



NOVEMBER 2025

LCP Members Go Behind the Scenes of Making and Moving Electricity

A group of Lake Country Power member-owners recently got a firsthand look at how the electricity they receive at home is made and moved by visiting several Great River Energy sites over the course of a daylong informational tour.

Approximately 50 members traveled by bus from northern Minnesota to learn more about electric cooperatives, where their power comes from and how Great River Energy works to ensure affordable, reliable service.

Members were first given a guided tour of the cooperative's Maple Grove headquarters by several employee experts at stations that focused on the Midwest energy market, electric vehicle technology and aspects of Great River Energy's power supply portfolio, such as wind and solar power.

From there, members traveled to Great River Energy's Elk River campus to tour a peaking power plant and see a transmission substation up close.

More than a dozen Great River Energy employees representing several departments — from power supply, member services and transmission, among others — played a role in conducting the tour.

"Our members found the Power Supply Tour to be very informative and worth their time to attend," said Tami Zaun, public relations coordinator at LCP. "Energy tours are one of the best events you can offer your members because it makes them feel connected to their cooperative community while providing valuable information and understanding for what it takes to power their lives back home. The relationships you build along the miles traveled are invaluable. They become lifelong co-op advocates and friends."



The Season of Giving

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another, and that's something Lake Country Power takes to heart year-round.

You've probably heard talk about concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase — it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities. Lake Country Power is not just here to keep the lights on (though everyone is always working hard to do that). The co-op is here to make life better for the people it serves — members, neighbors and friends.

Over the years, the LCP community has faced challenges together, and every time, the co-op family has stepped up. You've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take the Operation Round Up® program, for example. Thanks to the generosity of members like you who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, LCP is able to provide real help to the surrounding communities — more than \$3.6 million since its inception in October 2004.

And because Lake Country Power cares deeply about safety, the crews and staff also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity.

You'll also find the LCP team out in the community beyond work — coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on nonprofit boards, and partnering with the chamber of commerce to keep the local economy strong. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement — it's just what you do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, LCP also understands these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out about energy assistance programs available to you.

Lake Country Power believes concern for community is more than a value — it's the heart of the cooperative. During this season of giving, the LCP board, staff and employees are especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at Lake Country Power, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.

Michael Forsman was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 2. He can be reached at 218-365-5789 or mforsman@lcp.coop.



Sincerely,
Michael Forsman,
District 2 Director

Board Meeting Highlights: July 29, 2025

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Following Reports Were Given:

President Olson reported that he attended the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) District 2 meeting at LCP's Cohasset service center, and a Better In Our Backyard event in Duluth.

Director Bruckbauer reported on the Great River Energy (GRE) board meeting. GRE withdrew an offer to member systems to extend its Transmission Service Contract. The LCP board approved the extension in June.

General Manager Bakk reported on GRE meetings he attended and discussed July outages on the LCP system.

The Following Actions Were Taken:

Approved three construction bids to Lake States Construction for overhead and underground lines for up to a total of \$3.8 million.

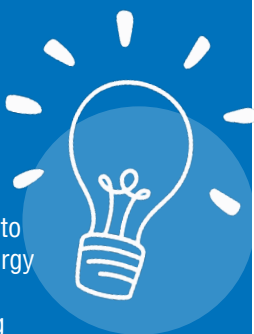
Approved amended contract terms with GRE for the Dodge County Wind Energy Purchase.

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: NOVEMBER 25 | DECEMBER 18 (9:30 am at the Cohasset Service Center, Members Welcome)

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Country Power offers EnergyWise programs and rebates to help members use energy efficiently while saving money on their heating and cooling costs.



Request your 2026 Co-op Calendar



THE 2026 CO-OP CALENDARS ARE READY... AND BEAUTIFUL!

Due to high demand last year, calendar orders are limited to a first-come, first-served basis and one per membership. Request your free 2026 co-op calendar online at www.lakecountrypower.coop, call 800-421-9959, or pick up a copy at our service centers. Online calendar orders will be available from Monday, December 1, 2025, to Friday, January 2, 2026 (or while supplies last), after which members can call or visit our service centers to request a calendar.

Christmas Cheer!



Members are invited to visit our service centers in Cohasset, Kettle River or Mountain Iron, and ring in the holidays with treats and coffee from December 1-5!

MN ECO Funds Bring Warmth to Former Orr School

Lake Country Power recently awarded a \$15,000 rebate for the Orr Center to facilitate weatherization and energy efficient appliances, including off-peak Steffes unit heaters, through the Minnesota Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act.

Signed into law in 2021, ECO funds help ensure utilities provide programs that help people save energy, lower bills, and cut emissions.

The Orr Center is a community-based nonprofit organization fostering sustainability through events, projects, and programs. It offers services to low-or-no income community members, including a medical equipment supply closet, a food shelf and community meals.

Its mission is to strengthen the area by working to enrich and transform the lives of families and children by providing cultural, recreational, social, educational, and community service programs. An emphasis is placed on recreation, healthy active lifestyles, quality activities, and creating sustainable locally grown food systems. The Orr Center purchased the former Orr School in 2014, and the building has undergone significant renovations since it was built in 1970 and closed in 2011.

Using the ECO funds, the building will be equipped with Steffes commercial off-peak solutions that use Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) technology to store excess heat in high-density ceramic bricks during low-cost, off-peak electricity hours.

The heat is then distributed as needed to provide a consistent and efficient heating solution for entire commercial facilities or multiple zones, similar to a traditional hydronic system but powered by stored energy.

These heating units will allow the school to supplement the higher-cost primary propane boiler and provide a more controllable and cost-effective way to heat the facility.

For more information on how Lake Country Power can assist community organizations seeking energy efficient upgrades contact Dan Cooper at dcooper@lcp.coop.



Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We are incredibly grateful for your membership as our team spends this special time with loved ones. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Generator Guidelines & Restrictions

The popularity of generator installations is soaring. More members are turning to this medium for continuity of electric service during outages. While there are great options available, it's important to set a standard for how they interact with the electric service provided by Lake Country Power (LCP).

Due to the various design setups, and since no two installations are the same, LCP has implemented generator installation guidelines to help members and line workers stay safe while allowing for crucial maintenance of electrical equipment.

To allow LCP line personnel to safely work, install, service or repair any electric distribution equipment, the following restrictions will apply to all generator installations.

- LCP does not allow any third-party equipment on poles – this includes junction boxes, tap boxes, transfer switches, and other attachments.
- There shall be a five-foot minimum distance of any installation from all LCP owned equipment including poles, meter bases (on pedestals or poles), and transformers.
- Generator installations must adhere to the National Electrical Code (NEC).

- Behind-the-meter generator transfer switches such as GenerLink products are not allowed. These switches are considered unsafe for both line workers and members. LCP does not allow the use of these devices because they do not have a mechanical interlock when disconnecting the generator from the utility for providing local generation. They rely on electronic relays that can fail open or short with no visible indication of their state when they fail. This may lead to a potentially unsafe situation for our linemen (due to backfeeding) and potential equipment damage for the consumer (when the utility power is restored). If the relays fail shut, the generator and home wiring will likely be damaged.
- All generator-related installations and equipment must comply with these specifications.

Members are urged to be proactive in reconfiguring any installation that does not meet these requirements. Failure to comply may result in an extended outage situation should LCP require homeowners to move or remove non-utility owned equipment in an emergency.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EXAMPLES, VISIT:
www.lakecountrypower.coop/generator-installations.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov



Scholarship Process Opens January 1, 2026

Save the date! January 1, 2026, is important for high school seniors because that's when Lake Country Power's online application process opens for the Les Beach Scholarship. The application deadline is January 31, 2026.

To access the application, go to www.lakecountrypower.coop/scholarships. Applicants will need to create an account and complete the application online.

Scholarship recipients may qualify for up to \$4,000 over four years to help pay for college or technical education. Scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters, and students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. They must have a full-time enrollment status at a technical school, community college or university. Qualifying students must also have parents or legal guardians who are members of Lake Country Power.

Ground Broken on Northland Reliability Project

Transmission line will improve resilience and service reliability for LCP members



Energy leaders and state partners gathered today at a groundbreaking celebration for the Northland Reliability Project, a transformative transmission project that will boost grid reliability and resilience in northern and central Minnesota as the clean-energy transition continues.

Jointly owned by Minnesota Power and Great River Energy, the Northland Reliability Project is the first major transmission initiative from MISO’s Tranche 1 to break ground. Leaders from Minnesota Power, Great River Energy, the Midcontinent Independent Operator (MISO), the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission were among those who attended the event at the Sherburne History Center in Becker, Minnesota.

“The Northland Reliability Project is about building a stronger, resilient grid for our communities,” said Priti Patel, Great River Energy vice president and chief transmission officer. “Great River

Energy is owned by the people we serve, and we invest in reliability for our members and neighbors. We’re proud to work with local partners and support the communities that make this project possible.”

The 180-mile, double-circuit capable 345-kV transmission line will extend from Lake Country Power’s service territory near Grand Rapids in Itasca County to near St. Cloud in Benton County and into Sherburne County and largely follows existing transmission line corridors.

The Northland Reliability Project will help maintain a reliable and resilient local and regional power grid as more renewable energy is brought online; existing power plants are retired; more homes and businesses shift to electricity to power appliances, equipment and heating and cooling systems; and more frequent extreme weather events occur.

By The Numbers | August 2025

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.”

2025

\$82,908,499

2024

\$78,766,770

YTD OPERATING REVENUE

	2025	2024
Cost of Purchased Power	\$42,047,528	\$39,021,554
Other Operating Expenses	\$34,698,790	\$31,260,230
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$76,746,318	\$70,281,784

51,680

ACTIVE SERVICES

2024 Comparison: 51,482

	2025	2024
Operating Margins	\$6,162,181	\$8,484,985
Non-Operating Margins	\$1,311,340	\$1,891,075

YTD TOTAL MARGINS

\$7,473,521

2024 Comparison: \$10,376,060

UTILITY PLANT (NET)

\$323,716,382

2024 Comparison: \$311,250,571

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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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| Home Lighting 101

Lighting is something most of us don't think much about—until it's wrong. Maybe the living room feels too dim for reading, or the kitchen lights cast an odd yellow glow. We often grab whatever bulb or fixture looks good without considering how it will actually perform in the space. But with a little planning, you can make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient.

WATTS VS. LUMENS

When you're shopping for lightbulbs, it's easy to focus on watts, but watts only measure how much energy a bulb uses. When it comes to brightness, what really matters is the lumen count. Lumens measure the actual light output. For example, an 800-lumen bulb gives off about the same amount of light as an old-fashioned 60-watt incandescent bulb.

DIMMERS AND SWITCHES

Installing dimmers instead of standard on/off switches can be a game changer. Dimmers give you more control over brightness, help save energy and create a more comfortable atmosphere. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so double check labels before buying.

SMART LIGHTING: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEETS CONVENIENCE

Smart lighting adds another layer of control for illuminating your home. But the real magic is convenience. With smart bulbs, you can adjust brightness, set schedules or even change colors—all from your phone or a voice assistant like Alexa or Google Assistant. Want the lights to turn on before you get home? Smart bulbs make it easy. Remember, smart bulbs still rely on power from your wall switch, which needs to stay in the "on" position for remote controls to work.

Ginny's Apple Pie

Submitted By: Virginia "Ginny" Hatinen | Esko, MN

CRUST:

5 2/3 cups flour, sifted
2 tsp. salt
2 cups Crisco
1 cup cold water

FILLING FOR 1 PIE:

(double these amounts for this recipe)
¾ cup sugar
¼ cup flour

½ tsp. nutmeg
½ tsp. cinnamon
Dash of salt
6 cups tart apples, thinly sliced and pared

DIRECTIONS:

Mix flour and salt in a bowl; cut in Crisco until blended. Divide into four balls for two 9-inch double-crust pies. Roll out thin, place bottom crusts in pie plates, and prick with a fork.

Peel 12 apples (McIntosh or Jonathan preferred) and slice six into each crust. In two bowls, combine sugar, flour, nutmeg, cinnamon, and salt; pour over apples. Add margarine in small pieces, cover with top crusts, and cut vents. Seal and crimp edges, cover edges with foil, brush with milk, and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 400°F for 40–50 minutes.

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.

Lake Country Power

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