



Rising Energy Costs Managed by Forward Thinking

Bill Scott
President & Chief Executive Officer

As we enter the new year, we naturally reflect on the past and set a course for growth and improvement into the future. It is important to assess our performance, celebrate our success, and develop a plan to maintain or correct trajectory. We are especially proud of two major milestones reached in 2021—connecting more than 11,000 members to Trustream’s high speed fiber internet and surpassing the \$4 million mark in grants awarded to local organizations with the People Fund since the program’s inception in 1999.

As we look ahead to the new year, one aspect of course correction will come with the adjustment of our Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) Factor. The PSCR Factor is a rate based on the expected energy costs from our supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative. In the past, you may have noticed fluctuations in the PSCR Factor on your monthly bills. When costs were lower, the PSCR would follow suit, sometimes even as a credit or reduction on your bill. This meant that costs fell below expected rates and we could provide power at less than the anticipated price.

With variables like the cost of coal and natural gas on the rise due to supply deficits and reduced production, along with an uptick of time spent at home and rising peak load demands attributed to COVID, adjusting the PSCR Factor is a necessary response. Beginning with February bills, this will result in an increase to the PSCR Factor climbing from \$0.00/kWh to \$0.01177/kWh for residential and seasonal members.

Because we are a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative, we work hard to provide our members with reliable electricity at an optimal value. We work directly with our power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative, to enhance their fuel mix in order to better mitigate energy costs amid fluctuating natural gas and coal prices. By drawing from a diversified portfolio of fuel sources, which is roughly 63% carbon-free, the impact of a volatile period in energy costs is made

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more manageable. Compared to the average fuel mix for our region at around 36% carbon-free, we are far better insulated from the effects of rising energy costs than our neighboring electric utilities. In other words, the strain of energy volatility is felt universally by electric utilities, but our careful planning ensures that this strain is lessened for our members by comparison.

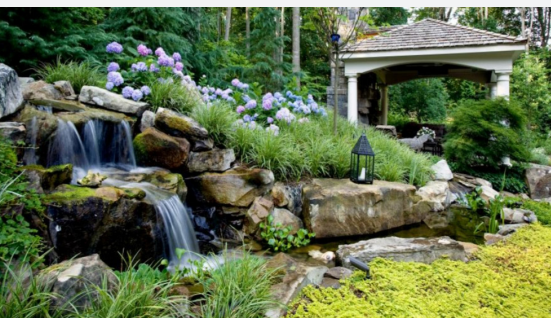
This is a benefit of the forward thinking and commitment to improvement that our members expect from us.

GLE exists to serve our members, and we’re constantly working to improve the service we provide. Every decision and improvement made is performed with the best interest of our members in mind. As we progress through the new year, this sentiment will remain at our forefront ensuring that we are positioned for success despite the future challenges that may await us.

2022 PSCR FACTOR RATE CHANGE INCREASE*

	Residential	Seasonal
Average kWh/month	815	315
PSCR Factor	\$0.01177	\$0.01177
Monthly	\$9.97	\$3.86
Annually	\$119.70	\$46.26

*Effective with February 2022 bills. Other rate changes for commercial accounts will also occur.



Pay My Bill Photo Contest Winner

Beth Fiedorwicz, of Baldwin, is the 2021 winner of Great Lakes Energy's Pay My Bill Photo Contest.

The winner received a credit up to \$200 that was applied to their Great Lakes Energy December 2021 electric bill.

The winning photo above was selected in a random drawing of all entries that appeared in Michigan Country Lines in 2021 and was published in the April issue.

▶ Thank you to the many GLE members who participated. Members are welcome to send in photos for our 2022 contest.



Great Lakes Energy Powers Classroom Technology

Great Lakes Energy recently awarded \$30,070.68 in grants to help 21 classrooms implement technology-based programs in their schools.

Grants awarded for the 2021-2022 school year bring the total to 243,000 for 168 projects since GLE launched its program in 2012.

These schools received classroom grants for the 2021-2022 school year.

- ▶ Boyne City High School, Boyne City: \$1,000 for microscopes.
- ▶ Boyne City Middle School, Boyne City: \$1,000 for a groundwater flow simulator.
- ▶ Boyne Falls Public School, Boyne Falls: \$1,850 for drones.
- ▶ Charlevoix Montessori Academy for the Arts, Charlevoix: \$2,000 for STEM kits.
- ▶ Evert Middle School, Evert: \$2,000 for drones.
- ▶ Franklin and Lakeview Elementary, Ludington: \$599 for Doodler pens.
- ▶ Grant High School, Grant: \$2,000 for audio recording equipment.
- ▶ Grayling Elementary, Grayling: \$700 for Micro:bits.
- ▶ Harbor Springs High School, Harbor Springs: \$1,995 for flight simulators.
- ▶ Inland Lakes Elementary, Indian River: \$1,379.94 for Chromebooks.
- ▶ Ludington Area Catholic School, Ludington: \$1,000 for Breakout Boxes from Breakout EDU.
- ▶ McBain Middle School, McBain: \$2,000 for LEGO Education Spike Prime kits.
- ▶ McFall Elementary, Middleville: \$1,000 for sensorimotor room equipment.
- ▶ Newaygo High School, Newaygo: \$500 for giant Angry Birds.
- ▶ Oceana Christian School, Hart: \$2,000 for STEM kits.
- ▶ Patricia St. Clair Elementary, Hesperia: \$1,700 for iPads.
- ▶ Pine River Middle School, LeRoy: \$1,100 for Lego Robotics and Coding.
- ▶ Shelby Early Childhood Center, Shelby: \$1,286.74 for Square Panda Literacy System.
- ▶ St. Mary School, Big Rapids: \$2,000 for STEM kits.
- ▶ Thornapple Kellogg Middle School: Middleville, \$1,000 for virtual reality goggles.
- ▶ Wolverine Elementary, Wolverine: \$1,960 for Lego League kits.

▶ Online applications for the 2022-2023 school year open in September 2022. To learn more, visit gtlakes.com/



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