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SUMMER 2022

**POWER**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF JCREMC

# CONSERVATION COUNTS

IMPACT GRID RELIABILITY AND  
SAVE MONEY AT THE SAME TIME

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A few simple adjustments can go a long way in lowering monthly electric bills. But that's not all. Conserving electricity also contributes to grid reliability.

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# COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Nominating and Credentials Committee for Johnson County Rural Electric Membership Corporation has been appointed for the Annual Meeting to be held April 15, 2023. Committee members are listed by district alongside each district's current director. Districts up for election in 2023 are denoted with asterisks.

In accordance with the bylaws, the Nominating and Credentials Committee will meet on September 13, 2022, to consider and nominate the director candidates to be on the ballot for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Candidate applications are due no later than 10 days prior to the advertised date of the Nominating and Credentials Committee meeting and can be found at [jcremc.com/board-of-directors](http://jcremc.com/board-of-directors).

## 2023 Nominating and Credentials Committee

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 - Don Vandoski

**Current Director:** Stephen Watson

DISTRICT 7 - Linda Haggard

**Current Director:** Ron Barnett



# Save dollars, make sense with a retrofit

JUST BE SURE TO DO IT CORRECTLY

In search of a lower energy bill, a cleaner environment or just a more comfortable temperature in your home?

Odds are a heat pump retrofit will deliver all three and more.

What is a retrofit, you ask?

A retrofit integrates new components in your current HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system to improve its efficiency. That way, you won't need to replace your entire HVAC system.

In this case, we're talking about installing an electric heat pump to replace fossil-fuel burning systems, such as propane, oil or even natural gas.

According to Energy information Administration data from 2015, about 46 percent of the housing units (53.8 million) in the United States have forced-air systems which use fossil fuels as their primary heat source.

By converting the accompanying furnaces to heat pump air handlers, homeowners can save money two ways:

- They don't have to replace the full system.
- They can save energy and lower their monthly energy bills.

There are a few keys to a successful retrofit, however.

**First, be sure to correctly calculate the size of your heat pump.**

If you underestimate the amount of heating and cooling needed, the equipment won't be able to maintain comfortable temperatures, especially under extreme conditions. It will also increase the workload and eliminate some of those

efficiency savings.

More common is oversizing the equipment. Not only does larger equipment cost more (and who wants to spend more money than necessary?), but oversized units will cycle on and off more often.

That also leads to a loss in efficiency, not to mention additional wear and tear on the equipment. And with air conditioning, a short cycle fails to dehumidify the house sufficiently.

**Second, retrofit projects must be done by trained technicians.**

Electrical work, if not done correctly, can result in shock or fire, while failed refrigerant connections could result in leaks and/or equipment failure, as well as potential environmental harm.

**Finally, be sure you know how to use your new system to achieve the maximum benefits in both comfort and savings.**

The temperature setting is critical. Knowing how the system works and how to turn it on and off is also vital.

With all of that in mind, a heat pump retrofit — done correctly — could save you plenty of dollars and make a lot of sense. ■



by Shane Neher  
Energy Advisor

This article originally ran in the July issue of "Indiana Connection" magazine. Visit [indianaconnection.org](http://indianaconnection.org).

# CONSERVATION COUNTS

FOR MORE THAN JUST YOUR WALLET

Energy conservation is a great way to save money on your monthly electric bill, but did you know it also can contribute to regional grid reliability?

The potential for rotating outages has been a hot topic in the media this summer as the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO, warned utilities throughout the region about the possibility of power shortages in the middle part of the United States during peak usage times (2-8 p.m.) when the weather is extremely hot and humid.

But taking steps to conserve electricity isn't just important during summer months or extreme weather conditions. Making energy-conscious choices all the time can make a difference.

## SUMMER CONSERVATION TIPS

As the mercury rises, so does electricity consumption. One of the simplest ways to keep your home cooler is to close the blinds or curtains to slow down heat gain on sunny days.

Bumping up the thermostat also helps. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 78 degrees or higher in the summer to keep your air conditioner from running non-stop. Using ceiling fans can keep you comfortable, as well. Just remember: Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Be sure to turn off fans when you leave the room.

A programmable thermostat can be a helpful tool in automatically regulating your home's temperature on a pre-set schedule year-round.

Slow cookers, countertop convection ovens, air fryers or other small appliances are great tools to have in your arsenal. Not only do these use less electricity than a full-sized oven, they also contribute far less heat gain in your home.

Another way to slow heat gain in the summer (and heat loss in the winter) is to keep overhead doors closed as much as possible on attached garages.

An item pool-owners forget to consider with a high summer electric bill is the pool's pump. Pool owners can conserve electricity by investing in a variable-speed pump.

## WINTER CONSERVATION TIPS

Before Old Man Winter settles into Indiana, consider having a licensed HVAC technician inspect and maintain your system. Proper maintenance and changing air filters ensure your system is running as efficiently as possible.

The Department of Energy suggests setting thermostats to 68 degrees in the winter months. Setting it a couple of degrees lower when you're away for much of the day is also good practice. Again, this is where a programmable thermostat can come in handy.

Adjusting the temperature on your water heater can be another way to conserve electricity. Water heater temperatures are often set too high from install. Try a lower setting to see if it works for your household.

Other energy-saving tips, regardless of season, include short showers, turning off lights and TVs when you leave a room, washing laundry in cold water, and reducing vampire loads, or electricity used by devices that are plugged in but not turned on. These can be reduced by unplugging chargers, electronic devices, and small appliances when not in use.

## LONG-TERM UPGRADES

Energy efficiency upgrades can be a great investment that pays off for homeowners in the





long-run.

JCREMC offers a variety of rebates and incentives to help consumers offset the cost of these upgrades. Examples include HVAC system and water heater upgrades, HVAC tune-ups, duct sealing, attic insulation, smart thermostats, and variable-speed pool pumps. Learn more at [jcremc.com/savings](http://jcremc.com/savings).

### GO OFF-PEAK

One final way JCREMC consumers can save money and contribute to grid reliability is by shifting some electricity usage to off-peak times when there is less demand for electricity. Programmable appliances, such as dishwashers and laundry machines, can be set with a delayed start, and electric vehicle chargers can be programmed to charge at a specific time.

JCREMC offers two different rate structures that reward consumers for shifting usage off-peak. The Single-Phase Service (SPS1) rate and the Single-Phase Time-of-Use rate both have a super off-peak period from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. when electricity costs less. The SPS1 rate became JCREMC's standard rate for new consumers in September 2020. All consumers will be moved to this rate in the coming months. This rate offers summer savings, so if you'd like to switch now, please call 317-736-6174.

### ENERGY ADVISING

JCREMC has an on-staff energy advisor, Shane Neher, who can help consumers review usage and try to identify areas with potential for energy conservation. This is a free service offered to all members. He can be reached at 317-736-6174 or [nehers@jcremc.com](mailto:nehers@jcremc.com).

Want to know more about potential power shortages and JCREMC's plan if they ever occur? Visit our website at [jcremc.com/regional-power-shortages](http://jcremc.com/regional-power-shortages).

# MAKING SENSE OF MISO

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO, is an independent, not-for-profit organization that manages the generation and transmission of high-voltage electricity across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. MISO is tasked with making sure the right amount of electricity is generated and transmitted to electricity distributors who supply power to 42 million people at all times.

MISO also oversees regional grid reliability. That means if the demand for electricity within their jurisdiction is projected to exceed available capacity, they will call for load reductions. The purpose of this is to protect the integrity of the regional electric grid.

The generation and transmission MISO oversees is what feeds electricity distribution systems throughout the region, including JCREMC's.

If MISO ever called for a reduction in load on the regional grid, all distribution entities in the designated area would be required to participate. That means rotating outages would impact a wide range of consumers, not just those who receive their power from JCREMC.

Learn more about MISO's mission and see real-time market and usage data at [misoenergy.org](http://misoenergy.org).

# DOWN WITH THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

## JCFiber expands to southeastern Johnson County

JCREMC subsidiary JCFiber has announced its fourth zone of fiber internet expansion to underserved areas in JCREMC's electric service territory.

**Zone 4 follows the eastern Johnson County Line and encompasses an area east, southeast, and south of Franklin.** Mainline construction is under way, and residents within this zone should be eligible to sign up by the end of the second quarter of 2023. The expansion is part of a 4-year plan that kicked off in December 2020 to take broadband internet service to residents who don't currently have true high-speed internet access through another provider.

"We are excited to continue expanding the best available technology to members of our community who don't currently have access to true high-speed internet," said John Sturm, JCREMC CEO and JCFiber President. **"Fiber-to-the-home can be life-changing for rural residents who have previously struggled to work, learn, stream, and game from home."**

The project's progress has been spurred on by an April investment of \$1 million from Johnson County's American Rescue Plan Act funds.

"Investments from our local officials have played an integral role in helping us keep our momentum on this expansion," Sturm said. "One of our priorities is affordability. This investment from the county and any future investments or grants will help us complete this expansion and lower our prices as soon as possible, which has always been our goal."

**JCFiber offers a no-gimmick pricing model.** Monthly prices are as stated for all consumers, and the company's only price changes have been reductions that were immediately extended to all customers—not just new sign-ups. JCFiber also participates in

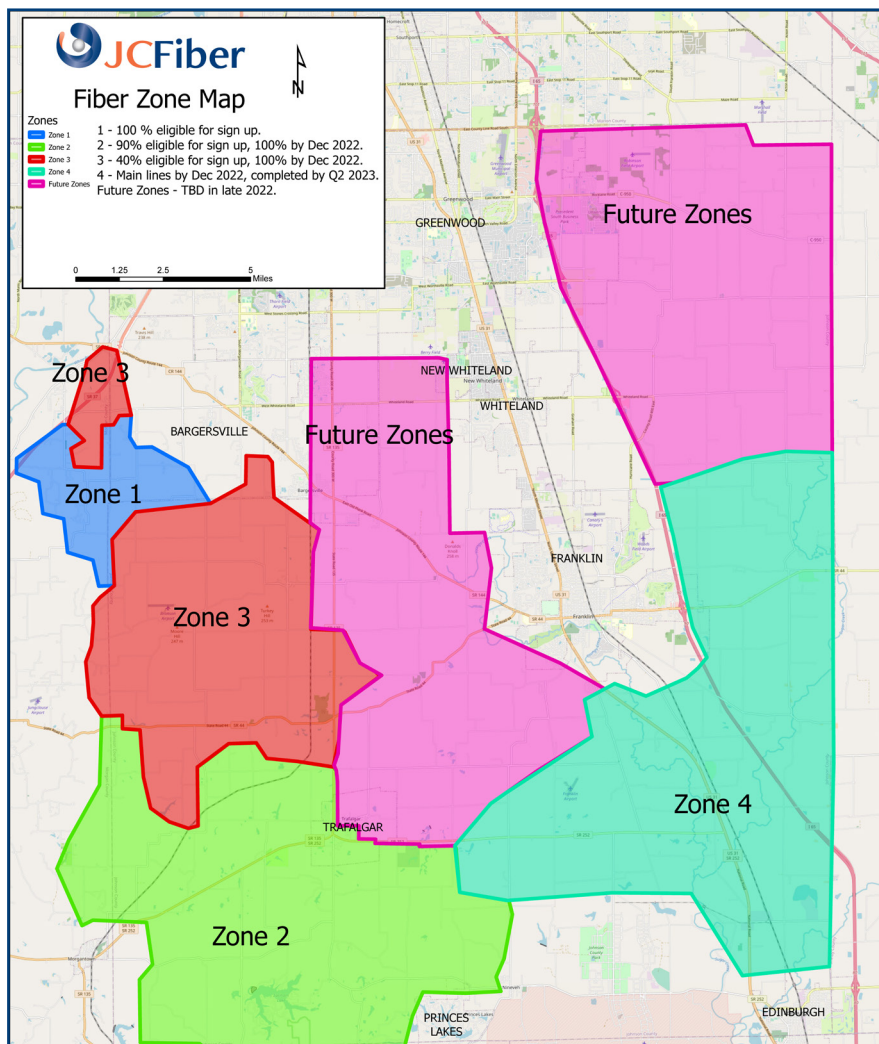
the federal government's Affordable Connectivity Program. Qualifying consumers can enroll at [fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers](https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers).

The company offers short 12-month contracts as part of a recent update, as well.

Expansion zones 1-3 of are nearing completion. All residents in Zone 1 are eligible to sign up for service. In Zone 2, 90 percent are eligible, and in Zone 3, 40 percent. All residents in zones 2 and 3 will be eligible to sign up by the end of 2022. Households are notified by postcard when service becomes available.

Future zones will be announced in 2023.

**See the full-sized expansion map and check sign-up eligibility at [jcfiber.com](https://www.jcfiber.com).** JCFiber is also on Facebook at @JCFiber.





**ANDREW HODGES**

**Andrew Hodges** is a 2022 graduate of Center Grove High School. He is studying Economics at Indiana University. During his time at Center Grove, Andrew participated in Marching Band, Pep Band, Student Government, Environment Club, and Keeping Our Public Politically Informed.

Learn more about the JCREMC Academic Scholarship at [jcremc.com](http://jcremc.com) by clicking "Academic Scholarship" under the "Community" tab.

# 2022 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, JCREMC awards two \$2,000 academic scholarships to area high school seniors who will attend an in-state college, university, or trade school. Meet the 2022 recipients.



**Emily Todor** is a 2022 graduate of Indian Creek Senior High School. She is majoring in Exploratory Studies at Butler University, where she is also playing softball. During her time at Indian Creek, Emily's activities included softball, basketball, show choir, National Honor Society, Champions Together, and a variety of volunteerism.

# OPERATION ROUND-UP®

Each spring and fall, the JCREMC Community Fund awards project-based Operation Round-Up® grants to local non-profit charitable organizations in the communities JCREMC serves. Operation Round-Up® is funded by JCREMC consumers who opt to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest whole dollar. Applications for fall 2022 grants will be available October 1-31. Learn more under the Community tab at [jcremc.com](http://jcremc.com). During the spring 2022 cycle, the fund dispersed \$38,531 to 11 organizations. Here are the impacts consumer contributions are making:

- **Franklin Union Needham Township Trustee, Johnson County** - Food Pantry Replenishment
- **Greenwood Christian Academy** - Ready To Read! Library Project
- **Indian Creek FFA** - Campus Greenhouse Project
- **Johnson County Animal Shelter** - Spay and Neuter Sheltered Animals
- **Johnson County Senior Services** - Box Truck for Food Delivery
- **Johnson Memorial Hospital Guild** - Mobile Book Cart for Inpatients
- **Second Mount Pleasant Baptist Church** - Freezer for I Care Food Pantry
- **Saint Thomas Clinic** - Medication Purchases for Clinic
- **Trafalgar Fire Department** - Power Tools for Rescue Purposes
- **Turning Point Domestic Violence Services of Johnson County** - Agency Marketing & Outreach Materials
- **Trustees of Purdue University** - Youth Sport Fishing Materials



# AN ELECTRIC EXPERIENCE

Electric vehicles are gaining popularity, and JCREMC wants our consumers to have the information to make the vehicle purchase decision that best suits each individual lifestyle.

## EV Experience

JCREMC members can test drive the cooperative's Chevrolet Bolt through our EV Experience program.

## EV Day

JCREMC will host EV Day on September 10, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 750 International Dr., Franklin. Structured similar to a car show, EV Day is a free opportunity for the community to see various EV models (some available for test drive) and ask questions of JCREMC's EV Team members.

## ChooseEV

JCREMC's website has a host of EV-related resources, including a cost calculator, and rebates.

Learn about these programs and resources online at [jcremc.com/electric-vehicles](http://jcremc.com/electric-vehicles).



JCREMC's EV Team serves members by providing educational resources, experiences, and rebates related to electric vehicles.

## JCREMC EV DAY

**WHAT** A free EV car show and educational event

**WHEN** September 10, 2022, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**WHERE** 750 International Dr., Franklin, IN 46131