



AUGUST 2026

Youth Players Sharpen Skills at Twins Clinic

Young baseball and softball players in northeastern Minnesota spent part of their summer learning from the pros as the Minnesota Twins Community Fund brought one of its free youth clinics to Cook.

Lake Country Power hosted the Cook clinic, helping bring the Twins Community Fund program to the local community. Held July 10 at the Cook Community Center, the free clinic gave children ages 6 to 12 an opportunity to build their baseball and softball skills with instruction from Twins youth clinicians. Players of all experience levels were welcome, from first-time participants to those who had already spent several seasons on the field.

The Minnesota Twins Community Fund has hosted youth baseball and softball clinics for more than six decades, making this summer its 65th season of introducing young athletes to the fundamentals of the game. The program is made possible through support from the Twins Community Fund, Great River Energy and Caribou Coffee.

During the two-hour clinic, participants rotated through a series of stations that focused on hitting, throwing and fielding fundamentals. Instructors also emphasized teamwork, sportsmanship and building confidence while creating a fun, encouraging environment for every child.

Children were encouraged to bring their own gloves and water bottles, while safe equipment for drills was provided on site.

The annual clinics are designed to make baseball and softball accessible to young athletes while encouraging healthy activity and a lifelong enjoyment of the game. By offering the event at no cost, organizers helped ensure local families had the opportunity to participate regardless of previous playing experience or financial barriers.

For many of the children in attendance, the clinic offered not only instruction in the fundamentals of baseball and softball, but also the chance to learn from experienced coaches in a fun and supportive setting.



Understanding Your Electric Bill

We just made it through some of the warmest weather and bad air quality stretches, and that meant air conditioners across our community were working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

Lake Country Power believes understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Lake Country Power purchases power from Great River Energy. The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Closer to home, Lake Country Power maintains the local electric distribution system of utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered

through the monthly service availability charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use.

This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or co-op programs designed to help you save, please reach out. Lake Country Power is here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household.

In retrospect, in the words Tom Bodett from the old Motel 6 commercials. "We'll leave a light on for you." Easy for him. In our real world, it's a decision only you can make.

Steve Raukar was elected to the LCP Board by members in District 3. He can be reached at 218-966-0298 or sraukar@lcp.coop.



Sincerely,
Steve Raukar,
District 3 Director

Board Meeting Highlights: May 28, 2026

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Following Reports Were Given:

President Olson and Director Bruckbauer discussed the May Great River Energy (GRE) board meeting, of which they serve as directors. Topics included year-to-date margin, demand sales, capacity and more.

General Manager Bakk reported on attending the May GRE board meeting where future power supply plans were discussed. He also reported on LCP's Policy Review Committee meeting following the board meeting to discuss changes to the 300 Personnel policies.

The Following Actions Were Taken:

Approved the 2027 annual meeting date for Thursday, April 22 at Rock Ridge High School.

Approved amendments for a GRE contract with Abex-Big Bend for wind energy purchasing.

Approved terms for a GRE contract with South Deuel for wind energy.

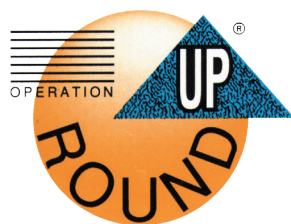
Approved amendments for Power Purchase Contract and Transmission Service Contract between Lake Country Power and GRE.

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: AUGUST 25 | SEPTEMBER 29 (9:30 am at the Cohasset Service Center, Members Welcome)

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know LCP has returned more than \$70 million in capital credits to members over the years? This reflects the cooperative principle of “members first.”



Operation Round Up® Gives More Than \$64,000 to Community Programs

Through the contributions of Lake Country Power’s participating members, the Operation Round Up® Electric Trust Board recently approved \$64,206 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative’s Trust Board reviewed and considered 49 grant applications and distributed funds to 41 projects and programs this past quarter.

United Way Day of Action in Chisholm and Cloquet



Aitkin Youth Center	Open Door Coat Rack
Blackberry Township	Queen of Peace Quilters
Breitung Fire and Rescue	Sewing Club
Care Partners	Sharon's Free Wig Closet
Cloquet Area Fire District	Silica Volunteer Fire Department
Cromwell-Wright Area Summer Fastpitch	Siseebakwet Lake Association
ElderCircle	Smart North
Ely Folk School	Something Cool, Inc.
Ely's Historic State Theater	St. Louis County 4-H Dog Project
Faith in Action for Cass County	St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad
Floodwood Services & Training, Inc.	Southwest St. Louis County Fair
Girl Scouts of MN & WI Lakes and Pines	Quilting Group for People in Need
Grace House of Itasca County	Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board
Greenway High School Band	United Way of Carlton and Pine County
Grand Rapids Area Schools Community Education	Vandyke Elementary School Music Basics
Itasca County Family YMCA	Volunteers in Education Math & Reading Tutoring Kits
Long Lake Conservation Foundation Archery Range	Walker Adult Day Services
Mesabi Humane Society	Wee Care Sewers
Northern Lakes Arts Association	Well Being Development
Northern Lights Council: Scouting America	YMCA Camp Miller "Camperships"
Northern Lights Music Festival, Inc.	

All funds generated through Operation Round Up® are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary Trust Board of nine co-op members administers the trust. Of the funds collected through the program, 100% is distributed to charitable organizations through an application and selection process. The Trust Board uses special guidelines and policies when choosing recipients. Since the program’s inception, more than \$3.8 million in contributions have been given.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by “rounding up” members’ electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

Among Lake Country Power’s 44,000 members, 70% of all active electric accounts participate in the program through voluntary contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959.

The electronic application process is available at www.lakecountrypower.coop (My Cooperative > Community > Operation Round Up®). The next application deadlines are August 15 and November 15.

Heading to College? Don't Overlook Electrical Safety



As students prepare to head back to college this fall, packing essentials for dorm life often means laptops, mini refrigerators, gaming systems and phone chargers. While those items make campus living more comfortable, they can also create electrical hazards if not used properly.

Safe Electricity encourages students and parents to make electrical safety part of their back-to-school checklist. Dorm rooms typically have limited electrical outlets, making it tempting to plug multiple devices into a single outlet or power strip. Overloading outlets can cause overheating and increase the risk of electrical fires.

Students should also inspect extension cords and charging cables before using them. Frayed, cracked or damaged cords should be replaced immediately, as exposed wiring can lead to shocks or fires. Cords should never be routed under rugs, furniture or doorways where they can become damaged or trap heat.

Another common hazard is charging phones or other electronic devices under pillows, blankets or on beds. Chargers generate heat while in use, and covering them can prevent that heat from escaping, creating a potential fire risk. Devices should always be charged on a hard, well-ventilated surface.

If outlets, switches or light fixtures appear damaged, spark, or feel unusually warm, students should report the issue to residence hall staff or campus maintenance rather than attempting repairs themselves.

A few simple precautions can help students avoid preventable accidents and keep their focus on classes and campus life. For additional electrical safety tips for dorms and college campuses, visit Safe Electricity at SafeElectricity.org/safety-tips/campus-electrical-safety.

Where Your Power Comes From: Peaking Plants

When you flip on a light switch or adjust your thermostat, electricity needs to be available instantly. Behind the scenes, that reliability depends on a diverse mix of energy resources working together, including a critical but often overlooked piece of the system: peaking plants.

Peaking plants are power stations intended to run during periods of highest electricity demand, such as hot summer afternoons or extremely cold winter nights. These are the moments when homes, businesses and farms all need more energy at the same time.

At Great River Energy, peaking plants play an important role in ensuring that member-owners receive reliable power, no matter the conditions. Natural gas-fueled peaking facilities are built to ramp up quickly, helping balance the system when other resources aren't producing as much energy or when demand spikes unexpectedly.

That flexibility is becoming increasingly important as the energy landscape evolves. However, because those resources are limited by weather conditions, they don't always produce energy at the same time electricity is needed. Peaking plants help to address that misalignment, ensuring the system can remain stable and responsive.

Maintaining that balance is a key priority for Great River Energy as it continues to plan for the future. The cooperative's approach focuses on a diverse mix of resources by combining renewables, dispatchable generation like peaking plants, and emerging technologies such as energy storage.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

YOUTH TOUR: A Cooperative Tradition, Nearly 70 Years Strong

Each June, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour brings nearly 1,800 high school students from across the country to Washington, D.C., where they gain firsthand experience with government, leadership and the cooperative business model.

Since its launch in 1958, the program has provided this opportunity to nearly 100,000 students. It stands as a testament to the cooperative commitment to developing local leaders, encouraging democratic participation and strengthening communities.

LCP'S 2026 DELEGATE: WILLIAM MAKI

Lake Country Power sponsored William Maki of Goodland on the 2026 Youth Tour, held June 15–20.



William described the trip as one of the biggest and most exciting experiences of his life. During the week, he learned how young people can make a difference, met Minnesota's U.S. senators and visited meaningful sites throughout the capital.

His favorite stops included the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

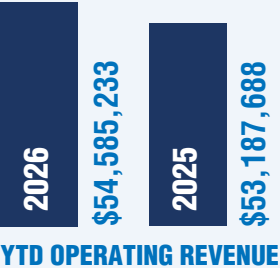
More than the landmarks, William said he will remember the people he met. "I learned so much from or with my newfound friends, lessons that have forever changed my life," he said.

William expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped make the experience possible. "It truly was the most amazing week of my life," he said. "Thank you all so much for changing my life and giving me a new perspective of the world."

Read William's full Youth Tour story and view more photos at www.lakecountrypower.coop/newsline.

By The Numbers | May 2026

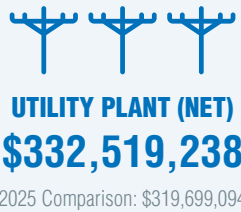
Lake Country Power is committed to responsibly managing resources to maintain the Cooperative's financial stability. Below is a snapshot of the year-to-date unaudited financial report. A complete set of financial statements can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative."



	2026	2025
Cost of Purchased Power	\$28,867,193	\$27,240,191
Other Operating Expenses	\$22,829,265	\$20,783,561
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$51,696,458	\$48,023,752



	2026	2025
Operating Margins	\$2,888,775	\$5,163,936
Non-Operating Margins	\$675,137	\$676,654



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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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Exploring AI's Potential for Improved Service and Reliability

Artificial intelligence seems to be everywhere, from online searches to conversations about the future of energy.

While headlines often focus on AI's rapid growth, electric cooperatives are taking a measured approach. New tools must offer a clear benefit to members by improving reliability, increasing efficiency or supporting better decisions. Privacy, security and human oversight remain essential.

WHERE AI COULD HELP

- **FORECASTING ELECTRIC DEMAND:** Electric use changes throughout the day and can rise sharply during extreme weather. More accurate forecasts could help cooperatives prepare for peak demand, manage resources and maintain reliable service.
- **IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:** AI tools can analyze information from automated meters and other equipment to detect unusual patterns. This may help crews identify emerging issues before they lead to outages.
- **SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES:** AI can also assist with routine office tasks, such as summarizing reports, organizing member feedback and analyzing large amounts of data. That could give employees more time to focus on members and local energy needs.

PEOPLE REMAIN AT THE CENTER

AI is not a cure-all, and cooperatives will not adopt it simply because it is new. Human judgment will remain essential, and decisions affecting members will never rely solely on automated systems.

Bundt Pan Pull Aparts

Submitted By: Anne Rozeboom, Britt

2 frozen bread loaves, thawed and cut into cubes 1 cup brown sugar
1 cup vanilla ice cream 1 cup butter

DIRECTIONS:

Grease the bundt pan well. Then place the cubes of bread into the pan. Mix the ice cream, brown sugar and butter together in a small pot on the stove and bring to a boil. Pour hot mixture over cubes in the pan and cover with foil. Refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees with foil on. Then remove foil and bake 15 minutes longer or until brown. Remove from the oven and carefully turn the pan over onto a large plate. Enjoy!

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.