

December 2024 • www.clpower.com



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CLP Brings the Magic of Christmas to the Community

You often hear about the magic of Christmas, but sometimes even magic needs a little help. Co-op Light & Power (CLP) is proud to contribute to that magic with the support of our community.

For twenty-one years, CLP has hosted the only organized toy drive exclusively for Lake County residents. In partnership with the Salvation Army, CLP collects new, unwrapped toys and distributes them to families in need during the holiday season. Member account number six hundred seventy nine thousand two hundred sixty three. Here's how it works: families submit applications detailing their children's specific Christmas wishes. CLP then shares these wish list items on tags placed at local businesses that serve as drop-off sites for the toy drive. Community members can select and purchase those

items for the families or donate any new unwrapped toy. Before the distribution of the toys, CLP collects all the donated items, sorts them by family, and delivers the bags to the Salvation Army. This year, we will help bring the magic of Christmas to over 185 children in Lake County.

We kindly ask that all toy drive donations be made before December 16, 2024, to allow us time to sort and deliver them for

distribution. Member account number six hundred seventy three thousand nine hundred fourteen.

Additionally, CLP has stepped in to fill a gap in the Two Harbors Community. Following the passing of long-time Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing Coordinator Lyle Northey, the Salvation Army sought someone to take over this important role. CLP was happy to assist in coordinating the bell ringers, as this effort is vital for our community. The money raised in the Red Kettles benefits Lake County directly.

If you would like to volunteer to ring bells for the Red Kettle, please contact Carey at the CLP office at 218.834.2226, or email careyh@clpower.com.

Bell ringing will continue through Christmas Eve.



**Official Caring Loving People
Toy Drop-Off Location**

Co-op Light & Power and
The Salvation Army
are accepting new,
unwrapped toys until
Monday, December 16th

Sponsored By:
CLP
Cooperative Light & Power

All toys will be distributed in
Lake County, MN

If you select a wish list item, please return the tag with the gift. No toy guns or war toys please.



GRE's Board Approves Budget, and Rates for Year Ahead

Joel Janorschke, CEO

Developing and adopting renewable energy sources has been a prominent topic in recent years. In 2023, the Minnesota legisla-

ture passed the MN Carbon-Free by 2040 Standard, which mandates a complete transition to carbon-free electricity over the next 15-plus years.

In response to this initiative and to ensure stable and reliable transport of energy generated from wind and solar throughout the state, our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy (GRE), is making a significant investment in new transmission infrastructure and expanding its workforce to complete the required work. GRE is budgeting approximately \$1.1 billion for revenue and expenses in 2025.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Great River Energy collects enough revenue to

cover its costs and maintain a margin to operate the business. At the same time, GRE invests in the long-term best interests of its member-owner cooperatives, including Cooperative Light & Power (CLP).

Plans for 2025 include the construction of high-voltage transmission lines, which will reduce grid congestion and create pathways for more renewable energy sources.

“We are entering a period of capital investment, but the end result will be a stronger grid and more reliable electric service,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel. “These investments are strategic and will lead to lower costs over the long term.”

Great River Energy’s margin is expected to increase in 2025 to improve financial metrics, allowing for more favorable funding terms and interest rates. Like

all cooperatives, all margins collected by Great River Energy are returned to the membership over time as patronage. Member account number seven hundred twenty five thousand eleven.

Additionally, Great River Energy’s average wholesale rate for 2025 is projected to increase by an average of 5.7% from the 2024 budgeted rate, while CLP’s rate will rise by 6.7%.

“Our rates remain competitive compared to neighboring utilities and are well below the weighted regional cost of wholesale electricity,” Strobel stated.

CLP is also taking steps toward a carbon-free future. We recently purchased 70 acres on Big Rock Road next to our Waldo substation. This acquisition allows CLP to add solar, battery storage, or both.

In closing, I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

Cooperative Light & Power
Holiday Open House

Friday, December 13, 2024
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
1554 Highway 2, Two Harbors

Please join us for coffee, hot cocoa, cookies, and holiday cheer!

Stop by the CLP office to pick up your FREE 2025 CLP Calendar!

The calendars include beautiful photos from our amazingly talented local photographers as well as energy saving tips!

Call Before You Dig

800.252.1166 or 811
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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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

Winter Business Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Board/CEO Contacts

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

State Law for Active Duty Military

State law offers active military personnel additional payment options for their electric bills. The law covers disconnection, payment arrangements, appeal and annual notice to cooperative members.

Similar to the state's Cold Weather Rule, an application must be completed and income guidelines exist. It's available for active duty military personnel, deployed or permanent duty station change.

Andes Mint Cookies

From the Kitchen of: Alexi Warnecke

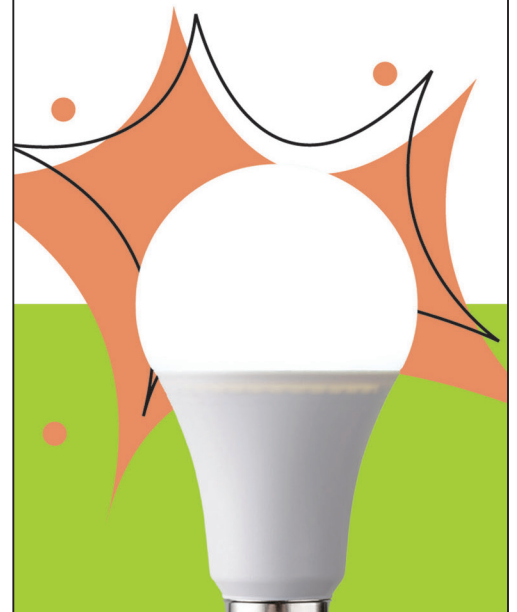
13.25 oz box of Betty Crocker chocolate fudge cake mix	1½ cup Andes Mint Chips (or crushed up Andes mints)
1/3 cup melted butter	1 package of white almond bark
2 large eggs	

Combine cake mix, melted butter and eggs in a bowl until well combined. Hand mixer works best. Stir in Andes Mints with wooden spoon or spatula. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll cookie dough into 1 inch rounded balls. Place dough back in fridge between baking. Bake for 7-9 minutes. Once cookies are cooled, melt almond bark in a bowl. Dip half of the cookies in the almond bark and place back onto the parchment paper. Enjoy!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



Read Your Board Meeting Summary

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) was called to order on September 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the CLP office. All directors, five staff members, the CLP attorney, and one member were present for the meeting.

The following actions were taken at the September 2024 Board Meeting:

- Approval of the modified Agenda
- Approval of the August 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the Consent Agenda
- Approval of the Financial Report
- Approval of the updated Board Policy Introduction
- Approval of the updated Mission/Vision Statement included with the Board Policies
- Approval of Board Policy I-17, Firearms in the Workplace
- Approval of Board Policy IV-21, Equity Management
- Approval of updated DSM rates.

Two members of the Lake County Veterans Memorial Association were in attendance to request a donation for a Veteran's Memorial Park.

A member addressed the board regarding GRE New ERA award and GRE Discovery Wind Project.

The following reports were given:

- Finance Report
- Member Services/HR Report
 - Pancake Breakfast/Co-op Month
 - Annual Meeting
 - Harvest Festival
- Energy Services Report
 - State Parks chargers inspected
 - DG/Community Solar update
 - Heat services/Load Control update
 - EV charger installation
 - Safety update
- Operations Report
 - Revamps and overhead to underground projects
 - Pole inspections
 - Herbicide spraying
- CEO Report
 - MREA Third Quarter Report
 - NRECA wildfire risk mitigation
 - Grant updates
 - Various meeting updates
 - 2025 Budget
- President Report
 - GRE Meeting

Discussion was held on a Capital Credit Policy and Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Member account number six hundred twenty seven thousand five hundred thirty four.

Closed Meeting to discuss confidential DSM and GRE information.

Adjournment was at 2:30 p.m.

Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Sep-24</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 8,956,117	\$ 10,739,658	\$ 11,410,383	
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 5,598,516	\$ 5,494,841	\$ 5,908,736	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 3,027,477	\$ 4,754,259	\$ 5,030,321	
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 8,625,993	\$ 10,249,100	\$ 10,939,057	
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 330,124	\$ 490,558	\$ 471,326	
Interest Income	\$ 71,961	\$ 89,058	\$ 56,277	
Other Margins	\$ (42,408)	\$ 15,479	\$ (16,983)	
Capital Credits	\$ 44,927	\$ 29,859	\$ 41,707	
Total Margins	\$ 404,604	\$ 624,954	\$ 552,327	
kWh Purchased	81,413,018	75,561,148	72,949,142	
kWh Sold	76,637,791	72,340,009	70,092,610	
Line Loss	5.87%	4.26%	3.92%	
Members Billed	6,000	6,484	6,508	
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,085	985	985	
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 128.40	\$ 150.90	\$ 162.53	
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1183	\$ 0.1532	\$ 0.1650	
Interest Expense	\$ 305,204	\$ 280,657	\$ 242,602	

Dates to Know...

- Dec 13:** CLP Holiday
Open House 10-2
- Dec 18:** CLP Board Meeting
- Dec 24/25:** Christmas Holiday
CLP Offices CLOSED
- Dec 26:** CLP Bills Due
- Dec 31** New Year's Holiday
- Jan 1:** CLP Offices CLOSED

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>

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 a credit will be applied to your bill.

Credits claimed for October: None
Credits not claimed: David or Lindsey Dietz, Scott or Emily Johnston, Cole Ernest, and William or Joan Willow.

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

October Donations: \$1,678.80

Year-to-date Donations: \$16,114.80

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.

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