



NewsFlashes

AUGUST 2025

Vegetation Management: Clearing the Path

As we work our way through the end of summer, the potential for severe weather—and the outages that can occur as a result—continues to be as strong as it was in early June. Vegetation management (VM), LREC's proactive and systematic approach to maintaining acceptable tree, shrub, and other growth around power lines and easements, plays a significant role in mitigating future service interruptions caused by overgrown or fallen branches and other debris and improving reliability for our members.

To help control vegetation interference and/or ensure LREC linemen are able to access the source of an outage and restore power as quickly and *safely* as possible, we've allocated \$2.6M toward VM efforts that will allow for clear right-of-way (ROW) to power lines. Nine projects involving trimming and other work around utility poles were identified as critical for the year; to date, five have been completed, encompassing almost 140 miles of overhead line in the Cormorant, Dent, Stalker Lake, and Dora Township areas. Of the four projects yet to be completed, two are located around Elizabeth and Dent, currently underway with completion planned by the end of the year. The remaining

two—an additional Elizabeth area and Frazee—are planned but have yet to enter production. Routine spraying and mowing will continue throughout our service area as well.

As our crews move forward, we want to make sure our members are kept in the loop regarding guidance and expectations found in our VM policy. Some key need-to-knows can be found below:

- ❏ LREC's VM maintenance cycle involves cutting, mowing, and the application of an EPA-approved herbicide every two years as needed.
- ❏ If VM efforts are needed in an area owned by a member, personal property (vehicles, trailers, etc.) should be removed from the ROW corridor before the process begins.
- ❏ Removal of cut branches, brush, or debris as a result of ROW clearing or storms is the **responsibility of the member**.
- ❏ LREC is not responsible for VM (trimming, etc.) around member-owned lines beyond the point of metering. However, upon request, LREC will de-energize the lines so members can trim or remove trees safely.

Service order requests outside of scheduled projects will be accepted and completed by either LREC or our contracted VM partner, Carr's Tree Service, when not in our regular trimming cycle.

Minimum ROW clearance requirements are dependent on multiple factors, including distance from lines and tree-specific height and diameter measurements. Complete information can be found within our VM policy, available upon request by contacting our Arborist at (218) 863-9820. In addition, details on our VM tools and planting recommendations can be found by visiting the **Vegetation Management** page at www.lrec.coop/vm (or by scanning the QR code above).



As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. With your cooperation, we look forward to working together toward better service outcomes.

Cooperatively yours,
Joel Janorschke, CEO



Contact the CEO

✉ Email: jjanorschke@lrec.coop

☎ Cell: (320) 292-4036

Recent Operation Round Up Recipients



Operation Round Up (ORU) is a significant way LREC members come together to make a difference in our community. Extra change generated from rounding up the monthly bills of participating members is used to fund requests by local charitable organizations. These small amounts—between \$0.01 and \$0.99—all add up to make a big impact.

The most recent ORU meeting awarded 12 organizations a total of **\$27,350**.

- ◆ **\$600** to *Tordenskjold Evangelical Free Church* for historic church maintenance
- ◆ **\$750** to *Dent Diamondhawks Amateur baseball team* for team support
- ◆ **\$1,000** to *Wild Rice Peacemakers* for 2025 state shooting event
- ◆ **\$1,000** to *Pine to Prairie Antique Tractor and Gas Engine Assoc.* for Perham Pioneer Festival
- ◆ **\$1,000** to *City of Henning* for Amundson Park mural
- ◆ **\$2,000** to *Henning HOPE* for winter gear for families
- ◆ **\$2,000** to *True Friends* for camp activities
- ◆ **\$2,500** to *VFW Post 5252* for Veterans Park
- ◆ **\$4,000** to *Never Alone Inc* for suicide and mental health outreach
- ◆ **\$2,500** to *Trinity Preschool* for playground accessibility upgrades
- ◆ **\$5,000** to *Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics & Fitness* for building renovation and uneven bars for gym
- ◆ **\$5,000** to *PioneerCare* for rural senior care access

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- ◆ Runs on natural gas or LP
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13 kW POWER PROTECT	18 kW POWER PROTECT	26 kW POWER PROTECT
Starts at \$10,837	Starts at \$11,609	Starts at \$12,905



Smart Comfort, Real Savings



LREC has launched a new *Smart Thermostat Pilot Program* that kicks in during peak energy periods when electricity costs the most. The program pre-cools or pre-warms your home prior to peak events by adjusting your thermostat 1-3° before the peak period, and then *during* the peak, it re-adjusts 3-4° (from your normal setting) for 4 hours.

Program participants receive a \$25 bill credit when they join, then \$25 for each season they participate in. Members can choose to participate in *cooling seasons*, *heating seasons*, or *both*, earning credits for each season they join.

To learn more about this program and sign up, visit www.lrec.coop/thermostat or scan the QR code.



Construction Work Plan Updates

These improvements mean fewer power outages and more reliable electricity for you.

Voltage Regulators: We completed equipment installations in Evergreen (two projects) and New York Mills that were planned earlier this year. The Butler area upgrade is now scheduled to finish by the end of September—ahead of our original timeline.

Substation Recloser Upgrades: From April through June, our crews replaced aging equipment that was causing issues and power outages in the Cormorant, Elizabeth, and Battle Lake areas. We started another replacement project in the Orwell area in late July. These upgrades will help prevent future outages and make our system more reliable.

Power Line Improvements: In July and August more than 10 miles of overhead power lines will be upgraded to improve reliability. Here's what we completed or have planned:

- ▶ **Dora area:** 1.75 miles of line beginning in July
- ▶ **Parkers Prairie area:** 2.75 miles of line will be upgraded beginning in August with an additional 5.4 miles of line upgrades to start in the area after the Dora project is completed.



LREC is hosting a blood drive at our headquarters in Pelican Rapids on August 29th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We need volunteers willing to donate blood or *Power Red*. Reserve a time at www.lrec.coop/blooddrive.

Note: Lake Region Electric Cooperative offices will be closed for **Labor Day** on September 1st.

Reasons to Keep Your Contact Information Current

Help us keep you informed by making sure your contact information is up to date. As people continue to drop their landlines to opt for cell phones and as email addresses change, it is important to ensure we have your latest contact information. **There are a number of benefits to having updated contact information.**

- You can receive ballots and voting information for electing candidates for the board of directors.
- Get notifications about upcoming member events, such as our annual meeting, district meetings, and member appreciation events.
- Ensure your capital credit notices and checks are mailed to the correct address when they are retired.
- When reporting outages, the outage management system automatically recognizes who is calling.
- For planned outages, you can receive a call, email, or postcard.
- It can speed up power restoration if we are able to contact you for more information regarding an outage or service issue.
- You can receive billing reminders and notices.

You can update your *primary phone number*, *email*, and *mailing address* in SmartHub, by calling the office, emailing lrec@lrec.coop, or by filling out the form on the back of your bill stub. You can also update your information online by visiting www.lrec.coop/update

