

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

September 2017

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



THE NEW GUYS

MI Local Hops Stands Out
In Growing Hops Industry

Three GLE Directors Re-Elected

Free Energy Seminars

Special Surcharge



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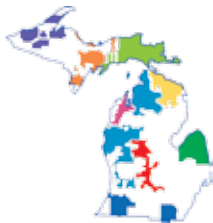
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
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A \$50 Bill Credit!

I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com or email to cdorr@meca.coop

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Ready When Damaging Winds Blow



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

Trees and power lines, like oil and water, don't mix. With all the hard work it takes to keep the right of ways cleared, we know trees can still fall on the power lines when strong winds blow.

So far this year, we've been plagued by small, more frequent wind events rather than one large storm (knock on wood!). But sometimes a short-lived windstorm can be just as difficult. A key cause of outages is winds that are just strong enough to cause trouble for trees and power lines. It keeps our lineworkers and dispatchers very busy. This creates a challenge that is out of our control and makes meeting our annual reliability goal a stretch. Average outage time numbers used in measuring our annual reliability goal progress are higher than we would like (see related graph in this issue).

No one can control the weather, but we can control how quickly and safely we get the power back on. Big investments made in recent years are helping us do that. They include regularly clearing trees away from power lines, rebuilding major power line circuits where outages are more prevalent, taking advantage of new technologies and adding more line protection devices to limit the numbers affected by outages.

Repairing lines as efficiently and safely as possible is important, too. One of the benefits of a large cooperative is that we can pull Great Lakes Energy crews from other parts of our 26 county service area to help when a storm's damage is localized over one area. The strategy is less effective when pesky little storms pop up throughout our service area like this year. GLE crews are not as readily available to help out elsewhere if they have their own outages to handle.

Members sometimes ask why we don't put all our lines underground and avoid damage by winds and trees. The estimated cost to put approximately 11,000 miles of line underground would be roughly \$1.299 billion. The impact on your rates would be significant, so we must look at what's best for each situation when deciding whether to install overhead or underground lines.

You can't expect to always have good weather, but you can expect us to be there for you. When strong winds blow, we'll be there to get the lights back on. That's the cooperative difference. ■

Three Re-Elected To Board



District 3
Ric Evans



District 4
Larry Monshor



District 5
Dale Farrier

Incumbents Ric Evans, of Ellsworth, Larry Monshor, of Gaylord, and Dale Farrier, of Kalkaska, were re-elected to the Great Lakes Energy board of directors. They ran unopposed in their districts. Vote counts were 282 for Evans in District 3, 295 for Monshor in District 4, and 260 for Farrier in District 5. Members in the three districts voted by mail-in ballots contained in the July/August issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

Free Energy Seminars

Two free energy seminars for Great Lakes Energy members will be held Oct. 7 and 14. Attend the one nearest to you.

Learn about home heating and cooling options with geothermal and air-source heat pumps and Energy Optimization (EO) programs that offer incentives to help co-op members save energy. They include rebates for the purchase of furnaces with variable speed blower motors, heat pump water heaters, Wi-Fi-enabled or smart occupancy-sensing thermostats, refrigerators, televisions, lighting and more. In addition, information on free online audits will be provided.

Local heating and cooling companies and Great Lakes Energy staff members will be on hand to answer questions related to heat pumps.

Co-op members will learn about other incentive programs offered by Great Lakes Energy, too.

Door prizes will be awarded. Winners will receive energy saving gifts.

Register Now And Attend Either Session:

Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon at our GLE office in Newaygo.

Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon at our GLE office in Boyne City.

Space is limited, so please register by calling 1-888-485-2537, ext. 8958, or email: events@glenergy.com.

Monthly Surcharge Helps Low-Income Families

Established by state law, a surcharge of 93 cents per meter per month will begin appearing on bills starting in September.

The surcharge funds the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund established by the Michigan legislature as a long-term solution to assist low-income, at risk residents with their utility bills. The intention is to provide funds to prevent disconnection of service and to help people become more energy self-sufficient. The program is funded by Michigan electric consumers through the surcharge. Funds are distributed by the state's Department of Human Services to help qualifying residents during the heating season with energy bills.

Great Lakes Energy joins other electric utilities in Michigan that have the surcharge, which by law cannot exceed \$1 per meter per month. Great Lakes Energy members who have more than one meter at the same residential location would still only pay one surcharge per month.

The surcharge will appear as MI Low Income Energy Fund on your bill.

Without the surcharge, the cooperative's ability to collect payments on delinquent accounts during the heating season would be limited and qualifying low-income families within GLE's service area may not be able to receive energy assistance funding. The surcharge gives GLE the ability to disconnect non-paying members year-round.

Visit our website or contact your local state representative or senator if you would like more information about the Michigan Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF). Contact information for state lawmakers is available on the Michigan.gov website.

Michigan Co-ops Empower Future Leaders

Youth Tour Washington, D.C. Highlights

Designed to inspire the leaders of tomorrow, Youth Tour teaches the brightest students of Michigan about their past—and helps equip them with the skills they need to be Michigan's next generation of energy-minded leaders. Youth Tour offers a unique opportunity to build leadership and public speaking skills, enhance students' knowledge of the cooperative form of business, and build life-long friendships with other student-leaders from across the country.

Michigan's electric cooperatives sent 20 high school juniors and seniors to experience Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. this past June. The following pictures tell the story. ■

Information is available at
CooperativeYouthTour.com.



↑ Future Mitten State Leaders

The 20 selected students from across the state toured multiple landmarks, including a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol.

↩ Captivating Congressman

Students enjoyed meeting with several members of Congress, including Rep. Bill Huizenga from Michigan's 2nd District.





↩ The Lincoln Legacy

Part of Youth Tour involves learning about the great historical and political figures of our country. As these young women consider their futures, they will bring Lincoln's values of respect and fairness with them as they rise to become the next generation of Michigan leaders.

Never Forget

Several students found the names of family members or family friends on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



National Mall

A group of students gathered on the National Mall prior to legislative visits and an opening-night performance of "The Sound of Music" at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

↩ What's Next For Energy-Minded Students

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association staff briefed the students on the many opportunities available for those interested in living, working or studying in Washington, D.C.



Easy Ways to Save Energy At Home

Saving energy is a great way to control your utility bills—while also helping to preserve the environment! Just a few small actions can make a big difference. Read on to discover quick and easy ways to start saving energy at home today!



Maintain your heating and cooling systems. Check the filter every month and replace it at least every three months. Remove leaves, dirt, and other debris from around the outdoor components to improve air flow and efficiency.



Strategically open and close window coverings. On hot, sunny days, keep your home cool by closing blinds, window shades, and curtains—especially on the south and west sides of your home. In cooler weather, leave shades open to maximize heat from the sun.



Set a schedule on your programmable thermostat. Program temperatures to save energy while you're at work, sleeping, or away. In the summer, increase the temperature during these times to save on cooling costs. In the winter, lower the heat to save energy and money.



Seal air leaks. Prevent cool air from seeping out in the summer and warm air from escaping in the winter. Up to 30 percent of heating and cooling bills are consumed by air leakage!



Clean and dust key areas of your home. Vacuum air registers and vents to keep air flowing as efficiently as possible. Dust electronics and light bulbs to ensure they run at maximum capacity. Clean the track on your sliding glass door to maintain a tight seal.

As always, visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and incentives. ■

Start saving energy today!

- **Turn off and unplug electronics.** There's still time to get outside!
- **Fire up the grill.** Enjoy great tasting food and keep your home cool.
- **Hang your clothes outside.** Save energy and enjoy the fresh scent!
- **Change your furnace filter.** Improve efficiency and indoor air quality.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org
PHONE: 877.296.4319



Time is Money



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Birds And Feathers

GLE Photo Contest: Each month members can submit photos on Facebook or our website for our annual photo contest. The photo with the most votes on Facebook is published here along with other selections. Enter again in September; see details below.

Most
Votes on
Facebook!



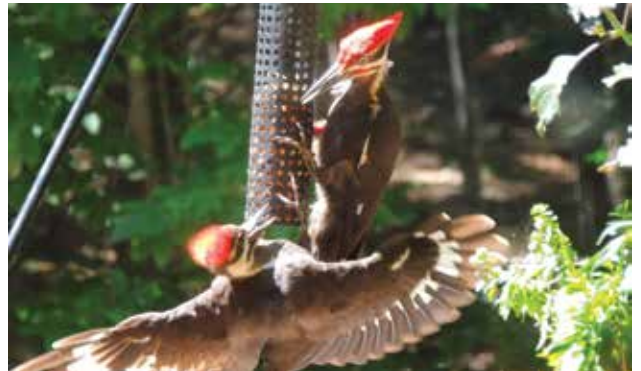
How many more times do I have to practice flying?
—Andrew Bylerly, Central Lake



I always enjoy watching the orioles who stop by for grape jam.
—Terri Sterk, Holland



A piping plover enjoying a good beach day.
—Jennifer Hansen, Ludington



Hey dad, dinner NOW!—Katrina Marshall, Bellaire



Feed me, please!—Susan Holmes, Leroy



Enter Our Photo Contest And Win!

Visit [Facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://facebook.com/greatlakesenergy) and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. Not on Facebook? You can also enter the contest at gtlakes.com/photocontest/. Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too. The photo receiving the most votes from our online and Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Michigan Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. All photos printed in the magazine throughout the year will be entered to win a \$200 bill credit in December 2017.

Our September theme is **Back to School**. Photos can be submitted from **Sept. 1 to Sept. 20** to be featured in the November/December issue.

AMAZING APPLES

Fall's favorite fruit teams up with sweets and spices to bring you these comforting desserts.

Photos—831 Creative

Apple Cheesecake (pictured)

Rebecca Cronk, Presque Isle

- 1 cup butter
- 1¼ cups sugar, divided
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla, divided
- 2 cups flour
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 egg
- 5–6 Macintosh apples, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ¼ cup almond slices

Preheat oven to 450 F. For the crust, blend 1 cup butter, ⅔ cup sugar, ½ teaspoon vanilla and 2 cups flour. Press into an 8-inch spring form pan—¾ of the way up the pan. For the filling, blend the cream cheese, ¼ cup sugar, remaining 1 teaspoon vanilla and 1 egg. Pour over the crust evenly. For the topping, add the thinly sliced apples to a bowl with juice from a lemon. Stir to coat. Add the remaining ⅓ cup sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon. Stir to coat and layer the apples on top of the filling in the pan. Sprinkle almond slices on top. Bake at 450 F for 10 minutes, then lower to 400 F for 20–25 minutes.

▶ Watch a video of this recipe at <https://goo.gl/hbYd7p>

Apple Dapple Cake

Judy Farley, Midwest Energy

For the cake:

- 1½ cups oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- 3 cups apples, peeled and chopped

For the sauce:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- ¼ cup milk



Preheat oven to 350 F. Cream oil, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Sift together flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon; add to creamed mixture. Beat well. Fold in nuts and apples. Bake in a well-greased Bundt pan for

1 hour and 10 minutes. When cake is almost done, mix sauce ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil; boil for 3 minutes. Pour sauce over hot cake and let cake remain in pan for 2 hours. Then turn cake right side up on serving plate.

Apple Butter

Jane Ellison, Great Lakes Energy

- 5½ pounds apples—peeled, cored and finely chopped
- 4 cups white sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon salt



Place the apples in a slow cooker. In a medium bowl, mix the sugar, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Pour the mixture over the apples in the

slow cooker and mix well. Cover and cook on high 1 hour. Reduce heat to low and cook 9 to 11 hours, stirring occasionally, until the mixture is thickened and dark brown. Uncover and continue cooking on low 1 hour. Stir with a whisk, if desired, to increase smoothness. Spoon the mixture into sterile containers, cover and refrigerate or freeze.

MI
co-op
KITCHEN

Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

**“Healthy Salads”
due November 1**

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.



Fred “The Beervangelist” Bueltmann is the vice president of brand and lifestyle at New Holland Brewing Co., as well as a nationally-recognized expert on beer and food. He offered up this delicious beer-brined chicken recipe from his cookbook, *“The Beervangelist’s Guide to the Universe.”* <http://beervangelist.net/book/>

Beer-Brined Jerk Chicken

This dish requires some forethought and a few days, so plan accordingly.

Brine:

- 2 quarts IPA or pale ale
- 2 quarts chicken stock
- 1 quart water
- 1 cup kosher salt
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 onion, peeled and julienne
- 6 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tablespoon whole black peppercorns
- 3 bay leaves
- 4 chickens, butchered to grill

Place the water, salt, onion, garlic, parsley, peppercorns, and bay leaves on the stove and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and chill completely. Add the beer and stir thoroughly, then add the chicken. Let sit refrigerated for 8–24 hours. Remove the chicken from the brine and rinse under cold water. Pat dry and keep cold.

Jerk Marinade:

- 1 tablespoon ground allspice
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- ½ tablespoon black pepper
- ½ tablespoon sage
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 12 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoon dark molasses
- ¼ cup peanut oil
- ¾ cup apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup lime juice
- 3 green onions, minced
- 1 large yellow onion, minced
- 3 habanero peppers, stemmed
- ¼ cup dark soy sauce

Combine the above ingredients in a food processor and puree until smooth, about 2 minutes. Pour the marinade over the chicken and refrigerate overnight (two nights is best), turning once or twice to redistribute the marinade. Place the chicken on the grill and cook over medium heat, turning often, until done, about 25 minutes. Let rest for 5 minutes and serve.

Read the full story about MI Local Hops on page 14 and find this recipe and more at micoopkitchen.com.

Success Through Reading

You're never too young to enjoy reading, even when you can only listen at first.

The basis for the Read Early Read Often program in Oceana County is research that indicates reading often to infants and toddlers improves their chances of later being successful in school and in life.

"Our goal is to see a significant improvement in the proficiency in English language arts, which is tested in the third grade, and to give every child the opportunity to learn and succeed," says Tammy Carey, Executive Director of the Community Foundation for Oceana County that leads the program.

Another goal is to place books into the households of families with young children in the county, particularly low-income families where literacy is a bigger issue. So far, a total of 200 books have been placed in 150 households throughout the county.

Contributors responsible for providing the books include Great Lakes Energy members who support the People Fund. The community foundation recently received a \$4,000 People Fund grant for books.

"Support from the People Fund has helped us reach our vulnerable infants and toddlers. It is our hope that these books make a lasting impression on these children and families." Carey said.

If you would like to help support the program, call 231-861-8335 for more information.



The Read Early Read Often program in Oceana County encourages parents to read to their infants and toddlers.

Public Act 295: The Clean Renewable and Efficient Energy Act

2016 Annual Energy Optimization Report Great Lakes Energy Cooperative MPSC Case Number U-17782

Great Lakes Energy contracted with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) to administer the Energy Optimization efforts in order to comply with PA-295. MECA filed a four-year Energy Optimization plan with the MPSC on August 3, 2015, as required by PA 295. This EO plan was approved by the MPSC on December 8, 2015, and we began implementing our 2016 – 2019 EO Plan January 1, 2016. WECC was selected to implement all Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Programs, and the Energy Optimization website www.michigan-energy.org. WECC has subcontracted with JACO, Michigan Energy Options, Franklin Energy, Morgan Marketing Partners, and Honeywell to assist with the implementation of the EO Programs. MECA contracted with KEMA as the independent third party evaluation contractor for the certification of kWh savings.

In 2016, Great Lakes Energy collected \$2,548,873 through the Energy Optimization Surcharge and spent \$2,891,565 resulting in an under-collection of \$342,692. Great Lakes Energy achieved 16,637 MWh of energy savings in 2016 and carried forward 484 MWh from 2015 into 2016 for a total reported energy savings of 17,121 MWh for 2016. The full report can be obtained at your cooperative's headquarters and www.michigan-energy.org or <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile>.

People Fund Donors Are Winners



Did you know we award \$100 bill credits to Great Lakes Energy members who support the People Fund? Six winners are randomly selected twice per year.

Several generous People Fund supporters recently became winners. See list of members who received a **\$100 bill credit** on this page.

Current People Fund supporters and any member who becomes a People Fund contributor before the next drawing on Dec. 1 are eligible to win.

People Fund contributors allow Great Lakes Energy to round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. The rounded-up amounts, which average **less than 50 cents a month**, are used to award grants to local charities and community groups, such as food pantries, senior citizen centers and youth programs.

Gifts are provided by Great Lakes Energy and do not involve the use of any People Fund round-up money.

Don't miss your chance to be the next winner! Call our office or visit **gtlakes.com** to sign up today.

Congratulations to our winners!

Thanks for your ongoing support of the People Fund.

Erica Gamble, LeRoy
Wanda F. Rushton, Mancelona
Kathy A. Wellman, Hastings
Matthew J. Henry, Baldwin
Robert D. Halliday, Gaylord
Frank Weger, Shelby



Report Outages Online

Members can now report an outage and view status updates online at my.gtlakes.com or through our mobile app. Search for Great Lakes Energy on the App Store.

Your information is instantly transmitted to GLE's outage management system. When it is possible to estimate restoration time, the information will appear in real time on your computer or mobile device. Members using either option will also receive an automated call when their power is restored.

You can continue to call 1-888-GT-LAKES (485-2537) to report an outage, too.

Do not report your outage by email or on social media, as such messages are not monitored 24 hours a day.

Visit Storm Central on gtlakes.com to view current outages.

THE NEW GUYS

MI Local Hops Stands Out In Growing Hops Industry

By Rob Marsh



Before your bartender at the local beer tap fills an empty pint glass or you snatch up a six-pack of brew at your hometown liquor store, you may be surprised to learn that many of your favorite beers began their journey to the tap in the rich, fertile soil of Michigan.

Located in Williamsburg, Mich., and a member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, MI Local Hops (MLH), is a 280-acre farm (plus an additional 100 acres the company cooperatively manages with other growers) with the capability to harvest up to 350,000 pounds of hops annually. At the farm, rows of twisty vines creep up trellises, each in an effort to produce bitter cones that are the heart and soul of almost any Michigan beer.

"The hops industry has become a bit like the music industry," said Mike Moran, sales and marketing manager of MI Local Hops. "Everyone's looking for the next big thing. The next exciting flavor.

But those flavors need to be consistent and dependable. We know the wow factor is nothing without the quality."

A century ago, Michigan's hops industry was decimated by downy mildew. However, with advancements in modern farming and the determination of local hops growers, Michigan is now one of the top growing regions for hops in the United States.

MI Local Hops is now the largest hop farm east of the Rocky Mountains. The magnitude of that statement isn't lost on the owners, as they build the infrastructure to support and sustain that accomplishment.

With "local" in the name, MLH is supplying some of the Midwest's biggest beer players. Providing hops to Bell's, Founders and New Holland, all of whom are based in Michigan but offer national distribution, the Michigan hops agriculture boom has swept the state and the Midwest.





Still, remaining a local supplier is especially important to MI Local Hops. That sentiment is also felt by the local breweries that receive the crop each season. New Holland Brewing Co., out of Holland, Mich., uses MLH hops exclusively in their flagship beer: Mad Hatter, Midwest IPA.

"We have a lot of Michigan pride and want to support local agriculture, but we also want to have the highest quality ingredients," said Head Brewer Jason Salas of New Holland Brewing Co. "Michigan hop growers have been demonstrating to us their commitment to the brewing industry by turning out unique, high-quality products that allow us to develop beers worthy of our industry. As a brewer, that means a lot."

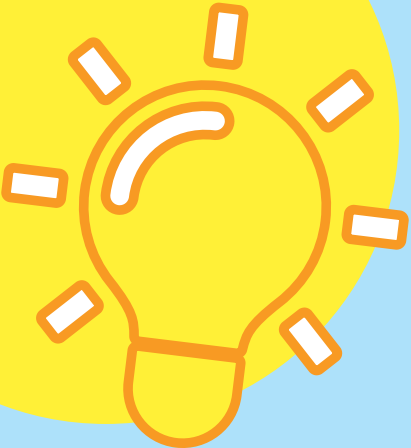
MI Local Hops has grown from being the "new guys" to a significant force in Michigan's growing hops industry. ■



Pictured L to R are several of the MI Local Hops team members: Dan Taber, chief operating officer; Tim Prentice, project and facility manager; and Mike Moran, sales and marketing manager.

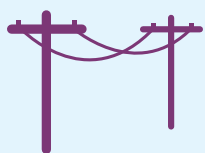


The former High Point Golf Course in Williamsburg is now home to MI Local Hops.



We're Keeping the **Lights On**

Reliable service means fewer power outages. We're making improvements to provide you with better service.



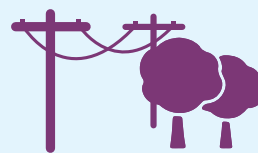
More Power
Line Protection
Devices



New
Technology



Major
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Improvements



Aggressive
Tree
Maintenance

What hinders our progress?



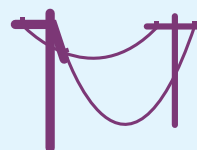
Storms



Man-made
Accidents

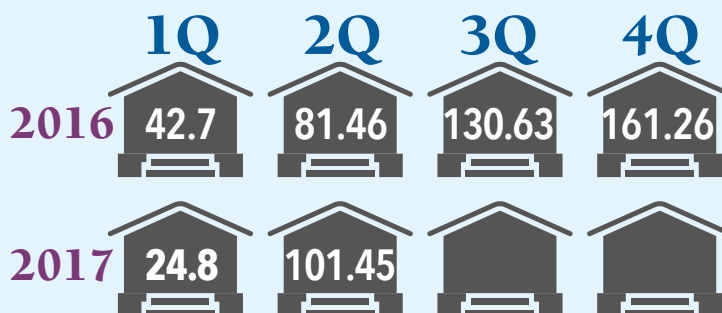


Animals



Equipment
Failure

AVERAGE OUTAGE MINUTES YEARLY COMPARISON



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



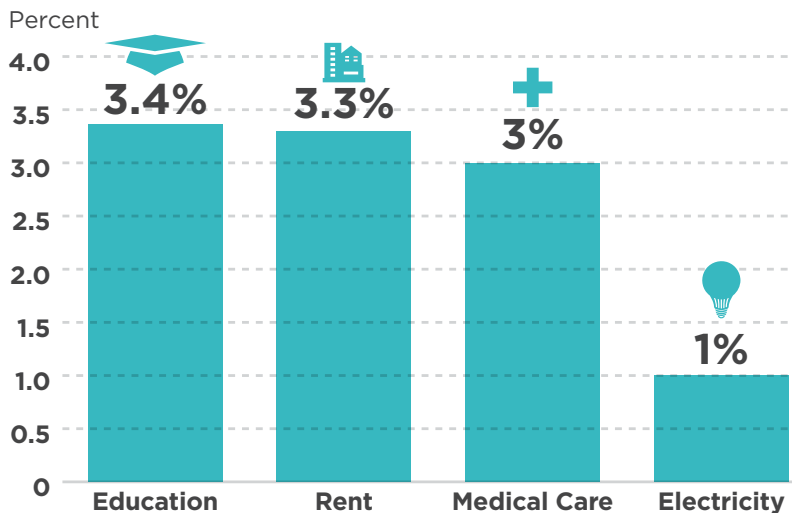
Looking Out for You

OUR YEARLY GOAL:
UNDER 157 MINUTES

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



Notice to Members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Case No. U-16593

2016 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary

2008 PA 295, as amended requires all Michigan electric utilities to get 10 percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2015. Under this requirement, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative submits an annual report to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2016, Great Lakes acquired a total of 65,368 renewable energy credits (26,204 credits from Harvest Wind Farm, LLC, 16,372 credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile, 21,256 credits from Deerfield Wind Farm and 6 credits from SpartanSolar) and 1,518 incentive credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile and 12 incentive credits from SpartanSolar. All credit transfers were directed through Great Lakes' wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members. A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at gtlakes.com or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

FUEL MIX REPORT

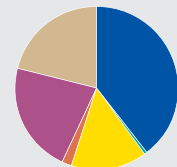
The fuel mix characteristics of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ending 6/30/17.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

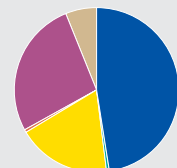
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	41.4%	47.7%
Oil	0.5%	0.6%
Gas	14.3%	18.1%
Hydroelectric	1.9%	0.8%
Nuclear	21.1%	26.7%
Renewable Fuels	20.8%	6.1%
Biofuel	0.6%	0.8%
Biomass	0.4%	0.5%
Solar	0.2%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.1%	0.1%
Wind	19.1%	4.1%
Wood	0.4%	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.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	6.0	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,795	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.6	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0069	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/16.

Great Lakes Energy purchases 100 percent of its electricity from Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

Restoring The Great Lakes Lighthouses

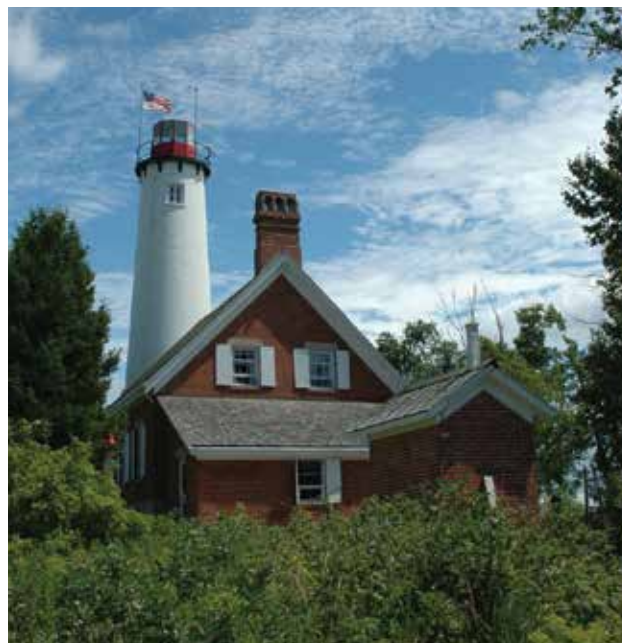
Scattered along Michigan's shoreline and numbering over 200 at their peak, the Great Lakes lighthouses once served as a beacon of hope to the weary seafarer. Today only 124 lights still stand, many in desperate need of repair. Enter the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA).

Founded in 1983, the GLLKA's mission of preserving lighthouses and the stories of those who kept them while fostering a new generation of preservationists came to life when given license to restore St. Helena Island Light Station in 1986. Built in 1873 off the coast of St. Ignace, constant exposure to the elements left St. Helena vulnerable. Abandoned, she endured years of vandalism and theft requiring the removal of several outbuildings. What remained of the station continued deteriorating.

Before arrangements were made for the complete demolition of the structure, members from GLLKA requested permission to restore St. Helena. With the help of countless volunteers including Boy Scout Troop 4 from Ann Arbor, St. Helena slowly came back to life.

Inspiring awe and admiration from thousands of guests each year, the original restoration project began nearly three decades ago. While the threat of theft and vandalism have declined, the elements continue taking a toll. Fortunately, GLLKA volunteers are committed for the long haul, tirelessly maintaining the facility for another generation to enjoy.

In the meantime, GLLKA President Rick Mixer offers guidance and support to groups wanting to preserve lights in their region. In some cases he



can even find old blueprints, making the renovation a true labor of love for those involved in restoring these facilities to their original glory.

Today Great Lakes lighthouses are towering symbols of strength and resilience, often shouldering a much deeper meaning to guests who visit each year. "They brought lost mariners home," explained Mixer. "They represent hope, and we all need a little of that."



Jack O'Malley

Visit gllka.com for information on GLLKA's current projects, a list of lighthouses, and ways to help with the restoration efforts. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by September 15 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. 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 the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the July/August 2017 issue is Susan Scherer, a Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as a Beaver Island outdoor concert at Baroque on Beaver.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



July/August Photo

Why Is My Roof Failing?

Are you wondering why the roof you had installed less than 15 years ago is failing? You're not alone. Like many homeowners, you listened when the sales guy told you to buy top-of-the-line, 40-year, heavy architectural shingle so you would never have to worry about your roof again. But now you're worried. What happened?



Failed asphalt shingles cracking and peeling.

Did You Miss The Warnings?

Home improvement experts like Bob Vila have been warning consumers for years about bogus asphalt warranties, "While asphalt shingles come with warranties ranging from 20 to as long as 45 years, roofers and builders remain skeptical of those warranties. Since warranties are a marketing device, they are not a reliable predictor of lifespan. In the past decade, there have been many complaints of asphalt shingle failure long before warranties expired."

Manufacturers have also been telling homeowners that today's shingles will not perform like shingles

of old. As far back as 1999, the Certainteed Corporation made the following statement in their own publication: *"Due to the severity of the roof environment, even a one-year-old roof may look different from a roof that was just installed. While you may have first noticed the cracks or blistering from the ladder as you were cleaning the gutters, please be mindful that these normal weathering characteristics may not be visible when you view your roof from your front lawn or driveway."* (Quoted from 1999 Certainteed Corp. "The Lifecycle of Your Roof.")

Why Is My Asphalt Roof Failing?

Asphalt shingles become dried out by heat and the sun's ultraviolet rays. Eventually, the drying of the heavy oils in your shingles causes the fibers to shrink, exposing the nail heads under the shingle flaps. The shrinkage also breaks up the surface coating of sand granules adhered to the underlying asphalt-coated paper. Without the protection of the embedded granules, the paper begins to tear itself apart.

Once the nail heads are exposed, water running down the roof can seep into your attic around the nail shank, resulting in the rotting of your roof deck. This can cause

moisture damage to your interior ceilings and walls.

What Can You Do?

Since at least 1999, the asphalt roofing industry has known of the problems with modern shingles. The solution is simple: make a shingle like they did 40 years ago. However, in order to do that, the oil content of their shingles would need to be dramatically increased and that would make the product cost prohibitive.

While the asphalt industry has its problems, the metal roof industry continues to grow in market share. This growth has been fueled in part by the shortcomings of asphalt roofs. However, consumers attest that the beauty and maintenance-free benefits homeowners get by installing a metal roof are the true reason for the industry's growth.



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