



# NewsFlashes

JUNE 2025



Linemen Jason Haman and Erik Olson give a safety demonstration as part of LREC's participation in Ag in the Classroom Day at Frazee-Vergas Elementary.

## Meet Our New CEO

Please join LREC staff and the Board of Directors in welcoming our Cooperative's new CEO, Joel Janorschke!

Janorschke was named CEO on May 6<sup>th</sup> following the recruitment and interview process by the Board CEO search committee and Debra Englund of *HRExpertiseBP* that began in March.

Set to officially begin his new role on June 16<sup>th</sup>, Joel comes to LREC from *Cooperative Light & Power (CLP)* in Two Harbors, MN, where he served as that organization's CEO since October 2022.

Originally from St. Joseph, MN, Janorschke's experience in the electric power industry runs deep, beginning his career as an apprentice lineworker with both *Anoka Electric Co-op* and *Stearns Electric Association* before achieving his journeyman certification. Other previous positions in our field include Light Construction Crew Chief, Maintenance Crew Chief, Design Engineer, and Operations Manager before assuming his role as CEO. During his time with CLP, Janorschke initiated the implementation of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program – resulting in a reduction of tree-related outages of 21% – and assisted the Board in both redistricting efforts and amendment of the organization's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, which received member approval this past spring.

Janorschke is also a graduate of St. Cloud State University's Herberger

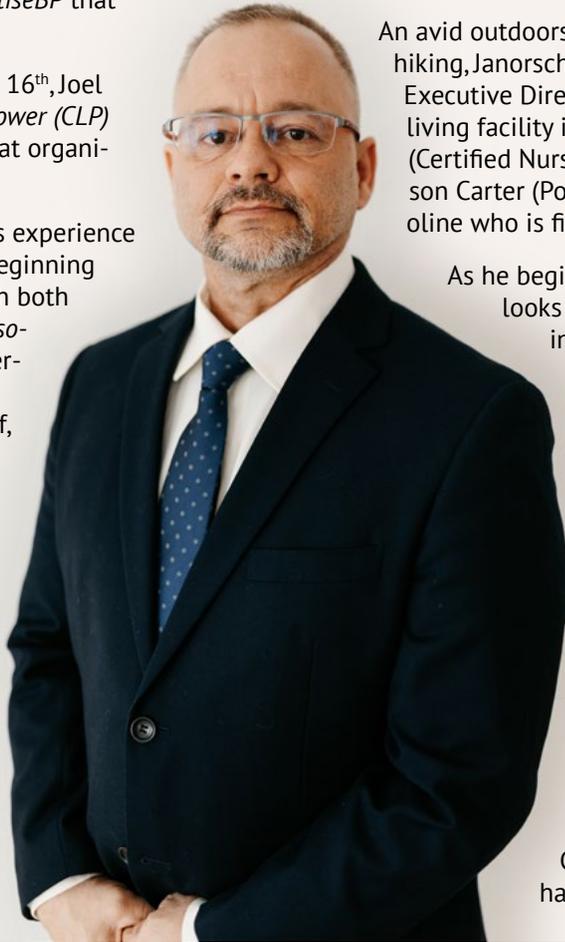
Business School, receiving both an MBA (June 2022) and a Graduate Certificate in Management and Leadership (April 2025), respectively, after successfully completing the National Rural Electric Association's Management Internship Program in 2017.

An avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, hunting, and hiking, Janorschke's family includes wife Tammy, an Executive Director for the Carefree Living assisted living facility in Silver Bay, MN; daughters Audrey (Certified Nursing Assistant) and Paige (Teacher); son Carter (Postal Worker); and granddaughter Caroline who is finishing her year in kindergarten.

As he begins his tenure with LREC, Janorschke looks forward to bringing his experience in working with other cooperatives to this next chapter in his career.

“My priority is understanding LREC's culture, values, and operational processes. By building strong relationships with my colleagues and gaining insight into how the team functions, we can effectively collaborate and contribute to initiatives that enhance our members' experience,” Janorschke said. “Understanding their needs and identifying ways to serve our members better will be at the forefront of my efforts.”

Congratulations, Joel! We are glad to have you on board!



## LREC Events



### Twins Youth Baseball Clinic August 1<sup>st</sup> • 4-6 p.m.

• Parkers Prairie High School and Lake Region Electric Cooperative invite kids ages 6–12 to a free baseball clinic! Meet at Parkers Prairie High School. Open to all. Register at [twins.com/clinics](https://twins.com/clinics)

### Member Appreciation Day August 7<sup>th</sup> • 3-7 p.m.

• Join us for our Member Appreciation Day at Phelps Mill Park! Enjoy free park entry, a meal, ebike and electric vehicle test drives, safety demonstrations, and more as we celebrate and thank our members.

### Blood Drive August 29<sup>th</sup> • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

• LREC is hosting a blood drive at our headquarters in Pelican Rapids. We need volunteers willing to donate blood or Power Red. Reserve a time at [www.lrec.coop/blooddrive](https://www.lrec.coop/blooddrive)



Lake Region Electric Cooperative offices will be closed for Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



# Staying Safe After Storms

## Safety Around Downed Power Lines

Severe weather such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods can cause more than just physical damage—they often bring hidden dangers as well. Lake Region Electric Cooperative reminds everyone to be mindful of the electrical hazards storms can leave behind.

Stay more than 35 feet away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. **Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized and dangerous.** Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

35 ft.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and call LREC at (800) 552-7658 or emergency personnel at 911 immediately to report. Never drive over a downed line. A downed line causes other things around it to become potentially hazardous.

At home, never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords, or wires while you are wet or standing in water. Never turn off your breaker box if you must stand in water to do so.

# Sign Up for Outage Alerts

Would you like to be notified when there is an outage impacting your property? Would you also like status updates and a restoration notice? If so, please sign up for outage texting/email alerts through SmartHub! If you already have SmartHub but need directions on how to sign up for alerts, please visit [www.lrec.coop/alerts](http://www.lrec.coop/alerts) or scan the QR code to the right.



**Don't have a SmartHub account yet?** You can sign up at [lrec.smarthub.coop](http://lrec.smarthub.coop) or download the app to your phone by searching "SmartHub" in your app store.



## NO POWER? NO WORRIES.

We've got generators—call now to reserve your install! 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.

**13 kW**  
POWER PROTECT



Starts at \$10,573.18

**18 kW**  
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Starts at \$11,345.03

**26 kW**  
POWER PROTECT



Starts at \$12,641.28

## Capital Credit Allocation

Look for your 2024 Capital Credit Allocation Notice on your July billing statement. Please see our *Capital Credits FAQs* located at [www.lrec.coop/capitalcredits](http://www.lrec.coop/capitalcredits) and for any further questions, call (800) 552-7658, email [lrec@lrec.coop](mailto:lrec@lrec.coop), or use the chat on our website.

## Go Paperless, Get \$5 Credit

Help us save money with paperless billing. You can choose to have your monthly bill and *NewsFlashes* delivered via email. Your account information is always available online. Go paperless and receive a one-time \$5 bill credit. **When WE save, YOU save!**

To learn more, visit [www.lrec.coop/paperless](http://www.lrec.coop/paperless)

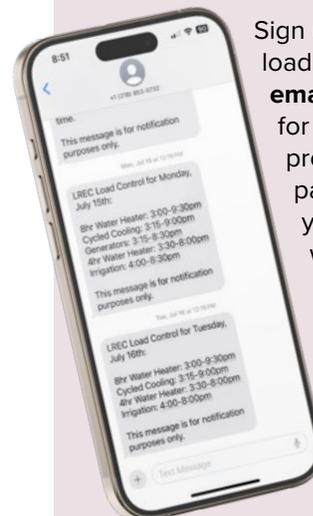
## Beyond Weather: Alternative Reasons for Load Control

Weather, particularly temperature, is the primary reason for load control since extreme weather events drive energy demand due to heating or cooling needs. But there are days when factors beyond temperature come into play when determining whether to initiate a load control event, including:

- ◆ **Market position:** LREC's wholesale provider, Great River Energy (GRE), forecasts demand needs daily and makes purchases from the regional energy market. Similarly, generation is bid into the market daily. In instances where there is high demand, load management programs can reduce the cooperative's overall market exposure.
- ◆ **High prices:** These can be driven by natural gas prices, which are often price setters in the energy market.
- ◆ **Localized outages:** Either generation or transmission outages can affect pricing.
- ◆ **Reliability concerns:** While not a frequent driver, there are instances where load control is used to help mitigate reliability concerns. During these events, load is reduced so that transmission congestion is brought below a system operating limit.
- ◆ **Monthly events:** GRE will often initiate a load control event one time per month for contractual reasons, ensuring that member-owners receive the value from load management over the billing peak (i.e., the highest demand that is experienced on the system each month).

Load management programs save members money by helping GRE mitigate high-cost market purchases that would otherwise need to be paid by its member-owners. Additionally, there are capacity benefits that allow the cooperative to better position its resources and reduce costs.

**WANT TO STAY  
IN THE KNOW...  
...REGARDING  
LOAD CONTROL?**



Sign up to receive load control **text** or **email** notifications for the load control programs you participate in. If you are unsure which load control programs those might be, simply give us a call or chat with us online. Learn more and sign up below.

[www.lrec.coop/loadcontrol](http://www.lrec.coop/loadcontrol)

# Programs & Services

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



SUMMER 2025

## 2025 Energy Efficiency Rebates

### Heating and Cooling

	Ductless Air Source Heat Pump < 1 Ton ≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2 < 1 Ton ≥ 15.2 SEER2 & ≥ 8.1 HSPF2 > 1 Ton ≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2 > 1 Ton ≥ 15.2 SEER2 & ≥ 8.1 HSPF2	1 per account/year \$150 \$250 \$750 \$1,000
Heat Pump Systems	Ducted Air Source Heat Pump ≤ 5 Ton ≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2 ≤ 5 Ton ≥ 15.2 SEER2 & ≥ 8.1 HSPF2	1 per account/year \$750* \$1,000*
	Geothermal heat pump, closed loop (max \$4,000): new (1) or replacement (2)	1) \$400/ton 2) \$200/ton
Qualified Installation (QI) Rebate*	QI for Ductless and Ducted ASHP*	\$40/ton
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heating Systems	Steffes ETS systems on short term storage All ETS systems on long term storage	\$25 per KW \$50 per KW

### 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

### Electric Vehicle

Electric Vehicle Charger Installation	Level 2 chargers: \$500 (must be on EV rate)	Up to \$500
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You can combine some rebates with federal rebates available in the *Inflation Reduction Act*. For more information, visit [www.lrec.coop/ira](http://www.lrec.coop/ira)

**\*Additional rebate if the installing contractor is QI certified. To view the list of qualified contractors, please visit [www.lrec.coop/qicontractors](http://www.lrec.coop/qicontractors).**

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



### 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 \$1,000 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



## 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!*
- ⚡ Comes with an Omnimetrix monitoring system
- ⚡ Automatically starts when your power goes out
- ⚡ Standby generator system intelligently powers your whole house, automatically powering what you need when you need it most
- ⚡ Runs on natural gas or LP
- ⚡ Sold and installed by LREC
- ⚡ Eligible for 48-month **EASY-PAY** payment plan

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



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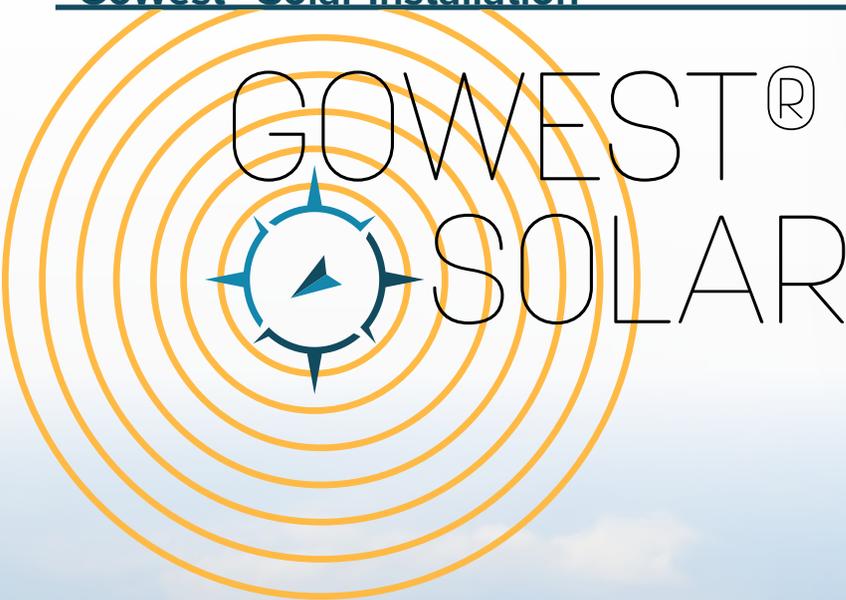
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## GoWest® Solar Installation



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	\$12,900	\$9,030	4,758	\$474	\$99	\$573	15	\$2.92
Large	7.6	\$19,500	\$13,650	9,642	\$962	\$201	\$1,163	12	\$39.82