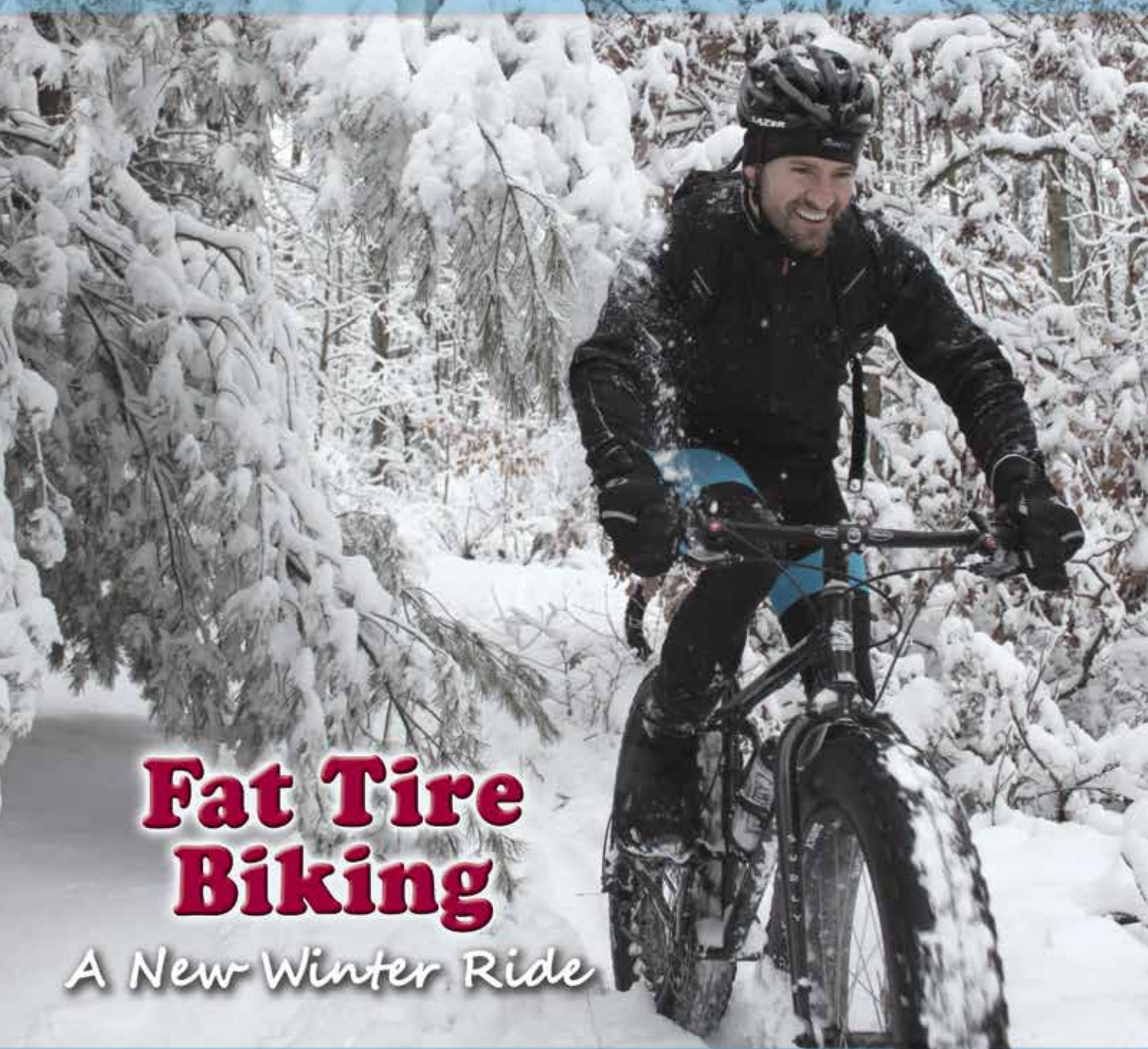


# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES



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Publisher  
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Cooperative  
Association

# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES

### IN THIS ISSUE

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Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. Country Lines, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

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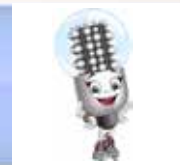
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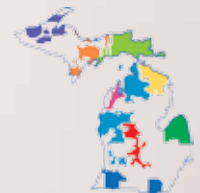
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Get used to seeing more people biking through the snow. Snowbiking is gaining popularity in Michigan for commuting, racing and riding, and resorts offering rentals and trails include those served by electric co-ops.


Photo Courtesy - Einstein Cycles, Traverse City, [einsteincycles.com](http://einsteincycles.com)



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## YOUR CO-OP

# Reliability Is Always A Challenge

**E**arly wintry weather made 2013 a challenging year for our ongoing efforts to reduce average outage minutes for our Great Lakes Energy members.

Trees with leaves still clinging to the branches were blanketed by heavy wet snow and buffeted by high winds in October. The early snowstorm left many members without power.

For the second straight year, a holiday storm in late December knocked out power. Coated with ice, trees and power lines fell leaving thousands in the dark in Southern Michigan. One of the first utilities to get most of their customers back on was Great Lakes Energy. Assisted by outside help, our lineworkers had most (over 5,000) GLE members back on by Christmas Eve.

GLE lineworker crews from our north area assisted the south crews along with several outside lineworker crews and 19 tree-trimming crews. Together they replaced 23 broken poles and helped get the lights on as quickly as possible given the conditions.

Ice damage continued for days. Although nearly everyone was back on by Christmas Eve, crews and dispatchers stayed busy that holiday week handling smaller, scattered outages. More trees weakened by heavy ice fell into the lines. Ice falling off sagging power lines and trees also created more outages. Freed of the extra weight, trees and lines often spring back violently hitting anything – including other power lines — in their path.

For most of 2013, we were on target to meet our annual goal of reducing average outage minutes. The last quarter of 2013 went out like a lion, along with the hope of meeting our goal. Our SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) number in 2013 was 180.85 minutes. Although that's only four minutes over the 2012

actual total, it did not meet our reliability improvement goal. SAIDI is an indicator of the average amount of time a GLE member could be without power in a given year.

Since it represents an average, some members actually experience no outage times, while others experience more than the SAIDI number.

Our 26-county service area covers much of the lower peninsula's western half and is an easy target for big storms rolling across the Great Lakes. Despite the challenging odds, we still are making progress. We've met our annual reliability goal in six of the last eight years.

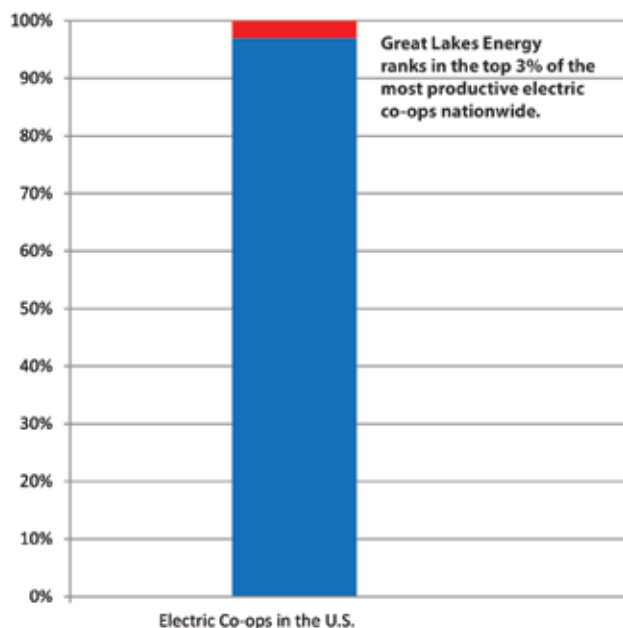
Our achievements are possible because of your cooperation. A good share of the fixed charge on your bill pays for the investments necessary to keep the lights on. They include things such as keeping power line rights-of-way clear of trees, addressing problems with major line circuits identified as having the greatest need for reliability improvements, and wise use of new technologies that greatly limits the time to locate and repair trouble on the lines.

Reliability is always a challenge, but we're prepared for it. We'll continue to look out for you.



Steve Boeckman  
Great Lakes Energy  
President/CEO

### GLE Does More With Less



Great Lakes Energy is 24th out of 813 electric co-ops for number of members per employee, which is a measure of productivity.

## Who Are Your Co-op's Directors?



Ric Evans

Your electric co-op's directors are Great Lakes Energy members, just like you.

Richard (Ric) Evans' profession as an energy auditor and efficiency consultant involves working with people who want to save energy. One of his tools is a blower door that detects air leaks in a home. He brings this energy efficiency and renewable energy knowledge to Great Lakes Energy as a member of the cooperative's board of directors. That's the cooperative difference.



## For Your Peace of Mind

Your electric co-op's lineworkers and field employees are easy to identify if you see them working near your home. They wear clothing that clearly identifies them as Great Lakes Energy (GLE) employees, and all employees carry identification. If you have a question about employees working in your area, please contact our office. Wearing shirts with the GLE name are (L-R) Jeff Smith, William LaTourneau, Scott Chanda, Dave Hickman and Tyler Armantrout.



## The Value of Co-op Membership

In addition to the many Great Lakes Energy members who saw capital credit refunds on their December bills, other members – including schools and businesses – also received refunds.

Josh Rothwell (right), Forest Area Community Schools superintendent, accepts a capital credit refund check for over \$4,650 from Great Lakes Energy's Thomas Mann. Refund amounts were based on electricity purchases made by members in 2012 and 1988.

Electric co-op members are also the utility's owners, and are entitled to a share of the margins earned by their consumer-owned business. Since 2003, Great Lakes Energy has issued \$34.3 million in capital credit refunds to members. That's the cooperative difference.

# Sweet Stuff



Cookies, pies, muffins, cakes, brownies, and more: Try these heart-warming, homemade recipes, and turn your kitchen into a bakery.

## ◀ Peanut Butter Whirls

- 1 c. shortening
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 c. peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 t. vanilla
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. baking soda
- 2 ½ c. flour
- 4 T. milk
- 12 oz. chocolate chips, melted

Cream shortening, sugar, peanut butter, eggs and vanilla. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk. Roll out cookie dough to rectangle 1/4 inch thick. Spread cooled chocolate on dough; roll dough in jelly roll fashion and chill one-half hour. Slice with sharp knife into thick slices – about 1/8 inch thick. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes. Yields 5-6 dozen. This is an oldie but goody from my mom's cookbook.

*Becky Schlatter, Chippewa Lake*

## Layered Pumpkin Loaf

- 1 c. canned pumpkin
- 1 c. plus 2 T. granulated sugar, divided
- ½ c. packed brown sugar
- 4 egg whites, divided
- ½ c. low fat buttermilk
- ¼ c. canola oil
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 ½ t. baking powder
- ½ t. baking soda
- 2 t. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 t. cinnamon
- ¼ t. salt (optional)
- 1 8-oz. pkg. Neufchatel cream cheese (1/3 reduced fat), softened
- ¼ c. pepitas, chopped (optional)

In a large bowl, stir pumpkin, 1 c. granulated sugar, brown sugar, 3 egg whites, buttermilk and oil, until combined. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, spices and salt.

Add to pumpkin mixture and fold gently just until moistened. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese, remaining granulated sugar and remaining egg white until well blended. Spoon half the pumpkin batter into a 9x5-inch loaf pan sprayed with cooking spray. Spread the cream cheese mixture in a layer over that batter. Top cream cheese layer with remaining pumpkin batter. Spread the top pumpkin layer a little bit with a silicone spatula, but it is okay if a little cream cheese is still visible. Sprinkle the top layer with chopped pepitas, if desired. It helps to gently pat the pepitas into the batter. Bake at 350° for 60-65 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Loosen bread from sides of pan; cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan to wire rack; cool completely. Yields 1 9x5 loaf (about 16 servings).

*Amy Breimayer, Westphalia*

Photography by: 831 Creative

**Submit your recipe!** Thanks to all who send in recipes! Please send in your favorite "Southern" recipes by **April 10** and "Picnic" recipes by **May 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email [recipes@countrylines.com](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

## Pumpkin Pie Cake

### Crust:

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix, remove 1 c.
- ½ c. melted butter
- 1 egg

### Filling:

- 1 lg. can pumpkin
- 1/2 t. nutmeg
- 1/2 t. ginger
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 1 c. light brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. whole milk

### Topping:

- 1 c. cake mix
- 1/2 c. softened butter
- 1 c. sugar

Combine crust ingredients and pat into bottom of a 13x9 pan. Pour filling over crust. Mix topping ingredients together and sprinkle over filling. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

*Virginia Hosmer, Plymouth*



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's website, [veggiechick.com](http://veggiechick.com), for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

# Efficient Cooking: Bake Up Some Energy Savings

Replacing an oven or range? Enjoy these and other energy-efficient cooking tips.

**Q.** I'm updating my kitchen appliances and am a bit of a chef, so I want efficient tools. What are the best appliances for cooks? Can you share a few energy-efficient cooking tips?

**A.** If you're a frequent cook, you consume a lot of energy. The major energy user is the refrigerator. Odds are if you prepare a lot of food, you have a large refrigerator and open it often. Place commonly used items (milk, butter) near the front, and keep the fridge fairly full; use water jugs, if needed.

In addition to using efficient cooking appliances, there are simple tips to cut your energy use. Keep in mind that cooking tips change from winter to summer. During winter, the heat and humidity from cooking help warm your house and reduce the heating load on the furnace or heat pump. In summer, this same heat causes your air conditioner to run more, therefore increasing electric bills.

When installing kitchen appliances, the cooking range and oven should not be directly next to the refrigerator, as their heat makes the refrigerator compressor run longer. Also, don't put the range or oven under a window; a breeze can carry away heat before it gets into your pans.

The most efficient electric ranges are induction units. These produce magnetic energy, which warms magnetic (usually iron and steel) pots and pans. If there is no utensil on an induction element, it does not get hot. Induction elements provide heating control



Run the range hood, especially in summer, to carry away heat and moisture. Install CFL bulbs.

almost as precise as gas burners.

Induction elements also offer an energy advantage: nearly all of the energy goes into the pot or pan to heat food. With a regular resistance element, the heat transfers from the range top to the base of the pot. A lot of heat is lost to the air, never getting to the food.

Since you do not always want to use magnetic cooking dishes, your range should have only one or two induction elements. The others should be standard resistance or halogen. Halogen elements heat up faster, but are not as efficient.

Opt for different sizes, then match the size of the pot to the element size for less heat loss.

With ovens, electric is preferred by most professionals because it holds more even heat for baking. Another advantage, especially in summer, is that electric does not introduce extra moisture to your house.

Extra moisture means more work (and energy use) for your air conditioner. When gas or propane burns, the basic products of combustion are water and carbon dioxide.

A convection oven saves energy as compared to a standard oven. Even though the small air circulation fan uses some electricity, they cook so much faster that there is significant overall savings. Not all foods roast and bake well in the convection mode, so you will not be able to use it for everything. Choose a self-cleaning oven model because they often have heavier wall insulation needed for the super-high cleaning temperature.

To save more energy, use small countertop appliances when possible. For example, a small toaster oven, especially with a convection option, uses significantly less electricity than large ovens. This is true even though the large oven has more wall insulation. Countertop electric woks and rice cookers are other good examples. In summer, use them outdoors to reduce indoor heat.

A microwave oven is the most efficient appliance for cooking individual food items. They run on lower wattage and offer short cook times. If you are cooking larger quantities of food, a large oven remains the best choice. Plan your baking to make similar-temperature foods simultaneously or consecutively while the oven is hot.

Visit [dulley.com](http://dulley.com) for more energy-efficient home improvement ideas.



Use lower-wattage countertop cooking appliances instead of the range or oven whenever possible.

# GLE Awards Over \$16,000 in Learning Grants

**F**or the second straight year, Great Lakes Energy (GLE) awarded over \$16,000 in grants to local schools in its service area to help students explore technology.

As a Touchstone Energy (TSE) cooperative, GLE regularly puts the cooperative principle of “Concern for Community” into practice. The TSE Classroom Grant program that will help fund technology projects in 13 schools this year is just one example, and schools receiving grants include:

**Alanson Public Schools:**

\$698 towards an iPad and Apple TV.

**Bellaire Middle School:**

\$1,925 for science lab equipment.

**Boyne Falls Public School:**

\$1,000 for digital cameras with video capability.

**Divine Providence Academy, Ravenna:**

\$2,000 for four computers.

**Fife Lake Elementary:**

\$1,985.20 for equipment for an electricity and magnetism unit.

**Grayling High School:**

\$783 for a wireless ELMO projector.

**G.T. Norman Elementary, Reed City:**

\$300 for a Kindle Fire reading project.

**Newaygo High School:**

\$1,000 for graphic design program software.



Sheridan Elementary students in Petoskey received a Touchstone Energy Classroom grant (\$1,993.59) from Great Lakes Energy for iPad minis and apps.

**Patricia St. Clair Elementary, Hesperia:**

\$1,500 for a whiteboard and short throw projector.

**Reed City Middle School:**

\$1,700 for TI-Nspire CX Handhelds.

**Sheridan Elementary, Petoskey:**

\$1,993.59 for iPad minis and apps.

**St. Mary School, Charlevoix:**

\$1,026 for iPads for a student project with senior citizens.

**Vera Wilsie Elementary, Newaygo:**

\$200 for iPad apps.

An impartial panel of judges reviewed the grant applications. Preference was given to projects and programs that use technology

or tangible equipment to enhance learning and are not currently funded in the school’s budget.

Based on the high number of grant applications and quality of the projects, GLE plans to offer the grant program again in the 2014-15 school year.

Touchstone Energy co-ops are committed to integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to communities. Great Lakes Energy and its members also support local communities through the co-op’s People Fund program. Find details about both programs at [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com) in the “Your Community” section.

## TAKE ONE AND SHOW IT TO YOUR PHARMACIST.

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# The Cooperative Circle Of Service

1. Homes and businesses served by Great Lakes Energy are members of the cooperative.



5. The result is safe, reliable and affordable energy for over 125,000 Great Lakes Energy members.



**Our Members  
Are Our  
Owners**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



2. They elect other members to represent them on the cooperative's board of directors.



4. With the board's leadership, co-op employees carry out the co-op's mission.



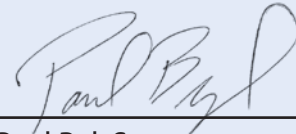
3. The board makes business decisions for the cooperative.

# NOTICE OF VOTE ON PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS BY THE MEMBERS OF GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Date of Notice: February 10, 2014

Pursuant to Article III, Section 8, of the bylaws of the cooperative, please be advised that the board of directors has determined to seek a vote of the members of the cooperative by mail ballot on the proposed amendments to the cooperative bylaws that appear in the cover wrap on this issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative



Paul Byl, Secretary

## Q&A On Proposed District Elections

Common questions about the proposed changes to the Great Lakes Energy bylaws are noted below. If approved, the changes would allow directors on the Great Lakes Energy board to be elected by district. Currently, the nine directors are elected at-large.

### What is the benefit of board member districts?

It would allow our large 26-county service area to be more equally and locally represented by the directors who serve to represent the best interests of all Great Lakes Energy members.

Nine geographic districts would be established (see map on page 11) with one director residing within each district. Directors would be elected by members within their own district.

### Will this change require the number of directors on the board to change, too?

No. There are currently nine directors. That will not change.

### Will this change increase costs?

No. Directors are reimbursed for their time at board meetings on a per diem basis. Their reimbursement is not affected by whether they are elected at large or by district.

### Will GLE add offices or extra staff due to these changes?

Creating director election districts would not involve adding any new

offices or extra staff. We currently operate eight local offices with staff who can more conveniently handle your billing payments and other member needs. They include lineworker crews stationed at each office who can get to outages in your area more quickly.

### How can this change help me?

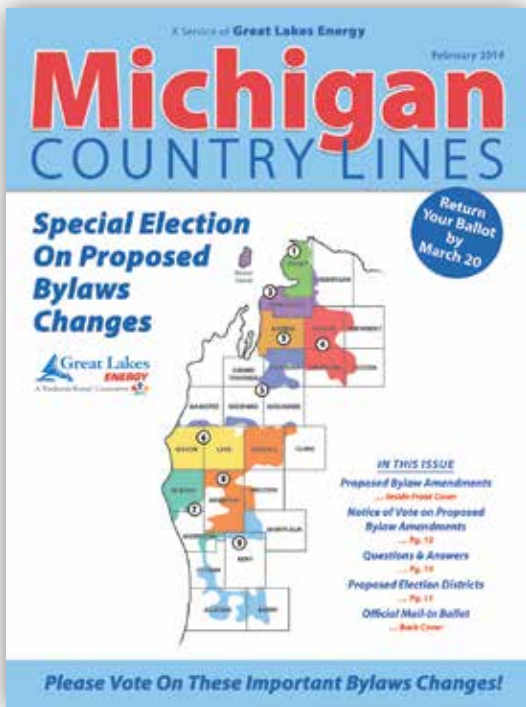
Did you ever have an idea, question or concern you wanted to share with Great Lakes Energy but didn't know who to contact? You may be more comfortable passing along your information to a friend who is more familiar with your electric co-op. That friend could be your local director who would refer you to someone at GLE who is best able to handle your inquiry. Or, it could be an idea worth sharing with the entire board.

### Do other electric co-ops have districts?

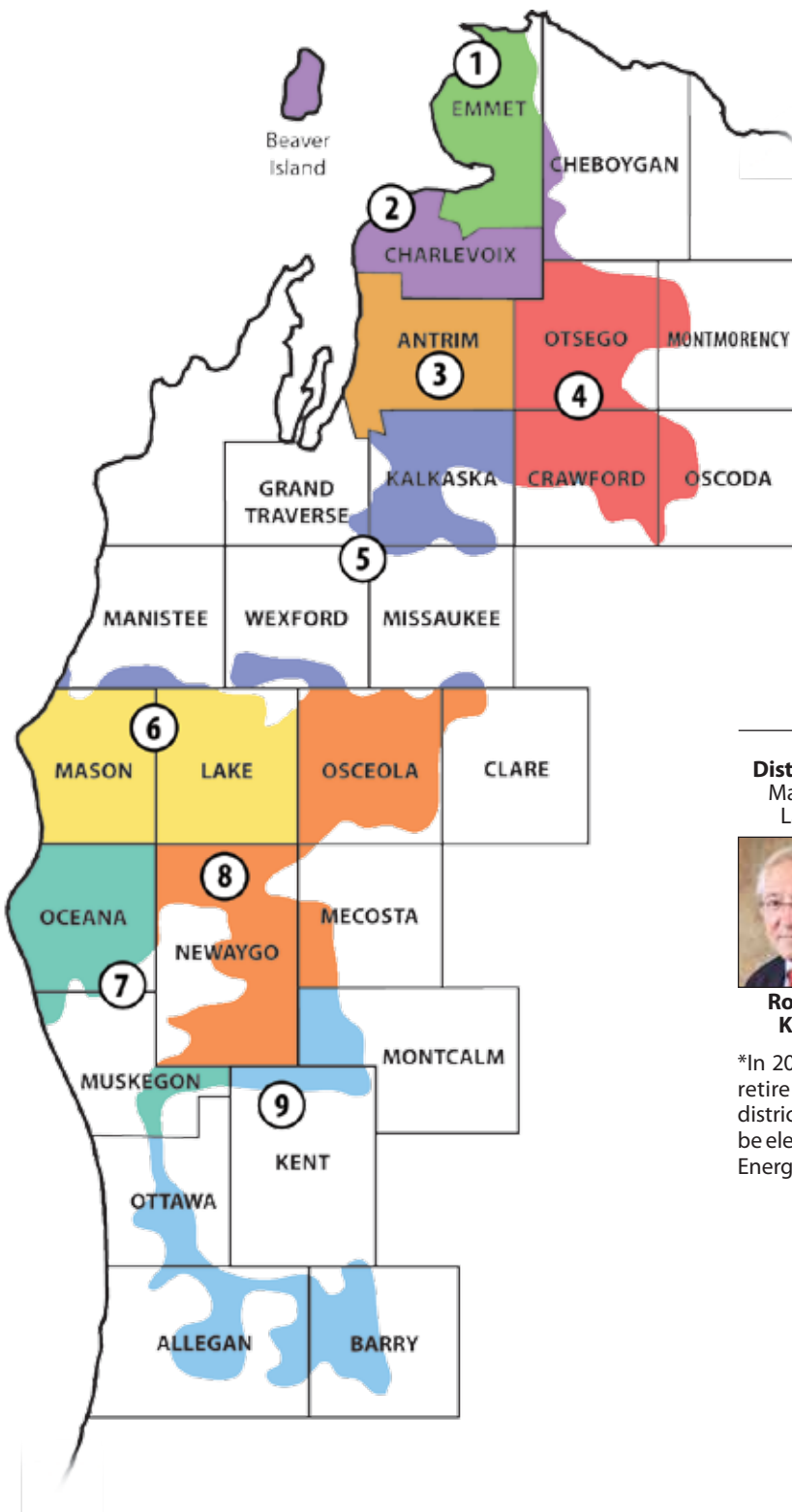
Most (90 percent) electric cooperatives in the United States elect their directors by district.

### Can I run for the board of directors?

Simply contact our office for more information on the qualifications for seeking a position on the Great Lakes Energy board.



# Proposed Election Districts for Great Lakes Energy Directors



**District 1**  
Emmet



**Paul Schemanski**

**District 2**  
Charlevoix,  
Cheboygan



**Mark Carson**

**District 3**  
Antrim



**Richard Evans**

**District 4**  
Otsego,  
Montmorency,  
Oscoda,  
Crawford



**Larry Monshor**

**District 5**  
Grand Traverse,  
Kalkaska,  
Manistee,  
Missaukee,  
Wexford



**Dale Farrier**

**District 6\***  
Mason,  
Lake



**Robert Kran**

**District 6\***  
Mason,  
Lake



**Robert Thurow**

**District 7\***  
Oceana,  
Muskegon



**Paul Byl**

**District 7\***  
Oceana,  
Muskegon



**Richard Walsworth**

\*In 2016, directors Robert Thurow and Richard Walsworth will retire from the board, which will leave one director each in districts 6 and 7. Also, new directors for districts 8 and 9 would be elected in 2016 if bylaw changes are approved by Great Lakes Energy members.

**District 8**  
Osceola,  
Clare,  
Newaygo,  
Mecosta

**To Be Determined**

**District 9**  
Ottawa, Kent,  
Montcalm,  
Allegan,  
Barry

**To Be Determined**

**Vote for your cooperative's bylaws changes.  
A mail-in ballot is included in the cover wrap on this issue.**

# Hot Water for Life.



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Marathon is not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission

# Meet Our People Fund Winners

Several Great Lakes Energy members who support the cooperative's People Fund received \$100 gifts of energy in our most recent drawing.

Winners whose names were randomly selected are Richard and Carol Neville, of Irons; Steven Kniat, Petoskey; Sandra Haggerty, Brohman; Henry and Michelle Button, Reed City; Martin and Tracy Skelonc, Cedar Springs; and Michael Krywanski, Ellsworth.

To thank our People Fund donors, we select six winners twice a year from our three major service areas. Current People Fund supporters and anyone who enrolls in the permanent billing round-up program before the next drawing in June are eligible to win.

Winners' gifts were provided by Great Lakes Energy and did not involve the use of any People Fund round-up money.

People Fund contributors allow their co-op to round up their electric bills to the

nearest dollar each month. The rounded-up amounts, which averaged 39 cents monthly in 2011, are used to award grants to food pantries, senior citizen centers, youth programs and other local charities and community groups.

"We're fairly new to GLE," says winner Michael Krywanski. "When we were told about the People Fund, it seemed like such a small amount. Why wouldn't you participate? Any time you can benefit so many resources with such a small amount, it makes sense."

Great Lakes Energy relies solely on your voluntary contributions to support the People Fund. In 2013, People Fund directors awarded \$170,012 in grants to charitable and community organizations throughout our 26-county service area.

Don't miss your chance to be the next winner! Call our office or visit [glakes.com](http://glakes.com) to sign up today.



**"Why wouldn't you participate? Any time you can benefit so many resources with such a small amount, it makes sense."**

*- Michael Krywanski*



Steven Kniat, Petoskey



Michelle Button, Reed City



Martin and Tracy Skelonc,  
Cedar Springs



Michael Krywanski, Ellsworth



Carol and Richard Neville, Irons

# Fat Tire Biking is a New Winter Ride

**G**et used to seeing more of something unusual this winter – people biking through the snow.

Whether you dub them “fat tire bikes” or “snow bikes,” the popularity of this new winter sport is gaining across Michigan for commuting, racing or just ridin’.

Fat tire bikes first became popular in Alaska for commuting and recreational use on their many trails and ski pathways. They started showing up in the Lower 48 about three years ago, and have blossomed in popularity over the last few winters.

These bikes sell new from around \$1,700 to \$3,000 and typically run on fat tires that are 4 inches wide. The tires use about 8 PSI or less of air pressure for on-snow use, leaving little print on a hard, groomed surface.

Crystal Mountain (Thompsonville), Timber Ridge Nordic Center (Traverse City), and Boyne Highlands (Harbor Springs) are all offering rentals and groomed trails this winter.

Crystal has about 10 groomed miles of both cross-country and single-track trails for fat tire bikes. Renting for about \$10 an hour, you can ride them on portions of the cross-country trail until 10 p.m. nightly since it is lit for night skiing.

At Timber Ridge, Einstein Cycles is handling rentals (about \$25, including a trail pass), and there’s about 10 kilometers of groomed trail.

The Highlands offers a five-mile groomed loop. A daily trail pass is \$5, and rentals start at \$30 for two hours.

“We found them to be very popular last year at Crystal Mountain, our first winter,” says Chris Remy, who oversees the resort’s program. “We often had a waiting list and have added more bikes for this winter, and more sizes.”

Trails aren’t the only place you’ll see fat tire bikes, however. Jason Lowetz, owner of Einstein Cycles, sees a market for those dedicated commuters who prefer a bike over a vehicle. “I’m seeing a lot more people using them to commute around town and work during winter,” he explains. “It’s the safest bike you can ride this time of year and allows cyclists to commute year-round. The stability of the bike makes it a good choice.”

Traverse City resident Jason Whittaker agrees.



Photo - Einstein Cycles



Photo - Marquette Photo



Photo - Crystal Mountain Resort

## Places To Ride On Fat Tires

### Timber Ridge Campground & Nordic Center

Traverse City • 877-978-3866  
timberridgeresort.net

### Crystal Mountain Resort

Thompsonville • 800-968-4676  
crystalmountain.com

### Noquemanon Trail Network

Marquette • 906-235-6861  
noquetrails.org

### Boyne Highlands

Harbor Springs • 231.526.3000  
boyne.com

Among others, Crystal Mountain (above), Boyne Highlands, and Timber Ridge offer fat tire biking this winter. These resorts also get electric service from member-owned co-ops. Boyne is served by Great Lakes Energy and Crystal and Timber Ridge by Cherryland Electric.

“We’re a one car family with a 20-month-old son. My wife needs the car at home, and the fat-tired bike allows me to safely ride through the snow and slush on the TART (Traverse Area Recreational Trail) to get to work,” he says. “Before they came along I couldn’t ride the trail, which isn’t cleared in the winter. I had to ride my mountain bike on roadways, which weren’t that safe. I also ride on the VASA Pathway on Fridays for fun.”

TART Trails, which spearheads VASA Pathway grooming, is asking riders to buy a \$25 grooming badge. Fridays are set aside as “Fat Tire Friday,” when cyclists and skiers mix on the 25-kilometer trail, and bikes are allowed on TART’s Leelanau Peninsula, from Traverse City up to Suttons Bay, anytime.

There’s a similar trend in the U.P., around Marquette. “We’re seeing more commuter and trail use in our area over the last few years,” notes Nicole Dewald, Noquemanon Trail Network director. “We plan to groom over 20 miles of single track this winter, and ask riders to support the project by purchasing a ‘Support the Groom’ card.”

Other U.P. places to ride include the Keweenaw Peninsula, and Michigan Tech has 15 kilometers of groomed ski

trail and ungroomed single-track where bikes are permitted, and Swedetown Trails permits them after 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Ishpeming’s Al Qual Recreation Area ski trails also permit them anytime. A day pass is required for all three locations.

For racing, Einstein Cycle has organized a Northern Michigan Fat Bike Series with three races. Fat Chance was at Crystal Mountain in January; King VASA is at Timber Ridge, Feb. 8; and Fat Camp, Timber Ridge, March 1. Fun Promotions

in Grand Rapids has also organized races, with the next at Addison Oaks, Feb. 8; Shore Acres in Saugatuck, Feb. 16; and Pando Winter Sports Park, March 2. Pando also offers Fat Tuesday, a race every Tuesday night through February.

Another Traverse area fat tire rider, Eric Pollard, says, “Riding on snow has been a great alternative to my other winter love, Nordic skiing. Being able to hop on a snow bike is a great way to mix up winter activities and keep it interesting.” Give it a try?



Photo - Marquette Photo

For competition, practical use, or just for fun, fat tire biking can be found around Michigan.

# New, Increased Incentives for Businesses

With the New Year in full swing, it's time to implement energy-saving strategies to help your business cut costs. As always, the Energy Optimization (EO) program offered by Great Lakes Energy is here to help – with several new rebates and increased incentives (some have more than doubled) for Michigan business owners.

## Custom C&I Rebates

Do you have an idea for an energy efficiency project not covered by an existing EO rebate? Custom rebates are available for the installation of unique energy-efficient equipment tailored to meet the needs of your business or farm. Custom rebates are based on expected annual energy savings (kilowatt hours/year). As of Jan. 1, 2014, approved custom projects are eligible to receive rebates covering up to 75 percent of the cost (previously 50 percent)! Contact the Energy Optimization program today at 877.296.4319 to get started.

Please visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) for more details!

NEW REBATES	REBATE AMOUNT
<b>Commercial Refrigeration</b>	
Vending machine controls for snack machines	\$20 per machine
Evaporator fan demand controls for walk-in coolers/freezers	\$20-\$60 per motor
Floating head pressure control	\$80 per ton
Combination oven/steamer (electric only)	\$1,500 per oven
<b>Commercial Lighting</b>	
ENERGY STAR® LED candelabra or globe lamp	\$8 per lamp
T5 fluorescent fixture	30 cents per watt reduced
Outdoor illuminated sign lighting	60 cents per watt reduced
<b>Compressed Air</b>	
Zero loss condensate drain	\$50 per drain
Air compressor outdoor air intake	\$4 per HP
Air Dryers (expanded offerings)	\$2.50-\$3.50 per SCFM
<b>Commercial Agriculture</b>	
Long-day lighting system retrofit for livestock barns	Custom rebate
MSU farm energy audit	\$500 per farm

INCREASED INCENTIVES	NEW REBATE AMOUNT
ENERGY STAR ice machines	\$150-\$500 per unit
LED lighting in reach-in coolers/freezers	\$30 per door
Occupancy sensors for LED lighting in reach-in refrigerated cases	\$15 per door
Anti-sweat heater controls	\$100 per door
ENERGY STAR steam cookers (3-6 pan)	\$1,000-\$1,750 per unit
ENERGY STAR hot holding cabinets	\$300-600 per unit
ENERGY STAR fryers and griddles	\$200-\$225 per unit
High-bay lighting (replacing existing equipment)	Up to \$65 per fixture or 30 cents per watt reduced
Engine block heater timer	\$20 per unit
Dairy refrigeration tune-up	100% of service cost, up to \$150



## Dive in to savings in 2014

Looking for ways to improve your business's bottom line in the New Year? With increased incentives and a number of **new rebates from the Energy Optimization program**, saving energy – and reducing the costs associated with it – is easier than ever. Check out program updates online or contact us today to learn how we can help.

**ENERGY TIP: Include energy efficiency upgrades in your planning for 2014. This smart investment will provide your business with energy savings throughout 2014 and beyond!**

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).





Presque Isle Power Plant

## Wolverine Ends Generation Projects

Wolverine Power Cooperative recently announced that it is ending the development of two generation projects in northern Michigan.

Construction of a 600-megawatt (MW) power plant and a wind turbine farm near Rogers City was proposed by Wolverine in 2006. An air quality permit was approved in June 2011 for the proposed Wolverine Clean Energy Venture power plant, but the co-op significantly scaled back development of the project in late 2011 with the passing of new emissions rules for new plant construction.

“I am very proud of our efforts on the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture,” said Eric Baker, Wolverine’s president/CEO. “The project team worked diligently to develop a proposed state-of-the-art power plant to serve co-op members efficiently and cost-effectively.”

Wolverine has also brought its joint venture with We Energies (of Milwaukee, WI) at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette to a close. The companies had proposed joint ownership of the plant in January 2012 in exchange for Wolverine’s investment in an air quality control system.

“We’re disappointed to end the joint venture with We Energies, yet that has become the best option for both parties,” Baker explained. “We believe this joint venture would have brought economic and environmental benefits for the region, along with helping to ensure energy reliability.”

We Energies plans to evaluate long-term options for the plant and may solicit other potential buyers for some or all of its output.

In keeping with its mission to provide outstanding service to its members, Baker noted that Wolverine will continue to seek reliable, competitively priced power supply that encompasses a mix of fuels and business partners.

Wolverine is the power supplier for Cheryland, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Presque Isle Electric & Gas and Wolverine Power Marketing co-ops, and Spartan Renewable Energy.

## Powering Up

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here’s what’s going on if you find yourself in the dark.

### 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

### 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

### 3 Main Distribution Lines

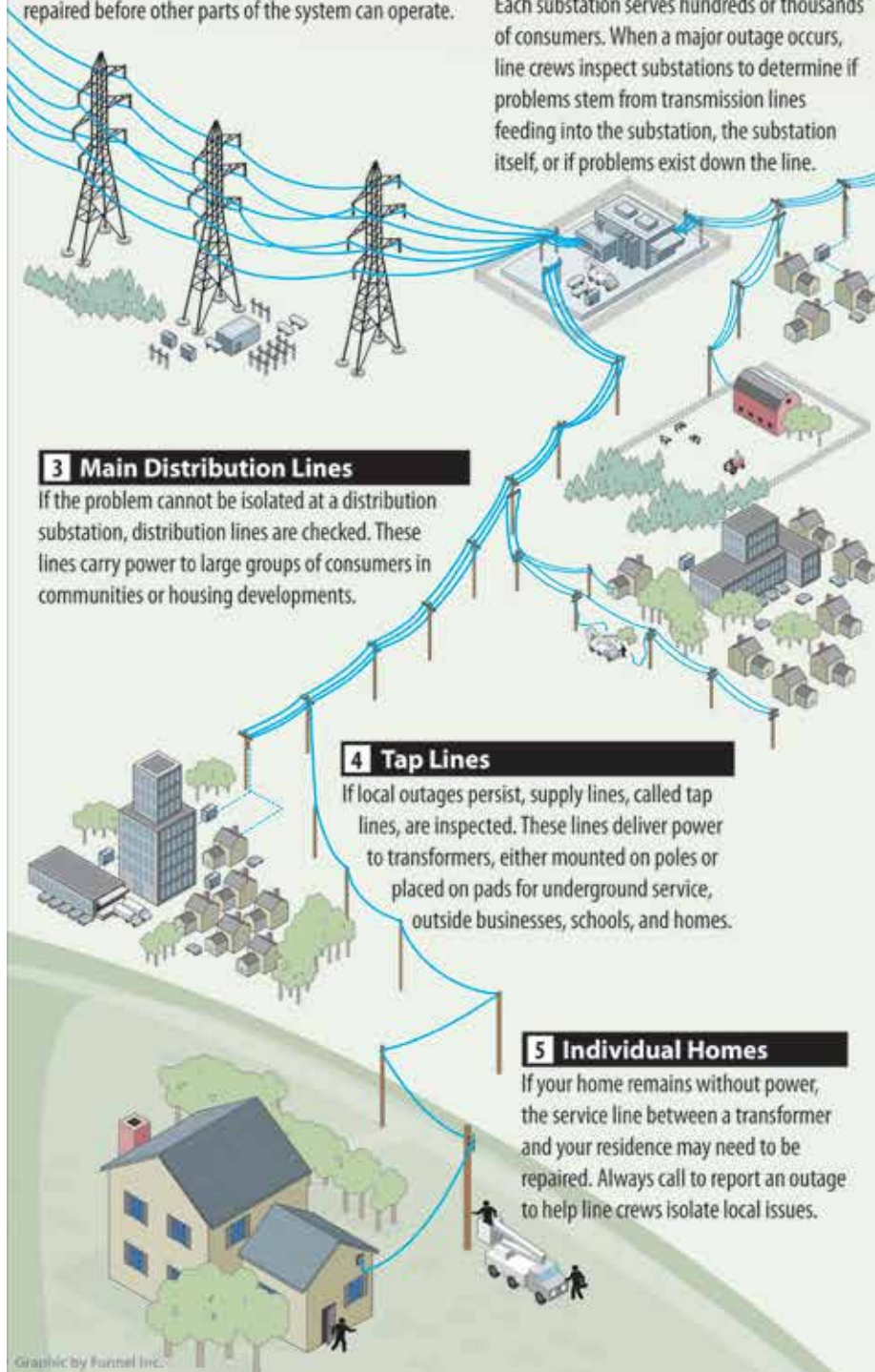
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

### 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

### 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.



Graphic by Farnel Inc.

# New Bulb on the Block: Meet LED Lucy

There's a new mascot in town. It's LED Lucy, and she's a dazzling, spunky mascot who's lighting the way for even brighter lightbulb savings. She joins CFL Charlie, and both are cartoon mascots for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives®, a national brand for the nation's nonprofit, consumer-owned electric co-ops that helps families become "Super Savers" by switching to energy efficient lightbulbs.

Lighting standards moved away from traditional lightbulbs in 2012, and the mascots want to make sure electric co-op members know about all lighting options.

"I'm older than I look," LED Lucy confides. "The first LED was created in 1927. Since then we've added stylish colors, and

costs have dropped. I love bargains, and LED prices get lower every year!"

Following, the mascots share a few pointers on their energy efficiency namesakes.

## Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

CFL Charlie—and bulbs like him—are the most common and economical efficient lightbulbs on the market. The swirly style is linked to the concept of efficient lighting, but some consumers haven't warmed to the design.

"Not everyone likes to see my swirls," explains Charlie. "That's fine by me—everyone has a different sense of style, but several of my friends are designed to look just like a traditional lightbulb."

CFLs offer 75 percent energy savings over traditional bulbs and pay for themselves in nine months, notes the U.S. Department of Energy.

## Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) have been used for years in cell phones and other electronics, and most are small—about half the size of a pencil eraser. By banding several small diodes together, a bright, dependable light emerges. As popularity



CFL Charlie & LED Lucy

grows, some companies are making light with a single, bright LED chip. New ways to build LEDs will help drive costs down.

"It's going to be fun to watch LED Lucy gain fans," laughs Charlie. "She uses a little less energy than me, and lasts 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs." Lighting adds up to 10 percent of a home's electric bill, so every bulb counts.

Visit [kidsenergyzone.com](http://kidsenergyzone.com) for fun ways to help kids learn about lighting and electrical safety, too.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at [www.energysaver.gov](http://www.energysaver.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Energy Assistance Available for Low-Income Utility Customers

As extreme weather continues and the promise of more snow puts a strain on utility customers' budgets, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is urging low-income customers to inquire about heating assistance. "I encourage customers to call 2-1-1 or their utility to inquire about assistance that may be available to them," says MPSC Chairman John D. Quackenbush.

The MPSC reports that \$89,615,000 in grants have been made available to 14 organizations that are now assisting eligible low-income utility customers, including some electric co-ops. Not all utilities participate in the grant-funded programs, but consumers can call 2-1-1 (see map, right), which is a free community health and human services information and referral service for people in need. Nearly all low-income help is

distributed during the "crisis season" that began Nov. 1, 2013, and ends May 31.

By simply dialing 211, available 24/7, callers are connected with a trained, caring professional who will confidentially assess their situation, identify their needs and refer them to local resources for help. Or, visit [uwmich.org/2-1-1](http://uwmich.org/2-1-1) (nationwide, visit [211us.org](http://211us.org)).

Funding for the grants comes from \$50 million collected through a low-income energy assistance funding factor approved by the MPSC; and \$40 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Visit [Michigan.gov/BeWinterWise](http://Michigan.gov/BeWinterWise) for more information, including tips for reducing energy use during the heating months, and how to avoid a service shut-off and receive assistance with bills.

## Michigan 2-1-1 Service Areas By Regional Call Center (as of March 2013)



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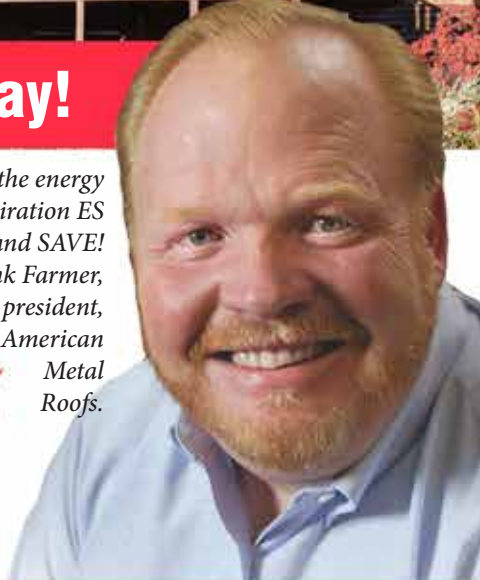
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