

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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LREC Welcomes Back Hamid Vahdatipour

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) Board of Directors accepted Mr. John Lee's resignation as the LREC Chief Executive Officer. The Board wishes John well in his future endeavors, and thanks him for his service to the co-op.

The LREC Board of Trustees and management team are pleased to welcome Hamid Vahdatipour back as interim CEO. He will guide the cooperative through this pivotal period of growth and change in the electric industry. With 37 years of cooperative leadership and finance experience, Hamid brings valuable expertise to the co-op once again.



"I am honored to serve both the membership and employees during this important time. LREC has always been close to my heart, and I am committed to ensuring the success of both the co-op and its fiber subsidiary," said Hamid. "The management team and I are ready to lead."

LREC employees are excited to have Hamid return and look forward to continuing their mission of serving the members with safe, reliable, and competitive services for today and tomorrow.

"Hamid is a proven leader in the co-op industry," said Scott Manes, LREC Board President. "His knowledge of the electric industry and financial expertise make him an invaluable asset to LREC and LRTC."

Lake Region Celebrates 13,000 Fiber Internet Subscribers!

Did you know LREC began in the 1940s with a simple question? Back then, our founders asked, "What if we, too, could have light in our barns and use modern appliances to improve life here in rural Cherokee and Wagoner Counties?" Now, 75 years later, the members asked a similar question about high-speed internet: "What if we, too, could have reliable, fast internet in the rural communities we call home?"



Just like then, LREC members and employees have come together to meet the need, and we're proud to say that Lake Region Technology & Communications (LRTC) has built a strong, affordable fiber-to-the-home network. Today, we're celebrating an incredible milestone: 13,000 broadband subscribers! 1866102

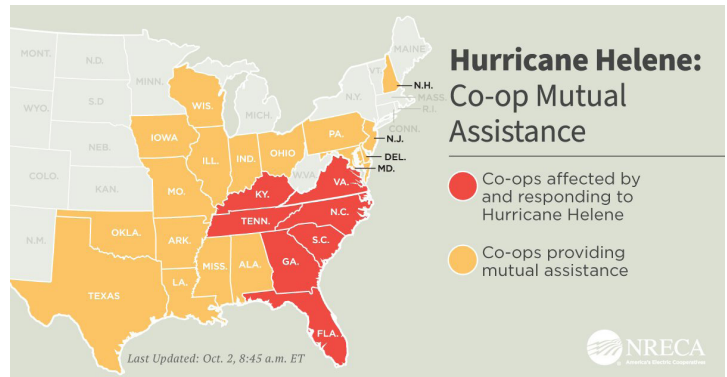
LREC Sends Mutual Aid Crews to Assist Georgia Following Hurricane



Left to right: Randall Scott, Kregg Talburt, Layne Marshall, Markie Carman, Daniel Malon, Slaten Ford, Duane Watkins, Frank Teague, Trent Elliott, Jacob Dandridge, Matthew Graves, and (not pictured) Cale Orman.

Cooperation *Among* Cooperatives COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #6

In response to the damage and historic flooding caused by Hurricane Helene and then Hurricane Milton, LREC sent 12 skilled lineworkers, along with bucket and digger trucks, to assist in restoration efforts in Georgia. LREC joined forces with nine other Oklahoma electric cooperatives, sending a collective force of over 70+ lineworkers to help their sister cooperatives recover from the storm's devastation. LREC crews helped Snapping Shoals EMC, Covington-GA then moved to assist Jefferson Energy Cooperative, Wrens-GA.



Hurricane Helene made landfall on September 26 as a Category 4 hurricane with winds reaching 140 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. Then again Hurricane Milton made landfall October 9. The storms brought catastrophic storm surges and torrential rainfall, especially in Florida's Big Bend region, resulting in unprecedented flooding and impassable roads throughout the Southeast.

The power restoration effort will take up to months for some, and cooperative officials have highlighted the significant challenges with this type of infrastructure damage. Across the nation, more than 6,500 cooperative personnel—including lineworkers, support staff, contractors, and command center employees—are engaged in the restoration effort, coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

LREC's crews, upholding the cooperative principle of **"Cooperation Among Cooperatives,"** are committed to mutual aid. Their dedication exemplifies the cooperative spirit, as linemen work tirelessly to help communities in need, they know we can count on neighbor states to send co-op crews if ever LREC's system sustains damage.

Thankful for the Gift of Light

LREC's Jon Enkey Joins Effort to Electrify Guatemalan Village

Jon Enkey, Lineman and Manager of Operations at LREC, recently traveled to a remote mountain village in Guatemala as part of a project to bring electricity to the community.

“This project mirrors what LREC’s founders did when they brought rural electricity to Wagoner and Cherokee counties 75-80 years ago,” Enkey said. “The villagers are not afraid of hard work. They understand the future potential that comes with electricity. The villagers hand-dug holes and set poles, this was how they contributed,” said Enkey.



Residents of Barejones, a rural village in the Jalapa department, east of Guatemala City, will now experience the transformative power of electricity. Barejones, known for its diverse ecosystem and agricultural productivity, is home to farmers who grow crops like corn, peppers, tomatoes, green beans, and coffee. These farmers work the steep mountain terrain without modern machinery.

“When we needed a tree limb cut back, the villagers would climb up with machetes and, after 15-20 swings, clear the branch,” Enkey added. “It was impressive to see their efficiency.”

The Oklahoma linemen worked for nearly three weeks, framing poles, pulling wire and wiring homes. Their efforts marked the first phase of the project, with linemen from Ohio’s electric cooperatives set to complete the second phase in early 2025. Once finished, 93 homes, two elementary schools, a health center, and several small businesses will gain access to electricity for the first time.

“As I worked with an elder school teacher on wiring the school, he was thrilled about the prospect of having a refrigerator,” Enkey shared. “He plans to bring chicken and other foods up the mountain to teach the students and villagers how to cook good meals. The impact of electricity in the school will be felt throughout the entire community.”

The combined teams from Oklahoma and Ohio will work on a stretch of 7.5 kilometers of primary lines and 4.4 kilometers of secondary lines, to wire approximately 150 poles and install nine or more transformers. Each home will be equipped with amenities like light bulbs, switches, and outlets. The new powerlines will connect the village to a local utility provider.



“I’ll take away from this trip the camaraderie between the linemen and villagers. We’re from different parts of the world and speak different languages, but in the end, we’re the same. We all want to provide for our families. For them, success is being able to live and thrive in their village, now with electric.”

The Cost Behind Your Light Switch

Cost Comparison for 2017, 2022, 2024 Prices

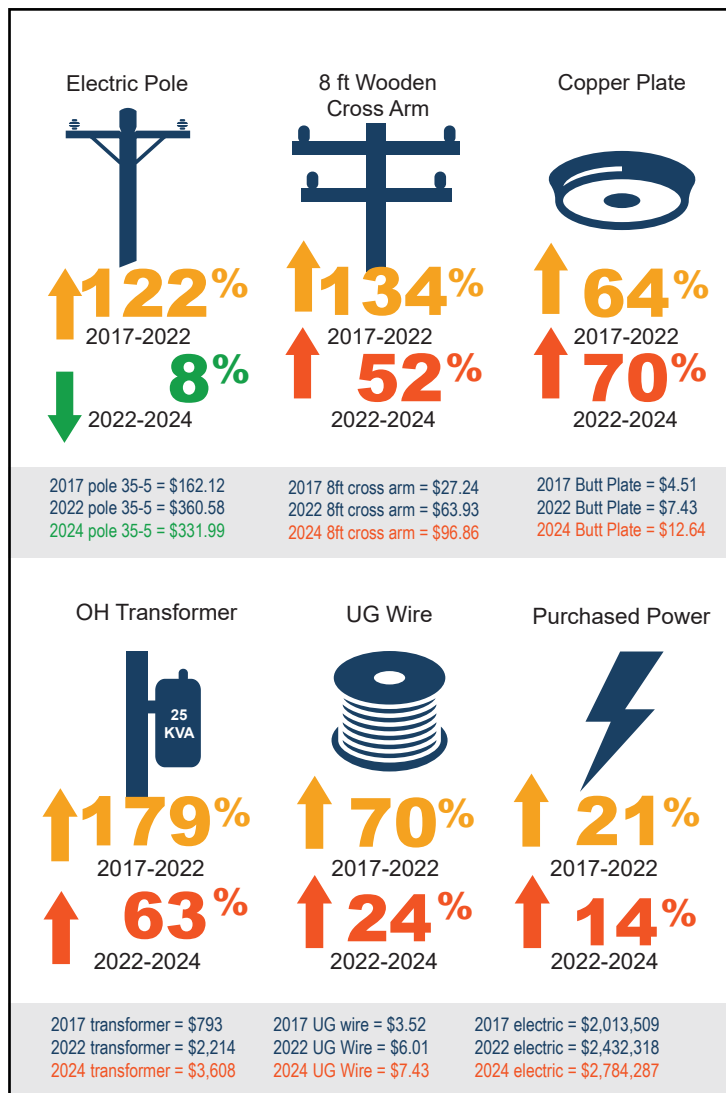
When you flip on a light switch or brew your morning coffee, you may not think about the journey electricity takes to get to your home or business. At LREC, we do that for you. Our job is to ensure that the power is not only reliable but also affordable.

LREC is a non-profit electric cooperative, established with the mission of delivering electricity to our members. Our rates are designed to cover the costs of providing this essential service. Any excess revenue is returned to you, our members, in the form of capital credits.

As we continue to build and maintain our electric lines that power our communities, the costs of materials and infrastructure are continually rising as well as purchased power. The LREC board and management are always monitoring the cooperative's financials to maintain a stable position while minimizing rate adjustments. We know that keeping rates affordable is a top priority for our members, and we are working diligently to achieve that balance.

Here is a chart that outlines some of the key costs associated with building and maintaining our electric lines.

At LREC, we remain committed to delivering reliable and cost-effective electricity to you, now and into the future.



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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.