

# PowerLines

*Your Trusted Energy News Source*

Monthly Publication of Cooperative Light & Power



**Community born.  
Community led.  
Focused on YOU.**

October is  
National Co-op Month

October 2021 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)

## Celebrating CLP During National Co-op Month

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build communities. Co-op Month is also a chance to leverage our shared cooperative identity in the face of some of the biggest challenges we face.

Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948. It's reason to celebrate because in America there are more than 40,000 cooperatives of all types supporting jobs that provide more than \$25 billion in wages. According to a study by the University of Wisconsin, funded in part by USDA, cooperatives have an estimated 350 million members.

October is National Co-op Month. An entire month devoted to celebrating co-ops and the value that co-ops bring to our local communities. Why do we celebrate? Your CLP employees are your neighbors and friends. CLP supports your child's sports team, senior pro-

grams, our first responders, and many more. CLP gives scholarships to our local high school seniors to assist them in furthering their education. CLP is in the community, providing free ice cream at the local band concerts, participating in local parades, holding community outdoor movie nights, providing youth activities, supporting community events,

hosting volunteer events, organizing toy drives, offering a medical equipment lending closet, and organizing caring closets in our schools. We support the communities we serve. That's why we celebrate!

Please join us on Friday, October 15th, to celebrate National Co-op Month.

## The Pie's On Us!

Join us on Friday, October 15th  
from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
to celebrate  
National Cooperative Month!

Pie and coffee will be served  
"Grab & Go" style in an effort to  
keep our employees, our members,  
and our community healthy.





## CLP and Great River Energy Continue Developing Industry Leadership Solutions for a Cleaner Environment

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/ GM

Great River Energy (GRE) and Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) focus on building a better future for the member-owners we serve. GRE has reduced costs over the past several years, mitigated our carbon risk, added renewables, and completed a transmission buildout. In addition, GRE has been working with Form Energy on a new kind of battery storage model that could be a game-changer if successful. The primary component of Form Energy's first-of-its-kind, multi-day battery, is also a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy: **Iron**.

Last year, GRE announced plans to replace Coal Creek Station with 900 megawatts of wind energy, which will lower our costs and double our current renewable capacity. Member account number seven hundred thirteen thousand one hundred sixty two. More recently, GRE and its member cooperatives, including CLP, decided to sell the plant because it saves our members money, preserves the jobs and communities that have been supplying our members energy for decades, and has a buyer that will pursue Carbon Capture & Sequester (CCS) technology. If successful, CCS technology is something that could - and

should - be replicated around the world, dramatically reducing carbon emissions globally.

In 2020, China, the world's largest polluter, built over three times as much new coal-fired power capacity as all other countries in the world combined - the equivalent of more than one large coal-fired power plant per week. China, along with four other countries, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Vietnam, account for 80% of the new coal power plants planned across the globe. "Carbon Tracker, a financial think tank, has found that China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Vietnam, plan to build more than 600 coal power units even though renewable energy is cheaper than most new coal plants."

Although China states it plans on being carbon neutral by 2060, what can be done to reduce global coal-fired power plant emissions along the way to the promise of an emission-free energy future? Since the air we all breathe is global, carbon capture and storage technology invented at Coal Creek and being done globally could make a big difference towards cleaner air for everyone, everywhere, while on the way to an all-renewable energy model.

Great River Energy's partner on its

upcoming Cambridge Energy Storage Project, Form Energy, recently revealed long-awaited details about its closely guarded technology that sets it apart from other grid-scale batteries.

"While other battery technologies employ expensive and rare metals, iron is one of the safest, cheapest, and most abundant minerals on earth," said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. "And, of course, our northern Minnesota member-owner cooperatives are located on one of the world's richest iron ore reserves."

The energy storage project is expected to be in operation at the end of 2023 in Cambridge, Minnesota. It will be the first commercial deployment of Form Energy's proprietary multi-day energy storage technology.

As a cooperative, CLP and GRE's success is determined largely by how well we serve our member-owners and interact with the world and people around us. Our efforts are paying off. Today, member satisfaction is at an all-time high, and we are resolutely committed to being a responsible corporate citizen and leader in the evolution of the electric industry.

### Call Before You Dig

**800.252.1166**  
**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.



### PowerLines

October 2021 - Vol. 23, Issue 10  
**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF**

Cooperative Light & Power  
Association of Lake County  
1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
[www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)

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.

### Important Contacts

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Scott Veitenheimer, President/Chair, District 2  
218-340-8968

Pat Schmieder, Vice-President, District 1  
218-834-2247

Kyle Weideman, Treasurer, District 3  
218-834-3476

Roger Peterson, Secretary, District 5  
218-226-8197

Steve Josephson, Director, District 4  
218-226-4163



# ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

## TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



### Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins

*From the Kitchen of: Kay Turk*

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 EGGS                 | 1½ CUP FLOUR             |
| 1 CUP SUGAR            | 1 TSP SODA               |
| 1 CUP PUMPKIN PUREE    | ½ TSP BAKING POWDER      |
| ¾ CUP VEGETABLE OIL    | 1½ TSP PUMPKIN PIE SPICE |
| ½ TSP VANILLA          | ¼ TSP SALT               |
| 1½ CUP CHOCOLATE CHIPS |                          |

Coat muffin tin with cooking spray or use liners. Whisk together eggs, sugar, pumpkin, vegetable oil and vanilla. In another bowl, stir together the flour, soda, baking powder, spice, and salt. Stir this into pumpkin mixture. Add chocolate chips. Place batter in muffin tin. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool 5 minutes in pan. Makes 12 muffins. For a real treat, frost them with cream cheese frosting!

## Dual Fuel and Freedom Heat Test to Run in October

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

The annual Dual Fuel and Freedom Heat equipment test sheds, or controls, are scheduled for Thursday, October 28th, and Saturday, October 30th, 2021.

The test will include both Dual Fuel Unlimited and Freedom Heat members. These tests will be performed between 6 PM and 9 PM unless there happens to be a billing peak control event on these days.

These tests are not only for the cooperative to be able to see who is and who is not controlling when they should be. It is also a good test for you, the member, to make sure your backup heating system is working as it should be when your primary electric heat is controlled or shut off.

The timing of the test will give you a little bit of time before winter hits to get these systems working as they should if you have already not done so. I would also like to remind you to have your backup heating system fuel supply properly stocked up for the winter. Member account number six hundred thirty five thousand five hundred fourteen. If you have any questions or concerns, you can call our office and ask for Ken Jones. I will be happy to help you out.

# CLP Paperless Statements and Payment Options

Sue Schmitz, Office Manager

Would you like to go paperless and receive your statement by email instead of by mail? Are you currently paying your bill by check and would like to save the cost of the stamp each month? Check out some of the options that we offer:

## Go Paperless

Receive your bills by email. This option is not only environmentally friendly, but it also saves CLP money! You can sign up for E-Bill through our online portal at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com). After you sign up, you will receive a notification via email, click the link in your email, and this will bring you to your online login page, where you can select not to receive a paper statement.

## Recurring ACH (Savings or Checking) Payments

Never be late on a payment again by joining the Automatic Bill Payment program (ACH). ACH will automatically deduct your funds from your checking/savings account. To set up ACH, you fill out our ACH form and include a voided check with the form. This form can be found on our website, mailed to you, or picked up at our office. ACH payment will be pulled on the date the bill is due. NOTE: If you sign up for our ACH program for the first time, you will receive a one-time \$10 credit on your statement. CLP does require that you remain on this program for a minimum of 12 months.

## Recurring Credit/Debit Card Payments

Have your bill automatically charged to your credit or debit card each month. Credit Cards are processed between the 10th and 12th of the month. Member account number six hundred eighty four thousand seven hundred seventy one. To

have your account charged to your credit card each month, you will need to fill out our Credit Card form. This form can be found on our website, mailed to you, or picked up at our office.

## Pay Online

Pay your electric bill 24/7 on our website. First-time users will need to create an online account. You can create an account at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com), Pay Bill, CLP Web Portal, Register. Here you will need to set up a username and password. For security, you will also need to have one identifier besides your account number, i.e., meter number, primary phone number on the account, or email address. This information needs to be your current information on your account. Once your account is set up, you will be able to access all your information regarding your account.

## Mobile App

You can also pay your bill 24/7 on our mobile app. Search your phone app store for Coop Light & Power. Download our mobile app. Register your account, and you will be able to view your account activity and pay your bill.

## Bank Bill Pay Systems

You can also utilize your bank's bill pay system. With this option, you must sign up through your bank. Keep in mind that most online bill payments through your bank issues a check and mails it to us. This process can take up to 10 days to get to our office.

We will always offer pay by mail and pay at the office options. For questions, please call 218-834-2226 or 1-800-580-5881.

---

## Tree Cutting Requests

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

CLP gets many requests to cut down trees around yards and buildings. These requests include small trees, big trees, HUGE trees, the neighbors' trees. We are happy to get these requests, as we do not want any member cutting down a tree that could possibly be dangerous to them being close to our lines and also have it accidentally take down our powerlines. When these requests come in, our office staff will make a job order and send out a crew to take a look.

CLP is happy to help cut limbs and cut down any trees threatening our powerlines as long as our crew can safely do so. Unfortunately, lately, we have received many requests to remove trees that are not actually threatening our powerlines. Many of these calls are for trees that are in danger of falling on a member's house, cabin, garage, or outbuilding. Please keep in mind that our linemen are not professional tree sawyers. Our crews will evaluate the tree and determine if the tree is threatening

our powerlines and if we can drop the tree without potentially damaging personal property. Suppose the crew cannot safely cut the tree. In that case, they will drop the powerlines, at no cost for the member, to allow the member to cut the tree themselves; or the member may hire a tree contractor to cut the tree.

CLP does not chip or remove any trees that they cut down. Tree clean-up is the responsibility of the member. Every situation is different when it comes to trees in yards. CLP likes to help out members whenever we can, but unfortunately, some requests are more than we can do.

**CLP Winter Business Hours:**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

## LEO Satellites

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

Low Earth Orbit or LEO satellites have been recently touted as the new space race. In the next few years, several companies are racing to launch thousands of small satellites around the globe, promising to deliver high-speed internet with speeds that rival fiber to customers in underserved, remote locations. Rather than sending internet signals through cables, which must be physically laid down, LEO satellite internet works by beaming information through the vacuum of space. The satellites use lasers to communicate with each other, creating a mesh network over the earth. Ultimately, the purpose of creating this large constellation of satellites is to have consistent, reliable, high-speed 100% global Internet coverage at an affordable price.

The most successful company to date deploying LEOs is Starlink. Starlink is owned by Elon Musk, who also happens to own Tesla and SpaceX. His competitor in the low earth orbit race is Amazon's Project Kuiper, owned by

Jeff Bezos, who, like Musk, also owns his own rocket company – Blue Origin. This is important because the largest cost of this system is getting the satellites into orbit, and both companies control the transportation to accomplish this.



As of late May 2021, SpaceX had launched more than 1,730 satellites overall. The constellation is now providing broadband service to 100,000 users in select areas around the world, including

our area, as part of a beta-test program. There are over 500,000 people on the waiting list.

SpaceX is one of the Companies awarded funding last fall through the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). The North Shore is one of the areas awarded where SpaceX committed to provide broadband service at speeds of at least 100Mb/s in the downlink and 20Mb/s up. LEO broadband will continue to expand and improve its capabilities and will be another great solution for rural broadband.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

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



## Are You Trespassing?

If you are hunting, riding an ATV, hiking, or snowmobiling under a powerline, it is important to remember that you may be trespassing on private property.

CLP uses the right-of-way to build and maintain their powerlines. To provide reliable electric service, we maintain these areas by controlling brush and tree regrowth in all easement areas. The property owners have granted CLP these easements to maintain these sites. Unless you, personally, have been granted permission by the property owner, you may be trespassing when you are on the right-of-way.





## Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of CLP Board of Directors was held at 1554 Highway 2 on July 28th, 2021. All Board members were present.

Also present for the meeting was General Manager/CEO Hal Halpern, Jon Brekke VP/Chief Power Supply Officer at Great River Energy and 11 member-owners.

There was a motion made and seconded to change the order of business for this meeting so the Board could discuss the sale of Coal Creek at the beginning of the Board meeting and then vote on the issue upon completion of members comments. Motion passed.

Scott Veitenheimer welcomed Jon Brekke, to answer all questions regarding the sale of Coal Creek. Jon took the floor and talked about Coal Creek and the information that has led up to this decision. Many good points and concerns were brought up and Jon responded to each one of them. Hal Halpern then offered his advice and recommendation from the CLP employees and thanked Jon for coming.

After all discussion was over, Scott Veitenheimer thanked Jon Brekke for coming here and answering all the members questions and concerns.

Scott Veitenheimer proceeded to read the resolution to the Board. A motion was made and seconded to

vote on the resolution and approve the sale of Coal Creek to Rainbow Energy. The motion was approved, and the Resolution passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Member account number six hundred twenty six thousand five hundred eighty four. Motion passed.

Scott Veitenheimer welcomed Susie Schmitz, Office Manager, to the meeting. She went over a few things for the new board members and answered any questions that they had on the check register and financials.

Susie Schmitz announced to the Board that she will be retiring after 43 years at the end of the year. The Board congratulated her.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the financials. Motion passed.

Larry Sandretsky joined the meeting to answer any questions that the Board had. The Board thanked Larry and his crew for all the work that they did to get the power back on after the major storms in our area.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the special meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Adjournment was called at 4:35 p.m.

## Year-to-date Financials

| <u>July</u>                    | <u>2011</u>  | <u>2020</u>  | <u>2021</u>  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Operating Revenue              | \$ 5,949,547 | \$ 7,678,399 | \$ 8,102,898 |
| Cost of Purchased Power        | \$ 3,417,130 | \$ 4,271,635 | \$ 4,851,763 |
| Other Operating Expenses       | \$ 2,211,415 | \$ 3,037,577 | \$ 3,075,524 |
| Total Cost of Electric Service | \$ 5,628,545 | \$ 7,309,212 | \$ 7,927,287 |
| Operating Margin (Loss)        | \$ 321,002   | \$ 369,187   | \$ 175,611   |
| Interest Income                | \$ 40,909    | \$ 104,287   | \$ 42,569    |
| Other Margins                  | \$ 214,975   | \$ (91,777)  | \$ (98,063)  |
| Capital Credits                | \$ 77,823    | \$ 15,430    | \$ 26,581    |
| Total Margins                  | \$ 654,709   | \$ 397,127   | \$ 146,698   |
| kWh Purchased                  | 58,000,710   | 60,600,276   | 63,018,142   |
| kWh Sold                       | 54,701,803   | 58,244,828   | 60,226,904   |
| Line Loss                      | 5.69%        | 3.89%        | 4.43%        |
| Members Billed                 | 5,925        | 6,271        | 6,347        |
| Average kWh Used, Residential  | 1,117        | 1,090        | 1,082        |
| Average Bill, Residential      | \$ 122.94    | \$ 141.61    | \$ 142.28    |
| Average Cost/kWh, Residential  | \$ 0.1101    | \$ 0.1299    | \$ 0.1315    |
| Interest Expense               | \$ 378,377   | \$ 261,874   | \$ 201,918   |

## Dates to Know...

- Oct 4:** CLP winter hours begin 7:30 - 4:00 Mon - Fri
- Oct 15:** Co-op Month Grab and Go Pie Day
- Oct 28:** Dual Fuel/Freedom Heat Test Shed 6-9pm
- Oct 29:** CLP Board Meeting
- Oct 30:** Dual Fuel/Freedom Heat Test Shed 6-9pm

*NOTE: CLP dates subject to change*

To view a complete version of the latest CLP Board Meeting Minutes please go to:

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

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

### 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 August:**

Bill and Donna Mcanally

**Credits not claimed:** Kathleen Johnson, Jenny Bergman, Joel Marsh

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

August Donations: \$1,619.70

Year-to-date Donations: \$13,210.61

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](http://www.clpower.com).