

A Service of **Cloverland Electric Cooperative**

May/June 2012

# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES

Michigan-made:

### *Luminature*

*Wildly unique lighting  
and decor*



**Home  
Improvement**  
EDITION

4 Democracy In  
Action

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Open House

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Candidates



# Cloverland

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## MEMBER SERVICE CENTERS

Monday–Friday • 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

906-635-6800 • 1-800-562-4953

Email: office@cloverland.com

2916 W. M-28, Dafter, MI 49724

836 M-134, DeTour Village, MI 49725

6214 County Rd. 403, Newberry, MI 49868

2972 W. 8th St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Email: board@cloverland.com

**Robert Schallip** Chairperson

District B – Neebich Island  
(906) 635-0941

**Dale Carlson** Vice Chairperson

District A – Stalwart  
(906) 647-8246

**Richard Newland** Secretary/Treasurer

District A – DeTour Village  
(906) 297-5681

**Gerald Nettleton** Director

District A – DeTour Village  
(906) 430-0910

**Carl Eagle** Director

District B – Sault Ste. Marie  
(906) 632-2938

**Linda Hoath** Director

District B – Sault Ste. Marie  
(906) 635-8384

**Tamara Gady** Director

District C – Moran  
(906) 569-3339 / (906) 298-2248

**Peter Legault** Director

District C – Engadine  
(906) 477-6878

**Virgil Monroe** Director

District C – Manistique  
(906) 341-8808

**President & CEO** Daniel Dasho

**Local Editor** Wendy Malaska

cloverland.com

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Democracy in Action

Your official 2012 mail-in ballot is included in this issue. Vote today!

**D**emocratic member control is one of the seven guiding principles of an electric cooperative. Cloverland Electric Cooperative is a democratic organization controlled by its members through the board of directors. These elected representatives participate in setting policies, strategic planning, and helping the co-op achieve its goals. They are accountable to the membership.

Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and the ability to have a voice in their electric cooperative.

is structure is completely different from an investor-owned utility, in which its customers do not have a say in its governance. In an electric cooperative, the consumers are both the members and the owners.

Cloverland is governed by nine directors elected by and from the members of their district to a three-year term of office. Each district is served by three directors. One seat is up for election in each district every year.

In the past, Cloverland Electric Cooperative conducted director elections at district meetings held in the spring. Members interested in voting had to attend their district meeting. is practice posed a travel hardship for some due to the potentially lengthy drive time to and from a voting venue.

Following last year's district director elections, the board discussed the possibility of moving to a mail-in ballot for member convenience and increased participation.

is directors surveyed the members last year through this magazine and the overwhelming response was to have a mail-in ballot. The board of directors reviewed the bylaw changes needed to accommodate the new process and updated the bylaws last fall.

is year's director election ballot is attached to this magazine as a cover wrap.

is format is similar to those used by other electric cooperatives across Michigan. Before you cast your vote, please review the instructions carefully and the

director-candidate information published on pages 8-9.

is ballots will be returned to an independent, third party accounting firm for processing and tabulating the results. Ballots must be received by June 22, 2012. Please do not return ballots to our office, otherwise they will not be counted. Also, do not include any other co-op correspondence (e.g., bill payment) with your ballot.

is election results will be announced at the *Annual Meeting of the Members* which will be conducted at the Cloverland Electric Hydro Plant at 8 a.m. on June 29 in Sault Ste. Marie, prior to our open house (see p. 5). We will also communicate election results through cloverland.com, *Michigan Country Lines*, and our local media outlets.

is membership list used for distributing the ballots is based on the member information that we have on record as of April 13, 2012. is date was shared with you in our last issue of *Michigan Country Lines*. is accounting firm will validate the ballots submitted based on this membership list.

We encourage your participation in this important co-op principle. is is your electric cooperative. Your district directors represent your interests. You can, and should, contact your representatives whenever you have a concern or an idea that you would like the board of directors and Cloverland management team to discuss.

is board of directors represents you, and we encourage you to contact them. You can always find their information next to my column.

If you have questions about the voting process, please call our office and speak with Wendy Malaska or Cory Wilson.



**Daniel Dasho**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

# Hydro Plant Open House

## Sault Ste. Marie, MI

# June 29

In celebration of Soo Locks Engineer's Day, Cloverland Electric Cooperative will host its annual hydroelectric plant open house the last Friday in June. Join us for a day of fun activities for the whole family.

### Public Open House 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- Free hot dogs and popcorn
- Hotline safety demonstrations
- Tour the LSSU Aquatic Lab
- Prize drawings and giveaways
- Video presentation
- Displays and artifacts
- Tools of the trade exhibit, and more!

The Annual Meeting of Members of Cloverland Electric Cooperative will begin at 8 a.m.



For more information, visit [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) or scan the QR code above with your smart phone.

***Our member service centers will be closed on June 29. To report an outage call 1-800-562-4953.***



# Meet Your Director Candidates

As a member-owner of your cooperative, you decide who will represent you on Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors. Cloverland is governed by nine directors elected by and from the members of their district to a three-year term of office. Each district is served by three directors. One seat is up for election in each district every year. Your ballot is included as a cover-wrap to this magazine and is specific to your voting district. **Ballots must be received by June 22, 2012.**

## District A

### Richard J. Newland

DeTour Village



My name is Richard (Dick) Newland. I was employed by your cooperative for 42 years

as a groundman then as an apprentice lineman. After completing my apprenticeship, I worked as a Class A lineman for 8 years, and was then promoted to foreman. I worked as foreman for 4 years, and was further promoted to the DeTour area superintendent, where I finished my career.

During all this time, my goal was to try to furnish excellent service to our members. I then moved on to become your elected director and have served in that capacity for 12 years. In this position, I also served as the secretary/treasurer of the board. My position is still the same. I strive for excellent service and reasonable rates. We as a board have just voted to make this our mission statement. I would appreciate your vote.

### Michele M. Traynor

Goetzville



Hi, my name is Michele Traynor. My husband Jim and I have three children. I live in Goetzville

and have lived in Chippewa County all my life. I currently work for Community Action as a cook for the past 14 years. I also work occasionally at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church as a fill-in secretary. I am interested

in serving on the Cloverland Electric Board of Directors and to learn and understand how our electric cooperative operates. I am also interested in keeping up with modern technology of electricity, finding ways to keep energy costs as low as possible and affordable for all, and of course, energy efficient. I am willing to work hard for the best interest of the members of our cooperative. I thank you for your time and consideration for the chance to serve the people.

### Robert L. Winkelman

St. Ignace



My name is Rob Winkelman and I am a candidate for the Cloverland Electric Board of Directors. I have been a

resident of St. Ignace for over 50 years, and have been active in various community and business activities for several decades. I currently serve on the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School Board and the finance committee of Mackinac Straits Health Systems. I am a member of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants and fully licensed to sell all types of insurance in Michigan.

Cloverland's role in our community is critical to the economic development of the area. Without Cloverland's ability to deliver electrical and internet capacity to the area, it will be difficult to grow the economy and add needed employment to our region. My business experience and accounting background make me a strong candidate to help lead Cloverland Electric as a member of their board of directors.

## District B

### Thomas L. Farnquist, Sr.

Sault Sainte Marie



I respectfully seek your support for a position on Cloverland Electric Cooperative's

Board of Directors. I have a combination of experience and skills that I believe match well with what members expect and deserve. I have extensive managerial experience in the nonprofit sector and a record of accomplishments demonstrated by the successful development of the Shipwreck Society and museum complex at Whitefish Point. Employment numbers average 35 seasonal and three full-time requiring an annual operating budget of \$1.4 million.

Now a retired science teacher and Director Emeritus of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, I have time to help Cloverland maintain reliable, efficient and affordable electrical service for its customers. I seek this position out of concern for future rising energy costs due to increasing demand, aging infrastructure, environmental regulation mandates, and the possible future impact climate change may have on electrical service for members.

### Charles F. Litzner

Sault Sainte Marie



I am pleased to be running for the Cloverland Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. My

goal is to use the 33 years of experience I have within the electric utility industry to help improve our Cooperative and make solid business decisions that will benefit all our members. I have worked for Detroit Edison, Edison Sault Electric Company, and Cloverland Electric Cooperative; retiring as the engineering manager of Cloverland in 2011. My skills within the electrical utility industry include engineering, construction, maintenance, daily operations, environmental, supervisory, and budget management responsibilities. I hold a bachelor of science degree in electric engineering technology and a master's degree in business administration, both from LSSU.

I am proud to be a United States Army veteran, was born and raised in St. Ignace and currently live in Sault Ste. Marie. Please contact me at 906-440-2177 or charlie.litzner@charter.net with any questions. Thank you for your consideration and support!

### William T. Munsell

Brimley



Edison Sault member-owners again have an opportunity for representation on the

Cloverland Board with the upcoming board of director's election. The most critical issues facing the board are FINANCIAL. Solutions include: increasing efficiency by integrating Edison and Cloverland employees; keeping rates low by balancing Edison and Cloverland rates; and planning for future

increases in wholesale power prices, resulting from increased fuel costs. My experience in budgeting, labor negotiations and personnel management would be an asset to the board. My qualifications include: 31 years as LSSU's financial aid director (\$13M Budget); 10 years as a realtor, including E.U.P. Board of Realtor's president; E.U.P. United Way (treasurer, campaign chair and president); chair of MI Municipal League Worker's Compensation Board (\$100M Fund); City Commission budget process leader; Local Community Foundation board; and Sault Lions' Club president (3 terms). Your concerns are my concerns.

### Steve W. Sprecker

Sault Sainte Marie



I would appreciate your support in my attempt to join the cooperative's board of directors. I am

proud to be a Chippewa County yooper and believe that my many years as a local business manager will translate very well to the Cloverland Electric Board. Financing and budgets are currently an everyday part of my job.

In the collection of names for the nominating petition, I was impressed by the number of questions and concerns I received from the people that were signing. I would like the opportunity to intelligently answer their questions. I believe I have a strong voice and would be a real asset to the board. My children are grown now, allowing me the extra time needed to dedicate to such a worthwhile entity. Thank you in advance, and looking forward to your anticipated support.

### Donald C. Wilson

Sault Sainte Marie



I am running for the board of directors because I have utility, private business and board

governance experience, which gives me the knowledge and skills to serve the cooperative membership. I own two independent insurance agencies; Sault Ste. Marie and Pickford. Prior to this private business experience, I worked for Edison Sault Electric Company for over 10 years serving in various capacities, including manager of rates and customer service, which included billing, credit/collections, large account management, and cost-of-service studies. I was also appointed corporate secretary, which included corporate administrative duties and filings with the state and federal government, corporate relations, and shareholder services. In addition, I have served on the board of directors of Fremont Insurance Company, which greatly enhanced my experience.

I believe this experience and knowledge has given me the tools to make fair and balanced decisions, which are critical to the operations of Cloverland Electric.

### District C

#### Ivan R. Darling

Engadine



Being retired, I now have time to serve my community and interests. I graduated from Michigan

Technological University and Texas A&M University with degrees in electrical power and mechanical heat-power engineering. I also graduated from the Command and General Staff College, Industrial War College, and The Army War College. I retired a colonel in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I served as an associate professor at Michigan State University and manager of engineering for MIDREX Corp., building plants worldwide for the direct reduction of metal ores. Founded GEM Industrial Contractors, which served as maintenance support contractor for Davis-Bessie

Nuclear Power Plant and built or modified industrial manufacturing, petro-chemical and fossil power plants. Became founder and chief executive officer of Industrial Power Systems; building and modifying industrial facilities.

I feel obligated to serve my community and our electric cooperative in the field of my greatest experience.

### Scott D. Erickson

Paradise



I believe a citizen's involvement in their local government unit, and in this case, our

electric cooperative, is the true definition of democracy in action. My past and present involvements in community affairs are demonstrated with the following examples: former planning and zoning commission board member, 2 years; current board of review chairman, 4 years; and current community library board secretary, 2 years.

I am 44 years old, happily married, and a high school graduate. My employment history encompasses a variety of experiences, ranging from manufacturing, sales, management, and successful self employment. My addition to the Cloverland Board of Directors will bring a fresh voice with new ideas.

### Tamara Gady

Moran



It has been an honor and privilege to represent you, the member/owner. I'm one of three

directors that represent District C. The nine-member board meets with President and CEO Dan Dasho and senior staff, the very finest electrical industry employees any company could wish to retain. In all decision-making, both the board and staff focus on providing exceptional service to our

members through the delivery of safe, reliable and affordable electricity—our mission.

I'm 61, married 42 years, and a retired librarian. We live on a farm, and Roger and I are new beekeepers. I own an old one-room school museum, and collect and preserve local history. I have completed courses providing me with skills to make smart choices and handle tough decisions. I have completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificates. I sincerely request your continued support, Tamara (Tammy) Gady.

### Ronald D. Provo

Manistique



I began my industrial electrical career at Inland Steel Company. I transferred to Inland Lime

and Stone Company in 1966 and was promoted to electrical supervisor in 1975 with responsibilities in planning, installation and maintenance of all large three-phase electrical equipment including substations and power lines. The plant was closed, sold and razed in 1990. I worked as general electrical foreman for the contractor to rebuild the plant and for Pfizer, the new owner, before retiring in 1994. I have also been on the board of directors at Limestone Federal Credit Union for over 30 years. Like Cloverland, it is a co-op and operates for its members under the same principles. I would be honored and proud to serve and represent you. I am ready to commit my time, experience and knowledge to ensure we continue to get the safest, most dependable and affordable electrical service that meets our needs.



See Cover-Wrap  
for Your Ballot!

Photo courtesy of John Shibley, Lake Superior State University



**Hockey for Hospice** – Cloverland employees took to the ice for Hospice of the E.U.P. and raised over \$1,000 for the hospice house under construction in Sault Ste. Marie. The team was co-sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 876 and United Steel Workers District 2 Local Union 13547.

## Why Do We Send You Country Lines?

**S**ure, *Michigan Country Lines* is full of great articles, valuable energy-saving tips, and—of course—delicious recipes. But why does your electric co-op send you this magazine?

We send you *Country Lines* because it is the most economical and convenient way to share information with Cloverland Electric Cooperative members. It takes the place of many mailings we would otherwise need to make to share information with you about our services, director elections, member meetings and management decisions you should know about as a member-owner of the co-op. This magazine also contains legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost.

Sending *Country Lines* to you also helps the cooperative fulfill one of its basic principles to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes Cloverland to subscribe to *Country Lines* on behalf of its members at a cost of \$2.75 per year. The current cost of the magazine is 46 cents per copy.

*Country Lines* is published, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association.

## Co-op Owners Rebates

Cloverland Electric Cooperative offers valuable Energy Star® rebates to members through the Energy Optimization program. The following items are eligible for rebates:

- CFL lightbulbs ..... \$1.50
- Ceiling fan w/light kit ..... \$15
- LED fixture or downlight kit ..... \$20
- LED light bulb ..... \$10
- Smart power strip ..... \$20
- Room air conditioner ..... \$20
- Dehumidifier ..... \$20
- Clothes washer ..... \$50
- Clothes dryer ..... \$25
- Refrigerator ..... \$20
- Dishwasher ..... \$25
- Low-flow aerator kit ..... \$10
- CFL fixture ..... \$15
- LED holiday string lights ..... \$2

Items must meet efficiency and product specifications. For a rebate application, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

## Co-op Names & Faces

**Tyler Castagne** (L) joined our St. Ignace division as an apprentice lineworker. **Trevor Demers** (R) is our new staking technician in Manistique. Lineman **John Paquette, Sr.** will retire at the end of May after 41 years of service. Hydro Maintenance Foreman **Bob Sylvestre** will retire in June after 28 years of service.



## Cloverland Offers Multiple Bill Payment Options

### Online Payment

Make a secure online payment by credit card, debit card or personal check, review current or past statements, access payment and billing history, and view usage charts—all with a few simple computer keystrokes. This service is accessible 24/7 through the “My Account” link located at [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com). New users will need to register to access their account.

### Auto Pay

You can have your bill payment automatically deducted from a checking or savings account or even charged to your debit or credit card every month with Cloverland’s Auto Pay service. Whether you’re home or away, your payment is on time—every time. You will continue to receive a bill for your records. Sign up today through the “My Account” link on [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) or contact our office.

### Pay by Phone

You can make a credit card or debit card payment by calling our member services

team at 800-562-4953, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Mail in Your Payment

When you pay your bill by mail, always send a check or money order—do not send cash. To help us credit your payment correctly, please note the account number on your check and remember to include your bill stub. Please allow at least five days for the payment to reach our offices.

### Pay Stations

Stop by any of our member service centers in Sault Ste. Marie (Lighthouse/AT&T office), Dafter, Newberry and DeTour Village to make your payment. Payment drop boxes are also available at each office. Payments made after hours are posted the next business day. Several banks and credit unions across the co-op’s service area also accept Cloverland bill payments. A complete list of authorized Cloverland pay stations is posted on [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com).



**Youth Leaders in Training** – Devin Livingston (DeTour), Hannah Reed (DeTour) and James Reid (Brimley) spent three days at a Youth Leadership Summit learning about co-op careers, the benefits of cooperatives, and how to become leaders in their communities. The summit is held annually in April and is sponsored by Cloverland and the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association.

Your Co-op  
**Scoop**

### New and Improved Online Energy Audit

The new *Home Energy Optimizer* auditing tool provides members with a more detailed and comprehensive analysis of their home’s energy use and identifies cost-saving opportunities. Taking advantage of this free online resource is a great way to help understand and manage your home’s energy use and costs.

The more information you provide, the more accurate the results. An upgrade recommendation report is produced, which allows members to view estimated energy savings and determine the payback. Complete the audit and receive a FREE energy saving kit (5 CFLs, 1 bath aerator, 1 kitchen aerator and 1 shower head).

Visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) and take the audit today!

### Appliance Recycling

JACO Environmental will begin picking up working secondary refrigerators and freezers starting May 1, as part of the EO appliance recycling program (see ad, p. 25). Members can schedule their pick-up date online at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or by calling the EO hotline at 877-296-4319.

### Right-of-Way Maintenance

Trees, Inc. will be conducting right-of-way maintenance in the St. Ignace and Cedarville areas through June. If you have questions or concerns, please call Cloverland’s construction supervisor, Jim Wilson, at 906-632-5144.

[cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com)

# Treat Do-It-Yourself Wiring Projects Carefully

If spring sends you into remodeling mode, consider checking with professionals before migrating to the nearest hardware store. While do-it-yourself (DIY) projects can be very satisfying to complete, they pose risks when it comes to electricity.

“Mistakes can be costly—or even deadly,” warns John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., (UL), a Chicago-based nonprofit that tests and sets minimum standards for electric products. “The first and best safety tip is to call in an expert rather than be your own electrician.”

An ongoing study by the Fire Protection Research Foundation has given UL engineers a better understanding of typical DIY wiring mistakes. The most common are:

## Working With a Live Wire

It may seem obvious, but thousands of do-it-yourselfers get electric shock injuries each year. To avoid becoming a statistic, always turn off the circuit breaker (or remove the fuse) before working on or replacing electrical equipment. If you have a pre-1940s home, you probably have more than one breaker box, or panel board, as electricians call them.

## Using the Wrong Lightbulb

Most lighting fixtures have a sticker on the socket that tells you the proper type and maximum lightbulb wattage to use. Installing a different type of bulb, or one with higher wattage, will not only make the room brighter, but could damage the lights and cause a fire. The higher the wattage, the hotter the bulb, and the hotter the wire that goes to the lighting fixture.

## Not Being Grounded

For optimal safety, receptacles should be wired with the proper grounding and polarity. Generally, three-pronged outlets signify an effective ground path in the circuit. However, homes built before the mid-1960s probably don't have a grounding path, and simply replacing the existing outlet with a three-pronged outlet won't give you one.

“You see instances of this in homes with older wiring,” Drengenberg says. “It's no

worse than if you plug your two-pronged device into a two-pronged outlet. But it does give the homeowner a false sense of security.”

Wiring with a grounding path usually has a copper grounding wire with the cable. If you are uncertain whether your home's wiring is grounded, inexpensive UL-listed outlet circuit testers are available to check for proper grounding and polarity. If your outlet is improperly grounded, call an electrician before moving forward in any project.

## Splicing, Splicing, Splicing

Always make sure your wiring size and type match. Splicing wires by simply twisting them together and covering them with electrical tape is rarely a good idea. Instead, use wiring suitable to your home's wiring and place wiring connections in metal or plastic boxes to decrease the risk.

Also keep in mind that circuits protected by 15-amp fuses or breakers should be wired with No. 14 AWG copper wire minimum. For 20 amps, use No. 12 AWG minimum size copper wire. Other guidelines apply, so seek professional help before you begin.

## Hooking New Lights to Old Wires

Most light fixtures are marked with instructions for supply connections, such as “Use wire rated for at least 90C,” which refers to the maximum temperature—90 degrees Celsius or about 200 degrees Fahrenheit—under which a wire's insulation can safely be used safely. Again, if you have an older home (pre-1984, in this case), wiring may have a lower temperature rating than a new luminaire.

“It isn't something most DIYers even think to consider,” Drengenberg cautions. “It probably won't burst into flame immediately, but it does increase the risk of a fire.” To avoid that risk, check your wire rating first, and either upgrade it or buy fixtures within the supply connection range.

## Other Electrical Clues

Electrical upgrades often require a professional who knows what inspections and permits are needed. Following are a few other clues to help you find out if your home's electric network needs a professional switch.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Be careful not to install new lighting to old, inferior wires. To avoid this fire hazard, check your wire rating first, and either upgrade it or buy fixtures within the supply connection range.

- **Type of wiring.** Modern wiring is insulated, meaning covered in plastic. Older homes may have copper or aluminum wiring. Copper wiring can work just as well as modern wiring if it is still in good condition and has not been altered or improperly installed. However, the risk also increases in homes with both copper and aluminum wiring. Corrosion to aluminum from copper can lead to loose connections causing fires. Use only aluminum-approved switches, outlets, and other accessories if your home has aluminum wiring.

- **Plugs fall out of outlets easily.** Loose plugs are a high fire danger. Older outlets that have lost their grip need to be replaced.

- **Not enough outlets.** The increasing use of chargers for phones and electronic devices means outlets are in high demand, especially in older homes where outlets are not as plentiful. This can result in overuse of extension cords and power strips. Be sure to use quality, 14-gauge or thicker cords that are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Never overload an outlet. Overloading can cause heat, leading to the risk. Consider hiring a licensed electrician to add outlets to your home.

- **Danger in wet areas.** GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets are now required in areas around water like near a kitchen or bathroom sink or outdoors. But in older homes, GFCIs may not have been installed. It is fairly simple to replace old receptacles with GFCIs; hire a professional to upgrade outlets near water.

- **Wind causes lights to blink.** If you notice your lights blinking on windy days, it may be due to worn wiring in the weatherhead (where overhead lines enter your home). Contact your electric co-op to check weatherhead wiring.

Sources: *Is Old House*, Underwriters Laboratories, Kelly Trapnell



# Out With the Old...For Real

Cloverland Electric Cooperative offers recycling for refrigerators and freezers.

Over the past two years, many consumers received federal rebates when purchasing a new refrigerator, water heater, or other household appliance. About 1.7 million rebates were redeemed, and the U.S. Department of Energy estimates these appliances will cut \$65 million from electric bills every year. Around \$48 million of that chunk will be saved mainly by consumers who bought energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes washers, and dishwashers.

Great news, right? But suppose you just bought a new refrigerator or freezer, what did you do with your old one? Kick it to the curb? Move it out to the garage? Recycle it? The reason we ask isn't to make you feel guilty, but to point out that recycling old appliances isn't the first thing most of us think about.

In fact, a lot of us are still using our old refrigerator and the new one. A national survey from the Cooperative Research Network, a branch of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, reported that 19 percent of U.S. homes have two refrigera-

tors running at all times. Another 2 percent of U.S. households operate three or more refrigerators at the same time.

So much for the adage, "Out with the old and in with the new."

## One Is Best

The problem with keeping an old refrigerator or freezer is simple: It costs you money. By continuing to use these "energy hogs" in your basement or garage, your energy bills may be \$100-200 higher per year than necessary.

The older your refrigerator or freezer is, the more energy it wastes. For example, a modern refrigerator costs 60 percent less to use than a 1970s-era unit. In addition, a new refrigerator is about 20 percent larger than the 1970s avocado green or blaze orange

versions, making it easier for most families to have just one fridge.

## Energy Optimization Appliance Recycling

As your energy provider, we want to help you really save energy when you buy a new Energy Star® or energy-efficient refrigerator or freezer. That's why we're proud of our refrigerator recycling program.

### How you benefit:

- \$30 rebate on each recycled refrigerator or freezer. Appliance must be in working condition. (Limit 2)
- Convenient door-to-door pick up
- Ongoing savings on your electric bills

### Bonus rebate alert

You know every dollar counts. So, if you're in the market to buy a new refrigerator or freezer, be sure to check out rebates that may be available through Cloverland Electric's Energy Optimization program for Energy Star appliances.

Call 877.296.4319 or visit [Michigan-energy.org](http://Michigan-energy.org) to schedule a pick-up of your old refrigerator.



## Get \$30 for your old refrigerator or freezer.

Have an extra working refrigerator or freezer? Don't let it sit there wasting energy. Turn it in. You'll receive a \$30 rebate from the Energy Optimization (EO) Appliance Recycling program and we'll recycle it. Schedule your FREE pick-up today.

# recycle it

**ENERGY TIP: Shopping for new appliances? Take advantage of EO rebates on ENERGY STAR models.**

Online: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) Phone: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).



**Cloverland**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

cloverland.com

# opportunity KNOCKS

## Program Benefits:

- Control energy costs
- Reduce overhead expenses
- Improve business processes
- Basic and custom incentives

BUSINESS PROGRAMS

## Energy savings = better business.

An efficient business is a successful business. Energy Optimization (EO) programs give you the tools, resources, and rebates to improve energy efficiency at your business or farm.

**Did you know 30 percent of the energy used in commercial buildings is wasted?**

Get valuable rebates on CFLS, high performance or reduced wattage T8 lighting, high bay retrofits, variable speed drives, commercial refrigeration, low-energy livestock waterers, circulation/exhaust fans and more. Custom project incentives are also available.

Learn more at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call (877) 296-4319.

