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The Power Surge Factors Driving the Rising Demand for Electricity

Article provided by National Rural Electric Association (NRECA)

Across the U.S., the demand for power is climbing at one of the fastest rates in decades. As the economy becomes more reliant on electricity and data centers continue to sprout up in many parts of the country, electric cooperatives are preparing to meet the challenges that skyrocketing demand brings.

The North American Reliability Corporation, the watchdog for the U.S. electric grid, recently released the 2025-2026 winter reliability assessment, which echoed other recent reports, including longer-term outlooks that expect sufficient energy resources during normal conditions but potential supply shortfalls and outages under more intense weather conditions.

Extreme weather, coupled with additional factors that are driving increased demand, creates challenges for

electric utilities, including cooperatives, in their mission to provide reliable power around the clock. Member number six hundred eighteen thousand one hundred forty eight.

Several key factors are driving increased demand, including economic growth, expanded manufacturing, data center development, and increased electrification in transportation. *Continued on page 3*



Why is the Demand for Electricity Rising?

Demand for electricity in the U.S. is booming. Recent data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts (enough electricity to power 3,600 homes for one year) between now and 2028. Meeting this new demand will require a combination of new power plants, grid upgrades and energy storage technology advancements. Here are the key factors that are driving increased demand.

- 1 Increased Electrification:** Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are increasing overall U.S. energy consumption.
- 2 Data Centers:** Driven by explosions in AI, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.
- 3 Economic Growth:** Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.
- 4 Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring:** New, expanding and “onshored/reshored” manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.

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To view the CLP Board Meeting Minutes please go to:

<http://clpower.com/board-meeting-minutes>



Operation Round Up Totals

December Donations: \$1,531.18

Year-to-date Donations: \$19,447.49

Thank you to all the participants! If you have questions about Operation Round Up, or would like to apply for a grant from the Fund, please contact CLP at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881, or visit our website at www.clpower.com.

Cooperative Light & Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PowerLines

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1554 Highway 2 • PO Box 69

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CLP Office: 218-834-2226 or 800-580-5881

Power Outage (24/7): 800-927-5550

Winter Business Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Stay Safe And Warm During an Ice Storm

Article provided by Safeelectricity.org

Ice and snow from winter storms can bring down trees and power lines, causing power outages and creating electrical dangers. Safe Electricity wants everyone to know how to stay safe and warm after winter storms.

If you must venture outside, be alert to the possibility of electrical hazards:

- Stay away from downed power lines and warn others to stay away. Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all power lines as live and dangerous. Treat everything near power lines as dangerous. Member number seven hundred fifty four thousand nine hundred thirty.

It can be difficult to stay warm without power. If you live with young children or the elderly, consider temporarily staying somewhere with power. If you are at a home without power, there are ways to stay warm:

- Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.

- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.

Only use a generator if you know how to operate it without hurting yourself, or electric utility employees.

After an outage, power can return in spikes. Keep your electronics safe by unplugging them. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.



Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Oct-25</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Operating Revenue		\$ 9,542,434	\$ 12,514,024	\$ 13,280,935
Cost of Purchased Power		\$ 5,695,052	\$ 6,418,847	\$ 6,830,841
Other Operating Expenses		\$ 3,699,093	\$ 5,583,259	\$ 5,477,429
Total Cost of Electric Service		\$ 9,394,145	\$ 12,002,106	\$ 12,308,270
Operating Margin (Loss)		\$ 148,289	\$ 511,918	\$ 972,664
Interest Income		\$ 80,913	\$ 65,267	\$ 75,625
Other Margins		\$ (71,707)	\$ (14,665)	\$ (2,208)
Capital Credits		\$ 32,190	\$ 41,707	\$ 14,627
Total Margins		\$ 189,685	\$ 604,227	\$ 1,060,709
kWh Purchased		83,720,703	79,896,729	83,007,337
kWh Sold		79,119,933	76,633,307	80,086,960
Line Loss		5.50%	4.08%	3.52%
Members Billed		6,030	6,516	6,555
Average kWh Used, Residential		991	923	922
Average Bill, Residential		\$ 123.59	\$ 153.68	\$ 152.87
Average Cost/kWh, Residential		\$ 0.1247	\$ 0.1665	\$ 0.1658
Interest Expense		\$ 332,047	\$ 310,616	\$ 376,476

The Power Surge Factors Driving the Rising Demand for Electricity

Continued from page 1

Together, these trends are reshaping how much electricity we consume and how quickly utilities like Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) must adapt to meet future needs.

One of the biggest drivers of rising demand is increased electrification. More homes and businesses are transitioning to electricity for home heating, water heating, and transportation. EVs are becoming more common on the road, and many states are offering incentives to help consumers make the switch. Additionally, electric heat pumps are replacing traditional furnaces in many homes due to their efficiency. These transitions mean more energy use and pressure placed on our electric grid.

Data centers are another major contributor to rising demand. As AI, cryptocurrency, and cloud computing technologies grow, the need for data processing and storage has skyrocketed.

Data centers require huge amounts of power to operate servers and cooling systems 24/7. Tech companies are building new facilities nationwide, many of which are in electric cooperative-served areas, and these regions are experiencing multi-year surges in electricity demand as a result.

Economic and manufacturing growth are also contributing to higher electricity use. As businesses expand and new industries take root, especially in rural and suburban areas, the demand for reliable, high-capacity power is increasing. The resurgence of domestic manufacturing has led to major facility construction. These facilities often require substantial energy loads, and many operate continuously to keep production lines running. This growth brings jobs and investment, but it also puts new pressures on the electric grid. Member number seven hundred thirty five thousand four hundred seventy seven.

Population growth and housing development are also contributing to rising demand in many regions, and everyday

life is becoming more energy-dependent, too. Smart appliances, connected devices, home offices, and entertainment systems are adding to overall consumption, even as efficiency improves.

While increased demand presents new challenges for electric utilities, it also has the potential to create significant opportunities for co-ops and the communities they serve, such as job growth, steady revenue, and improved infrastructure. Electric co-ops are responding by planning carefully for the future, investing in grid modernization, and offering programs and services to help co-op members conserve energy. Member number six hundred eighteen thousand five hundred forty eight.

CLP is approaching the increased demand for electricity by focusing on resilience. Construction of new power lines and reconstruction of old lines allows for increased electric capacity and structural strength, thus reducing constraints on new electric load and serving existing loads more reliably. CLP's resiliency plan also includes expanded ROW clearing to improve safety and reduce outage risk. Strategic planning is critical to ensuring the grid can support everything from EV charging to large-scale manufacturing plants.

Electricity powers nearly every aspect of today's economy, and its role will only grow stronger. As electrification accelerates, long-term planning becomes more important than ever.

CLP is ready to meet rising demand in our local communities. Through innovation, investment, and collaboration, we are preparing for a more reliable and resilient energy future.

NRECA is the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.



Attention Non-Profits!

Grant Application Deadline

To be considered for a Spring Operation Round Up Grant, applications must be received by **Feb 18th, 2026**.

Operation Round Up provides grants to local not-for-profit organizations and community projects, including food shelves, volunteer fire departments, and rural ambulance services. CLP members voluntarily participate by "rounding up" their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar.



Visit www.clpower.com/operation-round to download a grant application, or call CLP's office at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881.



YOUTH TOUR 2026 *Make Your Mark*

Attention

High school Sophomores & Juniors!

Make your mark this summer with a week of building memories, skills, leadership and friendships that will last a lifetime!

Application Date Clarification

The January issue of "Powerlines" contained an incorrect application deadline. The application period is now open, and all applications must be received by **February 18, 2026**, for consideration.



Visit www.clpower.com/youth-tour to download a application, or call CLP's office at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881.

Medical Emergency Power

According to Minnesota Statute 216B.098, Subd. 5, a utility shall reconnect or continue service to a customer's residence where a medical emergency exists or where medical equipment requiring electricity necessary to sustain life is in use, provided that the utility receives written certification, or initial certification by telephone and written certification within five business days, that failure to reconnect or continue services will impair or threaten the health or safety of a resident of the customer's household. Certification of the necessity for service is required. Certification may be provided by: (1) a licensed medical doctor; (2) a licensed physician assistant; (3) an advanced practice registered nurse; or (4) a registered nurse. Unless specific criteria are met, a certification may not extend beyond six months from the date of written certification. For any questions or to submit certification of a medical emergency, please contact CLP at 218-834-2226.



Stop by the CLP office to pick up your **FREE** 2026 Calendar!

The calendars feature beautiful photos from our amazingly talented local photographers, as well as energy-saving tips.

Westholm Scholarship

Cooperative Light & Power will award a total of \$6,000 in scholarships to students in our service territory. A total of six awards will be given. The award amount is \$1,000. Four of the scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in local schools (Two Harbor High School and William Kelley High School), and two scholarships will be awarded to students from high schools outside the area.

Scholarship guidelines and applications can be found on our website at www.clpower.com or from your guidance counselors at Two Harbors High School or William Kelley High School.

Scholarship Guidelines



Scholarship Application



Love Seeing These Recipes?

Do you enjoy the tasty recipes featured in our newsletter? We'd love to see your favorites, too! Share your delicious recipes with fellow members and get featured in an upcoming issue. As a thank you, you'll receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill when published. Mail in or drop off your recipes at our office.

Recipe: Date Bread

From the Kitchen of: Birdie Sjostrom

Instructions / Ingredients:

1. In a bowl mix and cool:
 - 1 c. chopped dates
 - 1 tsp. baking soda
 - 1 c. boiling water
2. In a bowl blend:
 - 1/4 tsp. baking powder • 1 1/2 c. flour
 - 1 c. sugar • 1 egg
 - 1 Tbsp. butter
3. Combine both mixtures and put into a greased bread pan.
4. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour at 350 F.



Dates to Know...

- Feb 16:** President's Day
CLP Office Closed
- Feb 18:** Operation Round-Up Grant & Youth Tour Applications Due
- Feb 25:** CLP Board Meeting & CLP Bills Due
- April 18:** CLP Annual Meeting

NOTE: CLP dates subject to change

To Report An Outage:

Call CLP at 834.2226 or 800.580.5881 during business hours or 800.927.5550 after hours.

BEFORE calling, please check your breakers. If an outage is found to be on your side of the meter, you will be billed for a service call.

Spot Your Number:

A \$20 electric credit is awarded each month to our faithful readers. Four account numbers are spelled out in each newsletter. If you find yours, notify CLP by the 25th of that month and a credit will be applied to your bill.

Credits claimed for December:

David or Diane Mulligan

Credits not December: Kevin or Angela Gray, Laurel Stauffer, Daniel or Cheri Gaylen

Call Before You Dig

800.252.1166 or 811
it's the law!

Call 800.252.1166 to locate underground wires. You must call at least 48-hours in advance before any excavations (this notice does not include weekends, holidays or emergencies). CLP will only locate the underground wires that are owned by CLP, we do not locate or take responsibility for locating wires beyond the meter location.

