023.

GRE's plans will transform its portfolio of power supply resources in the coming years. It will be significantly reducing member-owner wholesale power costs and limiting potential carbon tax risk. GRE plans to phase out remaining coal resources, add significant renewable energy, and develop a long-duration energy storage solution. GRE, in a contract with Form Energy, a Bill Gates-backed company, is developing a long-duration energy storage solution that could pro-

vide 150 hours of continuous power.

"We are building a power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives for decades. We are taking advantage of cost-competitive renewables and reliable access to market energy while fostering innovation as the technology of our industry evolves. Our power supply plans deliver on our member-owners' three highest priorities: affordability, reliability, and environmental stewardship. Electric cooperatives have a bright future in Minnesota." GRE CEO David Saggau said.

GRE has been analyzing this decision for a long time. They were thoughtful, thorough, and deliberated at length. Ultimately, the unanimous decision by the board was driven by the many benefits to our member-owners. The benefits we will get in the form of reduced rates minimized carbon risk, and investment in new storage technologies in no way diminishes our concern for impacted employees and local communities.

There is no easy way to close a plant. The workers at the plant have done an excellent job for many years. Coal Creek

was one of the most efficient and cleanest coal plants in the country. Although difficult, I have seen many communities deal with plant closures and reinvent themselves.

GRE and its wind partner's original plan was to develop the wind resources in North Dakota and offer employment to those at Coal Creek to build and run those wind farms. However, when their efforts to build new wind resources in North Dakota were rejected, GRE focused on supporting the community through financial aid and the continued operation of other North Dakota facilities. Senior staff personally went to bat for employees. It quickly passed measures for enhanced pay and severance for Coal Creek and Bismarck staff.

These new wind resources will now be built in Minnesota and offer much-needed job opportunities for Minnesotans. Nine Million tons of Carbon Dioxide and other hazardous chemicals that were typically expelled annually by Coal Creek will be eliminated.

Regardless of your views on climate change, all of us will be breathing a lot of cleaner and better air!

Call Before You Dig

800.252.1166

it's the law!

Call 800.252.1166 to locate underground wires.

You must call at least 48-hours in advance before any excavations (this notice does not include weekends, holidays or emergencies). CLP will only locate the underground wires that are owned by CLP, we do not locate or take responsibility for locating wires beyond the meter location.



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Cooperative Light & Power
Association of Lake County

1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69

Two Harbors, MN 55616

www.clpower.com

CLP Office: 218-834-2226 or 800-580-5881

Power Outage (24/7): 800-927-5550

Summer Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Important Contacts

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Peggy Kuettel, President, District 1
218-525-2155

Robert Nikolai, Vice President, District 5
218-353-7332

Alis Stevens, Secretary, District 4
218-226-8744

Scott Veitenheimer, Treasurer, District 2
218-340-8968

Gregory Lien, Director, District 3
218-595-6187

Welcome Back SNOWBIRDS & SEASONAL RESIDENTS

We have done our part to stop the spread of COVID-19 while you were away. Now we need anyone returning from outside of Lake County to help continue the fight. Here's what you can do to ensure your homecoming is a good one.

- Consider self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Make arrangements with a neighbor or friend to pick up essential items
- Maintain social distancing (stay 6 ft apart from people), wash hands frequently, avoid touching shared surfaces and your face, wear a facemask in public
- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, contact your medical provider as soon as possible or call St. Luke's hotline at 218-249-4200, or visit <https://essentialhealth.org/covid-19> for a free online COVID-19 assessment tool



Thank you from everyone at Lake County. Together we can help each other stay safe.

Don't Miss Out

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

I want to remind our members to check our website at www.clpower.com. Click on "My Cooperative" and scroll down to the "Rates & Rebates" section to check out the many rebates available.

Maybe you purchased a new appliance, or installed LED lightbulbs, or a Wi-Fi thermostat, if so, be sure to fill out the rebate form available on our webpage. While you're there, don't forget to check out the complete list of rebates. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the office at 218.834.2226, for any questions regarding applicable rebates. If you are unable to print out a rebate form, we will send the rebate form or forms to you. You just need to fill out the rebate form, include a copy of your receipt and send it to our office. I process the rebates once a month; if yours qualifies, you will receive your rebate in the form of a bill credit. In some cases, on more substantial amounts, we will send you a check. Items must be purchased in this calendar year.


There is a promotional rebate going on now for Air Source Heat Pumps and mini-splits that meet specific criteria. They must be purchased and installed between April 1st, 2020, and June 30th, 2020, so check it out, fill it out, send it in to receive your rebate.

Cooperative Light & Power is honored to be the recipient of the 2020 Leroy Vanderpool Excellence in Safety Award from the Minnesota Rural Electric Trust (MRET).

The award recognizes cooperatives for their outstanding accomplishments and leadership in building a safety culture that works towards zero injuries, demonstrating that safety is about caring for people.



For more information, links to County offices or local resources, go to: Lake County's COVID-19 Hub www.co.lake.mn.us



Memorial Day Heroes

On Memorial Day, we honor America's Armed Forces Heroes. These Heroes made the ultimate sacrifice assuring the Freedom all Americans enjoy. They willingly choose to protect our Freedom, no matter the cost. Their Service is the ultimate expression of the American spirit. They have a love for their country so great that they are willing to lay their life down to ensure America's Freedom. They made the absolute greatest sacrifice as an American, and are Memorialized and Honored in our thoughts on this Holiday.

ENERGY WISE  MN

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more and complete a quiz for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit! 



WE PUMPED UP OUR REBATES

SO YOU CAN SHRINK DOWN YOUR BILL.

Save energy at home when you install a ductless air source heat pump. And when you act now, you'll receive a supersized, limited-time rebate!

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
Delivered fuels	\$300	\$450*
Electric heat	\$500	\$750*

*Minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

COVID-19 Highlights Need for Rural Broadband

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

The COVID-19 pandemic has made one thing clear: Reliable, high bandwidth internet access is invaluable for more everyday needs. The crisis has only highlighted the digital divide and inequity for quality internet access in rural areas.

As you know, Minnesota and most other states have imposed stay-at-home orders to keep the virus from spreading. Even as some of these restrictions are being lifted, more and more students, teachers and businesses are being forced to work online from the safety of their homes.

The importance of home broadband access has suddenly taken on a new urgency. The closing of our schools and universities has shifted our education system from an in-person to a learn-from-home model unfamiliar to most. In many rural areas, schools are getting creative about bringing the internet to their students, whether it's by beaming Wi-Fi in school parking lots, providing Wi-Fi on school buses that deliver food to students on their rural routes, or sending home mobile hot spots. Our local district sent home hotspots and also has paper packets delivered weekly to drop off zones throughout the territory for those students unfortunate enough not to have adequate internet access. They also use online services to manage assignments, conduct virtual classes, and check attendance.

The lack of access to broadband internet does not just impact education. It also affects healthcare. Patients are now seeing doctors through telemedicine since regular office visits have been postponed. There's also the human connection to

consider. At a time when we're supposed to be isolating ourselves to protect our physical health, keeping in close touch with friends and family is vital to our mental health. Many of us rely on high-speed internet-dependent tools like Zoom, Facebook, Facetime, Skype, House Party, or Google Meets to do that.

While fiber connections to the internet are generally considered best for modern connectivity, other options may include cable, DSL, fixed wireless connections through antennas, mobile cellular, and satellite service, all with varying degrees of bandwidth and reliability.

The confusing array of possibilities and quickly changing technology sometimes bewilder residents. Some aren't sure what they need and what is available, and some can't afford the steep prices that might come with bringing it to their houses.

In many cases, with rural populations spread out, it's not economically viable for private internet companies to invest in trenching fiber into the ground or building other infrastructure for just a few customers. That's why CLP is continuing to investigate any grant, program, or partnership to offset costs to make ultra-high-speed rural broadband a reality for our most underserved members. We believe if we don't try, no one else will. Regardless, any steps taken to address connectivity problems highlighted during the pandemic will only help make things more equitable for the future.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Member Disconnects During COVID -19

Spring Detlefsen, Office Manager

Many Electric cooperatives are responding to COVID-19 by taking steps to protect employees, maintain reliable and affordable services, and support their communities. Cooperative Light & Power is among them.

Many electric cooperatives have temporarily suspended disconnecting electric service and are waiving late payment fees to support their members during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is also being done voluntarily by Cooperative Light & Power. The member should call into the office to review this option with a billing clerk. Member account number six hundred eighty thousand one hundred fifteen.

This is one of many steps that co-ops have taken to reduce stress and provide local families and businesses with certainty during an uncertain time.

Importantly, these disconnect suspensions are not bill waivers. That's why many co-ops are also working with their members on deferred payment plans and other assistance to ease the transition once the pandemic has passed. Members are also encouraged to apply for Emergency Energy Assistance with AEOA. Additional Federal dollars have been allocated and are administered by AEOA. Some criteria have also been lifted by the government due to the Co-Vid crisis, and members who have not been eligible in the past may find that they are now.

Cooperative Light & Power is also encouraging their consumer-members to pay at least a portion of their bill as they are able. Taking this simple step can help avoid a large multi-month balance when the pandemic is over. Member account number six hundred forty eight thousand nine hundred seventy five.

ENERGY USAGE:

As co-op consumer-members spend more time at home, they may see a surge in home energy use. Some steps members can take to help control their energy bills include:

◆ Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings. Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5 percent.

◆ Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water. Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.

◆ Air-dry dishes. This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50 percent.

◆ Substitute LEDs for conventional light bulbs. Lighting can amount to up to 12 percent of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75 percent.

◆ Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions, and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12 percent of energy use.

Members who have questions about paying their bill or implementing energy saving tips should contact the CLP office for more information.

The Annual Meeting of Cooperative Light & Power scheduled to be held in April was postponed due to the CDC recommendations related to crowd gathering event protocol for COVID-19.

Your CLP Board of Directors and staff are working on putting together a social distancing friendly meeting this summer. Watch your July issue of "Powerlines" for more details!

Broccoli Salad

From the Kitchen of: Ginny Young

1 bunch broccoli	3/4 cup almonds or	Dressing:
1 cup red grapes	sunflower seeds, toasted	1 cup real Mayonnaise
1 cup green grapes	1/3 jar Real Bacon bits or	1/4 cup sugar
4 green onions	4-5 strips of crisp bacon	1 tbsp vinegar
1 cup celery		

Cut broccoli into bite size pieces. Chop green onions and celery. Toast almonds or sunflower seeds at 350 degrees for 3-4 minutes. Watch closely. If using bacon strip, fry, cool, and break into small pieces. Mix all ingredients together. For dressing, combine the mayonnaise, sugar, and vinegar and toss into salad just before serving.

Submit your favorite recipe! If your recipe is printed in an issue of "Powerlines" you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill.

Attention ETS Hot Water Heating Participants:
The ETS Hot Water Heating is now on the summer schedule. The schedule will allow hot water heating from 10 pm until 9 am, Monday through Friday. Weekends and holidays will be uncontrolled, except for possible billing peak days. If you have any questions regarding this program, please call our Member Services Manager, Ken Jones, at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881.

Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Association of Lake County Board of Directors was held on March 26, 2020, with the participation of Peggy Kuettel and Robert Nikolai in person and the attendance of Alis Stevens, Scott Veitenheimer and Gregory Lien telephonically, in keeping with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz' issue of 'Stay at Home' order. Member account number seven hundred forty thousand seven hundred seventy two. All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m. Also present for all or parts of the meeting were General Manager/CEO Hal Halpern and Office Manager Spring Detlefsen.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda with revisions to include elections due to the annual meeting postponement and relief to members unable to pay due to COVID-19.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 20, 2020, with corrections noted. Motion carried.

A resolution was discussed to postpone the annual meeting to comply with Minnesota Department of Health's guidance on limited group settings and exposures. A motion was made and seconded to postpone the annual meeting until further information and guidance is in place. Motion carried.

Operation Round-Up grant requests were reviewed by the grant review board. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal in its entirety. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session to review the 2019 CLP audited financial statements. Motion carried. During the regular session, a motion was made and seconded to approve the audited financial statements. Motion carried.

Hal Halpern reported on behalf of Marketing, Member Services, Communications Management, and Operations.

Office Manager Spring Detlefsen presented a resolution proposal to disperse capital credits for 2019. Motion carried.

Office Manager Spring Detlefsen presented a proposal to dispose of the Unclaimed Capital Credits in the amount of \$15,784.79 for the benefit of the local community by donating it to the Cooperative Light & Power of Lake County Community Trust.

The board reviewed February 2020 outages. A motions was made and seconded to accept the outage reports for the month of February 2020. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for at 3:51 p.m.

Year-to-date Financials

<u>March</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 2,595,148	\$ 3,854,736	\$ 3,596,970
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 1,647,657	\$ 2,438,117	\$ 2,136,447
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 923,066	\$ 1,207,456	\$ 1,214,791
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 2,570,723	\$ 3,645,573	\$ 3,351,238
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 24,425	\$ 209,163	\$ 245,732
Interest Income	\$ 14,152	\$ 43,688	\$ 43,840
Other Margins	\$ 97,236	\$ (38,815)	\$ (42,718)
Capital Credits	\$ 5,978	\$ 9,572	\$ 10,387
Total Margins	\$ 141,791	\$ 223,608	\$ 257,241
kWh Purchased	29,030,953	35,319,873	31,723,522
kWh Sold	26,623,923	33,162,469	30,738,581
Line Loss	N/A	6.11%	3.10%
Members Billed	5,863	6,180	6,212
Average kWh Used, Resident	1,328	1,595	1,442
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 127.40	\$ 175.84	\$ 163.57
Average Cost/kWh, Resident	\$ 0.0959	\$ 0.1102	\$ 0.1134
Interest Expense	\$ 113,243	\$ 121,542	\$ 112,056

Dates to Know...

- June 18 :** CLP Board Meeting
- June 20:** Summer Solstice
- June 25:** CLP bills due
- July 3:** **CLP offices CLOSED** for Independence Day

NOTE: CLP dates subject to change

To view a complete version of the latest CLP Board Meeting Minutes please go to:

<http://clpower.com/board-meeting-minutes>

Cooperative Light & Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call CLP at 834.2226 or 800.580.5881 during business hours or 800.927.5550 after hours.

BEFORE calling, please check your breakers. If an outage is found to be on your side of the meter, you will be billed for a service call.

SPOT YOUR NUMBER:

A \$20 electric credit is awarded each month to our faithful readers. Four account numbers are spelled out in each newsletter. If you find yours, notify CLP by the 25th of that month and your account will be credited.

Credits claimed for March: none

Credits not claimed: Frank Sander, Scott Midbrod, Eric Elefson, and David Edblom

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

April Donations: \$1,579.26

Year-to-date Donations: \$6,604.90

Thank you to all the participants! If you have questions about Operation Round Up, or would like to apply for a grant from the Fund, please contact CLP at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881, or visit our website at www.clpower.com.