



NEWS & VIEWS

The official newsletter of JCREMC • Summer 2021

Fund awards over \$53,000 in grants

The JCREMC Community Fund awarded \$53,423 in Operation Round-Up® Community Grants to 13 local organizations in the spring.

The fund is part of JCREMC's commitment to improving the lives of people in the local community. It is funded through the cooperative's Operation Round-Up® program in which consumer-members who opt-in agree to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest whole dollar. For example, a bill of \$78.90 would be rounded up to \$79

and the extra 10 cents placed in the JCREMC Community Fund.

The fund is overseen by an independent advisory board of JCREMC members.

Each spring and fall, local charitable and non-profit organizations can apply for grants to fund projects that benefit the community.

JCREMC Community Fund Operation Round-Up®

Grant applications will be available for fall 2021 October 1-31. Recipients will

be chosen and notified in November. Learn more at jcremc.com/operation-round-up.

Funded organizations and projects for Spring 2021

- Boys and Girls Club of Johnson County
Building Safety Upgrades
- Franklin City Police Department
AEDs for Patrol Vehicles
- Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County
Smart Bracket Wall Scaffolding
- Imagination Library of Johnson County
Monthly Children's Books Supply
- Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair
Expo Hall AEDs
- Johnson County Parks and Recreation
Johnson Co. Park Ballfield Improvements
- Johnson County Senior Services
Raised Garden Boxes with Furniture
- Johnson Memorial Hospital Guild
The Gifting Tree Area Improvements
- Michelle's Little Free Pantry
Grocery Gift Cards for Thanksgiving
- Purdue Extension Johnson County
Healthy Eating Program Implementation
- The Refuge, Inc.
After School Program Playground
- Trafalgar Volunteer Fire Department
Water Tank and Drafting Hoses
- Woodside Community Church
Basketball Goals and Return Nets

Shedding a light on

From rooftop panels to local media advertising, it's clear consumer interest in residential solar power is growing.

For JCREMC members considering solar for their homes, calling Energy Advisor Shane Neher at 317-736-6174 is the right first step. There are a variety of situational and goal-based factors to consider before making the investment. There are also safety and interconnection agreement requirements to connect standby generation, such as solar panels, to JCREMC's system.

Neher can explain it all. He can also help you determine if solar is right for you depending on your objectives.

"My advice will vary depending on personal goals and values," he says. "If your goal is reducing fossil fuel use, I can help you find the right system. If you just want to save money, that may be a different conversation."

Once Neher understands your objectives, he will look at your *myJCREMC* account to determine how much electricity your home is using and when. "It's important to look at these factors so we can determine if there are easier ways to lower your electric bill and whether solar makes sense for you," he says.

Oftentimes, solar vendors overstate savings and understate the overall cost of owning solar panels. JCREMC's goal is to provide the data and information members need to make an informed decision. That includes information on JCREMC rates, which, according to CEO John Sturm, are projected to hold steady or

potentially decrease in the foreseeable future—something that will affect the return on a solar investment.

Option One: Increase energy efficiency

Regardless of your individual goals, using energy more efficiently in your home is always a good idea. Things like attic insulation, duct sealing, HVAC tune-ups, smart thermostats, and efficient water heaters are great first steps in reducing consumption and lowering your monthly electric bill. JCREMC offers rebates to help members complete these types of upgrades. Learn more at jcremc.com/savings/rebates.

Neher can help you identify the efficiency measures that make sense for your household and determine which rebates you qualify for.

It's also important to note that if your goal is shifting to renewable energy sources, JCREMC is diversifying.

"JCREMC is already increasing renewable energy resources in the power we purchase on the wholesale market to supply your home," Sturm says. "It may be that simply using electricity more efficiently is the most cost-effective approach to both savings and environmental benefit."

Option Two: My Solar

If you're interested in solar power but don't want to install solar panels on your home, consider signing up for JCREMC's *My Solar* program. Participating members pay a one-time upfront payment of \$500 to receive the production from one solar panel for 20 years.

n residential solar

They are credited 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) produced on their monthly electricity bill. Each panel generates about 450-500 kWh annually, depending on weather patterns and other environmental factors.

"It's a hassle-free way to access solar energy for your home or business," Neher says.

All ongoing costs are included in the upfront fee, so there are no unexpected repair bills. The program also eliminates common barriers to residential solar, such as trees, roof size, and house location. Learn more at jcremc.com by clicking "My Solar" under the "Service" tab.

Option 3: Install solar panels

If solar is the right option for you, panels can be installed on a roof or ground mount. A home solar panel can produce between 150 and 370 watts of electricity daily, depending on its size, location, and efficiency. For example, a 290-watt solar panel that gets five hours of direct sun per day will produce about 1.5 kWh daily.

Once an interconnection agreement is fully executed and safety requirements met, a residential solar system is authorized to connect to JCREMC's system. Your account will then be set up on net metering service (NMS), which allows you to sell excess energy produced based on the cooperative's avoided cost of energy. The current rate of 4.389 cents per kWh is applied monthly.

Another option is to add battery storage for excess electricity produced. This allows you to tap into your own energy reserves when the sun isn't shining or if there's a power outage.

Let us help

Regardless of which option is right for your home, JCREMC is here to help. Be sure to call us at 317-736-6174 before signing any solar agreement.

Ask the vendor

Before signing a residential solar agreement, make sure you understand the details. Here are some questions to ask a potential vendor:

1. What rate assumptions are used to calculate savings, including future rate increases and the buy-back amount?
2. What weather statistics are used to determine annual power generation and savings?
3. Who is responsible for repairs and maintenance of the solar array?
4. What happens if the solar array damages my home in some way?
5. Will insurance cover the cost if my solar array is damaged or stolen?
6. What incentives or tax credits are available for a potential solar array?
7. What questions should I ask JCREMC? (If they urge you not to contact us, that may be a red flag.)

2022 Nominating Committee announced

The Nominating Committee for Johnson County Rural Electric Membership Corporation has been appointed for the Annual Meeting to be held April 2, 2022. The committee members are listed here by district alongside each district's current director.

In accordance with the bylaws, the Nominating Committee will meet on September 14, 2021 to consider and nominate the director candidates to be on the ballot at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Candidate applications are due no later than 10 days prior to the advertised date of the Nominating Committee meeting and can be found at jcremc.com/board-of-directors.

District 1 – Greg Ash
Current Director: Glenn McAlpin

District 2 – Clay Fulkerson
Current Director: Seth Brown

District 3 – Jeff Dannemiller
Current Director: Dennis Stewart

District 4 – Ken Bradley
Current Director: James Meredith

District 5** – Lynn Gray
Current Director: Lee Ann Wilbur

District 6** – Conrad Wong
Current Director: Stephen Watson

District 7 – Linda Haggard
Current Director: Ron Barnett

**Denotes district up for election in 2022.

Save the Date: JCREMC to host fall events

10.9.21 – EV Day

When: October 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

What: An open house-style event where attendees learn about electric vehicles and JCREMC's EV-related rates and programs. A variety of EV models will be on display—some available for test drive—and JCREMC team members will be there to answer questions.

Where: 750 International Dr., Franklin.

10.19.21 – CEO Town Hall

When: October 19 at 6:30 p.m.

What: An open dialogue with JCREMC CEO and JCFiber President John Sturm. After brief remarks on the state of the cooperative and the ongoing JCFiber expansion, Sturm will answer member questions. Light refreshments will be provided.

Where: 750 International Dr., Franklin.

