



NewsFlashes

SEPTEMBER 2023

Fall weather means harvest time on the farm. **Be on the lookout for overhead power lines and utility poles.** Make sure there are ample clearances when moving large machinery. **Look up! Stay safe!**

Tim Thompson's CEO Column

When I check my *Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)* app on my phone, it regularly shows (with some variation) approximately 80%-90% of MISO's electricity generation coming from coal, natural gas, and nuclear. The *Real-Time Displays* pictured to the right is a screenshot I took from the MISO app on August 15th, and it provides a picture on a real-time basis of where the MISO footprint's electricity is generated from. Please note the app does not represent just Minnesota, but represents the entire MISO footprint running from Manitoba to Louisiana. With that said, Minnesota is a bit ahead of the curve because in 2022, renewables accounted for 31% of Minnesota's total in-state electricity net generation. Coal, natural gas, and nuclear accounted for 69%. Although Minnesota's numbers aren't as staggering as the MISO screenshot, we still have a long way to go to achieve Minnesota's carbon-free standard signed into law earlier this year, and we must remain mindful of cost and reliability.



impacting the reliable delivery of electricity across the nation:

- Increasing demand for electricity as other sectors of the economy are electrified
- Decreasing electricity supply due to the disorderly retirement and insufficient replacement of existing generation
- Permitting delays that prevent new electric infrastructure from being built and connected to the grid
- Supply chain challenges
- Problems with natural gas availability

Darrick Moe, the CEO of our statewide organization, *Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA)*, recently wrote an article published in the *Star Tribune* and it started out with "Minnesotans expect the lights to come on every time they flip the switch". To echo the sentiments of Darrick Moe, LREC and other experts in the industry want to make it clear that the path to a reliable carbon-free future presents a monumental challenge. I agree with Darrick that we must take an all-tech-on-deck approach and we cannot have mandates restricting our creativity when exploring emerging technologies when looking to the future.

Minnesota Twins Clinic

LREC had a lot of fun hosting the *Twins Free Youth Baseball Clinic* in Pelican Rapids on Friday, August 4th. About 80 kids



from all over our service territory and community attended the event. We received great feedback from many of them indicating they had a great experience. Based on the success of the event, we look forward to hosting similar clinics in different parts of our service area throughout the years! Many thanks to the Minnesota Twins, Great River Energy (GRE) for sponsoring the event, the Pelican Rapids School District for making its baseball facilities available for the event, and to all the kids and their families and friends for making this such a special event! Participants were provided with lunch and a GRE tote bag containing Twins baseball cards and a special LREC logoed baseball.



Photo by Leighton Broadcasting

Lakes Area EV Event

We had a great time visiting with people at the recent Lakes Area EV Event held in Detroit Lakes on Saturday, August 12th. We provided folks an opportunity to drive our electric vehicle and we had our employee who drives our EV regularly participate on a panel with others sharing their personal EV experiences. This was LREC's second year participating in this event and we look forward to other similar opportunities!



Tim Thompson

RATE CHANGE: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY, AND WHERE

Who: All LREC members/all rate classes.

What: Rate changes across all rate classes. The rate class relevant to many is the Residential/Farm which has the following changes: facility charge goes from \$24 to \$39 and energy rates (per kWh) from 10.9¢ to 9.6¢ (12.2¢ to 11¢ for summer months of June, July, and August).

When: New rates in effect as of **September 1st, 2023.**

Why: Rising wholesale power costs from Great River Energy (GRE), increasing material costs, and other inflationary change.

Where: Go to <https://ratecalc.lrec.coop> to preview how your bill may be affected by the new rates.

Stack Your Rebates on Energy Efficient Upgrades

With Lake Region Electric Cooperative and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW THE IRA OFFERS HOMEOWNERS OPPORTUNITIES TO SAVE:



The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed into federal law on August 16th, 2022, offers funding, programs, and incentives to accelerate the transition to clean energy. Specifically, this bill aims to invest in energy production and reduce carbon emissions in the United States.

Under the IRA, LREC members can potentially claim extra tax credits and rebates, in addition to what LREC already offers. Check out the stackable rebate opportunities below. Energy efficient items covered that match LREC's current rebates include: water heater, heat pump system (geothermal/air source), and an electric vehicle (EV) charger.

LREC Product	Cost	LREC Rebate	IRA Tax Credit	Cost*
Solar 3.8 kW small array	\$11,900.00	N/A	30% of total cost	\$8,330.00
Solar 7.6 kW large array	\$19,000.00	N/A	30% of total cost	\$13,300.00
Heat Pump Water Heater 50 gal	\$1,776.50	\$500.00	30% up to \$2,000/yr	\$893.55
Heat Pump Water Heater 85 gal	\$2,551.11	\$500.00	30% up to \$2,000/yr	\$1,435.78
Ductless ASHP ≥ 8.2	Varies	\$500.00	30% up to \$2,000/yr	N/A
Ducted ASHP ≥ 8.2	Varies	\$500.00	30% up to \$2,000/yr	N/A
Ducted ASHP ≥ 9.0	Varies	\$800.00	30% up to \$2,000/yr	N/A
Geothermal HP, Closed Loop	Varies	\$400/ton	30% of total cost	N/A
EV Charger 7.7kW ZEFNET 40	\$895.00	\$500.00	30% up to \$600/yr	\$276.50
EV Charger 11.5kW ZEFNET 60	\$1,129.00	\$500.00	30% up to \$600/yr	\$440.30
New EV	Varies	N/A	Up to \$7,500	N/A
Used EV	Varies	N/A	Up to \$4,000	N/A

*COST IS APPROXIMATE.

Have a community project needing funds?



Operation Round Up contributions are distributed primarily in the local area served by Lake Region Electric Cooperative. If you know a **non-profit, charitable organization** in need, please let them know how they can apply.

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**.



3 Ways to Sign Up for Operation Round Up

- 1) Visit www.lrec.coop/oru and use the web form there
- 2) Check the box on your billing statement next to "Sign me up for Operation Round Up"
- 3) Go to SmartHub, visit *Billing & Payments*, then select *Operation Round Up* to enroll

Help Keep Energy Reliable & Affordable in Minnesota

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is just one of 50 electric cooperatives that serves rural energy consumers in Minnesota. We have partnered with other Minnesota cooperatives through our statewide organization, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), and our national organization, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to ensure we have a voice at the table. We want to make sure cooperative voices are heard when it comes to energy policy in Minnesota.

Help us advocate for reliable and affordable energy for all of Minnesota's energy consumers by signing up for **Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP)**. This network of electric cooperative member-consumers is working to ensure the needs of rural America are reflected in state and national policy decisions.

 Learn more and sign up at voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota

Cold Weather Rule FAQs

Can my power be disconnected for non-payment in the winter? Yes, it can.

How do I sign up for the CWR protection? Contact the LREC Accounts Receivable Team by calling (218) 863-9842 or visit www.lrec.coop/cwr and fill out the form.

What if I can't make my scheduled payments? Contact the LREC Accounts Receivable Team by calling (218) 863-9842 to discuss a different payment plan. If you do not make payments your service can be disconnected.

Energy Assistance

The Energy Assistance Program is designed to assist income eligible households with the cost of energy/heating their homes. To receive assistance, household income for the last three months must be below certain income guidelines.

Request application of Mahube-Otwa:

Detroit Lakes:
(218) 847-1385

Fergus Falls:
(218) 739-3011

Mahnomen:
(218) 935-5022

Park Rapids:
(218) 732-7204

Wadena:
(218) 632-3600

Toll-free:
(888) 458-1385

Cold Weather Rule

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule (MN Statute, Ch. 235, Sec. 216B.097) protects residential utility customers during the cold winter months. Under this rule, your electric service will not be disconnected from October 1st through April 30th because of non-payment provided you meet ALL of the following conditions:

- You declare an inability to pay.
- Your total household, not individual, income is less than 50% of the state median income. You must provide the necessary documentation to support this condition.
- You enter into and make reasonable, timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

If you do not meet all of the above conditions, then you do not qualify for the winter shut-off protection. However, you still can continue to receive electric service if you call us to make a mutually acceptable payment arrangement. Residential customers who cannot qualify for winter shut-off protection and who cannot pay their full bill may make special payments over an extended period of time. To arrange for scheduled payments, call (218) 863-9842.