

MICHIGAN Country Lines



Romancing The Road

Some folks love where their RV takes them.

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‘Net Metering’ Explained

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TO SUBMIT A METER READING:

- 1) Call or use our 24-hour touch tone voice-mail hotline, ext. 207
- 2) E-mail your meter reading at: CEC@cherrylandelectric.com
- 3) Fax your meter reading at: 231-486-9404

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Cherryland Electric office

EVERY MEMBER dreams of having an electric meter that could run backwards to reduce their monthly electric bill.

While this is not possible, Cherryland Electric Cooperative (CEC) does have tariffs approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) that allow anyone with the ability to self-generate renewable electricity to receive a credit for the electricity put out on the grid in excess of their own needs.

A co-op member would use the electricity generated for their own use first, offsetting electricity they would have otherwise purchased from the co-op at the full retail price.

If a member produces any electricity beyond what is needed to meet their own needs, CEC will distribute that excess electricity to other members and credit the member's account for the excess. This excess is credited at the wholesale or "avoided cost," which is much lower than the retail price and will fluctuate monthly as CEC's wholesale costs respond to current market conditions.

This opportunity is called "net metering," and is described by the MPSC, as follows:

"Net metering under this schedule is an accounting mechanism whereby member-consumers who generate a portion or all of their own retail electricity needs and put their excess generation, if any, on the Cooperative's system can receive a billing credit equal to the Cooperative's wholesale cost of energy, adjusted to include line losses, in accordance with this schedule." This tariff is limited to members who operate renewable energy generating technologies that include solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, including waste-to-energy and landfill gas, or hydroelectric.



By Tony Anderson
General Manager

To qualify for the credits, member generation systems will be limited in size not to exceed the member's self-service needs. The maximum size of electric generators eligible for net metering treatment is less than 30 kilowatts. The goal here is to keep the systems at the level of individual need in hopes that there will not be any excess to put out on the

grid. Frankly, this is where the biggest benefit to the member lies, since the retail price will always be higher than the avoided cost or wholesale price.

If the member does generate excess electricity, deliveries from the member to CEC shall be allowed to accumulate as a credit. This credit is based on avoided cost and will be used to offset energy charges in the next billing cycle.

Credits may be carried over from month to month until the end of the year.

In December, unused credits will be retained by CEC to offset costs associated with the

operation of the net metering program, and the member starts at zero in January. It is clear to see that proper planning will be necessary if a member does not want to leave any money on the table (or meter) at year-end.

If you are thinking of such a system, I encourage you to contact CEC's engineering department to discuss a complete review of your plans. We want to work with you to make sure all parties are on the same page, and provide you with an interconnection application and operating agreement. Interconnection with our distribution system can be easily accomplished with the appropriate combination of "off the shelf" products, but they must meet the required industry standards.

Planning is the key. You will need to be

If you self-generate renewable electricity, Cherryland Electric Cooperative will distribute the excess and you can get credit for it.

Festival of Tables

Celebrating great taste for a great cause. **Al Parker**

BEING IN FOSTER CARE is hard sometimes,” says the shy 12-year-old girl. “But it makes me feel strong and gives me hope to know that there are people who care.”

Hundreds of those caring people will gather at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa on May 13 for the Fifth Annual Festival of Tables. The Fest is a showcase of fresh entertaining ideas and exciting table designs that serves as the primary fundraiser for Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan (CFS).

Cherryland Electric Cooperative members Gina Aranki and Lynne Hertler have been deeply involved in the festival since its debut in 2002.

“The Festival of Tables is an event that celebrates the art of home entertaining,” explains Gina, a Traverse City resident who serves as the marketing and public relations director for CFS. “We’ll have more than 40 exhibitors—including civic organizations, interior designers and retailers—who will decorate tables according to various themes.”

The event raises about \$50,000 a year for CFS, the private nonprofit organization that has helped support healthy family life since 1937 through foster care, adoption, counseling, advocacy, and prevention programs.

“The best part is that not only does it help raise funds for a very important

Cherryland Electric Cooperative member Lynne Hertler with her “Blue Martinis and Cocktail Weenies” table at the 2004 Festival of Tables.



cause, it’s also a high-energy, happy day,” notes Lynne, a longtime Traverse City resident who has designed an elaborate table for each of the four previous festivals. “Everyone enjoys themselves.”

Lynne’s first table was “Piñata Party,” and featured an artful fish piñata. In 2003, she provided “Call of the Wild,” highlighted by an elaborate hand-beaded sunflower. “Blue Martinis and Cocktail Weenies” with its impressive array of blue glass and tableware followed in 2004. Last year, Lynne’s table was “Girls Night Out,” a colorful and festive display of female fun.

Anyone who buys a \$10 raffle ticket will be eligible to win some of the decorated tables with all the trimmings worth from \$350 to \$2,000. Other tables will highlight the wares of northern Michigan businesses that specialize in bringing beauty to area homes. Visitors

will be able to purchase merchandise from many exhibitors—perfect gifts for Mother’s Day, which is the next day. “We get a lot of mothers and daughters who attend the festival together,” says Gina.

Another highlight is the ongoing silent auction, which features artwork by area artists—baskets, jewelry, a piano, and much more.

The fun begins at 10 a.m. Visitors will enjoy a variety of ongoing demonstrations such as floral arranging, wine tasting, food preparation, samples, and entertaining ideas. Several premier raffle packages will be available. Tickets for the Festival of Tables are \$50 each.

As a private, nonprofit organization, CFS relies on fundraisers like this to keep offering the wide range of services it provides to the communities in its 12-county service area.

“The Festival is absolutely vital to our efforts,” says Gina, who adds that Cherryland Electric Cooperative’s Community Caring Committee has also been a strong funding supporter of CFS.

The agency relies on community contributions such as grants and donated goods and services to support programs and maintain its facilities. Each year, its staff of 60 serves nearly 4,000 people from its offices in Traverse City and Harbor Springs. For more information about the Festival of Tables, contact CFS at (231) 946-8975, Ext. 1010, or e-mail lsmmerville@cfsmail.org.

Net Metering, *continued*

able to interpret technical specifications and prepare detailed electrical schematics, or you will need assistance from the equipment manufacturers or a consultant to assist you with system design. Before you make an investment, be sure that it is one that will work over the long-term. We also need to meet to discuss safety procedures for you and our employees. Any source of generation that is operated in conjunction with our utility feed must be inspected and approved by CEC to assure the safety of

our crews, and power quality.

In the big picture, CEC’s wholesale supplier is exploring numerous renewable avenues in hopes of procuring a source of renewable energy for a portion of our future electricity needs. When this happens, we will certainly let everyone know. For now, renewable generation is an individual decision. We just thought it was important to let everyone know that CEC is ready to assist in the process in hopes of working together to turn some dreams into reality.

Dedicated Cherryland Employee Retires

After 33 years, Don Pahl calls it a career.

DON PAHL'S LAST DAY of work was April 3. Don began his career at Cherryland on June 9, 1972, first as its general accountant, then office supervisor, office manager, human resources manager, CFO, assistant manager and acting general manager.

Don came to Cherryland after a Northwestern Michigan College accounting professor contacted him about an open position at Cherryland. At that time, Don was working downstate as an accountant for a large manufacturing firm but wanted to get back to Traverse City to assist his aging parents. Bob Lambert was general manager at the time, and hired him.

"I've seen a lot of changes in my nearly 34 years at Cherryland," said Don. "I have had the privilege of working for four general managers over those years. We have gone through some very challenging times—from the oil embargo of the '70s to expanding into subsidiary activities and the recent dramatic increase in cost of power."

Despite the changes Cherryland has undergone over the years, Don sees one thing constant that has kept Cherryland humming since 1938:

"We can never lose focus on our core business—electricity," he said. "While we experimented for a short period of time with other types of businesses, we have returned to our core business. I am very proud to have served in a lot of key roles at Cherryland and have a positive impact. When I started here, we had less than 10,000 members. Now we have over 32,500. We have seen this tremendous growth over the past 34 years and I see no reason why it won't continue."

Over the years, Don has worked closely with Cherryland's board of directors.

"Don has been a model employee and done a tremendous job for us over the years," echoed Cherryland directors Betty Reynolds-Maciejewski, Terry Lautner, Tom Van Pelt, John Olson, Mike Maginity, Melinda Lautner, Wayne Nordbeck, Bill Hoxie and Jack Pope.

Don is unique in the sense of having a twin brother, Ron. They grew up on their parents' dairy farm near Hannah. Don attributes his strong work ethic and success to growing up on a busy dairy farm.

"While growing up on a dairy farm, we learned the importance of hard work and the need for long hours to accomplish the various tasks and doing whatever needed to be done," he said. "We never had one designated job, but a multitude of jobs that varied from day to day (milking the cows, cleaning the barn, plowing fields, etc., and even cooking family meals)," Don said.

He credits his parents, Burnette and Arthur, with instilling his values. "When you grow up on a farm, you learn some great values," he said. "You learn to get your work done no matter what the obstacles, nor the time it takes. His mother passed away in 1987 and his dad lives at Grand Traverse Medical Care.

Don and Ron graduated from Hannah St. Mary's, Northwestern Michigan College, and later Ferris State, where they both graduated with B.S. degrees in accounting. Don continued on to Western Michigan University, where he got his MBA. Ron is the payroll supervisor for a large research company near Chicago.

Both Don and Ron played on Hannah's champion baseball team in their senior year (that year, Don batted over 400). They also played on the champion basketball team that made it into the quarterfinals.

Don has an older brother, Gerald, who retired as a supervisor at General Motors in Detroit. He also has a younger sister who works at Meijer in Traverse City. He has two sons, Derek and Dustin; one daughter, Dolly Tokie; two stepdaughters, Shelley Bates and Tracy Schworm; and eight grandchildren.

In some ways, Don can't believe it's time for him to retire.

"It's hard to comprehend," he said. "Time passes so quickly. I've seen a lot of good



Don Pahl doesn't intend to slow down after retiring from Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

people retire from here, and my retirement always seemed so far away. Now that time has arrived and it doesn't seem possible. One of my favorite statements comes from an unknown author and goes something like, "We all need to remember that every morning we are handed 24 golden hours. They are one of the few things in this world that we get free of charge. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't buy an extra hour. It is given only once and once wasted, you cannot get it back."

What do Don and his wife Sue (a retired computer programmer at NMC) plan to do with their extra time? They want to travel while they are still healthy. They are planning a trip to Australia and New Zealand in May; Washington, D.C., in August, and several other three- or four-day trips to places such as Nashville, Branson, and the U.P.

Don doesn't plan on slowing down, however. He still runs three to four times a week, logging 6 miles every time out. He also plays softball in the summer and co-ed volleyball in the winter. He loves to water ski and may take up fishing again. He may play a little golf, provided he can work in a few lessons.

"I'm going to miss Cherryland, especially the employees and directors," Don said. "But the first two months of retirement I'm not going to do anything. I'm going to think about what I want to do next. Then Sue and I will take it from there."

"I want to thank the four managers who I have had the privilege of working with, the board of directors, employees and members for giving me the opportunity to serve. All my efforts were always geared to make Cherryland the best organization for everyone, especially our owners—the members."

Cherryland Bulletin Board

Caring Board Makes Three Awards

CHERRYLAND'S COMMUNITY CARING BOARD made three awards during its February meeting.

The board awarded three individuals money toward bills that totaled \$2,466.35.

The Caring Board is part of Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Operation Roundup. Members are asked to sign up for the program, which rounds a bill up to the nearest dollar. The money is then given to needy groups and individuals in northern Michigan.

To sign up for Operation Roundup, call Cherryland's Brenda Burrows at 486-9266.

Shimek Named All-Big Ten Basketball Player



LIZ SHIMEK, whose parents Tom and Linda are longtime Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, has earned a pair of big-time honors for the Michigan State University women's basketball team.

Liz, a 6-foot-1 senior forward, was named to the All-Big Ten first team. She averaged 17 points and eight rebounds per game for the Spartans, who were NCAA runners up a year ago, and finished tied for third in the Big Ten this season.

She also earned first-team Academic All-American status. She has a 3.72 grade point average in general management.

AMR Work Is Going Smoothly

MORE THAN 2,400 automatic meter readers have been installed on Cherryland's system as of early March.

The Grawn substation should be complete by the middle of April, according to Cherryland's Karrie Yanska, who is coordinating the project.

Once an AMR meter is installed, members will no longer need to read their meters. Cherryland will have a list of when each area will have their AMR systems installed in the May issue of *Country Lines*.

Cherryland Continues "Relay For Life" Participation

CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S Relay for Life team has kicked off its 2006 campaign. According to team captain, Chris Holmes, Cherryland raised more than \$1,000 during a November auction in which employees contributed items.

The Traverse City Relay for Life Kickoff Event was held Wednesday, March 15, at Timber Ridge Campground near Traverse City. That's the site of this year's 24-hour event on June 3-4. The location is a change from prior Relays, which were held at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center.

Cherryland members who wish to donate to the Relay for Life campaign can contribute at the main office in Grawn.

Korson Wins Home Show Drawing

CHERRYLAND MEMBER Doris Korson was the winner of a quartz heater and humidifier at the cooperative's booth during the Traverse City Home Show in February.

A drawing was held from among hundreds of Cherryland members who visited the booth during the two-day event at Traverse City East Junior High.

Cherryland featured its Marathon Water Heater and heating systems at the show, which drew several thousand people from the Grand Traverse area.

To Member/Customers of Cherryland Electric

This **Notice of Access to Rules and Rates** is published pursuant to the rules established by the Michigan Public Service Commission as set forth in the Consumer Standard and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Services, R460.2146 and 2149.

As a member-customer (member) of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, please be advised that the following information is available to you from the Cooperative, upon request:

- 1) Complete rate schedules;
- 2) Clear and concise explanation of all rates that the member may be eligible to receive;
- 3) Assistance from the Cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for a member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate;
- 4) Clear, concise explanation of the members' actual energy used for each billing period during the last 12 months.

Does Your Home Need More Insulation?

TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION, you must first find out how much insulation you already have and then determine how much more would be cost-effective.

Many older homes have less insulation than homes built today. A qualified home energy auditor will include an insulation check as a routine part of an energy audit. The Michigan Department of Labor and Energy (www.mich.gov/cis) is a valuable resource for information about home energy audits. An energy audit will identify the amount of insulation you have and need, and will likely produce recommendations for other improvements, as well.

If you would like to do a “basic” home energy audit yourself, use the illustration and tips below to help you look for insulation in several key places.

Check your insulation levels in the following places:

1. In unfinished attic spaces, insulate between and over the floor joists to seal off living spaces below.

1A. Attic door.

2. In finished attic rooms with or without a dormer, insulate:

2A. between the studs of “knee” walls;

2B. between the studs and rafters of exterior walls and roof;

2C. ceilings with cold spaces above;

2D. extend insulation into joist space to

reduce air flows.

3. All exterior walls, including:

3A. walls between living spaces and unheated garages, shed roofs, or storage areas;

3B. foundation walls above ground level;

3C. foundation walls in heated basements; full-wall—either interior or exterior.

4. Floors above cold spaces, such as vented crawl spaces and unheated garages. Also insulate the following:

4A. any portion of the floor in a room that is cantilevered beyond the exterior wall below;

4B. slab floors built directly on the ground;

4C. foundation walls of unvented crawl spaces (as an alternative to floor insulation);

4D. extend insulation into joist space to

reduce air flows.

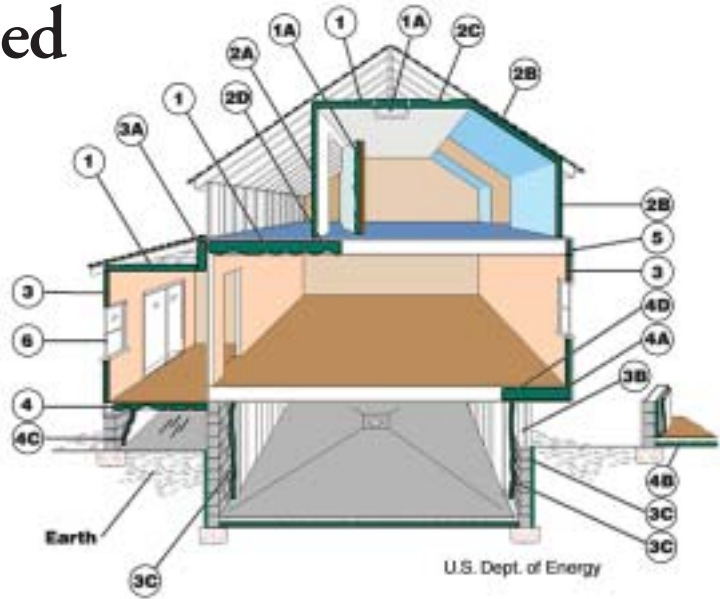
5. Band joists.

6. Replacement or storm windows. Caulk and seal around all windows and doors.

Well-insulated attics, crawl spaces, storage areas and other enclosed cavities should be ventilated to prevent excess moisture buildup.

For new construction, slab-on-grade insulation should be installed to the extent required by building codes, or greater.

Source – U.S. Department of Energy



We Are The Lucky Ones

I AM ONE OF the lucky ones. Almost every evening I get to spend some fun, quality, bonding time with my 5-year-old daughter and my wife Penny, cooking dinner in our kitchen at home. As I watched Shaelyn wash her hands before our latest endeavor into Italian chicken, tossed salad and a side of egg noodles with butter (her favorite), I noticed just how much use of electricity will go on in that one room of the house, for this one meal.

The lights are on, keeping everything bright and safe. Two burners are glowing orange on the electric range. Some vegetables are steaming in the microwave. The

blender is ready to blend roasted peppers, garlic and oil for a sauce. The CD player hanging under the cupboard is playing “Disney Princess Classics” and my Cherryland Cell phone is charging on the counter, in case of an outage or emergency.

We spend so much time in our kitchens and often take for granted that we turn the switch and whatever we need comes on, and it usually does. But, is it safe?

Your greatest step to safety in your kitchen, and bathrooms, is the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter, or GFCI plug. A GFCI constantly monitors current flowing in a

circuit to sense any loss of current. If the current flowing through two circuit conductors differs by a very small amount, the GFCI instantly interrupts the current flow to prevent a lethal amount of electricity from reaching the consumer.

The consumer may feel a painful shock, but will not be electrocuted. This is especially important for any appliance near a water source. If the appliance comes in contact with the water source it is designed to “kill” the current, therefore minimizing shock. Also, if circuits get overloaded the GFCI will “kick off,” so it is like having a small circuit breaker at every plug.

So, check your kitchen for GFCI plugs



If you would like assistance with your energy audit, call Steve Coger at 231-486-9200 or 1-800-442-8616.



Can Leyland Turn the Tigers Around?

THE LAST TIME I talked to Jim Leyland was 14 years ago in Wrigley Field.

He was managing the first-place Pittsburgh Pirates.

Back then, the high-flying Pirates were led by Barry Bonds, and one of their best relief pitchers was a friend of mine from Bellaire—Roger Mason.

At the time, I thought it was odd when I asked Roger what kind of relationship he had with Bonds.

“I don’t even think he knows who I am,” said Roger, who had been a teammate of Bonds for two seasons. “He’s kind of in his own world and I’m not sure how many of us he knows by name.”

The only manager to stand up to Bonds and go toe-to-toe in a shouting match was Jim Leyland.

They didn’t do it the day I was in Wrigley Field. In fact, Leyland was the perfect gentleman. He said some nice things about Roger Mason in a calm and professional manner.

But there was no doubt who was in charge of the Pirates—and it wasn’t Barry Bonds.

That’s why—after 12 straight losing seasons—I’m excited about following the

and if you don’t have them, please install them. They are not expensive and can be purchased at any hardware store. And of course, your electrician can install them, as well.

If you would like more information on GFCIs, feel free to give me a call.

Join me and be one of the lucky ones that get to have fun, enjoy some great food, and family time at the table knowing all is safe.

Tim Keenan is assistant safety director for Cherryland Electric Cooperative



Detroit Tigers again. Jim Leyland is the new manager and he brings new hope. As Tiger fans, that’s all we have.

Every April, baseball fans say, “Hope springs eternal.”

By May, Tiger fans say, “Spring has turned to fall.”

Why will this year be any different? For starters, the Tigers have better glue to hold this team together.

Don’t get me wrong, Alan Trammell was one of the classiest athletes I’ve ever covered. But he isn’t in the same managerial league as Leyland.

The secret to Leyland’s success is simple. He won’t put up with a lack of effort. He demands that players execute the fundamentals. And the best part is, he understands today’s ballplayers. That’s not an easy thing to do.

Leyland was one of seven children. His wife was one of 11.

“What makes one brother tick might not make another brother tick,” he told me that day in Chicago, 14 years ago. “You’ve got to figure out the best way to get results from both brothers.”

Maybe that’s why he got the best out of the spoiled brat superstar Barry Bonds and the quiet, small-town pitcher Roger Mason.

He didn’t play favorites. He was their best friend. He was their worst enemy.

“He comes as close to any manager

I’ve ever seen at having everyone’s respect,” said Andy Van Slyke, who used to play for Leyland in Pittsburgh and is now one of the Tigers coaches.

To do that, he can quietly pat a Roger Mason on the back. Or, in one famous altercation, get in Barry Bonds’ face and demand to know why he was 5 minutes late for batting practice.

Matt Mantei, who signed with the Tigers in the off-season, remembers when he played for Leyland in Florida. After one terrible three-game performance by the Marlins, Leyland started ripping his team in the clubhouse. The verbal whipping lasted 20 minutes.

When he left, all the players could hear was his spikes marching against the concrete hallway. All of a sudden, the sound of the spikes started getting louder again. Leyland was back in the doorway of the clubhouse.

“All of you should be arrested for impersonating big-league ballplayers,” he screamed.

But there is his other side—his softer side—that endears him to players.

When a player does his job, the one he’s getting paid to do, Leyland is quick to hand out a compliment.

“Like I said, you have to treat the brothers differently,” he said with a smile.

The Tigers have the ammunition to have a winning season. They have a potent offense and a pitching staff that is an equal blend of youth and experience.

Now the task is putting it all together in the tough American League Central Division.

Jim Leyland doesn’t have a big ego, but he demands big results. He’s not afraid to yell at a pitcher or bench a player who isn’t producing.

In short, he demands results without excuses. What a novel approach.

It’s why baseball in Detroit suddenly looks very appealing again.

You get more power from an electric co-op.

As a consumer-owner of an electric co-op, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of directors. You can make your opinions heard at annual meetings. Because you are the owner. And that’s a huge advantage over the big corporate power companies. Their customers have no say in the management of the company. No vote for the board of directors. No stake in the power company’s future. That’s why co-ops work so well throughout America. Because when people want power, we deliver.

Plan to attend your co-op’s annual meeting, June 15, 2006.



Cherryland Electric Cooperative



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Average household heating expenses have surged this winter.



	Average for 1999-2004	Winter of 2004-05	Winter of 2005-06	Pct. Change From 2004
Natural Gas	\$586	\$742	\$1,096	47.6%
Heating Oil	\$865	\$1,199	\$1,577	31.5%
Propane	\$885	\$1,102	\$1,427	29.5%
Electricity	\$685	\$717	\$755	5.4%

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CHERRYLAND'S INTERRUPTIBLE HEAT RATE CONTACT STEVE COGER, ENERGY USE ADVISOR AT 231-486-9238