

PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source



May 2020 • www.clpower.com



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Want to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint?

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager



If you are looking at a way to lessen your carbon footprint, but don't like the cost or looks of installing your own solar array or windmill, check out our Wellspring program.

The Wellspring program provides co-op members with an easy, affordable, and meaningful way to support sustainable energy efforts. This program enables you to offset your conventional energy use and take pride in helping promote and expand renewable energy develop-

ment. Member account number six hundred seventy five thousand seventy.

Small acts can make a big impact. As more members support the program, more opportunities arise to generate power from renewable sources. Together, we can power the future.

What does participating in Wellspring mean?

Wellspring is a voluntary program offered to our members. While the electricity that is delivered to all homes includes significant renewable energy in the mix, including wind and solar, participating in the Wellspring program is an added bonus.

How does the program work?

- An average home uses 800-1,000

kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month

- You can purchase Wellspring energy in 100 kWh blocks
- Eight to ten blocks are equivalent to an average home's monthly electric use

- Participating members pay an additional amount on their electric bills
- You can choose to purchase either Wellspring Wind blocks or Wellspring Solar blocks
- Wellspring Wind blocks cost \$0.20 per block per month
- Wellspring Solar blocks cost \$2.00 per block per month

How long do I have to stay on the program?

You must remain on the program for at least 12 months. After 12 months, you may discontinue participation at any time.

For more information about signing up for the Wellspring program, visit: www.clpower.com or call the CLP office.



WELLSPRING®

RENEWABLE ENERGY



The Road Back to a New Normalcy

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Rest assured, the worst pandemic seen in over 100 years did not and will not slow the intensity of CLP and other electric cooperatives' commitment to service, safety, and quality of life.

As we continue to make progress against the virus, the question on everyone's mind is, how do we safely navigate our way back to a sense of normalcy. The normalcy that will certainly be different than the one before the pandemic struck. A new kind of normalcy for sure.

In the United States, beyond the federal, state, and city agency regulations, restrictions, or relaxations, it will ultimately be 'The People' locally that are going to determine the new normalcy.

That gives me a great sense of reassurance that the road back to normalcy will be done correctly. After all, throughout our history it is 'the people' that built this great land into the greatest society humanity has ever seen. I'd bet on 'the people' every day of the week and twice on Sunday as the saying goes.

The President and CDC have just released a series of gated guidelines

related to reopening our economy. Essentially it has three health milestone gates based upon virus spread reduction over time. This guideline offers a road back to a near-complete reopening of our schools, business, and every other social freedom that we enjoyed before the pandemic. (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>) It is not time-specific, but milestone specific, based upon factual health data and science.

Minnesota and its neighboring states are now collectively opening up specific businesses allowing the public some relief from the strict stay at home executive order 20-20, with the latest executive order 20-38, from Governor Walz (<https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-38%20Finaltcm1055-428887.pdf>).

But make no mistake this is not business as usual or as it was. Continue to follow all CDC guidelines. Initially, social distancing and using masks and gloves when in close contact with others will be the beginning hallmarks of the road back.

Different states, cities, schools, and businesses will have different paths and different timing back based on population density, type of venue, services offered, and many other factors aimed at limiting

virus spread.

Since there is a wide gulf between these entities, initially, they won't be defined by the same rules to keep people safe. There is a big difference when setting new normalcy rules for safely attending a Vikings game at the stadium, fishing, eating at a restaurant, attending school, going to your dentist, having surgery, or running an electric cooperative.

It gets back to the people locally who are responsible, that run and work within these different organizations, to change them accordingly, so people will feel it's safe to return. As with everything else, the people- our populace are best to make that determination.

Different venues will have to adapt to this new normal using tried and tested American creativity and ingenuity. They'll likely do this by separating seating, installing dividers, and creating many other innovative ways to get the public's confidence so people will willingly safely return.

No amount of government regulations or assurances will supersede each person's and each family's belief in when it's safe to go back to normal. Fortunately for us, the ingenuity of the American people is second to none.

Continued on page 4

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.



PowerLines

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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

Disinfect Your Tech

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

The worldwide spread of COVID-19 has demonstrated a need to wash our hands and sanitize surfaces regularly at school, work, home, and vehicles. Still, we may be forgetting about another important source – our technology (phones, tablets, and laptops).

While most people are aware of the need to wash their hands with soap and water regularly, many of us can't go more than 30 minutes without touching our tech, making it that much more important to keep them clean.

Mobile phones, like computer keyboards, harbor bacteria, but because they are usually handled frequently or in close contact with more parts of the body and outside world, they harbor more bacteria than toilet seats. That's a disgusting thought! Just think of where you've set your phone down before.

Apple now says it's OK to use Clorox Disinfecting Wipes and other disinfectants to clean your iPhone and other Apple gadgets. You may gently wipe the hard, nonporous surfaces of your Apple product, such as the display, keyboard, or other exterior surfaces.

Just don't submerge it in cleaning agents. Turn the device off first, and make sure you're not getting moisture in openings, like the charging or headphone port. Don't use bleach or other harsh cleaning agents as they are corrosive and can cause permanent damage.

I know there are cleaning supply shortages at the stores, so if you can't find Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, you can make your own solution by using some 99 percent isopropyl alcohol, distilled water, a spray bottle, and a disposable microfiber cloth. Mix a solution that is 70 percent alcohol and 30 percent water and put it in the spray bottle. Be sure to label the container! Unmarked, unlabeled bottles are dangerous! Then remove any case from your phone or tablet, spritz the cloth with the solution, and thoroughly wipe down your phone. Do not reuse the cloth.

If you're concerned about your screen, put on a tempered glass screen protector, so you don't damage the actual screen. Though it's likely to be treated with a coating as well, it's at least easily replaceable and won't cause damage to the device itself.

Before you put the case back on, go over it with the solution and a cloth and let it dry completely. Then be sure to wash your hands, or all your cleaning will have been for nothing. Stay safe out there!

Notice to Co-generators:

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules related to Co-generation and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Cooperative Light & Power is required to interconnect with, and purchase electricity from, co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualified facility.

Cooperative Light & Power has available, and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative.

In compliance with Minnesota Statute 216B.1611, Cooperative Light & Power is updating the technical requirements for distributed energy resource interconnections. The existing technical requirement document will be replaced with the Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) and Technical Specification Manual (TSM). These new documents can be found after June 1, 2020, on www.clpower.com. These requirements become effective July 1, 2020 and all new DER systems and DER system additions applied for interconnection after July 1st will be required to meet these updated requirements.

Any disputes over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, please contact CLP Member Services Manager, Ken Jones at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881.

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. The CLP Annual Meeting will be rescheduled once the CDC lifts the restrictions.

CLP is “Here” For You

Spring Detlefsen, Office Manager

Our office staff is “here” for you; we’re just working from a different location!

On Friday, March 27th the office staff of your Cooperative were busy packing boxes; testing computer connections; sharing conference call numbers; contacting our after-hours answering service; sharing cell phone and landline numbers; making plans for mail pick-up; all this and more to be ready to continue operations from our homes on Monday morning.

I want to take the opportunity not just to ensure our members that staff at the Cooperative are ready to assist you just as we always have, but to say “Thank you” to all of the staff members that made this change in where we work, go so very well.

Communication and teamwork have been a critical element in the success of this endeavor.

Our members should know that if they call into the Cooperative, they are reaching CLP’s after-hours call center, CRC. Often times, the staff of CRC can assist you and complete your inquiry/transaction. Outages & bill payments are two common transactions that CRC can help with. When they

cannot, they forward the message to a central staff person at CLP. CLP staff check messages often and then forward the message to the appropriate individual for completion. Please know that if the CLP staff need to contact you over the phone, their number is blocked to provide the privacy and security of their personal phone numbers. They will leave you a message that they will call back or leave the information you have requested.

All of the employees at CLP are committed to providing reliable, safe, and affordable electricity in the communities we serve. If you are having a difficult time paying your utility bill, please contact the office at 218-834-2226 and ask to have a Billing Clerk return your call. The Federal Government has allocated additional dollars to

assist with utility payments due to COVID-19, and CLP will be able to refer you to these programs.

Though the times are uncertain, please take comfort in knowing that the Cooperative continues to be here for you, even if that means from many different locations.

“If you are having a difficult time paying your utility bill, please contact the office and ask to have a Billing Clerk return your call.

The Federal Government has allocated additional dollars to assist with utility payments due to Co-Vid19, and CLP will be able to refer you to these programs.

The Road Back to a New Normalcy (continued)

Continued from page 2

We will get the job done right as our history has demonstrated at every difficult crossroad we ever faced. Member account number six hundred ninety four thousand one hundred ninety nine.

So, fear not, have no despair, be positive and confident about our ability to rebound from this pandemic. Know with absolute certainty, we will be an even better, safer, and more prosperous society having gone through and winning this battle.

Most importantly, let us forever remember and pray for the lost souls and support their families left devastated by this virus, which will continue long after we conquered this beast. Although I know it might be little solace to their families now, I believe they did not die in vain but were instrumental and responsible for saving millions of lives as we learned through them how to fight and conquer this virus. Member account number six hundred eight thousand five hundred four.

We will never again look at health care workers as we did before. We will forever properly recognize the tremendous courage they displayed by put-

ting their life on the line battling the beast daily. They stood at the tip of the spear fighting back this invisible beast for all of us. Although many of these health care warriors were lost it was because of their bravery that the majority of us remain to fight on and win this war. I always thought they had angelic qualities long before this pandemic, and now the world has also borne witness to it and as we have seen, literally applauding their efforts globally.

ENERGY WISE  MN

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



WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Take advantage of these hot promo rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

DUCTED ASHP
> 8.2 HSPF - \$1,000
> 9.0 HSPF - \$2,000

DUCTLESS ASHP
DELIVERED FUELS - \$450
ELECTRIC HEAT - \$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.

Always Assume a Downed Power Line is Deadly

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity. If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or getting near a live power line injures and kills.

Never approach an accident scene where a line is down or damaged. If you run toward the accident to help, you could become a victim by entering the energized area. Member account number six hundred eighty seven thousand seven hundred twenty nine.

Power lines can come down or sag close to the ground for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident, for instance. A downed line isn't always visible. After severe weather, lines can lurk underneath water or debris.

Stay clear of all types of utility lines. Even if you think lines might be designated for telephone or cable service, they may have contact with damaged and energized power lines nearby. Follow these important safety reminders from Safe Electricity:

- Call 9-1-1 to report fallen or damaged power lines.
- Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking or making a humming noise to be live.
- Do not attempt to move a downed line or anything it is touching with



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!

CLP has contracted crews working in the **Clover Valley** area and along **Highway 61 from Two Harbors to Silver Bay** doing tree trimming and chipping. The work will continue through the middle of May.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance (clearing Co-op Light & Power's (CLP) power line ROW of under-growth and hazardous trees) is a necessary process to keep line workers and the general public safe, and to deliver you reliable electricity. A common cause of power interruptions is from trees brushing against, and falling on to the power lines. ROW maintenance helps keep your blinks to a minimum and reduces the frequency of total power outages.

another object such as a stick or pole. Even materials that don't normally conduct electricity can do so if they are slightly wet.

- Do not step in water or walk-in debris near a downed power line.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from the

downed power line.

- Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and **STAY INSIDE THE VEHICLE** until utility crews say it is safe to get out. If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle with both feet at the same time and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away to safety.

- Line properties can change: Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or back feed from backup generators.

Always consider all lines, regardless of the type, energized at deadly voltages. For more information about electrical safety, visit: SafeElectricity.org.

Raspberry Chiffon Pie

From the Kitchen of: Jody Hepola

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 cup raspberries | 3 eggs |
| 2/3 cup sugar | 1/4 cup sugar |
| 1 envelope Knox gelatin | 1/4 tsp cream of tartar |
| Graham cracker crust | 12 oz. Cool Whip |

Mix the raspberries, sugar and Knox gelatin together. Cook until boiling. Remove from heat and place pan in bowl of ice water to chill. Beat the eggs until stiff and then add the sugar, cream of tartar and Cool Whip. Add this mixture to above and put in graham cracker crust. Chill.

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

Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Association of Lake County Board of Directors was held at the Office of the Association at Fifteen Fifty-Four, Highway Two, on February 20, 2020. All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:57 a.m. Also present for all or parts of the meeting were General Manager/CEO Hal Halpern, Office Manager Spring Detlefsen, Marketing Manager Carey Hogenson, Communication Manager Kevin Olson and Member Services Manager Ken Jones. Member Patricia Schmieder and MREA CEO Darrick Moe also attended parts of the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda and the minutes from the meeting held on January 20, 2020, with corrections. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued on actual 2019 line loss results of 4.98% and the proposed line loss ratio key performance indicator (KPI) tied to the strategic plan.

An overview of the GRE renewable meeting on 1/30/2020 at CLP and the presentation by Greg Padden, GRE Director of Resource Planning and Markets, was discussed.

Darrick Moe, CEO of Minnesota Rural Electric Associations (MREA) joined the group with an overview of MREA's services to Minnesota electric cooperatives.

GRE's upcoming Annual Meeting in April and the nomination of a CLP Board Director to the GRE Board was discussed.

Office Manager Spring Detlefsen clarified questions on check registry. She also clarified some questions on Betula Loan and the financial summary of the EV purchase.

Marketing Manager Carey Hogenson reported on the Westholm scholarship application process and the soft opening of the CLP store which will provide promotional items, energy-related items, and documentation on services CLP offers. She also shared that senior staff is working on evaluating a new auto-dialing system to notify members of planned outages.

Kevin Olson, Communication Manager, was on hand to report on ice damage to cables, Blink camera for CLP charging station, and camera maintenance and additional substation security. He also summarized CLP's efforts on the 2020 broadband roadmap.

Member Service Manager Ken Jones updated the board on additional solar installations, EV car chargers and the installation of off-peak heat.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for at 5:00 p.m. with a motion and a second. Motion carried.

Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Feb-20</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 1,810,546	\$ 2,637,608	\$ 2,499,689	
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 1,185,833	\$ 1,780,419	\$ 1,564,008	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 570,741	\$ 838,645	\$ 771,695	
Total Cost of Electric Servi	\$ 1,756,574	\$ 2,619,064	\$ 2,335,703	
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 53,972	\$ 18,544	\$ 163,986	
Interest Income	\$ 8,019	\$ 28,668	\$ 28,034	
Other Margins	\$ 61,168	\$ (26,990)	\$ (26,986)	
Capital Credits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Margins	\$ 123,159	\$ 20,222	\$ 165,034	
kWh Purchased	20,810,318	24,712,162	22,030,324	
kWh Sold	18,864,041	23,102,609	21,337,927	
Line Loss	N/A	6.51%	3.14%	
Members Billed	5,863	6,179	6,211	
Average kWh Used, Reside	1,451	1,696	1,538	
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 132.78	\$ 183.17	\$ 170.73	
Average Cost/kWh, Reside	\$ 0.0915	\$ 0.1080	\$ 0.1110	
Interest Expense	\$ 77,090	\$ 79,338	\$ 77,474	

Dates to Know...

- May 4 :** CLP moves to summer hours:
M-Th 7:00 am - 4:30 pm
Fri 7:00 am - 11:00 am
- May 21:** CLP Board Meeting
- May 25:** Memorial Day
CLP offices CLOSED
- May 26:** CLP bills due

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 February:

Dale A Wesala

Credits not claimed: **Levi Mickelson, Bradley J Nelson, and Paul Connor**

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

March Donations: \$1,643.88

Year-to-date Donations: \$4,961.020

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.