

OCTOBER IS  
NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

October 2018

# Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS

October 30 - 9:30 a.m. at Grand Rapids Service Center

ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES ARE:

COMMUNITY BORN

COMMUNITY LED

FOCUSED ON YOU

Lake Country Power

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy that Powers Our Lives

IN THIS ISSUE

Celebrating Co-ops

Community Awards

Dual Fuel: Check-Up

Electric Vehicles

## Co-ops: Catalysts for the future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and "smart" technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles.



By Greg  
**RANDA**  
LCP general  
manager

ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Because co-ops answer to local members (that's you!) rather than far-away shareholders, we're more nimble and able to respond quickly to the changing needs of our community. We even share any excess revenue with our members because we're not-for-profit.

Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve – in fact cooperatives were created by a community of farmers, loggers and local residents from the country. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.

### Co-ops are community-led

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many

### A catalyst for good

Electric co-ops, like Lake Country Power, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops

engage consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like nearly 80 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible.

Today, it means Lake Country Power supports its communities through Operation Round Up® contributions, various youth programs, scholarships and safety presentations, economic development, technology improvements that benefit members, multiple payment options, and always being accessible 24 hours/7 days a week.

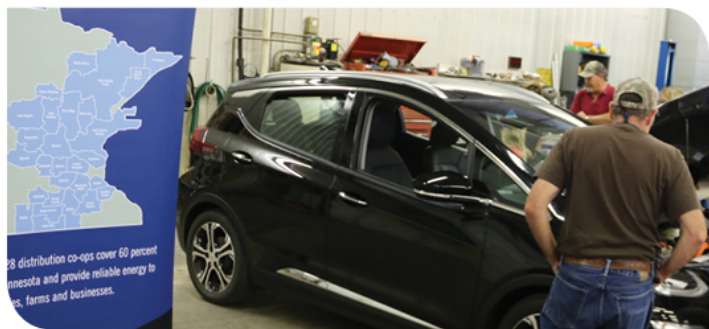
That's just the short list. Lake Country Power and its committed employees do even more for our

communities – often behind the scenes or not even publicly shared.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

### Built by community

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future. ■



► A popular feature at this year's Member Appreciation Days in August was the Chevy Bolt, an electric vehicle owned by Great River Energy.

CO-OP EVENTS ARE POSTED AT [LAKECOUNTRYPOWER.COOP](http://LAKECOUNTRYPOWER.COOP) GO TO "COMMUNITY" AND CLICK "EVENTS."

# Co-ops: A cause worth celebrating

Every October, cooperatives from coast to coast celebrate the unique business model that has stood the test of time.

Lake Country Power is a cooperative that is owned by nearly 43,000 members in parts of eight counties of northern Minnesota.

Each of us members collectively own the trucks, wires and poles – everything it takes to provide electric service. And, they entrust their friends and neighbors to run the cooperative in the best interest of all members.



By Sherman  
**LIIMATAINEN**  
District 9

A cooperative is, and always has been, a wonderful example of a local business. Lake Country Power was started by the ancestors of today's line technicians, engineers, and so forth

who themselves live in the community they serve.

The staff at Lake Country Power understands that the people at the end of the line are in charge. Each member's right to run for our board of directors and the privilege to vote ensures

that our actions reflect the values of our membership.

Lake Country Power is part of America's cooperative community that includes more than 900 electric co-ops that serve more than 19 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 47 states.

The members can be assured that the leadership of Lake Country Power, its management, employees and board have a high level of integrity, and are very diligent and have the members' best interests when making decisions. The members have a cooperative with 135 employees who work

for you. They are reliable and hard-working and the decisions they make are always in the best interest of you, and how it affects you and the cooperative. The business model is drafted to meet the challenges of the future, including the environment, cleanliness, renewable energy and whatever other legislation is passed that does not come without cost. ■

Sherman Liimatainen was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 9. He can be reached at 218-879-3135 or [sgliimatainen@gmail.com](mailto:sgliimatainen@gmail.com).

## Seeking applications for Community Award

It took a grassroots effort of community-minded folks to start the electric cooperative movement 80 years ago. With that same grassroots effort in mind, we are seeking applications from any type of organization that has contributed to their local communities through a special effort of volunteers and unique efforts.

Through an application process, LCP will recognize the true spirit of community and award a deserving organization the 2018 Touchstone Energy Community Award.

Any organization that meets these qualifications

is eligible for a \$500 cash award.

Community members may nominate an organization or association by completing an application form, available at LCP's service centers or online at [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop). The application requires a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. ■

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 1 to Tami Zaun at Lake Country Power.



## Time to change the batteries

Fall is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and other safety devices. It's also good to change the batteries in your programmable thermostat as well.

"Several times a year, I'll receive a service order about someone whose electric heat isn't working or it's working but intermittently," said Ron Hardy, LCP's member service technician. "A lot of times it's because the batteries are dead in their programmable thermostat, and just need to be changed with fresh batteries."

It's a quick and simple fix to do, especially before the heating season kicks in. Follow the pictured diagrams for a quick tutorial on how to change the batteries in your programmable thermostat. ■



## Dual Fuel: Check your backup

Dual Fuel is a controlled heating program that's offered at a reduced electric rate. It can be shut off for up to 12 hours at a time, typically during periods of severely cold weather or when the demand for electricity is high.

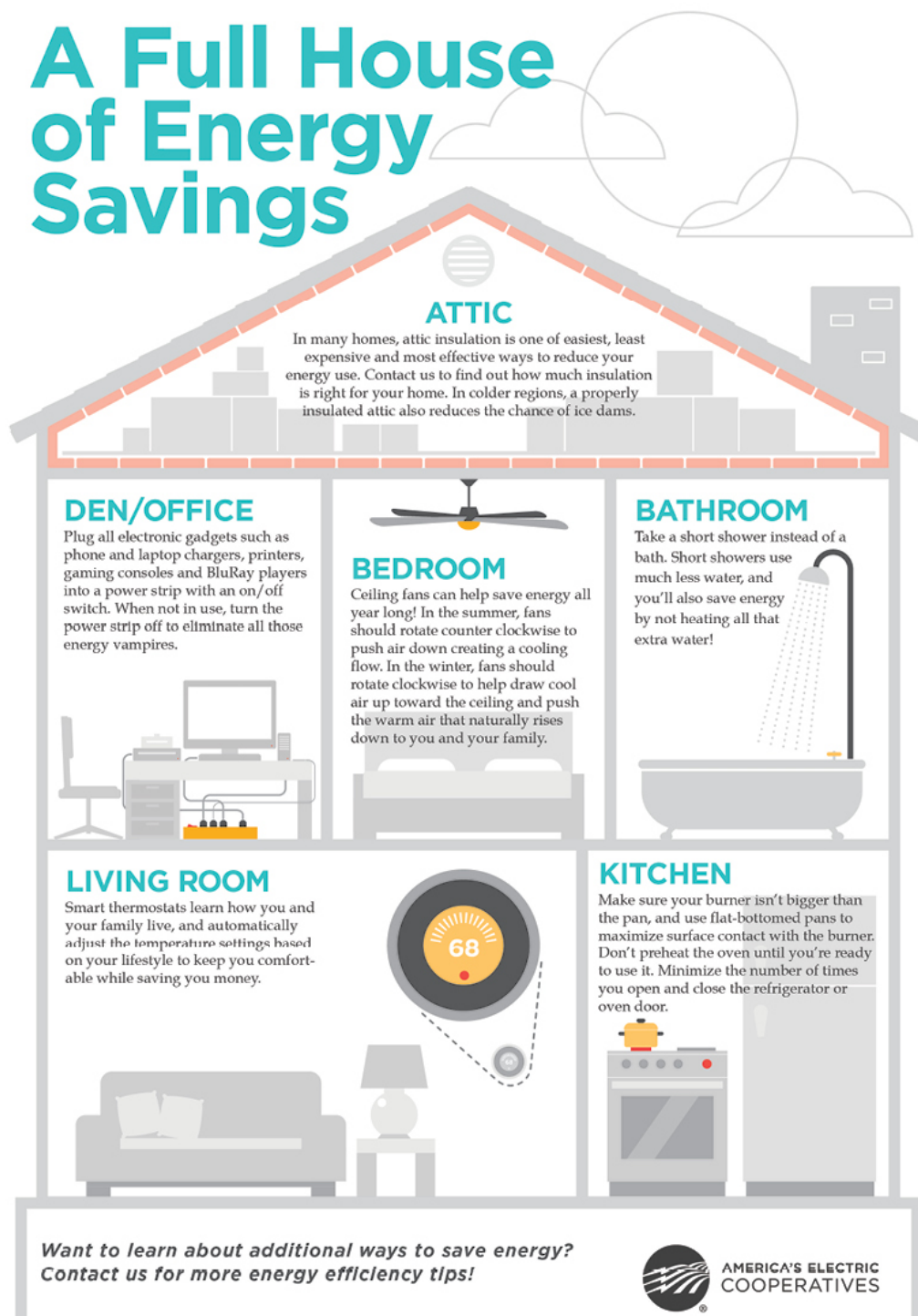
The dual fuel program helps control electric demand during peak usage periods, which is why the reduced rate can be offered. It's also why an adequate backup system is required.

During the heating season, the electric heat portion of your Dual Fuel system may be controlled up to a maximum of 400 hours, however this is rare. If you're on Dual Fuel, check the electric and non-electric (dual) parts of your heating equipment now. Also, fill your fuel tank full in case it needs to run for hours at a time.

## 5 Tips

1. Operate the electric heating equipment to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat.
2. Operate the oil or propane system also to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat.
3. Have your gas or oil furnace/boiler checked periodically by a professional HVAC contractor. For cold weather, there is nothing better than having peace of mind

# A Full House of Energy Savings



knowing your Dual Fuel heating system will work as it should. For a list of contractors, visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) > EnergyWise Programs > Residential Service > Contractor Resources.

4. If you wish to monitor the anticipated control periods of Dual Fuel through the

heating season, visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop), and then click on "Today's Load Control Times" under the EnergyWise Programs section of LCP's website.

5. If you'd like to be notified in advance of a Dual Fuel control event (text message and/or e-mail), sign up for load

control notifications in SmartHub. Don't have SmartHub yet? Visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) to get started. ■

Please call 1-800-421-9959, press #6, if you have questions concerning your Dual Fuel heating system or would like to add your electric water heater to the 8-Hour Interruptible program.

# The dawn of EVs in rural America

Answering questions of what matters to those living in northern Minnesota

Electric vehicles are quiet, fast and reliable. They are filled with incredible state-of-the-art technology, but the price tag and questions of performance in cold climates has made some consumers hesitant to invest.

Technology aside, it seems that people in the Northland have a few primary concerns when considering an EV: How far can I travel? Where can I charge? How long does it take to charge? And, will winter kill my batteries?

Two LCP members volunteered to share their EV experience, which may help others make an educated decision if considering a purchase. Each owns

a Tesla brand vehicle. And, while manufacturers, models, and retail price may reflect in automobile performance, the following outlines general concerns.

## Range matters

**Patrick Basten:** "One key thing with electric cars is that 200 miles is a sweet spot. A car that has 200 miles will fit 99 percent of everybody's needs, period."

**George Host:** "The Tesla Superchargers, like in Hinckley and downtown Duluth, give you 250 miles in an hour of charge. So,

driving it to the Cities, I stop in Hinckley for 15 minutes – time to get a cup of coffee – is enough to get me there and back to Hinckley again without charging. So, right now it's set up very nice for getting around and charging."

## Home charging

Both members have installed 240-volt service (through a contractor) in the garage and have enrolled in an off-peak program through Lake County Power, which

allows for overnight charging at a reduced rate.

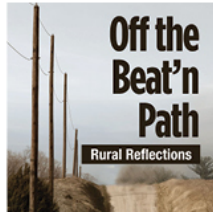
**Host:** "It works just fine. I just come home, plug it in at night."

**Basten:** "How quick does it charge? Well, that doesn't really matter. Because, you have all night. You're sleeping. The car can take as long as it wants."

## Traveling with an EV

Planning is critical when going long distances with an electric vehicle, but the charging infrastructure continues to improve in remote locations.

**Host:** "You can go coast to coast. You can go Boston to California just by leapfrogging superchargers. There's a phone app, and when you program a trip



▶ Patrick and Valarie Basten of rural Grand Rapids use their Tesla Model X with confidence.



▶ George Host of Independence relies on his 2014 Tesla Model S to commute to Duluth daily for work.

in your car it'll give you a warning if it thinks you're going to be low when you get there."

**Basten:** "They call it range anxiety. You will worry, but then you realize after you get over that hurdle, it's not an issue."

## Effect of cold climate on batteries

Some statistics have indicated that the average person travels about 80 miles per day.

**Basten:** "Let's say it has 250-mile range normally during warmer weather. By warmer weather, I mean anything above freezing. You don't see a drastic

difference until you get to the single digits and below zero. And there, you'll get, I'd say about the 20 percent range. So rather than getting 250 you can get 200."

**Host:** "You might have a 25, 30 percent loss of range in really cold weather and using all your electricity. Even if I drive 80 to 100 miles, it's not a factor. I get back to my garage and it takes three hours to get that charge back." ■

More detail from these interviews will be featured in upcoming editions of *Newsline* as the co-op commits to be a member-resource for electric vehicle education.

## 2018 Energy Champion announced



▶ Lake Country Power's Jeff Sheldon, manager of energy services and business development, recently had an opportunity to help present the 2018 Energy Champion award with The Coalition for a Secure Energy Future. The Coalition awards bipartisan Minnesota legislators. This year's recipient is Senator Tomassoni, who is dedicated to Minnesotan families having access to affordable and reliable electricity. The award was also presented by Joel Johnson, coalition director (right). More at [secureenergyfuture.org](http://secureenergyfuture.org).



### RECIPE CORNER PINA COLADA ZUCCHINI BREAD

From the  
Kitchen of:  
**Joan Janousek,**  
Shakopee, MN



#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 ½ cups canola oil
- 1 tsp. rum extract
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 cups shredded zucchini
- 1 ½ cups unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1 cup canned crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 ½ cups chopped pecans or walnuts

#### DIRECTIONS

Line the bottom of two 9x5" or four 8x4" loaf pans with parchment paper, and grease the paper. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, combine flour to soda. In another bowl, combine eggs to vanilla, and stir in dry ingredients until moistened. Fold in zucchini and nuts. Transfer to pans. Bake for 45 – 55 minutes or until toothpick in center comes clean. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pans to cooling rack.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 2810 Elida Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, or e-mail [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop). 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.

## Military personnel disconnection law

The 2007 Minnesota Legislature passed a law called the Military Personnel Disconnection Law. The law recognizes the value of military service and limits utility disconnections if a member of the household has been issued orders such as active duty, deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during that period. To be eligible for disconnection protection, the member must contact the cooperative to request a "Military Personnel Disconnect Protection Form," meet income eligibility guidelines and set up a mutually acceptable payment schedule.

Before disconnecting service to military personnel in situations as listed above, the cooperative must provide the following information: notice of proposed disconnection; statement explaining customers' rights and responsibilities; list

of energy assistance providers; disconnect protection form and a statement explaining the payment plan to secure continued service.

Please contact Lake Country Power, if you have any questions about the "Military Personnel Disconnection Law" or energy assistance programs.

## Energy Assistance Providers

#### AEOA:

1-800-662-5711

**Virginia:** 1-218-749-2912

**Duluth:** 1-218-623-3011

#### Aitkin County Social Services:

1-800-328-3744

#### Bi County CAP:

1-800-332-7161

#### Bois Forte Tribal:

1-800-221-8129

#### Carlton County Social Services:

1-800-642-9082

#### Cass County Social Services:

1-218-547-1340

#### Fond Du Lac Tribal:

1-800-365-1613

#### Itasca County Social Services:

1-800-422-0312

#### Kootasca:

1-877-687-1163

#### Lake County Social Services:

1-218-834-8400

#### Lakes & Pines:

1-800-832-6082

#### Leech Lake Tribal:

1-866-864-8668

#### Mille Lacs

#### Band Tribal:

1-320-532-7880

#### Pine County Social Services:

1-800-450-7263

#### Salvation Army Office

#### (Heat Share Programs):

1-800-842-7279

#### St. Louis County Social Services:

1-800-450-9777



# SAVE MONEY

WITH  
YOUR CO-OP  
CONNECTIONS®  
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.

Keep these businesses in mind, and bring your card to save money. For a full listing of business participants, visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) (Community/Co-op Connections Card). Find national deals online at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop).

- Time Scape Photography, Grand Rapids
- A-1 Refrigeration Service, Hibbing
- Lanyk Electric, Virginia
- Zorbaz on Big Sandy, McGregor
- Bender's Shoes, Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Duluth



**THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:**

President Craig Olson reported on the July 30 LCP Policy Committee meeting, and proposed policy changes that will be brought to the board in August.

Directors Bruckbauer and Olson provided a Great River Energy report, which included power cost adjustment credit, GRE rate study, economic development, energy sales, capital credits, garbage-burning power plant in Elk River, etc.

General Manager Randa reported about LCP's upcoming strategic planning session; Northland Connect; Cohasset service center groundbreaking, cost changes, construction (cold weather limitations); LCP policy meeting; service territory issue with City of Mountain Iron;

damage/costs of June and July storms, and possible state or federal reimbursement; etc.

**THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:**

Approved the appointments of Keyth Wallin (District 1), Gerald Varner (District 5) and Larry Anderson (District 9) to the Operation Round Up® board.

Approved LCP management's recommendation for the 2019 right-of-way contracts. Proposals were sent to five contractors for ten contract areas.

Approved the 2019 contractor bidder lists for Contract 11, 12 and 13.

Approved Blue Water Creations Inc. to complete a Revolving Loan Fund application with LCP.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://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.



► This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for October 2018. Pam Angen of Hibbing took this photo on Side Lake, which shows the shoreline of McCarthy Beach State Park.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY****TIP OF THE MONTH**

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

**Co-op Contacts**

**Greg Randa,** 800-421-9959  
General Manager [granda@lcp.coop](mailto:granda@lcp.coop)

**Jason Long,** 218-240-9611  
District 1 [jaselong@gmail.com](mailto:jaselong@gmail.com)

**Michael Forsman,** 218-365-5789  
District 2 [forsmanmd@hotmail.com](mailto:forsmanmd@hotmail.com)

**George Harvey,** 218-741-6633  
District 3 [gharvey@accessmn.com](mailto:gharvey@accessmn.com)

**Craig Carlson,** 218-999-7175  
District 4 [carlsonlcp@gmail.com](mailto:carlsonlcp@gmail.com)

**Robert Bruckbauer,** 218-566-2436  
District 5 [bobbruckbauer@northlc.com](mailto:bobbruckbauer@northlc.com)

**Daniel Kingsley,** 218-697-2628  
District 6 [kingsdan27@gmail.com](mailto:kingsdan27@gmail.com)

**Craig Olson,** 218-393-2276  
District 7 [colson@iupat82.org](mailto:colson@iupat82.org)

**Jim Huhta,** 218-644-3997  
District 8 [hatcheck@frontier.com](mailto:hatcheck@frontier.com)

**Sherman Liimatainen,** 218-879-3135  
District 9 [sgliimatainen@gmail.com](mailto:sgliimatainen@gmail.com)

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**

Published monthly by Lake Country Power  
2810 Elida Dr., Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Editor: Tami Zaun • [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop)  
Lake Country Power Service Centers:  
Grand Rapids • Kettle River • Mountain Iron  
800-421-9959 • [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop)  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Comparative Operating Statement**

Year-To-Date – July 2018

	2018	2017
Electric Operating Revenue	\$55,258,029	\$52,565,713
Cost of Purchased Power	28,836,729	28,659,065
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	8,401,502	7,239,266
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	2,620,422	2,472,137
Administrative and General Expense	3,744,751	3,567,518
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	8,872,806	8,535,130
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>52,476,209</b>	<b>50,473,116</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,781,820	2,092,597
Non-Operating Margins	938,239	1,308,956
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>3,720,059</b>	<b>3,401,554</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(116,344)	(198,210)
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$3,603,716</b>	<b>\$3,203,343</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>387,532,165</b>	<b>360,786,485</b>

**Editor's Note:** These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://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 copy.