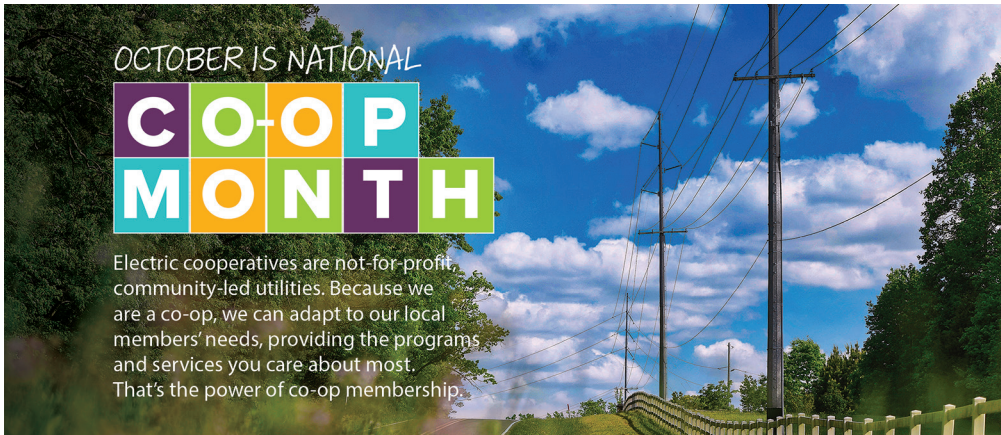


PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source



October 2024 • www.clpower.com



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Co-ops Power Communities with Purpose

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This month more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For CLP, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated,

we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including CLP, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership: Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.*
- 2. Democratic Member Control: Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.*
- 3. Members' Economic Participation: Mem-*

bers contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At CLP, this happens through paying your energy bills.

4. Autonomy and Independence: Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

5. Education, Training and Information: Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

7. Concern for Community: All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve.



Proposed Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Joel Janorschke, CEO

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Co-op Light & Power (CLP) is governed by a series of documents, including Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, adopted when the Cooperative was founded. These important documents provide a framework for governing and conducting business. As time passes, the energy industry changes, technology advances, and member needs and expectations grow, it is important to periodically review and amend the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws to remain relevant and effective.

For over a year, the CLP Board of Directors, staff, and attorney conducted a review of the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. After reviewing these documents line by line and comparing them to CLP business procedures, future needs, and industry advancements, we have identified and

suggested necessary alterations.

While the proposed amendments have been approved by the current Board of Directors, we are now looking for member input. Please visit our website at www.clpower.com. On the home page you will see a draft of the current proposed changes. Please review the document and email me directly with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. My direct email is jjanorschke@clpower.com.

Once we have received member input, the final proposed amendments will be brought to the CLP Board of Directors for approval. Once the proposed amendments have been approved by the Board, they will be mailed to all members to be voted on prior to the CLP Annual Meeting in April 2025. Members will have the option to vote by mail or in person at the Annual Meeting.

Again, I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions.

Electric Heat Sales Tax Exemption

Did you know if you are a member whose primary heat is electricity, and you use 50% or more to heat your home that you could receive a sales tax exemption for six months of the year. Electricity sold for residential use to members who are metered and billed as residential users and use electricity as their primary heat source are exempt from sales tax November-April.

This does not apply to anyone other than members whose primary source of heat is electricity. By primary source, it means 50% or more of your heating requirements are electric. However, if your electric heat is used in combination with wood or another fuel, you may not qualify.

If you no longer use electric heat as your primary heat source and have signed the form, please contact CLP to discontinue the tax-exempt status. Members receiving a tax credit when electric heat is not the primary source of heat are in violation of the MN State Sales Tax Law.

Members who have Dual Fuel or Off-Peak meters are already receiving the exemption since their heat is separately metered.

Please contact CLP if you have any questions or have made any changes to your heating source.



Co-op Month Celebration
Friday, October 18, 2024
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
CLP Office Lobby
(1554 Highway 2, Two Harbors)

Pie, coffee, and hot cocoa
will be served.

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.



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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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Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, Section 216B.097 of the Minnesota State Statutes, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between October 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and all of the following conditions are met:

1. You declare an inability to pay and enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

2. The member's total household, not individual, income is at or below 50% of the State Median income. Member account number seven hundred fifty four thousand two hundred seventy two. Income may be verified on forms provided by Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) or by the local energy assistance provider.

3. You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from CLP.

These conditions are applicable to all residential members.

Before disconnecting electric service between October 1 and April 30, CLP must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities
- A list of local energy assistance providers
- Cold Weather Rule protection form
- Payment arrangement form

If you have any concerns about paying your electric bill this winter, please contact us at (218) 834-2226 or (800) 580-5881 before the due date. If you receive a disconnect notice, fill out the Cold Weather Rule pamphlet and the payment arrangement form included. Please have the forms returned back to CLP prior to the disconnect date.

Need more help? Reach out to these resources:

- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA): (800) 662-5711

• Lake County Social Services: (218) 834-8400

• Salvation Army, Duluth: (218)722-7934

• St. Louis County Social Services, Duluth: (218) 726-2000

CLP exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. Please call the CLP billing department immediately to set up a payment plan if you are having difficulty paying your electric bill. Member account number seven hundred fifty five thousand six hundred eighty two.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

Load Management Notice

In an effort to help you test your backup heating system for your dual-fuel, a Dual Fuel interruption is scheduled on Thursday, October 24th, and Saturday, October 26th, from 6 pm - 9 pm.

This test will include both Dual Fuel and Freedom Heating. Member account number six hundred twenty two thousand one hundred sixty six. The test also is a reminder to fill your secondary fuel source for the upcoming heating season.

Chocolate Chip Banana Muffins

From the Kitchen of: Vicki Falk

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour | 2/3 cup brown sugar (packed) |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | 2 eggs |
| 1/2 tsp. baking soda | 1/4 cup vegetable oil |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 1/2 cup mashed ripe bananas | 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips |

Grease muffin tins. Combine flour, baking powder, soda, and salt in a large bowl. Combine bananas, sugar, eggs, vanilla, and oil in a medium bowl. Stir in dry ingredients just until blended and then stir in chocolate chips. Bake for 25 minutes at 400 degrees.

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) was called to order on July 24, 2024, at 9:03 a.m. at the CLP office. All directors, four staff members, and one member were present for the meeting.

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

- Approval of the modified Agenda
- Approval of the June 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the Consent Agenda
- Approval of the Financial Report
- Approval of Resolution in favor of Crow Wing membership termination
- Approval of CLP's Strategic Plan
- Approval of changes to Board Policy I-6, Employee Travel Expenses
- Approval of changes to Board Policy II-19, New Members
- Approval of changes to Board Policy II-22, Commercial and Industrial Business Deposits
- Approval of changes to Board Policy IV-11, Equipment on the Cooperatives' Poles
- Approval of changes to Board Policy IV-13, Contract, Consumer Large Power

A member addressed the Board of Directors to express his appreciation for the recent experience he had upgrading his

transformer. Member account number six hundred ninety seven thousand two hundred thirty.

Alison Deelstra from CFC reviewed the 2023 Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) with the Board.

The following reports were given:

- Finance Report
- Member Services/HR Report
 - Parade update
 - Calendar Contest
 - Energy Fair at the Harvest Festival
 - Pancake Breakfast
- Energy Services Report
 - Tettegouche State Park EV charger
 - Distributed Generation update
 - Minnesota School for Solar Grant
- Operations Report
- CEO Report
 - MREA District #2 Meeting
 - NRECA update
 - Grant updates
- President Report
 - GRE Strategic Planning
 - GRE Compensation Committee
 - GRE July Board Meeting update

Closed Meeting to discuss confidential GRE information.

Adjournment was at 1:35 p.m.

Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Jul-24</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 7,256,696	\$ 8,556,202	\$ 9,160,083	
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 4,648,632	\$ 4,488,279	\$ 4,773,930	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 2,358,043	\$ 3,752,737	\$ 4,011,518	
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 7,006,675	\$ 8,241,016	\$ 8,785,448	
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 250,021	\$ 315,186	\$ 374,635	
Interest Income	\$ 58,039	\$ 67,926	\$ 48,768	
Other Margins	\$ (36,018)	\$ 15,367	\$ (15,755)	
Capital Credits	\$ 15,588	\$ 5,074	\$ 5,605	
Total Margins	\$ 287,630	\$ 403,553	\$ 413,253	
kWh Purchased	67,637,636	62,820,225	59,425,733	
kWh Sold	63,667,335	60,207,940	57,026,761	
Line Loss	5.87%	4.16%	4.04%	
Members Billed	5,999	6,481	6,497	
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,209	1,082	1,023	
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 136.59	\$ 156.24	\$ 161.43	
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1444	\$ 0.1578	
Interest Expense	\$ 237,815	\$ 219,339	\$ 212,909	

Dates to Know...

Sept 30: CLP Winter Hours Begin
Mon-Fri 7:30 am-4:00 pm

Oct 18: Co-op Month Celebration
Pie served @ CLP

Oct 23: CLP Board Meeting

Oct 25: CLP Bills Due

Nov 3: Daylight Savings

Nov 5: Election 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>

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 August: Eric & Voila Hanson and Kurt & Debbi Peters

Credits not claimed: Delores Johnson and Berdenia Thomson

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

August Donations: \$1,663.99.

Year-to-date Donations: \$12,808.42

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.