



POWERING GOOD

2025 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



**GREAT
RIVER
ENERGY.**



TO OUR MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

At Great River Energy, our commitment to sustainability is woven into the fabric of our organization and guides how we serve our member-owners every day. Because we are an electric cooperative owned by our members, we make decisions with a focus on lasting benefits for both the cooperatives and the communities they support. That means delivering dependable electricity at competitive rates while acting as responsible stewards of the environment and the resources we share.

This report details how we live our cooperative principles and deliver on our triple bottom line of rates, reliability and environmental stewardship. We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions with a clear focus on meeting requirements and maintaining system reliability, while also investing in the transmission infrastructure needed to support an evolving energy mix and a resilient, reliable grid.

We also know our performance depends on our people. That is why we continue to foster a culture of safety and invest in our employees, so they have the training, support and workplace environment needed to do their work safely and effectively.

Sustainability at Great River Energy is about serving our member-owners, maintaining strong financial performance and making thoughtful investments that position our cooperative for the future.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to deliver and produce electricity that is reliable, affordable and responsibly produced.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Saggau', written in a cursive style.

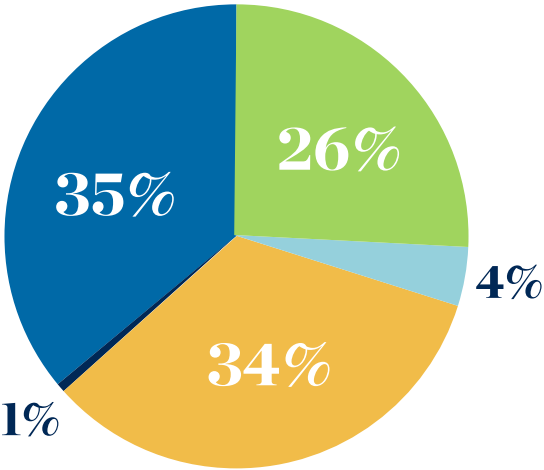
DAVID SAGGAU
President & Chief Executive Officer

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: DELIVERING ON THE COMMITMENT

GREAT RIVER ENERGY HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS DEDICATION TO THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE SINCE THE ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED IN 1999. THE COOPERATIVE CLOSELY MONITORS AND MANAGES THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ITS OPERATIONS.

Great River Energy’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by evolving its power supply resources is improving its environmental impact. Additionally, the cooperative is investing in the transmission grid to ensure reliable, affordable electricity for homes, farms and businesses across the Upper Midwest.

A DIVERSE GENERATION MIX



Great River Energy is a leader in adopting innovative energy solutions and crafting a portfolio of diverse power supply resources to provide affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

Great River Energy has more than 950 megawatts (MW) of wind energy from eight large wind farms in the Midwest to serve its members. Wind’s increasing efficiency and the strong wind conditions in the region make wind a competitive energy choice, and the cooperative has plans to procure or construct over 1,000 MW of additional wind generation over the next decade.

- WIND
- NATURAL GAS
- FUEL OIL (0.1%)
- RAINBOW ENERGY
- COAL
- HYDRO (0.3%)
- MARKET

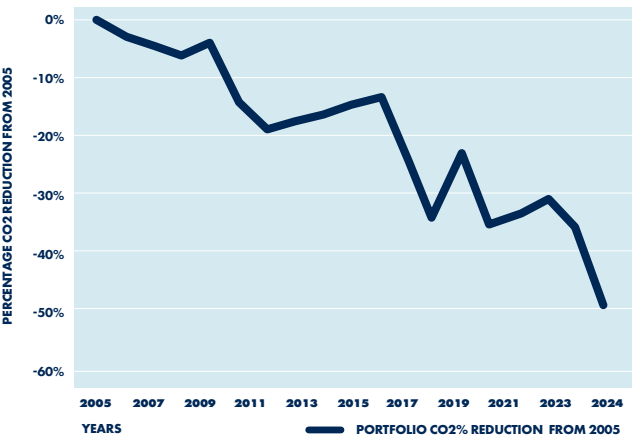


DRIVING EMISSION REDUCTIONS

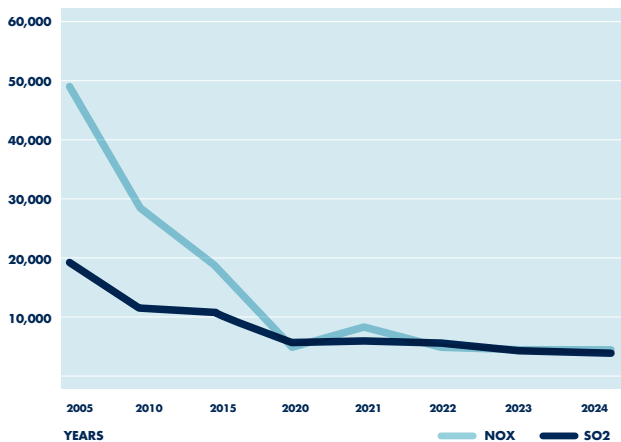
GREAT RIVER ENERGY HAS SPENT MORE THAN A DECADE REDUCING ITS CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS AND IS WELL POSITIONED TO COMPLY WITH MINNESOTA'S CARBON-FREE STANDARD BY 2040.

These efforts have resulted in Great River Energy's emissions being reduced by half since 2005. This meets Minnesota's Next Generation Energy Act's goal of 50% reduction by 2030 more than 5 years ahead of schedule.

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS



AIR EMISSIONS



Great River Energy carefully tracks the GHG emissions from the energy sources used to serve its member-owner cooperatives and customers.

[You can view more of Great River Energy's tracking efforts here >](#)

HARNESSING NEW INNOVATIONS

Energy storage is an exciting and growing category of resources that offers several grid benefits. Large-scale energy storage would allow Great River Energy to store excess energy generated from renewable sources during periods of high production and then discharge it during times of low generation, reducing the reliance on fossil fuel powered generation and significantly improving the reliability of the grid.

Great River Energy has executed commercial agreements for a new, 140 MW energy storage project tied to the Emmons-Logan Wind project in North Dakota. The project will integrate a lithium-ion energy storage system (battery) with the wind generation. This approach allows the storage system to use the existing interconnection to the grid to maximize efficiency, economic value and renewable energy utilization.

[Read more >](#)

Great River Energy is also partnering with Form Energy on a pilot project to deploy a long-duration, iron-air battery that can provide electricity for up to 100 hours.

[Read more >](#)

CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING

Great River Energy and a consortium of its member-owners secured \$812 million in funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program, marking the culmination of nearly two years of dedicated effort by Great River Energy and its member-owners. This investment will support Great River Energy to procure renewable energy from rural areas across Minnesota and North Dakota. The projects will include large-scale wind energy, distributed renewable energy and other innovative energy solutions aimed at improving electric service and advancing sustainability across the region.

[Read more >](#)



BUILDING A GRID FOR TOMORROW

A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE IS UNDERWAY IN THE MIDWEST, WITH GREAT RIVER ENERGY DEVELOPING ESSENTIAL ROUTES AND MAKING TARGETED INVESTMENTS. THIS EXPANSION WILL ALLOW MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY TO BE CONNECTED TO THE GRID AND TO BETTER SERVE THE COOPERATIVE'S MEMBER-OWNERS.

The Northland Reliability Project is an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that extends from near Grand Rapids, Minnesota to near St. Cloud, Minnesota. The approved route will largely follow existing transmission line corridors, thus minimizing environmental impacts and the need for new right-of-way for the transmission line.

[Read more >](#)

Several energy providers launched their plan to provide long-term electric reliability for the region by developing the Upper Midwest's first 765-kV transmission project. The project, called PowerOn Midwest, will accommodate the significant growth in electricity use projected in the coming decades and improve access to new energy sources needed to serve communities throughout the region.

[Read more >](#)

Great River Energy has incorporated advanced technologies to further its grid modernization efforts. The cooperative partnered with Prisma Photonics to deploy state-of-the-art monitoring technology across approximately 90 miles of existing transmission lines in northern and central Minnesota. This real-time system enables rapid detection and notification of threats such as wildfires, icing, wind and physical damage, thereby enhancing operational reliability as well as safety for the electric system and the community.

[Read more >](#)

In addition to monitoring solutions, Great River Energy continues to invest in dynamic line rating projects and cutting-edge sensor technologies, such as Heimdall sensors, which have been recognized among the year's best inventions by *Time* magazine. These advancements help boost grid capacity, improve resilience and optimize the use of transmission assets. By leveraging these technologies, Great River Energy is ensuring the ongoing reliability of its power delivery while supporting the integration of new energy resources and the evolving needs of member-owners.

[Read more >](#)



POLLINATOR STRONG: RESTORING VITAL HABITATS ACROSS THE STATE



POLLINATORS ARE ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MAINTENANCE OF HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS AND THE STABILITY OF THE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY.

Through its Pollinator Strong initiative, Great River Energy aims to expand pollinator habitats throughout Minnesota. So far, the cooperative has established over 300 acres of land that supports pollinator species, and it plans to plant and restore an additional 300 acres in the coming years. Great River Energy planted 31.8 acres of pollinator habitat in 2025.

In addition, Great River Energy was accepted to the monarch butterfly Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) in late 2024. The CCAA is a voluntary initiative that recognizes the value of habitat for monarch butterflies along the cooperative’s transmission rights-of-way and other properties.

Great River Energy’s first full year of monitoring under the CCAA revealed that the thousands of acres of right of way that it manages provide good habitat for monarchs. Milkweed is a native plant that is essential for monarch butterfly habitat. This monitoring found that the cooperative’s right of way contains more than twice as much milkweed as the goal set by the monarch CCAA.

This habitat is supported by Great River Energy’s integrated vegetation management approach for right of way acres. The approach enhances ecological health by targeting vegetation management efforts on woody vegetation while allowing other species to flourish. In addition to the environmental benefit, this approach reduces safety risks from trees contacting power lines to improve grid reliability.

[Read more >](#)



COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYEE IMPACT

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS A KEY ELEMENT OF GREAT RIVER ENERGY'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS.

The cooperative demonstrates this by making donations to nonprofits, investing locally, offering scholarships and sponsoring events. Great River Energy collaborates with its member-owners to attract and retain businesses and jobs in areas served by cooperatives.

Reliable and affordable electricity is fundamental to the well-being of communities. Great River Energy's wholesale electric rates are significantly below the weighted regional average cost of electricity. Its reliability metrics remain consistently high, and member satisfaction and trust are exceptionally strong.

Great River Energy makes meaningful charitable contributions that leave a notable mark on the community. The cooperative donates more than 2% of its annual earnings – both in cash and in-kind – to support important community projects. In 2025, these donations totaled more than \$2 million.

[Read more >](#)

- Great River Energy supports employee engagement in community service by providing eligible staff with paid volunteer hours, allowing them to support causes aligned with their personal interests and values. A shining example is the volunteer efforts with Habitat for Humanity. Great River Energy employees have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for more than 15 years.

[Read more >](#)

- Great River Energy ties its achievements to the well-being of the communities it supports. By sponsoring local events and investing in regional initiatives, the cooperative strengthens connections, promotes economic development, encourages educational opportunities and improves life for both its members and surrounding residents.
- As a longtime partner of the Minnesota Twins, Great River Energy helps to bring free, professional baseball and softball instruction to kids across Minnesota. These clinics don't just teach fundamentals; they build confidence and teamwork in a fun, accessible environment.

[Read more >](#)

- As the new title sponsor of The Minnesota Paddling Opener, Great River Energy is helping families and outdoor enthusiasts connect with the beauty of the Mississippi River. The partnership is a good reflection of the cooperative's commitment to the environment and the recreational spirit of Minnesota.

[Read more >](#)



BACKING LOCAL SUPPLIERS AND VENDORS

GREAT RIVER ENERGY COLLABORATES WITH LOCAL AND DIVERSE SUPPLIERS TO FOSTER A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC FUTURE FOR THE COMMUNITIES IT SERVES.

Through a focus on local sourcing, the cooperative generates significant economic benefits. In 2025, this approach led to expenditures exceeding \$347 million with businesses in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin, comprising 82% of Great River Energy’s total annual spending.

Great River Energy is committed to engaging with a broad range of suppliers, including businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans, disabled individuals and members of the LGBTQ+ community. In 2025, the organization’s spending on diverse suppliers amounted to nearly \$6 million, representing approximately 6% of its annual expenditure.

POWERING PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Great River Energy views economic development as a cornerstone of its mission to power cooperative communities.

Beyond providing reliable electricity, the cooperative acts as a strategic partner to local businesses and member-owners by offering a suite of financial tools, including the Business Expansion Loan Program and the Energy Efficiency and Electrification (E3) Loan Program. These initiatives provide the capital necessary for commercial growth while helping businesses reduce overhead through modern technology.

Additionally, Great River Energy works directly with Minnesota communities and its member-owner cooperatives in pursuing their economic development efforts. By fostering job creation and investing in projects that range from manufacturing hubs to senior living facilities, the cooperative ensures that the communities it serves remain resilient and economically vibrant for the long term

[Read more >](#)

[Read more >](#)



FOCUSED ON EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

GREAT RIVER ENERGY VALUES ITS EMPLOYEES' GENERAL WELL-BEING AND RECOGNIZES THAT THEIR HEALTH IS CRUCIAL TO THE COMPANY'S SUCCESS.

Employees are able to maintain a balanced and satisfying lifestyle with the company's competitive benefits, which include family leave, paid time off and free access to health and financial wellness programs.

The cooperative was recognized for commitments to workplace equality, well-being efforts and community outreach in 2025.

[Read more >](#)

[Read more >](#)





FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENERGY TALENT

A MAJOR SHIFT IS OCCURRING FOR PERSONNEL IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. THE INDUSTRY IS GROWING 25% FASTER THAN OVERALL U.S. EMPLOYMENT AND, OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, ONE-THIRD OF SKILLED TRADES PROFESSIONALS WILL RETIRE.

To help bridge this gap and keep the electric grid safe and reliable, Great River Energy is continuing its efforts to educate young people about the diverse career opportunities provided by the electric industry and specifically with electric cooperatives.

Great River Energy's internship program offers hands-on, real-world experience for students exploring their careers.

[Read more >](#)

Great River Energy's Cooperative Careers Camp provided high-school students with an inside look at energy careers.

[Read more >](#)

Bismarck State College honored Great River Energy with its Visionary Award for the cooperative's contributions to the educational institution.

[Read more >](#)



DEDICATED TO MEMBER-OWNER COOPERATIVES

MEMBER-OWNED COOPERATIVES LIKE GREAT RIVER ENERGY THRIVE ON ACTIVE MEMBER PARTICIPATION.

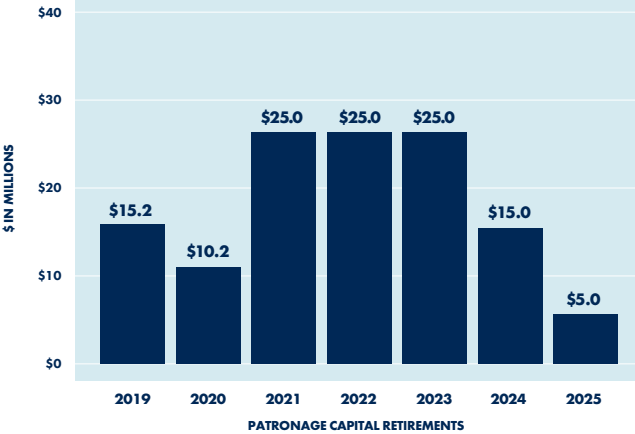
The democratic structure empowers members to influence the cooperative’s direction by voting on key decisions, electing board members and engaging in open discussions. This active participation cultivates a sense of ownership and accountability, ensuring the cooperative meets member needs and fosters a culture of transparency and trust.

In 2025, Great River Energy conducted a survey of 800 member-consumers across Minnesota. The results showed that trust in Great River Energy and its member-owner cooperatives remains exceptionally strong. Over 90% of respondents rate information flow, outage response and board transparency as “good” or “excellent.”

[Read more >](#)

As a not-for-profit organization Great River Energy provides its services to its member-owner cooperatives at cost, only collecting enough revenue to run the business and meet financial obligations. Great River Energy’s board of directors approved the payment of \$5 million to member-owners through its 2025 patronage capital return, marking the seventh consecutive year that a return was made.

[Read more >](#)



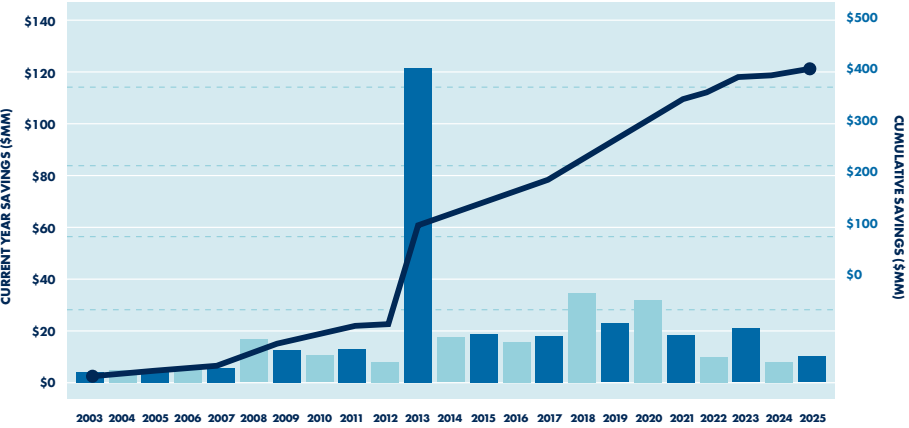


A BUSINESS CULTURE THAT ENCOURAGES CONTINUOUS INNOVATION

GREAT RIVER ENERGY HAS DEVELOPED A CULTURE OF INNOVATION BY EMPOWERING EVERY EMPLOYEE TO PURSUE NEW IDEAS.

This company-wide commitment to business improvement has driven significant operational efficiencies, reduced environmental impacts, improved employee health and safety and reduced costs since its inception in 2002. Employees pursuing better ways of working have resulted in \$432.59 million in total savings for member-owner cooperatives. In 2025 alone, employee innovation yielded \$9.7 million in savings from 204 approved submissions.

HISTORICAL SAVINGS



CURRENT TOTAL: \$432.59 (\$MM)



POWERING THE PATH FORWARD

GREAT RIVER ENERGY'S ONGOING DEDICATION TO ITS MEMBER-OWNER COOPERATIVES, COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION AND FOCUS ON OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE HAVE POSITIONED THE ORGANIZATION FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS IN SERVING COOPERATIVE MEMBERS.

Through consistently delivering value to its members, promoting a culture of continuous improvement, investing in cleaner and more reliable energy solutions, and strengthening the regional transmission system, the cooperative effectively addresses current challenges while laying the groundwork for a sustainable future.



12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

greatriverenergy.com