



NewsFlashes

AUGUST 2023

LREC is proud to announce the newly constructed Hobart Substation. This substation will be serving the second largest load in LREC's history.



Serving our Members

I have mentioned it many times before, but LREC is here to serve you, our member-owners. We never take the service you deserve for granted, and we want to continue to increase the value of your membership. Our goal is to make sure you feel the value of being a member of LREC is not limited to the value of your capital credits, and we always strive to accomplish this goal through:

- Providing educational opportunities such as learning about our energy transition at the Energy Forum held at Thumper Pond earlier this year and our engagement with teaching students about safety and electricity at schools in our service territory
- Meetings with groups from churches and civic organizations throughout our service territory that I hope are enjoyed by our members as much as I enjoy them
- Highlighting the local decisions made by the people you elect to serve on the LREC Board of Directors
- Promoting economic development throughout our service territory by facilitating grant and loan opportunities for local developers that only electric cooperatives are eligible for by and through the United States Department of Agriculture
- Showing appreciation for our members and engaging with members through our District Meetings, Annual Meetings, holding events like the Member Appreciation Day enjoyed by 700 or so people at Glendalough State Park in June, having a booth at the East Otter Tail County Fair last month, and the Free Twins Baseball/Softball Clinic for children ages 6-12 this month

Safety is our Priority

We never take safety for granted, and I really enjoyed a couple recent opportunities I had to meet with our crews in the field to “tailgate” with some grilled lunch and great conversations focused on safety and teamwork. Our state-wide organization, the



Tim Thompson's CEO Column continues on back page →



Rate Increase FAQs

At Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC), *transparency* and *open communication* are core principles in how we interact with our members. We have endeavored to explain the upcoming general service rate increase (*effective September 1st, 2023*) in detail so our members are well-informed. We've compiled a list of frequently asked questions below for your convenience. If you have a question or concern that isn't addressed, you can reach out to us at (800) 552-7658 or via our online chat at www.lrec.coop.

Why are rates changing? The rate change is due to rising wholesale power costs from Great River Energy (GRE), increasing material costs, and other inflationary change.

How much are the rates changing? For residential and farm, our monthly facility charge is going from \$24 to \$39 and energy rates (per kWh) are moving from 10.9¢ to 9.6¢ (12.2¢ to 11¢ for summer months of June, July and August).

Can I see how it affects me specifically? If you are interested in seeing how the rate change affects you, we have created an online bill calculator available at <https://ratecalc.lrec.coop>. Simply scan the QR code to the right to visit.



When are rates changing? Our general service rate change will take effect *September 1st, 2023* (this will be reflected on your October bill). Our off-peak rate increase was implemented *January 1st, 2023*.

New Website for LREC

LREC has launched a new user-friendly website, designed to make our services and programs easy for our members to find. With user experience and access in mind, the redesigned website is responsive for both mobile and desktop users, and we've organized content for quick information retrieval. Experience it now at www.lrec.coop!



CEO Column

(continued from front page)

Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), regularly visits our employees and conducts safety training for them to make sure they remain safe and to make sure our members and the public remain safe around electricity. Anthony Lenz, the Director of Safety Services for MREA, does a great job of staying connected with LREC on safety, as well as all the other Minnesota electric co-ops that are members of MREA.

Exciting opportunities for LREC

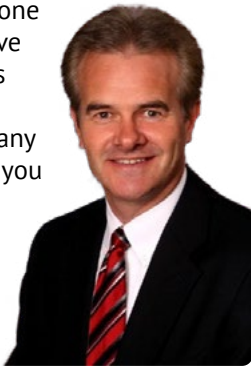
We all may have heard about different grant and loan opportunities being made available by the federal government. At LREC, we continue to keep our finger on the pulse when it comes to opportunities that may benefit our membership. Staying on top of all the different grant and loan opportunities can be challenging, but very rewarding. LREC is currently involved with several grant applications submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy for funding related to:

- A Utility Scale Battery Project
- Acquiring 100 Residential Batteries
- A Substation Tie Project
- A Wind/Solar/Battery Storage Project
- A Microgrid

Please note we do not know whether all, some, or any of the applications for funding referred to above will be granted. We will keep you informed as to the status of them as time goes on. Regardless, we continue to seek out these types of opportunities to best position our members for the future.

We challenge ourselves every day at LREC to do whatever we can to serve you, keep everyone safe, and stay proactive seeking opportunities that will help serve LREC members for many years to come. Thank you for your support and motivating us to be the best version LREC can be!

Tim Thompson



Lakes Area EV Event

When: August 12th • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes

- Ride and/or drive an electric vehicle (EV)
- Talk to EV owners and sit in their cars: ask questions about owning and driving an EV
- Learn about how the Inflation Reduction Act provides incentives for EVs

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.

Understanding Power Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which may have resulted from a *power blink*.

Power blinks are brief service interruptions typically caused by a *fault* (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to a fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, such as squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events.

When a fault occurs, a device called an oil circuit recloser (OCR) kicks into action – functioning much like a breaker in the electrical panel in your home:

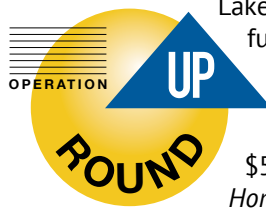
- ▶ First, the OCR opens to stop the fault, and then quickly closes again, resulting in a "blink" in power
- ▶ If the disturbance on the line persists, the OCR will continue to operate or "trip" two more times and then remain open, resulting in a power outage

This is a safety mechanism that protects the system by cutting off power to the affected section of the line in order to isolate the problem until it can be repaired. Otherwise, the fault (and the resulting outage) could affect everyone on the entire substation feeder.

While "blinks" may be a temporary aggravation, they are actually indicators that our system is functioning properly. The next time you experience a "blink," be assured that our system is working as it should to ensure that as few members as possible experience any resulting outage.



Operation Round Up Awards \$10,000 in Funding to Local Organizations



Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) voluntary charitable fundraising program Operation Round Up (ORU) hosted its quarterly meeting on July 10th. During the meeting, the ORU Board of Trustees awarded a total of \$10,000 to the following two local organizations in LREC's service area: \$5,000 to *Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity* and \$5,000 to *Hornets Hive DBA CornerStone*.

Since ORU began in 2007, LREC has awarded \$606,120 and has made an enormous impact on the members and communities LREC serves. To learn more about the organizations that received funding, please follow our Facebook page ([@LakeRegionElectricCoop](https://www.facebook.com/LakeRegionElectricCoop)) as we connect with and spotlight recipients.

Have a community project needing funds?

Please complete the online *Operation Round Up Request for Funding* form found at www.lrec.coop/oru and submit it with documentation for consideration. Applications for the next round of funding will be accepted until **September 15th, 2023**.

Small Change that Changes Lives

As an LREC member, you can participate in ORU by donating the extra change on your electric bill when rounding up to the next dollar (\$0.01-\$0.99 each month). Sign up in SmartHub, email billing@lrec.coop, or call (800) 552-7658.

SEALED BID
SUBMIT BID AT WWW.LREC.COOP/BID
BEFORE 4:00PM (CST) AUGUST 31ST



2012 Ford F550 Versalift

- 200,019 miles
- 4 wheel drive with lockout hubs
- 6.7L Diesel
- Versalift model VST 40MHI
- Hydraulic pump fitting leaks oil at motor



1998 Bobcat Skid Steer

- Serial Number: 512228769
- Model 763
- Heat
- 2,446 hours
- Tires: 1/3 tread 10-16.5