



**AUGUST 2025**

## LCP Hits Halfway Point on DRU Replacement Project

A systemwide project to replace outdated load control equipment reached the halfway point this summer. Crews have installed more than 8,000 new Demand Response Unit (DRU) load controllers — a number that increases by the day — marking 51.6% completion of the multi-year effort that began in 2020.

“We’re moving forward with replacing our load management system that’s been in place in parts of our service area dating back to the 80s,” said Ryan Ferguson, senior engineer at Lake Country Power. “There are six generations of equipment on our system and some are obsolete where support isn’t available anymore, so we are replacing the load controllers using a DRU unit from Aclara that utilizes the same advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system that our meters communicate through.”

AMI technology allows for better communication and flexibility without the need for a separate network. The upgraded devices help manage demand on the electric grid for members on hot water or dual fuel programs. For member service technicians working on the units, the change also means they’ll be supporting one piece of equipment instead of several different ones.

Seven member service technicians from LCP are working year-round out of four locations to complete the replacements across the entire

service area. The decentralized nature of the work means technicians may access member properties without advanced scheduling.

“Our team might be on your property without notice, but they’ll knock, explain the work, and leave a door tag if you’re not home,” Ferguson said. “We know that can raise questions and we’re mindful of everyone’s personal privacy, but we’re only accessing our equipment and it shouldn’t interrupt what the member is doing at home.”

The process takes about 10 to 15 minutes per site and can be done “hot,” meaning the technicians don’t have to de-energize the home to change the unit. Technicians locate the old receiver — usually on the side of the house — remove it, install the new one, make necessary wiring connections, and complete setup using a few steps on their iPad to add it to the system.

Members with questions or concerns are encouraged to call 800-421-9959 and press 6 to speak directly with a member service representative.

The project is expected to be completed by 2027.

# Reliability at the Core: Staying Engaged with Energy Policy

At Lake Country Power, we know our members rely on one thing above all else — affordable and reliable electricity. Whether it's keeping your home warm through a Minnesota winter, powering your business, or connecting with loved ones, electricity is essential to daily life. And you should be able to count on it to be both reliable and affordable.

Electricity demand is growing at its fastest pace in over 20 years, driven in part by the rise of energy-intensive industries like data centers and manufacturing. At the same time, utilities across the country — including rural electric cooperatives like ours — are being asked to transition to new forms of energy while keeping the lights on under increasing constraints.

Even with the Minnesota legislative session in the rearview mirror, we must keep the conversation going around the affordability and reliability of our energy policies. It's not just a utility issue. It's a family issue. It's a business issue. And it's a rural issue.

Electric cooperatives serve 42 million people across the country, covering 56% of the U.S. landmass. Co-ops like Lake Country Power often serve the hardest-to-reach areas where costs to deliver service are higher and member density is lower. In LCP's case, it maintains over 10,800 square miles of service territory — one of the largest among U.S. cooperatives.

Despite those challenges, the LCP team works every day to provide dependable service to more than 73,000 meters across northern Minnesota. But it can't be done alone.

Policy decisions made in Washington, D.C. and St. Paul have direct consequences on how we manage the grid, invest

in infrastructure and plan for the future. These decisions must reflect the reality on the ground. Time, technology and transmission development are all needed to ensure any transition is practical and sustainable.

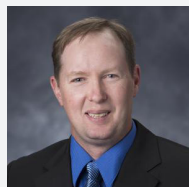
As an LCP board member and as your neighbor, I believe electric cooperatives have a unique voice in these policy discussions. We are locally governed and community-focused. That gives us the responsibility and the opportunity to make sure our members' needs are heard.

This is also where you come in.

Member engagement matters. When co-op members speak up it reminds policymakers that rural voices matter. Whether that takes the form of contacting elected officials, attending local meetings, or simply staying informed.

Reliability and affordability are not optional because co-ops power more than lines, they also power our lives.

*Jason Long was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 1. He can be reached at [jlong@lcp.coop](mailto:jlong@lcp.coop) and 218-240-9611.*



**Sincerely,**  
Jason Long  
District 1 Director

## Board Meeting Highlights: April 25, 2025

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

#### The Following Reports Were Given:

President Olson reported on communication with a member concerned about an LCP employee coming onto their property and discussed the process for notifying members about work performed on co-op equipment. There was also discussion about LCP's new service application and fee when applying.

General Manager Bakk reported on the Great River Energy (GRE) board approving an extension to the transmission service contract (TSC) from 2050 to 2060.

#### The Following Actions Were Taken:

Approved a total 2024 allocation of \$9,924,688.57 in capital credits, with a notice to be sent to members.

Approved the appointment of Kim Smith (District 4) to the Operation Round Up® Trust Board.

Approved revisions to Policy 507, Policy 605, Poly 607 and Policy 613.

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

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: AUGUST 26 | SEPTEMBER 30** (9:30 am at the Cohasset Service Center, Members Welcome)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Country Power serves an average of 6.1 consumer-members per mile-of-line compared to all other utilities which average 34 customers per mile.



## Special Notice: Online Survey to Gauge Member Satisfaction

Lake Country Power will be conducting an online member survey beginning Monday, September 8. Please be aware that you may be one of several members who are randomly selected to participate in the survey.

If you receive an email with a link to a survey from Lake Country Power with the email address [MarketResearch@nrecapower.com](mailto:MarketResearch@nrecapower.com) included in brackets, please know that the email is legitimate and safe to click. The subject line of the email will say "Lake Country Power – feedback requested."

Lake Country Power is contracting with a cooperative-affiliated research firm that has years of experience measuring member satisfaction levels and how co-ops score on the American Customer Satisfaction Index. The survey will benchmark several areas of focus, including electric service, bills and payment options, etc. If you are selected, please complete the online survey. Thank you.

## Lake Country Power Teams Up with United Way for Community Impact

Lake Country Power employees took part in the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's Day of Action in Nashwauk on June 13, United Way of Carlton and Pine County Area in Cromwell on June 13, and United Way of 1000 Lakes in Cohasset on June 17. The United Way Day of Action is an annual event where volunteers across the globe participate in various community projects.





# Co-ops Grew Their Coalition at Minnesota Legislature in 2025

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session officially wrapped up on June 9 following a one-day special session to finalize the state budget. Throughout the session, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) worked on behalf of Minnesota's electric cooperatives to advocate for policies that support reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for member-owners across the state.

While some of the most high-profile political debates made headlines this year, Lake Country Power was focused on protecting the interests of co-op member-owners at the Capitol. We advocated for fair, common-sense energy policy and helped defeat several costly new mandates.

One of our major priorities was reforming Minnesota's outdated net metering law, which currently requires cooperatives to pay above-market retail rates for excess electricity from rooftop solar systems. Legislation to modernize this policy came close to passing and gained strong momentum. Though it wasn't included in the final budget package, our coalition grew as policymakers understood the inequity of the current law, and we'll continue to work on this issue in the year ahead.

We also led efforts to lift Minnesota's moratorium on new nuclear energy. MREA helped form and lead the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance to push for access to next-generation nuclear power. These new technologies offer safe, carbon-free, around-the-clock power that could help meet Minnesota's carbon-free electricity goals. While the moratorium remains in place, support is growing rapidly across the state. We are hopeful our strong coalition will soon end Minnesota's outdated nuclear moratorium once and for all. It's time to allow Minnesotans to have this important conversation.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 SESSION

**Tax Fairness for Co-ops:** After months of negotiations, we secured a major win in the final tax bill: the passage of MREA's property tax clarification bill. This commonsense reform corrects how electric cooperative infrastructure is taxed and will save Minnesota's



co-ops — and their member-owners — millions of dollars in the years ahead. The bill had broad bipartisan support and was ultimately prioritized by key legislative leaders in both chambers. This victory protects our ability to invest in rural infrastructure without unfair tax burdens.

**No New Mandates:** We successfully fought off multiple proposals that would have imposed new costly regulations on cooperatives. Thanks to strong advocacy from co-op members and leadership in both parties, we preserved flexibility for our local, member-governed utilities.

**Data Centers:** Lawmakers debated how to handle the rapid growth of large data centers and their impact on the power grid. In the end, a bipartisan deal was reached that included new energy efficiency requirements, fees to support conservation programs and tax incentives tied to clean energy usage. We were especially proud to help stop a harmful provision that would have penalized cooperatives for data center-related growth — a move that would have disproportionately hurt rural communities.

Stay informed on these issues by joining Voices for Cooperative Power, a grassroots network of electric cooperative members who care about affordable, reliable energy and protecting the co-op way of life. VCP makes it easy to contact your lawmakers. Visit <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/register> to sign up for free.

*By Jenny Glumack, Director of Government Affairs at MREA*

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.





## Area Schools Encouraged to Apply for EIP Grant

### Applications accepted September 1 to November 30, 2025

In June of 2022, the Lake Country Power Board of Directors passed a new program designed to assist independent school districts in the cooperative service territory for qualifying programs and projects.

The Education Improvement Program (EIP) utilizes “unclaimed capital credit” funds for awards up to \$100,000. The State of Minnesota allows electric cooperatives, like Lake Country Power, to keep the monies local and use them toward educational purposes after several years of trying to locate former co-op members for their capital credits refunds. Funds that remain unclaimed are considered abandoned and allowed to be used at the discretion of the cooperative if it meets State criteria.

It’s important to note that these unclaimed funds cannot be used for operational purposes or anything else that doesn’t meet State statute.

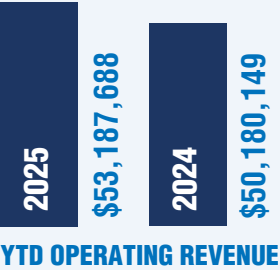
The mission of the EIP is to invest these funds in a way that aligns with the sixth of Seven Cooperative Principles — Concern for Community. LCP is making every effort possible to keep the funds local while benefiting the communities and schools within the cooperative’s service area.

The application period opens September 1, 2025, and closes November 30, 2025. There are more than 30 independent school districts in northeast Minnesota that qualify for this program.

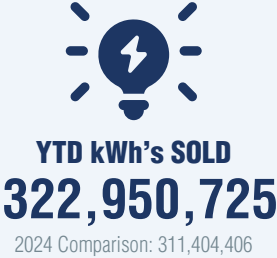
Visit <https://lakecountrypower.coop/education-improvement-program-grant> to learn more and apply.

## By The Numbers I May 2025

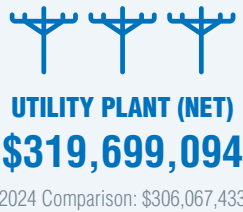
Lake Country Power is committed to responsibly managing resources to maintain the Cooperative’s financial stability. Below is a snapshot of the year-to-date unaudited financial report. A complete set of financial statements can be viewed at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop)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



	2025	2024
Cost of Purchased Power	\$27,240,191	\$24,401,533
Other Operating Expenses	\$20,783,561	\$19,342,594
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$48,023,752	\$43,744,127



	2025	2024
Operating Margins	\$5,163,936	\$6,436,023
Non-Operating Margins	\$676,654	\$815,921



## Co-op Contacts

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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

Published monthly by Lake Country Power  
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Editor: Jerry Burnes | jburnes@lcp.coop  
Designer: Amanda Groethe | Sartell, MN

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800-421-9959 • www.lakecountrypower.coop

# Lake Country Power

*An equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## HOW TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it. Never click on a link, open an attachment or send a reply to an untrusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.

*Source: Utilities United Against Scams*



## Pineapple Cake

**Submitted By: Pamela Pippenger, Downers Grove, Illinois**

1 pkg Jiffy cake mix  
1 8 oz cream cheese softened  
2 cups milk  
1 small pkg. vanilla instant pudding

1 large can crushed pineapple well drained  
1 8 oz cool whip, thawed

### DIRECTIONS:

Bake Jiffy Cake mix in 9x13 pan at 350 for 15 minutes and set aside to cool. Cream the cream cheese until smooth, add milk then add pudding and blend. Set in the refrigerator to thicken. Spread the pudding on cooled cake, sprinkle pineapple on the pudding and then spread cool whip over pineapple. Sprinkle with nuts if preferred. Refrigerator overnight uncovered.

*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.*