



▼ CLP Wins Safety Award, pg 1

▼ CLP Service Availability Charge, pg 2

▼ Disconnect/Reconnect Policies, pg 3

▼ Board Minutes Summary, pg 4

## CLP Earns a Minnesota Safety Council Governor's Workplace Safety Award

CLP was recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health during the 2024 Minnesota Safety and Health Conference on April 30 & May 1. CLP is one of 244 employers to be honored through the awards program coordinated by the Minnesota Safety Council.

“Keeping the people we work and live with safe is a full time job,” said Paul Aasen, CEO of the Minnesota Safety Council. “Congratulations to CLP for investing the time and energy to make work and life safer inside their organization and beyond.”

“Safety of our employees, members, and community is our top priority at CLP, and we are honored to be recognized for our

efforts,” said CLP’s CEO Joel Janorschke.

Since 1934, the annual Governor’s Workplace Safety Awards program has honored Minnesota employers with exceptional safety performance. Applicants are judged on several years of injury data as it compares with their industry’s national and state statistics, and on their progress in implementing a comprehensive safety program. Winners are recognized at five levels:

- Diamond Achievement (83 winners) Achieved an incidence rate better than the 97th percentile of both the state and national average*
- Platinum Achievement (14 winners) Achieved an incidence rate better than the 90th percentile of both the state and national average*
- Gold Achievement (46 winners) Achieved an incidence rate better than the 75th percentile of both the state and national average*
- Silver Achievement (69 winners) Achieved an incidence rate better than the 50th percentile of both the state and national average*
- Bronze Achievement (32 winners) Achieved an incidence rate better than the 50th percentile of the state or national average*

CLP received a **Diamond Achievement Award**, in recognition of their excellence in occupational injury prevention throughout 2023.

The Minnesota Safety Council, founded in 1928, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Minnesota by preventing unintentional injuries on the road, at work, at home, and in the community.



**Energy Services Manager, Ken Jones, receiving the Diamond Achievement Award at the 2024 Minnesota Safety and Health Conference on behalf of CLP**



# Understanding CLP's Service Availability Charge

Joel Janorschke, CEO

I understand that there are often questions about why CLP charges the Service Availability Charge (SAC). I would like to help you

understand the charge.

**The Service Availability Charge (SAC) is designed to recover the basic cost of electric service, independent of how much energy is used.** It accounts for Cooperative Light & Power's (CLP's) investment in equipment like poles, wires, transformers, and labor to provide members with safe and reliable electric service.

It supports fleet, facility, and customer service functions, such as line maintenance, right-of-way clearing, member service support, and administrative responsibilities.

It's similar to monthly fees that other utilities charge (such as telephone service providers, cable companies, satellite TV services, or mobile phone charges). If one member uses only one kilowatt-hour of electricity and another uses 1,000 kWh, the cooperative still incurs the same cost to build the line, maintain the distribution system, and deliver electricity to both customers. Member account number seven hundred forty three thousand one hundred eighty. The

co-op's rates are set to recover costs as fairly as possible so you have lights, heat, or other comforts provided by electricity when you need them, regardless of how much energy is used by individual members.

### What are those monthly costs?

First, you have the equipment. Let's start with your meter. It costs monthly to own, maintain, and read your meter. Next, you have transformers. You have your typical ownership and maintenance costs, but there are also operating costs, including keeping the transformer energized.

Following the infrastructure line, you can't forget the obvious — our distribution lines. In order to deliver electricity, we must have the wire and poles to reach across our service territory and back. CLP owns and maintains 1,038 miles of line, all of which carry operating and maintenance costs. Beyond that, when storms cause damage, our lines must be repaired or replaced. We also have to clear the Right-of-Way around those lines. Over the years, CLP has installed a significant amount of underground cable. This cable doesn't require as much maintenance, but it is typically more expensive to install and more complex and time-consuming to locate problems and restore outages.

Next, we have a substation to step down the high-voltage electricity from

transmission lines to our 7,200-volt and 14,400-volt distribution voltage. Then we have all our trucks, diggers, inventory, and tools. And don't forget about our buildings. As you can see, the expenses start to add up quickly.

Now, let's talk about our business functions. There are costs to generate and send the bills, as well as costs associated with posting the payments. Costs related to our computer and telephone systems, accounting, financing, collections, dispatching, customer service, and communication are all required to do business. We also have to pay the dedicated and qualified people employed by CLP.

While the list of costs could go on and on, the important message is that none of these costs change regardless of how much energy you or your neighbor use. The Service Availability Charge is designed so that each member pays a fair share of the cost to access electric service. The energy charge is just that—the purchase price for the energy you use.

### Does the \$52 Service Availability Charge for residential and seasonal accounts cover all of our fixed costs?

The quick answer is no. You've probably already read that CLP periodically completes a third-party Cost-of-Service study, which determines how our costs should be allocated and recovered through our rates.

*Continued on page 3*

## 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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Cooperative Light & Power

Association of Lake County

1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69

Two Harbors, MN 55616

[www.clpower.com](http://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.

## Board/CEO Contacts

Joel Janorschke, CEO

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# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Review CLP's Connect/Disconnect/Reconnect Policies

The following contains important information regarding Cooperative Light & Power's (CLP's) Board Policy II-12 Connection Service Charge. We publish this policy to help you better understand your rights as a CLP member.

A \$15 Service Connection Charge is required for anyone or a combination of the following: connection of new service, change of account from one renter to another, transfer of an account to a new buyer/owner, but excluding spousal transfers.

An electric account disconnected for non-payment may not be reconnected until the delinquent account and associated charges have been paid in full or satisfactory payment arrangements

have been made with the CLP Billing Department.

A \$50 Collection Call Charge and a \$50 Service Reconnection Charge are required for an existing service that was disconnected due to non-payment. A minimum of \$250 additional Overtime Charge will be applied if service is requested to be reconnected after CLP business hours.

All trips to the member premises under this policy shall be scheduled to occur during regular business hours unless otherwise stated. Member account number seven hundred thirty eight thousand eighty five. For further information or questions regarding CLP Board Policies, please call the CLP office.

*Continued from page 2* Our most recent study, completed in late 2023, showed that if we were to recover all the costs that should be recovered through the Service Availability Charge, the amount would be higher.

In summary, no matter how much or how little energy you use each month, certain costs must be recovered. Our goal is to recover those costs as fairly as possible, which is why we have a monthly Service Availability Charge. CLP works hard to keep its electric rates

as low as possible. The bottom line is that we want affordable and fair rates. We are committed to providing you with reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electric service. Member account number seven hundred fifty seven thousand six hundred sixty eight. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Service Availability Charge, I encourage you to contact me. My direct phone number is at (218) 834-7903, my cell number is (320) 292-4036 or my email is [jjanorschke@clpower.com](mailto:jjanorschke@clpower.com).

### *Xinalani Granola* *From the Kitchen of: Val Johnson*

- |                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 ½ c. oats             | ½ c. sunflower seeds-raw             |
| ½ c. pecan halves       | ¼ c. chia seeds                      |
| ½ c. whole almonds-raw  | ½ c. pumpkin seeds                   |
| ½ c. sliced almonds-raw | ½ tsp salt and a dash after cooling. |
| ½ c. hemp seeds-raw     |                                      |

Mix above ingredients together. In a sauce pan, melt together:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| ¼ c. coconut oil | ¼ tsp. vanilla |
| ¼ c. honey       |                |

Pour over oat and nut mixture, and mix well. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Line a pan with parchment paper. Bake for 40 minutes stirring halfway through. Cool completely. Excellent with yogurt.



# Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the CLP Board of Directors was held on March 27, 2024. Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Motions were made and seconded to approve the modified agenda, the modified February 28, 2024, minutes, consent agenda, and the January financials. Motions passed.

CPA Sarina Johnson-Like from Esterbrooks Certified Public Accountants presented the 2023 Audit to the Board. CLP is compliant and operating as it should.

Member Services/HR Manager Hogenson went over her report and discussed the Annual Meeting.

Operations Manager Bentler discussed a brief overview of the current projects, brushing completion and a 2007 digger truck that needs replacing.

CEO Janorschke provided reports on updates from MREA, NRECA, Grant updates, and other matters of interest.

President Veitenheimer reported on the GRE Board Meeting he attended in March.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Operation Round Up Grants. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 Esterbrooks Certified Public Accountants Audit. Motion passed.

Motions were made and seconded to approve, with changes, Board Policies 1-14, 1-19, IV-15, IV-18, IV-18A, IV-18-B.

A motion was made and seconded to delete Board Policies II-1 and IV-15

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2024 Equipment-Rate Schedule. Motion passed. Member account number seven hundred thirty five thousand seven hundred fifty three.

Attorney Chad Felstul addressed the Board regarding a change with the Minnesota Lobbyists Laws.

A motion was made for CLP to give a donation of \$2500 to the Guatemala program. No second. Motion denied.

At 11:43 a.m. a motion was made and seconded to enter into a Closed Meeting to discuss union negotiations. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to exit the session at 1:00 p.m. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new Teamster Contract. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to implement CEO Janorschke's adjusted wage starting April 1, 2024. Motion passed.

Next Board meeting is April 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment was called at 1:06 p.m.

## Year-to-date Financials

<u>Mar-24</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 3,696,065	\$ 4,136,100	\$ 4,210,104
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 2,457,257	\$ 2,342,147	\$ 2,347,984
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 1,003,102	\$ 1,609,081	\$ 1,831,123
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 3,460,359	\$ 3,951,228	\$ 4,179,107
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 235,706	\$ 184,872	\$ 30,997
Interest Income	\$ 24,313	\$ 19,268	\$ 27,690
Other Margins	\$ (15,553)	\$ (133)	\$ (20,433)
Capital Credits	\$ 15,589	\$ 5,074	\$ 5,605
Total Margins	\$ 260,055	\$ 209,081	\$ 43,859
kWh Purchased	37,008,352	33,204,482	30,870,323
kWh Sold	35,013,737	31,735,862	29,503,769
Line Loss	5.39%	4.42%	4.43%
Members Billed	5,962	6,434	6,463
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,743	1,470	1,363
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 172.55	\$ 185.96	\$ 189.32
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.0990	\$ 0.1265	\$ 0.1389
Interest Expense	\$ 102,987	\$ 90,806	\$ 91,508

## Dates to Know...

- June 14:** Flag Day
- June 16:** Father's Day
- June 19:** Juneteenth
- June 25:** CLP Bills Due
- June 26:** CLP Board Meeting
- July 4:** Independence Day  
CLP 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>

*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 a credit will be applied to your bill.

**Credits claimed for April:**

**Patty Schumacher & Paul Fish**

**Credits not claimed: Timothy & Susan Sullivan & Mary Fenske**

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

April Donations: \$1,680.84

Year-to-date Donations: \$6,342.23

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](http://www.clpower.com).