

October 2023

Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS October 31 ■ November 28 (9:30 am at Cohasset Service Center. Members welcome)

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Lake Country Power to hold fleet auction in November

Lake Country Power is partnering with North Auctions of Hibbing to hold another online auction of fleet equipment and vehicles the co-op is liquidating, including five pickup trucks, one snowmobile and more. The online auction will be similar to how people submit bids through eBay and other online auctions.



Any interested and current co-op members should register for a free user account at www.k-bid.com/auction/50888. This auction is password protected; you can access the inventory using this password: Lake Country.

The auction is open exclusively for active member-consumers and employees of Lake Country Power, and will open Wednesday, Nov. 1 through Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

The electronic bidding will be through K-Bid.com. Only winning bidders will be required to pay for the items they've won. Winning bidders may pick up their items with proof of purchase from one of Lake Country Power's Mountain Iron, Cohasset and Kettle River service centers, depending on the location of the auction item.

Questions? Contact North Auctions at 218-969-3834.

How to register

1. Go to <https://www.k-bid.com/auction/50888>
2. Click "Login" at the upper right corner of the website (login is above the "search" tool)
3. Click the "Sign Up" button in the box to the right that says "Not registered yet?"
4. Enter your user and location information. Click to check the box that says "I accept the Terms and Conditions." Next click "Save."
5. The next screen is where you will need to enter your credit card information. Your credit card will not be charged unless you receive the winning bid on November 14. The credit card is used for verification purposes only and will be tied to the email you provide. One bidder per email.
6. Next, you'll receive an email from K-Bid to confirm your registration. You'll now have access to view more information about the fleet for auction.
7. The next time you want access to the site, you will click login and the box that says "Login to your account." Be sure to remember your registration password. Once logged in, enter "Lake Country" to access the auction and begin bidding. ■



Auction Items

- 2017 Ford F150 (160,849 miles)
- 2017 Ford F350 (128,116 miles)
- 2009 Dodge 1500 Quad ST (192,961 miles)
- 1996 Built-Rite BR810GS trailer
- 2003 Butler HW6313 trailer
- 2006 Butler HW3060 trailer
- Buddy utility trailer
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 extended cab (224,455 miles)
- 2013 Ford F150 SC (137,420 miles)
- 2007 GMC Sierra ½ ton, extended cab (183,000 miles)
- 2014 Ford F150 (188,241 miles)
- 1998 Butler hydraulic wire trailer
- 2006 Ski-Doo, Scandic super wide track, with cover (1,105 miles)
- 1996 Sled Bed 8x10 snowmobile trailer
- 1996 Sled Bed 8x10 snowmobile trailer
- 2005 International 7400 (14,000 hours)
- 2015 Ford F150 (173,584 miles)
- 2014 Ford F150 (181,913 miles)
- 2008 Felling Pole trailer
- 2006 Carry-on 7.5x10 trailer
- 2007 Carry-on 7.5x10 trailer
- 2003 Shorelander 5x10 trailer
- Blackhawk 5-ton one-end lift jack
- Back Buddy brake drum carrier
- 2005 Polaris Sportsman 6x6
- 2009 Dodge 2500 SXT with a Boss plow mount only, no plow (157,980 miles)
- 2009 Chevrolet 2500 with a Boss plow mount only, now plow (151,300 miles)
- *Additional equipment may be added to the online auction page.*

Playing it safe online

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identity, banking and health records and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to pumpkin-spice lattes, crisper air and Halloween festivities, October is the time of year we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month. While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, at Lake Country Power, we use this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders across our team of employees.

Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices and gadgets, this month, I'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips and let you know how Lake Country Power is working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

Implement multi-factor authentication (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to

access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.

Update your software. This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

Think before you click. Most successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

Create strong passwords, using long, unique and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.

Keeping the electric grid and your data secure
We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For Lake Country Power, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues.

We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid's network secure.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone. ■



By Mara
SPAETH
IT Manager

Lake Country Power seeks nominations for community award

Do you know an organization or community group that has made outstanding contributions to the local community?

Lake Country Power is seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes non-profit organizations and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make northern Minnesota a better place to live and work is eligible for the \$500 award.

Community members may nominate an organization by completing an application form, available at Lake Country Power or online at www.lakecountrypower.coop. Questions may be directed to Tami Zaun at 1-800-421-9959, ext. 7152. The application will require a description of the community service project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1.

Mail to Lake Country Power, Attn: Tami Zaun, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop.



Touchstone Energy®

The award recipient will contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$2,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized in March 2024 at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting.

The Touchstone Energy® cooperatives of Minnesota, including Lake Country Power, are part of a national network across 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. Touchstone Energy® cooperatives stand out as a trusted source of power and information to their 30 million member-owners every day.

Co-ops power the community's best interests



Delivering reliable, cost-effective energy may be what Lake Country Power is known for, but what sets us apart from for-profit companies is our dedication to the well-being of the communities where we serve, live and work.

Electric cooperatives provide an essential product. By providing electricity, businesses can expand, farms can operate more efficiently, and homes can be heated and cooled. We are motivated by service, not profit.

Being a cooperative means reinvesting into our community. Any margins Lake Country Power makes is

returned to members through stable rates, infrastructure improvements and even back into the pockets of our members through patronage capital returns.

Every member of Lake Country Power is an owner and has a stake in the company. Members are encouraged to take an active role in the company by voting in elections or running for one of our board seats.

To learn more about your electric cooperative, including the latest news, programs and rebates visit our website at www.lakecountrypower.coop.

LCP members gather for summer appreciation picnics



Spooky energy savings

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smart phone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!

Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts. The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower energy use.

Illuminate your lair with energy efficient lighting. LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to



traditional incandescent light strings.

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons. Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen. When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic – the kind that brings real energy savings. ■

RECIPE CORNER BLUEBERRY BARS



From the
Kitchen of:
**Marilyn Kiehl,
Cloquet**



Filling:

- 2 cups blueberries
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 tbsp cornstarch
 - 1/4 cup water
 - 1 tsp lemon juice
- Cook to boil, set aside

Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups oatmeal
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 3 tsp soda
- 1 cup margarine
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

Mix like pie crust. Put 3/4 mix in a 9x13 pan. Pour blueberry filling over the mix. Add 1/3 cup of oatmeal to the remaining mix for the topping. Bake for 35 minutes at 375 degrees. May be served with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream as a dessert. Swap blueberries for strawberries or another favorite fruit!

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

smart hub Tip

Q: Interested in receiving alerts when your bill is ready to be viewed?

A: If so, you can log into your SmartHub account, select "Notifications" and then "Manage Contacts" to add or remove a phone number or e-mail. After your contact information is updated, you can then select, "Manage Notifications." There are numerous options to choose from so you can select what alerts are important to you.

Power is in your hands

Recently, one of Lake Country Power's newer members asked me what makes electric co-ops different from other types of utilities. This month, I thought I'd tell you a few of the things I told them.

Because it's a co-op, Lake Country Power operates a little differently than other utilities. Decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here – to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to the local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders

five states away. Lake Country Power is a co-op, and exists to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, the co-op schedules opportunities for you to attend co-op events, like the co-op's district meetings, annual meeting and member appreciation days, so it can hear from you. It also offers directors' contact information on the co-op website for those who can't join

in person. Lake Country Power also conducts a semi-annual survey to gather your feedback on co-op programs and services so that we can plan and adjust for the future.



By Dan
KINGSLEY
District 6
Director

Lake Country Power's success lies in your satisfaction, which is why it offers these opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say.

Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on the co-op team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy and supply chain issues may throw at it.

Please know that you—the members of Lake Country Power are at the heart of

everything the co-op does. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

Lake Country Power exists to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve, and remains driven by the same guiding principles to serve its community.

As a director at the co-op, I hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands. ■

Dan Kingsley was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 6. He can be reached at 218-259-7366 or dkingsley@lcp.coop.

LCP takes part in Harvest Festival electric vehicle panel



► From left: Lake Country Power's Ryan Ferguson, Jessica Johnson of Talon Metals, Megan Hoye with ZEF Energy, Joseph Sabini an EV driver, Jack Volz owner of Safety and Security Consultation Specialists, LLC, Andy Pegelow, formerly with Volkswagen Duluth and moderator Tara Collins of Great River Energy participated in a panel discussion about electric vehicles (EVs) at the Harvest Festival in Duluth on September 9. Discussion topics included infrastructure, charging programs and battery sizing, raw material supply chains, how car dealers are adjusting to EVs, testimonials from an EV driver and more.

**CO-OPS
GROW**



COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

July 25, 2023 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported that he attended the Minnesota Rural Electric Association District 2 meeting in Cohasset on July 14. He said he forwarded several member calls to General Manager Mark Bakk.

General Manager Bakk reported that the Great River Energy Member Manager Group had an education session on rates and rate design. He also attended GRE's strategic planning session. Mr. Bakk reported that LCP staff met with Power System Engineering on the Cost-of-Service Study, which will be reviewed with the board at a later date.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Unanimously approved an extension of the GRE Purchase Power Contract from 2045 to 2055.

Approved up to 300 MW of renewable wind energy for GRE's Big Bend project.

President Olson nominated Gene Rands to serve as a director on the Operation Round Up® board for District 7. The nomination was approved without opposition.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a printed copy.



► Patty Maki of Gilbert took this picture showing the beauty of fall in the Lakeland area.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use. For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking. Source: energy.gov

Co-op Contacts

Mark Bakk, General Manager	800-421-9959 mbakk@lcp.coop
Jason Long, District 1	218-240-9611 jlong@lcp.coop
Michael Forsman, District 2	218-365-5789 mforsman@lcp.coop
Steve Raukar, District 3	218-966-0298 sraukar@lcp.coop
Jeff Sheldon, District 4	218-398-6104 jsheldon1@lcp.coop
Robert Bruckbauer, District 5	218-290-8729 rbruckbauer@lcp.coop
Daniel Kingsley, District 6	218-259-7366 dkingsley@lcp.coop
Craig Olson, District 7	218-393-2276 colson@lcp.coop
Brian Napstad, District 8	218-485-1528 bnapstad@lcp.coop
Larry Anderson, District 9	218-428-2722 landerson@lcp.coop

BY THE NUMBERS | JULY 2023

Lake Country Power is committed to responsibly managing resources to ensure financial stability of the cooperative. 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."



	2023	2022
Cost of Purchased Power	\$32,699,371	\$37,537,011
Other Operating Expenses	\$27,267,527	\$27,486,799
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$59,966,898	\$65,023,810



	2023	2022
Operating Margins	\$6,485,228	\$142,852
Non-Operating Margins	\$753,178	\$943,066



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 service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.

Newsline

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