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Enjoy the best of both worlds with an air source heat pump

A smarter solution is available for members seeking a way to more efficiently heat and cool their home year-round: air source heat pumps (ASHPs).

Able to deliver hyper-efficient home heating and air conditioning, ASHPs help members realize savings in energy consumption as well as cost. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, an ASHP can reduce electricity use associated with home heating and cooling by up to 72 percent. Since heating and cooling account for more than half the total energy consumed in a typical household, members can realize tremendous savings by making the switch.

While earlier generations of ASHPs were primarily used in the southern part of the U.S., new generation ASHPs can be used in nearly all parts of the country. They are an especially viable option for Midwestern homes during the spring and autumn months when outdoor temperatures are milder.

How it works

ASHPs use the same technologies that are found in

refrigerators and air conditioners, and deliver cooling and heating by moving heat to and from the outdoor air. During the summer when cooling your home, the ASHP works just like a central air conditioner, moving heat from inside your home and transferring it outside. An ASHP has the ability to reverse this process for heating: the ASHP harvests heat from outside air – some systems can provide heating in temperatures as low as 0 degrees Fahrenheit – and transfers it into your home. The result is that homeowners are able to run their furnaces less and get extremely efficient heating from their ASHP.

Both of these options can be controlled from a thermostat while the home heating function is also able to work in tandem with conventional gas furnaces. The product will automatically select the most ideal balance between the two sources to maintain the most efficient heating combination based on a homeowner's desired indoor temperature.

ASHPs contain two sets of coils, a compressor and a fan that circulates cooled or warmed air. The key to its ability to heat or

cool is a special reversing valve that changes the refrigerant flow's direction, allowing the unit to seamlessly switch between air conditioning and heating.

Benefits to members

Members can realize savings of up to 30 percent on home cooling expenses by installing an ASHP instead of other conventional air conditioning units. And by moving heat, the ASHP is able to transfer a greater amount of energy than it consumes, which means that an ASHP can have effective heating efficiencies of 300 percent or more.

The warmth provided by ASHP technology is superior in quality compared to conventional furnaces. The heat distributed by ASHP is distributed more evenly and holds its moisture better, resulting in more natural, comfortable warmth.

Part of your electric cooperative's mission is to help you use energy wisely by offering a variety

of programs, resources and products to make this possible. Lake Country Power offers rebates up to \$630 based on your SEER rating and financing as low as 0 percent on new ASHP systems. For more information, contact the member service dept. at 800-421-9959, press #6.



BOARD MEETINGS

May 30 – 9:30 a.m. at
Kettle River Service Center
June 27 – 9:30 a.m. at
Mountain Iron Service Center

HOLIDAY OBSERVED

All LCP offices will be closed May 29 for Memorial Day. If you experience a power outage, use SmartHub to report the outage. Register for SmartHub at lakecountrypower.coop. Or call 800-421-9959, press #1.

PRIMARY NUMBER

Lake Country Power's phones are answered 24 hours a day. Our primary phone number is 1-800-421-9959.



What's in it for "we?"

By Robert Bruckbauer, District 5

One of the most attractive features of cooperatives is that we answer the popular question, "What's in it for me?" with "What's in it for we!"

Cooperatives are formed when the market fails to offer a good or service, with decent quality, at an affordable price. Electric cooperatives were formed nearly 80 years ago when investor-owned utilities realized there was not enough profit to be made from sparsely-populated rural areas. The IOUs refused to offer electricity to country folks like you and me.

The founding members of our cooperative went door-to-door to collect \$5 in order to raise a portion of the original investment the co-op needed. Those "go-getters" realized the only way to get electricity for me was to get it for we — the whole community.

Cooperative ownership is in the hands of the people who use the co-op's goods and services, not investors. So not only did co-ops start out answering the question of "What's in it for we?" — they continue to answer that question today.

These days, we often hear about companies that abandon their local communities and move overseas in search of cheaper labor. This negatively impacts the community through job loss, decline in housing values and school closures. Because local residents own a majority of cooperatives, they are less likely to leave their community. In fact, it would be impossible for Lake Country Power to leave northern Minnesota. The co-op is a critical part of what makes the community a community.

The way co-ops continue to answer the question, "What's in it for we?" is critical to their survival. It is imperative that we keep you — our members — as the primary focus. Keeping rates as low as

possible is one major part of that focus, but ensuring that we provide real value as your trusted energy advisor is also extremely important.

By maintaining that focus with your help and support, we will continue to be able to serve the "me" and the "we" in our community long into the future.

Robert Bruckbauer was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 5. He can be reached at 218-566-2436 or bobbruckbauer@northlc.com.



Photos Courtesy: NRECA







FULLY RELIABLE HOT WATER AT HALF THE PRICE

Just as your fellow members can attest, Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) water heaters, or off-peak water heating, allows you to have 100% of the hot water you need at up to 50% of the cost. They save you money by using off-peak, renewable energy.

"I'm very happy that we went with an ETS water heater and would recommend it to everyone." — Lee E., cooperative member for over 18 years

ENERGY WISE  MN

Enjoy a special, limited-time combined offer of
0% FINANCING* + **\$600 REBATE**
ON HORIZONTAL WATER HEATERS

Save up to
50% ON WATER HEATING COSTS

Learn more by calling Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959. Or visit lakecountrypower.coop and EnergyWiseMN.com.

Shifting regulations result in few changes

Perspective from Great River Energy

Although President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order calling for review of the Clean Power Plan, the action is expected to have minimal effect on Great River Energy and other Minnesota utilities. It will take the new administration a long time to navigate the maze of administrative, regulatory and legal procedures necessary to enact a new regulation. In the meantime, state policy and the changing energy markets continue to play an important role in shaping our generation portfolio.



"Although environmental regulations affect our planning efforts and how we operate our facilities, our goal of doing what's best for our members more strongly influences our decisions," said Eric Olsen, Great River Energy vice president and general counsel. "Right now, the energy market is driving force behind our resource decisions."

Like most Midwest utilities, Great River Energy has for much of its history depended on coal to fulfill the majority of its members' energy needs. Gradually over the past few



decades, the addition of new fuels and generation technologies has left the organization with a more diverse and lower carbon generation portfolio.

a business approach to meeting environmental regulations while evolving our generation portfolio."

"We've taken a no-regrets strategy," Olsen added. "Our portfolio is increasingly flexible and diverse, and we've done this while keeping our wholesale rates competitive. We've taken

New executive order calls for review of the Clean Power Plan

National perspective from most electric co-ops

Throughout the 2016 campaign, Donald Trump pledged to review federal regulations when he became president. On March 28, President Trump signed an executive order to promote energy independence. The order also calls for review of the Clean Power Plan.

"Electric co-ops have two key missions—providing electricity and other services to more than 42 million consumers and empowering the communities they serve," said Jim Matheson, chief executive officer at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

(NRECA), the national service organization for the nation's more than 900 electric co-ops.

"If implemented, the Clean Power Plan would hit many of our electric cooperatives extremely hard by forcing them to prematurely shut down existing power plants. Those co-ops would in essence be charged twice for their electricity—once to continue paying down the loans on the closed power plants and again for the cost of purchasing replacement power," he said.

From a national level, most cooperatives were so concerned about the economic impacts



of the Clean Power Plan that they petitioned the courts to review and reject the regulation. The Supreme Court sided with co-ops and imposed a stay of the rule—essentially freezing its implementation. This pause created the Trump administration's opportunity to review the rule.

Electric co-ops put affordability, safety and reliability first when deciding how to best meet members' energy needs. The Trump executive order allows co-ops to continue reducing their carbon footprint while keeping traditional energy resources in the mix.

The basics of purchasing an electric vehicle

How do you know if an electric vehicle (EV) will suit your lifestyle, and what do you need to know when heading to the dealership?

One of the biggest roadblocks when considering a transition from gasoline to all-electric is "range anxiety," or the belief that the car's charge won't be able to get them to where they need to go. According to a 2013 study by Consumer Reports and the Union of Concerned Scientists, 69 percent of U.S. drivers travel less than 60 miles on weekdays – well within the range of many EVs available today.

There are two main types of EVs that use electric energy stored in batteries to power its motor: all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric (PHEV). Examples of all-electric include the Nissan Leaf and all Tesla models, while PHEVs such as the Chevy Volt work like an all-electric EV for the first 50 miles then switch over to gasoline.

Instead of stopping at a gas station every time you need to fill up, the main fueling station could actually be in your own home and cost less than you'd pay at the pump. Lake Country Power offers EV owners a less expensive, off-peak electric rate to help them charge overnight so they're ready to go in the morning.

Charging your EV

EV owners can charge their vehicle's battery at home by plugging into a standard 120-volt outlet that requires no extra equipment or installation. A full charge on the 120-volt outlet takes eight hours, on average. Homeowners can choose to have a Level 2 charger professionally installed, which would fully charge the EV in half the time. These types of chargers are often found across the country for public charging as well.



By signing up for LCP's Revolt program, you can also ensure that each time your EV is charged at home, it's done so with 100 percent renewable energy at no additional cost for the vehicle's lifetime.

Call our member service dept. at 800-421-9959, press #6, for details or visit mnrevolt.com.

Another bonus is EVs require much less upkeep than their gas-powered counterparts because the battery, motor and associated electronics require little-to-no regular maintenance. Like your current vehicle, EVs must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and undergo the same rigorous safety testing.

EVs are environmentally friendly. They produce zero tailpipe emissions and PHEVs produce no tailpipe emissions when in all-electric mode. By signing up for LCP's Revolt program, you can also ensure that each time your EV is charged at home, it's done so with 100 percent renewable energy at no additional cost for the vehicle's lifetime.

Incentives when you go EV

Approximately 15 EV models are available for purchase in Minnesota and, while they vary in price range, consumers should keep the federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 in mind, depending on the size of the vehicle's battery.

To learn more about EVs, visit mnrevolt.com for a copy of the U.S. Department of Energy's Plug-In Electric Vehicle Handbook for Consumers (scroll to bottom of Web page).

Special programs for co-op members and EV owners

Lake Country Power is seeing a spike of interest among its co-op members who are seriously "kicking the tires" when it comes to purchasing an electric vehicle or hybrid. If that's you, LCP offers two programs to sweeten the deal: Revolt and ChargeWise.

The Revolt program allows co-op members an opportunity to power their electric vehicle or hybrid with 100 percent wind energy, for the lifetime of that vehicle, at no extra cost. You'll still have to pay for the energy you use, but you'll be able to do so knowing that when you go electric, you'll always

be going green. This program extends to members who already own or lease a PEV and members who purchase or lease a PEV by Dec. 31, 2017.

The ChargeWise program allows members to charge their electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid using off-peak electricity from a specially installed 20 amp ChargeWise outlet. The outlet provides energy during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Members receive a reduced off-peak electric rate for charging during the overnight hours.

For more information about both programs, contact the member service department at 800-421-9959, press #6, or visit lakecountrypower.coop.



5 Easy steps to greater efficiency

Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience? According to the Department of Energy, most of the money spent on home energy bills is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Luckily, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money.

Improve the envelope of your home: Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around overlooked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs.

LED Bulbs: These make a big difference in home efficiency

and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of typically 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. Replace your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating.

Install a blanket around your water heater: This could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the Dept. of Energy. For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour. On a safety note, the Dept. of Energy recommends that you not set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket.

HVAC system & air filters: Given that a large portion of your monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling, ensure your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system



is performing at an optimal level. Checking, changing or cleaning your air filter extends the life of your HVAC system, saves you money, and prevents dust and allergens from clogging your system. Otherwise, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including: reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement. Clean system filters monthly, if possible.

Programmable thermostat: When was the last time you checked to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule? This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically.

Save money with your card

You work hard, so let **The One Card That Does It All®** work hard for you. Get connected to hundreds of local deals and thousands of national discounts from the businesses that participate in the Co-op Connections Card.



Traveling for Memorial Day? Use your card at these locations and receive a discount on lodging.

- AmericInn, Grand Rapids
- Cascade Vacation Rentals, Tofta
- Comfort Inn-West, Duluth
- Country Inn & Suites, Hermantown
- Custom Cabin Rentals, Ely
- Deer Ridge Resort, Ely
- Holiday Inn Express, Mountain Iron
- Horseshoe Lake Inn, McGregor

- Motel Ely, Ely
- Northern Lights Lodge, Ely
- Paddle Inn, Ely
- Pine View Inn, Virginia
- Radisson Hotel Harberview, Duluth
- Willard Munger Inn, Duluth
- South Pier Inn, Duluth
- The Coates Plaza Hotel, Virginia

Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop for specific lodging discounts including other local and national business participants.

Recipe Corner

Brown Sugar Cake

Marcia Griess, Grand Rapids

- 2 cups brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- Mix well and take out 2/3 cup.
- To the rest, add:
- 1 egg
- 1 cup sour milk or buttermilk
- 1 tsp soda
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup chopped walnuts (optional)



Mix all ingredients well. Pour into greased and floured 9x13 inch pan and sprinkle the 2/3 cup sugar mixture on top. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 2810 Elda Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, or e-mail tzaun@lakecountrypower.com. If your entry is drawn and printed in Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account. Recipes will be published as space allows.

Condensed Board Minutes

February 21, 2017 • Regular Monthly Meeting

The following reports were given:

President Craig Olson reported about correspondence and telephone calls he received since the January board meeting. Olson attended the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting and participated in legislator visits along with other LCP directors.

David Saggau, Great River Energy CEO, visited LCP's board meeting. He provided an overview of GRE's operations and other matters related to the electric industry. GRE will work to meet the needs of members today and prepare for the needs of the future.

Greg Randa, LCP general manager, reported about GRE's power purchase contract; GRE rate committee discussions; Grand Rapids Public Utilities annexation;

meetings with Itasca County commissioners and representation from the City of Cohasset regarding LCP's new service center, among other matters.

Mark Bakk, LCP director of finance and administration, reported the auditors will conduct LCP's 2016 audit the week of Feb. 27.

The following actions were taken:

Approved the board expenses submitted at the Feb. board meeting.

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



This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for May 2017. Marsha Rokke of Wayzata, MN photographed this beautiful sunrise on the north arm of Burntside Lake near Ely.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

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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 than 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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Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — February 2017

	2017	2016
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 17,415,927	\$ 16,555,995
Cost of Purchased Power	10,023,782	9,975,676
Distribution Expense - Operations and Maintenance	1,562,284	1,404,135
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	676,849	653,727
Administrative and General Expense	1,082,394	1,012,048
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	2,060,577	2,181,514
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	15,405,886	15,227,099
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,010,042	1,328,896
Non-Operating Margins	134,813	113,214
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	2,144,855	1,442,111
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	-	-
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 2,144,855	\$ 1,442,111
TOTAL kWh SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	134,791,858	140,984,161

Editor's Note: These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop in the "Member's Area." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a copy.