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Art
on
Ice



Plus!

Understanding Net Metering

Black Star Farms Harvests
The Power Of The Sun

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*Ultimate comfort
and efficiency*



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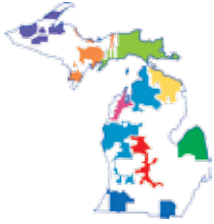
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Change of Address:
Please notify your electric cooperative.
See page 4 for contact information.

Cover photo by Dre Photography

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IN YOUR WORDS

Question Of The Month—We Asked, You Answered.

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question: What is the best compliment you have ever received? Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers:

Something that I would have abhorred as a teenager but treasure now —“You remind me of your mom.”

The best compliment I ever received was, “You’re as pretty as a keeper rainbow trout on the end of the line on opening day.” James and I have been best friends for 40 years and married for over 38 years.

You are a good listener.

Our new Question of the Month is:

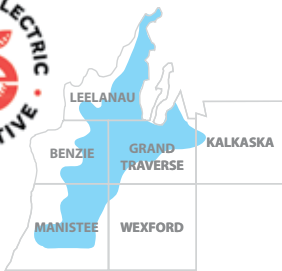
If you could be any age for a week, what age would that be?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by April 1.



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
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Don't forget to vote in the presidential primary on March 8. Visit vote.coop for more information.



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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
The power of human connections



Find us on Facebook.
facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop

Michigan's First Market-Based Net Metering Rate



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Several years ago, Cherryland Electric Cooperative started a net metering program for members who wanted to put wind or solar on individual homes in our service territory.

What is net metering? Net metering is simply a situation where an individual generates electricity with home solar or wind. This individual is also connected to and consuming electricity from the grid. One simply subtracts the energy consumed from the energy generated to get a "net" result. If the energy generated exceeds the energy consumed, Cherryland currently pays the full cost of retail for the excess kilowatt hours (kWh) that are placed onto the grid. Today, this is almost 11 cents per kWh. It is a much higher price than hourly market prices or our overall wholesale costs but it was done to incentivize the growth of renewable energy. Most home generators put little onto the grid after their in-home usage. So, the subsidy, while growing, is small.

Today, the wind and solar industries are much more mature than when the present net metering program was started so long ago. Prices for wind and solar equipment have dropped. As we watched and weighed trends across the country, it became clear that it was the appropriate time to end the subsidy.

All net metering installations signing up and producing energy on or after Nov. 1, 2016, will receive a market rate for all energy put onto the grid. This rate will change annually as we calculate our average cost of market power. Over the last year or so, the price would have been in the 3–4 cents per kWh range.

Present net metering members will be grandfathered at the full retail price. These members made financial decisions based on the price in place at the time. The Cherryland board doesn't feel that it would be fair to alter the arrangement made with these members.

Even after Nov. 1, members will still offset the full price of retail for the energy used inside the home. It is important to remember that this switch to market rates only affects the small amount of energy put out on the grid. Thus, members will need to use two different payback rates in any pre-purchase calculations.

The board and I also believe this change is about leadership. We were participants in the first commercial wind farm in Michigan and also creators of the first community solar project in the state. Along with other distribution cooperative owners of Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Cherryland's renewable portfolio will exceed 30 percent of our total wholesale mix of generation in

Continued on page 16

Considering Using Solar or Wind Energy in Your Home?

Meet Our **NEW** Market-Based Net Metering Rate

Sell your excess energy to us

3.15 cents/kWh
(kilowatt hour)

Effective November 1, 2016

\$SAVE 10.98 cents for every kWh produced and used at home



This rate is **SUSTAINABLE** and **FAIR** to all members. We promise to give you credit for your clean energy for the same price we buy it on the market.

THE NEW MARKET-BASED RATE is from real market pricing in 2015, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., when net metering members are most likely to sell excess energy onto the grid.

This rate will **RESET ANNUALLY** based on average 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. market prices from the prior year.



Member owned since 1938



All current net metering members prior to 11/1/2016 will be grandfathered under the current rate.

Down Home Comfort

Using the earth for heating and cooling makes sense.

By Ted Clutter, The Geothermal Exchange Organization

There's a movement afoot, but don't worry—the ground isn't shaking. It is quietly heating and cooling tens of thousands of homes and commercial buildings across Michigan with ground-source—or geothermal—heat pumps.

Geothermal heat pumps are renowned by both the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency as our most efficient and environmentally friendly heating and cooling technology for homes, businesses and institutional spaces of all sizes. Indeed, by tapping the free

renewable energy of the ground, geothermal heat pumps (GHPs) can save consumers up to 70 percent on their monthly energy bills.

Geothermal Benefits

Geothermal heating and cooling saves energy and reduces fossil fuel use, either on-site or at power plants. Geothermal heat pumps reap huge savings on ratepayer energy bills because they use less electricity than conventional equipment.

Geothermal heat pumps are a comfortable, "green energy" solution and an easy way to act locally, while thinking globally about the environment. Indeed, they shrink the average carbon footprint of a typical American home by nearly 50 percent. Best of all, geothermal heat pumps are "Made in the USA" by an innovative industry that is creating jobs all across America.

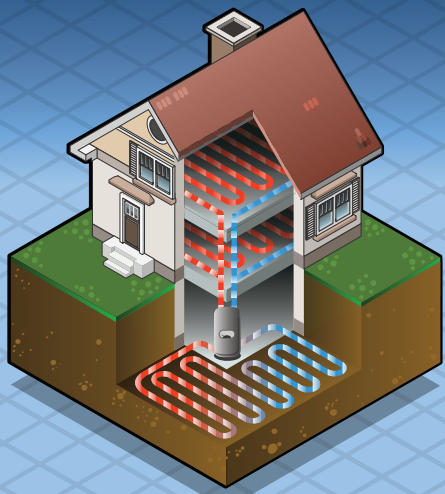
Geothermal Incentives

The federal government offers a 30 percent tax break for homeowners who install a GHP (10 percent for commercial jobs). Those credits expire at the end of 2016, but the Geothermal Exchange Organization (GEO) is working with Congress to extend them through 2022. For the time being, you can still take advantage of the credits if your project is in service before the end of the year.

And be sure to check with your electric co-op about any rebates they might offer for a geothermal system. Your trusted local geothermal heat pump contractor will be able to help you with that information.

For more information and member contractors in your area, visit the Geothermal Exchange website, geoexchange.org. ■

Please note this article focuses on one type of system, there are other types of energy-saving heat pumps, such as pond loop or air-to-air types. Discuss options with a trusted heat pump contractor.



How Geothermal Heat Pumps Work

Geothermal heat pumps use a series of plastic pipes—called ground loops—buried beneath the surface where temperatures are a constant 50° throughout the year (depending on where you live). The fusion-sealed pipes are connected to geothermal heating and cooling equipment inside the home or building.

Water circulating through the system carries heat to and from the ground, depending on the season. During the summer months, unwanted heat indoors is transferred outside to the ground for cooling by the earth. The cool water flows through the GHP system to provide air conditioning.



Staying Safe In A Car Accident With A Utility Pole

Winter wonderlands are beautiful, but they can be a driving nightmare. Snow, slush, ice and wind make driving more stressful and hazardous. If you are in an accident involving a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted.

While downed lines sometimes reveal they are "live" by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

Stay in the car if you are in an accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to help that they must stay far away from the vehicle. Call 911 for help, and wait until a utility professional tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then "bunny hop" away with your feet together to safety. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body. ■



Learn More About Our New Net Metering Rate

Join us on Tuesday, March 15, to discuss upcoming changes to our net metering rate tariff. Learn more about how we are working to avoid subsidization while compensating solar energy producers fairly for the electricity they sell back to us.

Tuesday, March 15, at 6 p.m.
Cherryland Electric Cooperative
5930 US 31 S.
Grawn, MI 49637

Cherryland is Looking for the Next Generation of Leaders

Today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. We want to help them develop strong leadership habits and the civic engagement skills our community will need in the future.

If you know a sophomore or junior with strong leadership potential, encourage them to apply for the Youth Leadership Summit and our Washington, DC, Youth Tour. Both programs are offered free of charge to students selected to represent Cherryland.

The deadline to apply is March 18. Visit miyls.com for details.

Annual Meeting is June 23 at Incredible Mo's

The 2016 Cherryland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, at Incredible Mo's in Grawn. The doors will open at 4 p.m., the business meeting will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and festivities will wrap up at 8 p.m.

You Can Serve On Cherryland's Board

Any qualified Cherryland Electric Cooperative member can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2016, candidates can file a petition at Cherryland's office starting the first day of March until 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

Three directors will be elected at this year's annual meeting, on Thursday, June 23, at Incredible Mo's near Grawn. This year's directors will represent

Benzie, Manistee and Wexford counties and two at-large positions. The term of office is three years.

Nominees must meet the director qualifications set forth in the Cherryland bylaws.

Visit the Cherryland website (cherrylandelectric.coop) for additional details.

Cherryland Offers 5 Scholarships

Cherryland offers five scholarships—three worth \$4,000 (\$1,000 for four years) for high school seniors and two for \$1,000 each for adult scholarship (post high school).

Applications for both scholarships are available on the Cherryland website or by contacting Cherryland's office at 231-486-9200.

Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

Area nonprofit agencies who are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through Cherryland Cares.

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area nonprofits. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares meeting is Monday, March 21, and applications are due Friday, March 11.

Operation Round Up money comes from Cherryland members who elect to round up their bills to the nearest dollar every month. This amount averages \$6 per year.

To receive a Cherryland Cares grant application or to join Operation Round Up, contact Shannon Mattson at Cherryland. Her direct line is 231-486-9234 or email her at smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop.

Rebates Available to Members Buying Energy Star Appliances and Lightbulbs

Look for the ENERGY STAR® logo when you purchase new appliances and LED bulbs for your home or business. In addition to saving energy and money, you may be entitled to a rebate from us.

For a complete listing of rebates available on Energy Star appliances, go to our website at cherrylandelectric.coop. ■

Shutterbugs Share 'Winter Fun' Photos



Our Photo Contest Is Now On Facebook

Your response to our new photo contest has been amazing. We've been getting so many submissions, we wanted to give you all a chance to weigh in on which photos get printed.

Starting this month, you can vote for your favorite photo on our Facebook page. The photo with the most votes will be printed in *Michigan Country Lines* and be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on their December 2016 bill.

Our March theme is **"Saluting Our Armed Forces."** Photos can be submitted between **March 1 to March 20**. The photo with the highest votes will appear in the May issue of *Michigan Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites.

Ready to submit? Just visit facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, don't worry. You can also enter the contest at cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest.

Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!

Our April theme is **"Fishing."** Photos can be submitted from **April 1 to April 20** to be featured in our June issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

1. Virgil Johnson with grandkids, Elliana, Jackson, and Lilyana.
2. Brothers, Jack and Maximus, playing in their winter fort.
Photo by Jeanne Wolf
3. Angie and daughter, Abby, out for a morning snowshoe walk.
Photo by Wayne Brown
4. Alissa Spinniken cross-country skiing in a cherry orchard
5. Adam Granger kiteboarding on Long Lake.

PERFECT PASTA!

Try these inspiring pasta recipes full of flavorful ingredients!



Pasta Bacon Toss

Joy Frazee, Portland

- 1 lb. bacon, cut up
- 4 c. chicken broth
- 2-14.5-oz. cans Italian-style diced tomatoes
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced (or more, if desired)
- ½ t. crushed red pepper flakes, optional
- 16 oz. box uncooked linguine pasta
- 4 ozs. cream cheese
- 5 ozs. parmesan cheese, shredded

Cut bacon into 1-inch pieces and fry; remove from skillet. Put approximately 1 T. of bacon grease in a pot. Add minced garlic and pepper flakes; cook for 10–20 seconds. Add onion; cook 2–3 minutes or until onion is tender. Add broth, diced tomatoes and about a handful of fried bacon pieces, reserving the rest for later. Add uncooked pasta, simmer for 9–10 minutes stirring occasionally, covered, or until pasta is cooked. Mix in the cream cheese until blended well with the pasta and the sauce is thickened. Serve and top with some bacon and shredded Parmesan. This is great for two nights; for the second night, top the remaining pasta with mozzarella and/or Parmesan cheese and bake at 350° until heated through and cheese is melted. Top with cooked bacon.

Greek-Style Scampi (pictured)

Patrick Simmer, Dewitt

- 6 oz. uncooked angel hair pasta
- 1 t. olive oil
- ½ c. chopped green bell pepper
- 2 t. bottled minced garlic
- 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes with basil, garlic, oregano; undrained
- ⅛ t. black pepper
- 1 lb. peeled & deveined medium uncooked shrimp
- ⅛ t. ground red pepper
- 6 T. crumbled feta cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt. Drain pasta and keep warm. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add green bell pepper to pan; sauté 1 minute. Add garlic and tomatoes; cook 1 minute. Add black pepper and shrimp; cover and cook 3 minutes or until shrimp is done (don't overcook). Stir in red pepper; remove from heat. Place 1 c. pasta on each of four plates. Top each serving with 1 c. shrimp mixture and 1 ½ T. feta cheese.

Pasta Salad

Becky Beard, Portland

- 1 lb. tri-color spiral pasta
- ¼ c. red or green pepper, chopped
- ¼ c. green olives
- ½ c. cucumber, chopped
- ¾ c. cherry or grape tomatoes, cut in half
- ½ c. feta cheese
- ¼ c. red onions, chopped
- ¼ c. pepperoni slices, cut in quarters
- 1 c. Zesty Italian dressing (or more if needed, to taste)

Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cool water. Mix with remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Refrigerate until chilled.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all our readers who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Quick and Easy" recipes by **April 1** and "BBQ" recipes by **May 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprint or type on one side, please): Country Lines Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

A RECIPE WINNER EVERY MONTH!

Contributors whose recipes we print each month will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay a \$50 credit on the winner's electric bill! A winner will be selected every month.



Pistachio Pesto Pasta

Christin McKamey

- 8 oz. pasta (gluten free, if desired)
- 2 c. fresh baby spinach, packed
- ½ c. shelled pistachios, roasted and unsalted
- 2 c. fresh basil leaves, packed
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ c. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 T. white wine vinegar
- 1 T. fresh lemon juice
- ½ t. ground sea salt, or to taste
- ¼ t. freshly ground black pepper

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and set aside. In a food processor or high powered blender, add the remaining ingredients. Blend until chopped and thoroughly combined. Mix the pesto with the hot pasta and stir to combine. Serves 4. Will last in the fridge about four days.

Creamy Ranch Pasta Salad

Karen Beard, Portland

- ½ box shaped pasta
- 1 head broccoli, chopped
- 1 c. frozen peas, thawed
- ½ pkg. mini pepperoni slices
- 4 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, chopped into small pieces or shredded
- 12 small carrots, chopped
- Ranch dressing (we use the packet and make our own...tastes much better)

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and run cold water over pasta to cool it. Combine rest of ingredients, except the ranch dressing, into a bowl. Pour cooled pasta into the bowl, then stir in dressing (as much as you like).



Michael Lahti, CFO and director of operations, checks on the solar array at Black Star Farms near Suttons Bay.

Black Star Farms Harvests The Power Of The Sun

By Jodee Taylor

Nestled next to Black Star Farms' grapevines and providing shade for goats and chickens is a cutting-edge solar array. This solar array provides power, incentives and savings to one of the state's most popular agritourism destinations.

Cherryland Electric Cooperative has been a true partner in Black Star Farms' transition to smart energy, from planning to implementation to developing a new net metering rate when they contacted us about installing a solar array in 2015.

"The farm, inn and winery are already saving 10 to 12 percent on energy bills," said Michael Lahti, director of operations and chief financial officer at Black Star Farms. "And that was measured before the solar panels went online in late 2015." Lahti projects a 15 percent energy savings in the coming year, thanks to all the changes that have been made.

Among the changes in Black Star Farms' energy portfolio are:

- Changing from incandescent lights to LED lights;
- Converting from a boiler system that had less than 60 percent efficiency to one with more than 94 percent efficiency; and
- Automating the heating/cooling system in the Suttons Bay Tasting Room.

Additional bulb replacement and boiler upgrades are planned in 2016. "We have performed an energy efficiency analysis on every building on our farm



to evaluate what we can do to help reduce energy costs," Lahti explains. The solar panel array is the icing on the cake.

The solar farm, has a capacity of 53 kilowatts (kW) and will provide 15 to 20 percent of Black Star Farms' power. (The average home has a capacity of 3 to 5 kW.) Black Star Farms is the only Cherryland member above the magical 20 kW mark, which necessitated the need for a new rate. Now, any business that installs an array larger than 20 kW capacity can take advantage of the real-time, market-based rate, which is individually calculated each month.

"Solar energy has been 'cash flow positive' since day one, thanks to some smart moves by Black Star Farms and Cherryland. Grants, rebates, tax credits and capital credits have helped immensely," Lahti said.

"Black Star's solar array cost about \$214,000 to build," Lahti said. It has Canadian Solar power modules, and is run with Solar Edge Inverters and Optimizers. Harvest Energy helped put it all together.

Black Star has received more than \$15,000 in energy efficiency rebates and used almost \$10,000 in capital credits from Cherryland to invest in upgrades. Cherryland also gave Black Star a zero-interest loan to upgrade the boiler.

"Having Cherryland's help through the process was indispensable," Lahti said. "On the front end of any new technology, there are going to be large costs for infrastructure and conversion. Without the assistance

of rebates and capital credits, these projects are almost impossible to complete."

Beyond the financial rewards, however, are the social rewards. "People like to see that we are being responsible and doing the best we can to conserve and create a sustainable operation," Lahti explained. Black Star Farms has always been committed to conservation and sustainability. "It is a deep-rooted philosophy in what we do every day and our guests feel that every time they visit us."

The farm has been environmentally verified by the state of Michigan in farmsteading and cropping systems since 2013, meaning everyone works to prevent and minimize agricultural pollution risks.

But Black Star Farms—and Cherryland—have gone beyond that to provide smart energy solutions that keep the inn's 10 rooms, winery, tasting rooms, the kitchens and dining rooms, and the farm itself as sustainable and responsible as possible. ■



Kara Lahti, 8, left, and Avery Lahti, 10, daughters of Michael Lahti, Black Star Farms CFO and director of operations, feed a goat and a red angus steer near the farm's solar array.



Art on Ice

By Emily Haines Lloyd

When she was younger, Stephanie Miller wanted a career in education—art, to be exact. She never became an art teacher, but she most definitely became an artist and a teacher.

For over 25 years, Miller has built her life around one of her true passions—ice skating. Spending many years at ice rinks around Metro Detroit, Miller became a successful competitive skater and an impassioned stylist. Bored with the uninspired costumes available to her, she started beading her own skating outfits. Before she knew it, other skaters were begging her to help them spruce up their costumes.

"I'm the unlikely story. I got my 'degree' in skating," said Miller. "I was a skater who had an artistic eye and before I knew it, I had a career."

Accident or not, the trajectory of Miller and her partner, Luanne Williams' business is nothing short of impressive.

Once a week, Miller leaves her small town of Kingsley, just 15 miles outside Traverse City, and travels to the Detroit Skating Club, where she and Williams (from Grass Lake) take over the rink's Club Room. There, skaters wait in line to meet with the designers about upcoming competition costumes and what will make them stand out on the ice.

The two have created costumes for an impressive list of world-renowned skaters, including Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White. Davis wore one of Miller's designs when the duo won their gold medal in Sochi. She has designed Davis' costumes for nearly 20 years—a testament to the trust and respect the skating community has for Miller and Williams.

"I am always on the skater's side," said Miller. "I listen to their music, to what they like or don't like



and I encourage them to listen to their gut. They are the one that has to go out and perform in this costume. They have to love it."

While many have recommended that Miller collaborate with an apparel shop to mass-produce her designs, the costume veteran can't fathom it.

"My heart is in custom, original designs," she explains. "I love having a new piece of artwork to focus on. Otherwise, I would be bored out of my mind."

When she's not creating fresh designs and meticulously adhering stones, Miller is a coach at the Traverse City Skating Club. She's become the teacher she always wanted to be—grooming a new generation of skaters and possibly even clients.

When she drives home at the end of a day of coaching, she's inspired by any number of things, a billboard or the pure aqua blue of Traverse Bay. Before she knows it, there's a new idea for a costume for the artist/teacher who always seems to be working.

"I see something like the water in the bay and all I can think is how great that color will look on the ice." ■

Above: Wearing costumes designed by Miller, are Frances Rossiter (left), 12, a national skater from MI, and Anna Rossiter, 11, a top regional skater who started at age 3.

Photos—Dre Photography



Michigan's First Market-Based Net Metering Rate

Continued from page 4

2017. This will give us yet one more first place position in renewable power.

Thus, it is only natural that we attempt to set an example and lead the way to market based net metering. We took a long look at this issue in an attempt to be proactive while giving our members adequate notice.

Cherryland is committed to using renewable energy in a fair and affordable manner. This philosophy has grown our renewable portfolio to a "best in class" position. This small change to a market-based net metering rate is consistent with that philosophy. We look forward to using this rate to work with members who have the same philosophy and commitment. ■

Country Lines, Your Communications Partner



For over 35 years, our co-op members have received *Michigan Country Lines* because it is the most effective and economical way to share information with our members. This is our most empowering communication tool to keep members up-to-date about everything going on within their electric co-op.

Each issue contains information about our services, director elections, member meetings, and the staff and management decisions you need to know about as an owner of the co-op.

The magazine also includes legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost. And, sending *Michigan Country Lines* to you helps the co-op fulfill one of its important principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Michigan Country Lines* on your behalf at an average cost of \$3.91 per year, paid as part of your electric bill. The current magazine cost is 48 cents per copy—less than the cost of a first class stamp. *Michigan Country Lines* is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in Lansing. As always, we welcome and value your comments.

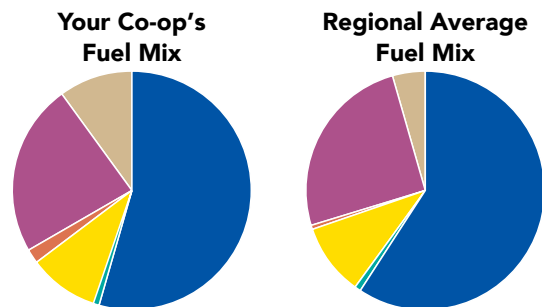
Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Cherryland Electric Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 12/31/15.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	53.0%	55.0%
Oil	0.5%	0.6%
Gas	16.1%	12.8%
Hydroelectric	1.3%	0.7%
Nuclear	21.6%	25.7%
Renewable Fuels	7.5%	5.2%
<i>Biofuel</i>	0.9%	0.7%
<i>Biomass</i>	0.4%	0.5%
<i>Solar</i>	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Solid Waste Incineration</i>	0.1%	0.0%
<i>Wind</i>	5.6%	3.4%
<i>Wood</i>	0.4%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas; and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix, but does not include renewable energy credits (RECs) that bring the total for renewable fuels above 10%.



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	5.9	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,637	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.9	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0070	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/15.

Cherryland purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.



YOU COULD WIN A \$25 BILL CREDIT

Make a payment at our kiosk in March and you'll automatically be entered to win!



Manage your account 24 hours a day Visit our drive-thru kiosk at our office in Grawn

Accessing your account is easy

All you need to make a payment is your account number or payment stub.



Kiosk

Look for the kiosk QR code on your bill



Payment options

Choose to pay with cash*, electronic fund transfer (EFT), or credit/debit card. Payments post to your account within 15 minutes.

*Kiosk does not give change, so any cash payment above the amount due will become a credit on the member's account.

Surf's Up!

While most of us prepare for a snow storm by stopping by the gas station or grocery store, one Northern Michigan native is waxing her surf board. Her surf board? Yes, and a few adventurous souls like Ella Skrocki, 21, catch waves on the Great Lakes year-round.

A student at Northern Michigan University majoring in environmental studies, Ella grew up in the small coastal town of Empire where her parents own Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak Shop. Brought up with the heart of a surfer, Ella attended surf camps in California where fellow students found the idea of surfing the Great Lakes far-fetched.

But there's nothing improbable about it, and many seasoned Great Lakes surfers prefer the winter waves because of their size and frequency. Ella caught a few 30 footers during a recent storm, describing the experience as "very rewarding." Put in perspective, the waves on Lake Superior that



sank the Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975 reached heights of up to 35 feet.

Waves big enough to sink a freighter present additional challenges including frostbite, dirtier water, and shorter wave periods (7 seconds between crests versus an average of 20 seconds on the ocean). So, why does Ella do it? "When I find the motivation to get out there during a blizzard and catch that one wave, it's so empowering!"

Sure, winter surfing can be brutal but Ella has the proper gear to stay warm and though she admits her "face will get a little numb" on occasion, a touch of grease on her cheeks takes the sting out of winter's icy chill.

If surfing the Great Lakes sounds like an activity worth exploring, Michigan's surfing community is a great place to start. A tight-knit group, they are happy to offer encouragement, tips and lessons. And while we're grumbling during the next



Jack O'Malley

winter storm warning, a small contingent of extreme sports enthusiasts will be gearing up for a wave even the most seasoned ocean surfer would be stoked to catch.

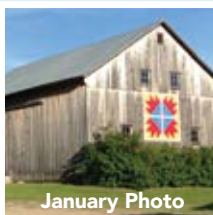
Visit Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak Shop at sbsurfsandkayak.com. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **March 18** will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 electricity bill credit from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.



January Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the January 2016 issue is John Stocki, a Cherryland Electric co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Marilla Museum and Pioneer Place.



AMERICAN METAL ROOFS Customer Stories...



“It was a great experience...”

Sharon Somers is talking about her roof. Yes, her roof.

And shouldn't the purchase and installation of every new roof be a great experience? Unfortunately, for many homeowners it's not.

That's why Frank Farmer started American Metal Roofs back in 2000. After more than 10 years in the home improvement business, he knew the winning formula. If he could combine a superior product with a well-thought-out installation process and outstanding customer service, he knew that homeowners would flock to do business with him.

Fifteen years and over 3,000 roofs later, American Metal Roofs is still creating great roofing experiences all over the state of Michigan. Permanent, beautiful and guaranteed, our roofs offer you peace-of-mind not available with a temporary roofing solution. Whether in one of our showrooms, on our website or talking with one of our experts, we invite you to look into an American Metal Roof for your home.

It's a great experience.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS:

FLINT - 6140 Taylor Drive • CHARLOTTE - 1875 Lansing Road

Call Today! 844.638.2576 844.METAL.ROOFS

Read More Customer Stories and Watch the Video at:
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See Dozens of Pictures • Enter to Win a Metal Roof • Request a Quote



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Save \$125.00 per square on Designer Metal Shingles,
Standing Seam Metal Roofs, Pole Barn Roofs, and Agricultural Roofs!
Give us some flexibility on the installation date and we will give you an additional \$1,000 off your order.



cherrylandelectric.coop

ELEVATE YOUR FUTURE

YOU ARE A LEADER. Whether it's in the classroom

or in your community, you guide and inspire others to contribute their best efforts. Your electric cooperative has two **FREE** programs to help students like you develop strong leadership habits, explore career opportunities in the electric industry, and engage in the democratic process. Learn more about the **Youth Leadership Summit** and **Washington, D.C. Youth Tour** at miYLS.com. You are a leader. **YOU ARE THE FUTURE.**



WANT TO LEARN MORE? Watch the videos and apply online at miYLS.com.



Youth Leadership Summit
April 27-29 | SpringHill Camp, Evart, MI



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour
June 11-16 | Washington, D.C.