



# NewsFlashes

JULY 2024



## Energy Forum Promotes Member Engagement

As a member-owned electric cooperative, Lake Region strives to have a high level of member engagement. We value the input our members have and work to provide ongoing opportunities for you to get involved with your cooperative.

The recent Energy Forum, held at Thumper Pond on May 30<sup>th</sup>, was a great example of a chance for member engagement. Lake Region Electric Cooperative brought together industry experts to hold a conversation with members about the rapidly changing electric industry. We discussed the future of electricity supply and demand and looked at the steps currently underway to meet Minnesota's Carbon Free Standard by 2040.

Having panelists from different levels and segments of the energy industry helped provide a broad perspective on the issues discussed. Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), joined the meeting to talk about federal level energy issues and the growing demand for electricity. We also had Darrick Moe, CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), speak about Minnesota energy issues, including the state's 100 percent carbon-free legislation and the potential impact it will have on both the affordability and reliability of energy.

Representatives from our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy (GRE), spoke about power supply and the large transmission build out that is coming. Zac Ruzycki, director of

resource planning, covered GRE's energy portfolio. Transmission future was then discussed by Priti Patel, vice president and chief transmission officer. Vice President & Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke detailed how GRE is working to provide affordable and reliable energy.

Other Energy Forum topics included hydro power and the current and future impact of electric vehicles. Jim Horan, executive director of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association, spoke specifically about hydro power. It is significant for Lake Region since a percentage of our power comes from WAPA (hydro).

Breakout sessions at the Energy Forum consisted of an electric vehicle (EV) panel of EV owners, battery storage and standby generators with Briggs and Stratton, and Lake Region's local options – including generators, water heaters, and solar.

It was great to see so many of our members in attendance at this year's event. It is always a pleasure to see a room full of members, board members, and employees engaging in meaningful conversations. Having these types of opportunities is one of the things that sets our rural electric cooperative apart from other forms of business.

By choosing to engage with your cooperative, you help us learn how to best serve you. We believe a high level of member engagement builds a stronger cooperative for our future.



*Tom Thumper*

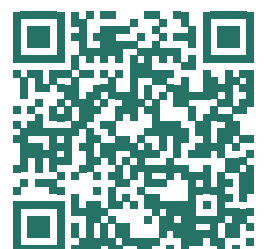


A member who attended the Energy Forum wrote a letter to Lake Region that included the following quote:

*"As we arise each day and flip a switch, as we start the coffee, we can reflect with gratitude, wonder, and awareness that our world is changing - dotted with wind farms, solar panels, fiber optics, and an organization that has the future in the palm of their hands. Thank you."*

Marion Bogenreif  
Member of Lake Region  
for 60 years

To view a recording of the Energy Forum, please visit [www.lrec.coop/energyforum](http://www.lrec.coop/energyforum) or scan the QR code below.



**ENERGY FORUM**  
*A Cooperative Conversation*



# LREC Events Calendar

AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

## Twins Youth Baseball Clinic

LREC is hosting a **FREE** Twins Youth Baseball Clinic at the *Jefferson Park Baseball Field* in Breckenridge, MN. It is open to everyone ages 6-12.

AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>

## Blood Drive at LREC

A blood drive will be hosted at LREC headquarters in Pelican Rapids! From 9 a.m.–3 p.m., we will need volunteers willing to donate blood or Power Red.

AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>

## Member Appreciation Event

Join LREC at our upcoming *Member Appreciation Event* at Maplewood State Park on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 3–7 p.m. There will be free park admittance, dinner, a live band (Retro Junction), safety demonstrations, and more! Registration required.



To learn more and register, visit [www.lrec.coop/events](http://www.lrec.coop/events) and select the event you are interested in.

## 2023 Capital Credit Allocation

As a member-owner of LREC, you invest in your co-op through your energy purchases. Each year, any *margin* (revenue after expenses) earned by your co-op is reinvested. That margin is proportionally *allocated* to capital credit accounts for each member-owner based on their electric use during the year. These accounts are maintained until the credits are retired (paid).

A capital credit payment is proof that you are a member-owner of a success-

ful, effective organization. As a member-owner of LREC, you are *automatically eligible* for capital credits. This is the value of being a member-owner, rather than just a customer.

This year, the LREC Board of Directors approved a capital credit allocation totaling **\$3,131,034**. This total includes \$1,202,694 from LREC and \$1,928,340 from Great River Energy (GRE). Please check your electric bill for the *2023 Capital Credit Allocation* details.



For more info and frequently asked questions, scan the QR code to the right or visit [www.lrec.coop/capitalcredits](http://www.lrec.coop/capitalcredits)  
Note: this is only a notification – capital credit funds are not being disbursed at this time.

## Handling the Heat

As the summer days warm up in Minnesota, we see an uptick in electrical demand to cool homes and businesses. The good news is that LREC's wholesale power provider, Great River Energy (GRE), is prepared to call upon additional generation resources to meet this demand.

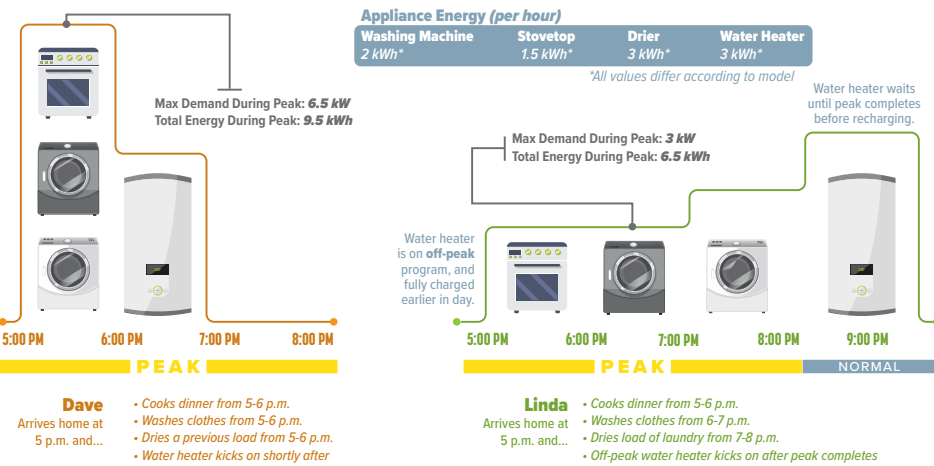


GRE owns and operates a fleet of modern, flexible, and efficient natural gas **peaking station** power plants located at strategic locations throughout the state. These facilities can be started in a matter of minutes with the flip of a switch, feeding precise amounts of electricity onto the grid when members need it most.

## Understanding Energy Demand

*Demand* is the measurement of the maximum amount of electricity that is being used at one time. You could use the same amount of electricity as your neighbor on any given day, but if you are using most of that electricity during one hour after work, your **DEMAND** is higher than your neighbor's, especially if it occurs during times

of peak electrical usage. Consider the following example of how two different hypothetical co-op members, Dave and Linda, spend their evening (*note: in this example Linda is on a program that controls her water heater during periods of peak electrical usage in exchange for a lower energy rate for electricity used by the water heater*).



The result is that Linda's **demand** is much lower than Dave's, even though they have the same total **energy** use. It is also worth noting that Linda's overall energy use during the peak electrical usage period is less as well.

While Lake Region Electric Cooperative has the capacity to power all of its members' homes and businesses during high-demand times of day (*usually 6-9 a.m. and 5-8 p.m.*), that high-demand electricity is provided to the co-op at a higher cost.

Members help the cooperative save on these higher costs when they are mindful of their electricity-based tasks, and especially so when they take advantage of our various load control programs for both water heating and space heating.

As a member, savings for the co-op are passed on to you in the form of stable electricity rates and a more reliable, balanced electric grid. Thank you for helping us lower demand and keep our community power strong!



Pleasant Valley Station has a summer generating capability of 421 megawatts.

There is approximately 1,400 megawatts of peaking generation capacity available in GRE's portfolio to provide energy in any amount – from a small boost to the fleet's full output. Most of the peaking plants are also **dual fuel** facilities, meaning they can operate on fuel oil when natural gas supply is constrained. With these assets in place, you can depend on LREC to provide reliable, affordable electricity throughout all of Minnesota's seasons.

### Notice to Distributed Generation Facilities

In compliance with Lake Region Electric Cooperative's adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Lake Region Electric Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Lake Region Electric Cooperative is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases is subject to resolution by the Lake Region Electric Board of Directors. Interested members should contact Lake Region Electric Cooperative, 1401 S. Broadway, PO Box 643, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 or call (800) 552-7658, or visit the cooperative website at [www.lrec.coop](http://www.lrec.coop).

Learn more about LREC's Products & Programs in the included insert this month!

# Programs & Services

All the ways you can save with our rebates and services!



SUMMER 2024

## 2024 Energy Efficiency Rebates

See our rebates on energy efficiency! These can be combined with federal rebates available via the Inflation Reduction Act: [www.lrec.coop/ira](http://www.lrec.coop/ira)

### Heating and Cooling

	Ductless air source heat pump: Must be > 1 Ton, SEER2 ≥ 15.2 & HSPF2 ≥ 8.1	\$500
Heat Pump Systems *See note below	Ducted air source heat pumps: Must be either 1) SEER2 ≥ 14.3 & HSPF2 ≥ 7.5, or 2) SEER2 ≥ 15.2 & HSPF2 ≥ 8.1	1) \$750* 2) \$1,000*
	Geothermal heat pump, closed loop (max \$4,000): new (1) or replacement (2)	1) \$400/ton 2) \$200/ton
Central Air Conditioners *See note below	Central air conditioner, SEER ≥ 15 or SEER2 ≥ 14.3	\$50/unit*
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heating Systems	Steffes ETS systems on short term storage	\$25 per KW
	All ETS systems on long term storage	\$50 per KW
Electronically Commutated Motor	Motor replacement only	\$50

### Water Heating

Heat Pump Water Heater	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$500
ETS Water Heater (5.5¢ rate)	Must be at least 100 gallons and grid enabled with mixing valve	\$400
Peak Shave Water Heater (6.1¢ rate)	Must be at least 80 gallons and grid enabled	\$100

### Miscellaneous

Electric Vehicle Charger Installation	Level 2 chargers: \$500 (must be on EV rate)	Up to \$500
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\*Please Note: rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps and air conditioners are available only through qualified contractors. Please visit [www.lrec.coop/qicontractors](http://www.lrec.coop/qicontractors) to view the list of qualified contractors for all Great River Energy co-ops.

All rebates are subject to change. Please contact LREC to verify availability.

## Off-Peak Space Heating

### Stay comfortable while saving!

Steffes electric thermal storage (ETS) heaters store heat in specially-designed ceramic bricks for extended periods of time so you can stay warm while saving money! Steffes offers two products for your home — Room Heaters and Whole House Forced Air.

### Steffes Room Heaters

- ⚡ Qualifies for **low 5.5¢ ETS rate** or **6.1¢ STS rate**
- ⚡ Up to \$50 per KW rebate
- ⚡ Great for a single room or entire home
- ⚡ Replaces wood stoves, wall furnaces, or electric baseboard
- ⚡ Interest-free **EASY-PAY** — pay for heaters over 48 months on your bill with no money down!



### Steffes Forced Air

- ⚡ System is eligible for **5.5¢ ETS rate**
- ⚡ Get \$50 per KW rebate for Steffes Comfort Plus on ETS
- ⚡ Combine with ASHP (up to \$630 rebate available) to reduce electricity usage of ETS systems by nearly 50%
- ⚡ Interest-free **EASY-PAY** — pay for heaters over 48 months on your bill with no money down!



## Off-Peak Water Heating

### Save money while you sleep!

Water heaters on our electric thermal storage (ETS) rate use electricity during the low demand times when electricity costs less. Heat your water while you sleep and save up to 50% on your water heating rate.

- ⚡ Our 5.5¢ ETS rate is the lowest cost water heating rate available
- ⚡ Receive up to \$500 in rebates toward a new water heater
- ⚡ Use our **EASY-PAY** purchase plan and pay over time with your electric bill
- ⚡ There are peak shave rate options also available
- ⚡ We have 80 & 100 Gallon capacity water heaters available
- ⚡ Our residential water heaters have a lifetime warranty

Up to \$500 in rebates available!



Rheem Heat Pump Water Heater



Marathon Lightweight tank that won't corrode

Pay the easy way with **EASY-PAY**

**EASY-PAY** is on-bill financing offered by LREC. Pay monthly for your purchase rather than a lump sum. We offer low interest financing starting at 0% up to 5%! Visit [www.lrec.coop/easypay](http://www.lrec.coop/easypay) to learn more.



## Standby Generators

Summer is here and we are actively installing generators. [Call now to reserve your spot!](#) Our energy management specialists will walk you through the best options available for your home. Give us a call today at **(800) 552-7658** to schedule a consultation.

- ⚡ From Briggs & Stratton—*The Power Experts!*
- ⚡ Standby generator system intelligently powers your whole house, automatically powering what you need when you need it most
- ⚡ Generator automatically starts when the power goes out
- ⚡ Sold and installed by LREC
- ⚡ Eligible for 48-month **EASY-PAY** plan
- ⚡ Runs on natural gas or LP (*provided by others*)
- ⚡ Omnimetrix monitoring system

Let our energy management specialists find the best option for you. Call **(800) 552-7658** today!



**13 kW**  
POWER PROTECT



Starts at \$10,230.70

**18 kW**  
POWER PROTECT



Starts at \$11,031.55

**26 kW**  
POWER PROTECT



Starts at \$12,307.80

## GoWest Solar Installation

GOWEST  
SOLAR

GoWest Solar is a pioneering effort to increase the value of solar energy. The solar array is **aligned at 240°** to the southwest, optimizing electricity production during summer evenings when electric demand is high and market value is greatest.

- ⚡ GoWest Solar helps you save by utilizing solar-produced kWh to offset your electric use. Every kWh you produce is one you do not have to pay for on your electric bill.
- ⚡ Summer peak demand reduction—GoWest Solar is designed to produce power during the peak demand hours of summer which then creates additional benefits for co-op members.
- ⚡ Excess solar production that flows back into the Lake Region electric grid will be purchased at the co-op's wholesale energy cost.

Field photo of the 7.7kW GoWest solar array



### GoWest Solar Pricing and Payback

SYSTEM SIZE	INVERTER kW AC	SYSTEM COST	COST AFTER 30% TAX CREDIT	ANNUAL kWh	ENERGY SAVINGS	DEMAND CREDITS	TOTAL SAVINGS	SIMPLE PAYBACK (YEARS)	GRID ACCESS FEE (YEARLY)
Small	3.8	\$11,900	\$8,330	4,758	\$508	\$90	\$598	14	\$2.92
Large	7.6	\$19,000	\$13,300	9,642	\$1,030	\$183	\$1,213	11	\$39.85