



JULY 2026

Connecting Students to Careers in Energy

Lake Country Power recently welcomed local students to its inaugural lineworker camp, providing a unique opportunity to explore careers in the electric utility industry while gaining a firsthand understanding of how electricity is delivered safely and reliably across northern Minnesota.

Camp was held at our Cohasset service center.

The six students included sophomore Derringer Roy of Greenway, sophomore Rowan Boorman of Greenway, junior Henry Holter of Northland-Remer, junior Leland Wake of Northland Remer, senior Tanner Banks of Mountain Iron-Buhl and senior Chase Knudson of Rock Ridge.

The camp introduced participants to the many roles involved in maintaining the electric grid, from lineworkers and engineers to safety professionals and operations staff. Throughout the day, students learned how electric cooperatives serve their members, how power travels from substations to homes and businesses, and the importance of safety in every aspect of utility work.

The main focus of the event was hands-on learning. Students rotated through a variety of interactive stations where they explored utility equipment, observed demonstrations, and went into the field alongside Lake Country Power employees.

"The activities provided a practical look at the skills, training and teamwork," said Becky Seeley, human resources director at LCP. "It gave the students a chance to engage directly with equipment, ask questions of experienced lineworkers and gain a better understanding of the skills required for careers in the electric utility field."

In addition to learning about electric systems, participants were introduced to the cooperative business model and the vital role electric cooperatives play in supporting rural communities. The camp also highlighted the growing demand for skilled workers in the energy industry and the wide range of career opportunities available within the field.

By combining education, safety awareness, and real-world experiences, LCP's lineworker camp helps inspire the next generation of utility professionals while giving students a greater appreciation for the people and infrastructure that power everyday life. Another camp will be held in the spring of 2027 at our Mountain Iron facility.

"Lineworkers are the rockstars of the co-op," said Wade Gould, Cohasset area supervisor for LCP. "You see them out there in rain, snow, freezing cold, but it was good for the younger generation to get a glimpse into how much it takes to become a lineworker."



Rural Electrification Act Marks 90th Anniversary

Imagine life without electricity.

No lights when the sun goes down. No refrigerator. No running water from an electric pump. Just kerosene lanterns, wood-burning stoves and grueling manual labor that aged people well before their time.

That was the reality for nine out of 10 rural Americans in the mid-1930s. While cities hummed with electric lights and industry, farm families across Minnesota were left in the dark. Not because the technology did not exist, but because nobody thought they were worth the investment.

For-profit utility companies looked at rural America and saw a bad business deal. Farms were spread out. Towns were small. Stringing miles of power lines to reach a handful of customers did not pencil out. Fewer than 7 percent of Minnesota's farms had electric service, and those who did paid steep rates most families could not afford during the Great Depression.

On May 20, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act into law. But the law alone did not flip the switch. For-profit utilities still were not interested. So rural people did what rural people have always done. They figured it out themselves, banding together to form electric cooperatives, not-for-profit utilities owned and governed by the very people they served.

Minnesota moved quickly. By November 1936, a Minnesota co-op had already powered up its first REA-funded lines. Within four years after World War II, rural electric systems doubled and consumers connected more than tripled. By 1953, more than 90 percent of American farms had electricity.

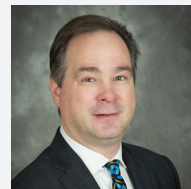
What made this possible was not just federal funding. It was the cooperative model. Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit. They do not answer to shareholders on Wall Street. They answer to the members they serve. Boards of directors are elected from the membership. Excess revenue is reinvested in the system or returned to members.

When the rest of the economy decided rural America was not worth serving, local people built their own utility and made sure it would never forget who it belonged to.

Today, Minnesota's 44 distribution cooperatives and six generation and transmission cooperatives serve more than 1.7 million people across 85 percent of the state's land mass. They operate more than 135,000 miles of lines, more than any other electricity provider in the state.

The cooperative mission has not changed. Electric co-ops are still led locally, still not-for-profit and still focused on the communities they call home.

Ninety years ago, rural Americans were told they were not worth the trouble. They proved otherwise, and what they built still belongs to them today.



Sincerely,
Darrick Moe,
President and CEO
Minnesota Rural Electric Association

Board Meeting Highlights: April 24, 2026

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Following Reports Were Given:

President Olson reported on the annual meeting held on April 23. He said the executive committee reviewed the Governance and Organization policies for approval.

General Manager Bakk reported that the Great River Energy board authorized contract extensions and rate changes in one packet, without a separate voting option. He also commented on power supply and generation strategies.

The Following Actions Were Taken:

Approved changes to Policy 107, increasing the per diem pay for directors from \$300 to \$400.

Approved 2025 capital credit allocation of more than \$12.4 million.

Robert Bruckbauer and Craig Olson were selected as nominees for the Great River Energy board for a one-year term beginning June 3.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. To view a complete copy, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." A SmartHub account is required. To request a printed copy, call (800) 421-9959.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: JULY 28 | AUGUST 25 (9:30 am at the Cohasset Service Center, Members Welcome)

DID YOU KNOW?

LCP maintains over 8,400 miles of distribution line. That includes both overhead and underground lines.



Napstad Receives Board Leadership Certificate



Brian Napstad, District 8 Director at Lake Country Power, recently received the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The NRECA Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). Directors who attain the BLC have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

The BLC program consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. These include issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

NRECA represents the nation's almost 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 42 million people in 48 states, including Lake Country Power.

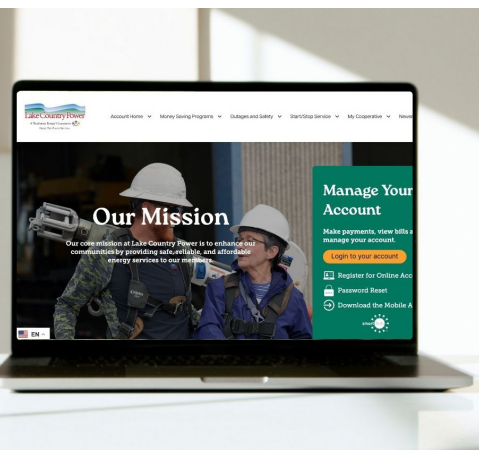
Bear Head Lake State Park Gets a Spring Cleanup

LCP members and employees worked to clean Bear Head Lake State Park in Ely as part of GreenTouch™, which is an annual community-wide effort to clean one park a year before summer begins.



NEW! Lake Country Power Website Gets a Refresh

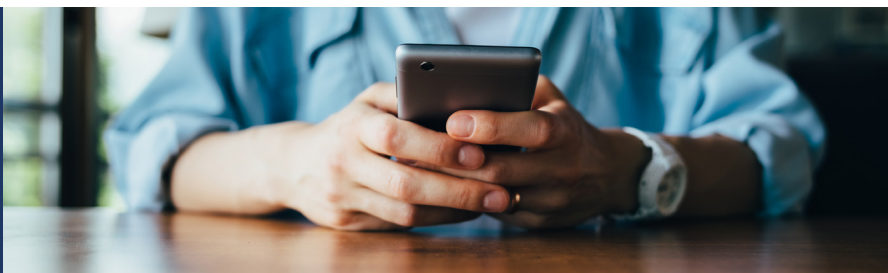
We're excited to unveil a redesigned Lake Country Power website built to better serve our members. The new site offers a cleaner look, improved navigation, and an enhanced mobile experience, making it easier to access the information and services you use most.



From outage updates and account management tools to rebates, energy programs, and cooperative news, everything is organized to help you quickly find what you need.

We invite you to take a look around and explore the new online experience at lakecountrypower.coop.

Coming Next Month: Text/SMS Option for Outage Reporting



The ability to text Lake Country Power when you have a power outage is almost here. When the program launches in August 2026, LCP will send an “introduction text message” to all members that have a mobile phone number in our system.

The welcome text message will say something like this, “Welcome to Lake Country Power’s text service for outage reporting. Reply OUT to report an outage. Reply STOP to opt-out or HELP for more info. Message frequency may vary; MSG & Data rates may apply.”

Prior to August 1, be sure your current mobile phone number is in Lake Country Power’s system so you don’t miss the welcome text. The easiest way to do this is to log into your SmartHub account. Once logged in:

1. Click “Settings”
2. Click “Contact Information”

If you are not registered in SmartHub, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop and register. Otherwise you can dial 800-421-9959 and our call center will be happy to help.

If you do not receive the welcome text in August, it means your current mobile phone number is not in our system and you won’t be able to use this convenient service until your cell is updated in our system.

POWER OUT? SEND US A TEXT.

When your power goes out, text the word OUT to 844-677-2354, and your outage will get logged directly into our outage management system. It’s just like calling in your outage, only it’s faster. Our dispatchers will receive an alert so they can verify your outage before assigning a crew.

The number to text is 844-677-2354

When you’re out of power, text the word “OUT” to 844-677-2354 and it will alert Lake Country Power that you have an outage. Do not text 800-421-9959. You may want to create and name a new contact on your cell phone for 844-677-2354 so it’s handy when you need to report an outage. It won’t work to call the number, but you can text the number one of four words.

FOUR WORDS

There are only four words the texting system recognizes when members text 844-677-2354.

- 1. Out | 2. Status | 3. Help | 4. Stop**

If you initiate a text using any other words than out, status, help or stop, please know the system will not deliver it to Lake Country Power. That’s because this service is exclusively designated for outage reporting. However, there is one exception to the rule. If you text the word “out” and are requested directly by the outage texting service for a reply to verify which of your addresses are out of power, the system will recognize the letters “a” or “b,” etc.

OUT:

If you text the word “out,” this tells Lake Country Power you’re out of power. If we have a current cell number on record for your account, you will then be asked to confirm the address that has an outage.

STATUS:

If you text the word “status” you’ll receive a message such as, “Your outage has been reported and a crew is assigned. Visit the outage map online at <http://outage.lcp.coop> for status updates. Thank you for your support.”

HELP:

If you text “help” your reply will look something like this – “Reply OUT to report an outage, STATUS for response, or STOP to opt-out. Call 800-421-9959 for more info. Message frequency may vary, MSG & Data rates may apply.”

STOP:

If you text “stop,” this will opt you out of the texting service and you won’t be able to use the texting feature when you have an outage. If you wish to receive alerts or report outages in the future, you must send “UNSTOP” to 844-677-2354 from your cell phone to rejoin the texting service. A call center representative will not be able to remove you from the opt-out list manually; you will have to rejoin from a device tied to the phone number that had previously replied “STOP.”

As with any new service involving technology, there can sometimes be glitches that need to be worked through. We are hopeful this new outage reporting tool will be a value-added service that is intuitive and easy to use for years to come.



NOTICE:
When we launch the program in August, we will send an introduction text to all members that have a mobile phone number in our system. Make sure the number is current in your file by August 1.

Building a More Resilient Grid

Concern about periodic power outages often rises as Minnesota transitions into extreme weather seasons. While these controlled outages can be used in rare emergency situations, the electric grid is planned and operated in a way that makes them a last resort.

For electric cooperatives like Great River Energy, which serves as Lake Country Power’s wholesale power provider, resilience is not reactive, but built into how the system is designed, maintained and operated every day.

At its core, grid resilience means ensuring the right mix of power supply resources, strong transmission infrastructure and real-time operational coordination so that power and grid support is available when people need it most. As a not-for-profit wholesale power provider owned by 26 member-owner cooperatives, Great River Energy is committed to reliable electric service, particularly during periods of extreme weather and high demand.

One key reason cooperatives are well positioned to keep the electric system reliable is long-range planning. Through its integrated resource planning process, Great River Energy evaluates how future electricity needs could change under a wide range of scenarios. Investments in grid infrastructure also play a critical role. Over the past decade, Great River Energy has strengthened its transmission system, reducing the likelihood that equipment failures or localized issues cascade into broader outages.

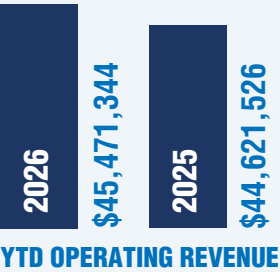
Operational coordination across the region further reduces outage risk. Great River Energy works closely with MISO, the regional grid operator that oversees the high-voltage transmission grid across much of the Upper Midwest.

For member-consumers, much of this work happens behind the scenes. But the result is visible when the lights stay on during extreme cold, intense heat or major storms. By planning for uncertainty, investing in infrastructure and coordinating regionally, cooperatives like Great River Energy continue building a more resilient grid.

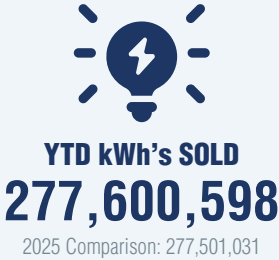


By The Numbers | April 2026

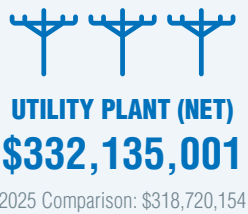
Lake Country Power is committed to responsibly managing resources to maintain the Cooperative’s financial stability. Below is a snapshot of the year-to-date unaudited financial report. A complete set of financial statements can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop under “My Cooperative.”



	2026	2025
Cost of Purchased Power	\$24,755,374	\$23,289,146
Other Operating Expenses	\$18,388,032	\$16,600,392
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$43,143,406	\$39,889,538



	2026	2025
Operating Margins	\$2,327,938	\$4,731,989
Non-Operating Margins	\$625,363	\$652,309



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Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not oversee day-to-day LCP operations. Administration of maintenance, electric service and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff.

Members with questions or concerns about services, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.

Newsline

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Stay Powered Up During Summer Adventures

Summer camping season is in full swing, and whether you're heading to a campground, RV park, cabin, or remote campsite, a little preparation can help keep your trip safe, comfortable, and connected.

One of the most important things to remember is keeping your devices charged. Phones are essential for checking weather forecasts, accessing maps, staying in touch with family, and handling emergencies. Before heading out, make sure phones, tablets, and other devices are fully charged. Bringing a power bank or solar charger can provide valuable backup power when outlets aren't available.

You can also extend battery life by turning off Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and GPS when they're not needed. Switching devices to airplane mode, reducing screen brightness, or powering phones down when not in use can help conserve battery power throughout your trip.

If you're traveling by vehicle or RV, consider keeping charging cables readily available so devices can recharge while you're on the road.

For RV campers, a few simple energy-saving practices can make a big difference in comfort. When possible, choose a shaded campsite to reduce heat buildup and lessen the demand on your air conditioning system. Keeping blinds and shades closed during the hottest parts of the day can also help block sunlight and keep indoor temperatures more comfortable.

It's also a good idea to inspect seals around windows, doors, and vents before your trip. Preventing air leaks helps keep cool air inside and hot air outside, improving comfort while reducing energy use.

With a little planning, you can enjoy the outdoors while staying connected, comfortable, and prepared for whatever summer adventures come your way.

E-Z Cake Cookies

Submitted By: Carol Rintala, Eveleth

1 pkg cake mix - any flavor
½ cup oil
2 eggs

DIRECTIONS:

Add 1 tsp of almond flavoring to the yellow or white cake mix. Mix all and bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Use canned frosting to top.

Submit your recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768, or email jburnes@lcp.coop. If your entry is printed in the Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address, and phone number of your account.

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