



emPOWER

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PROJECT INDIANA

Bringing electricity to those in need

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COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

Nomination and Credentials Committee Info

The Nomination and Credentials Committee for Johnson County Rural Electric Membership Corporation has been appointed, and the Annual Meeting will be held on April 13, 2024. Committee members are listed by district alongside each district's current director. Districts up for election in 2024 are denoted with asterisks.

In accordance with the bylaws, the Nomination and Credentials Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 to consider and nominate the director candidates to be on the ballot for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Candidate applications are due no later than 10 days prior to the advertised date of the Nomination and Credentials Committee meeting and can be found at jcremc.com/board-of-directors.

2024 Nomination and Credentials Committee

DISTRICT 1 -Burke Admire
Current Director: Glenn McAlpin

DISTRICT 5 -Lynn Gray
Current Director: Lee Ann Wilbur

DISTRICT 2** -Clay Fulkerson
Current Director: Seth Brown

DISTRICT 6 -Don Vandoski
Current Director: Stephen Watson

DISTRICT 3** -Jeff Dannemiller
Current Director: Dennis Stewart

DISTRICT 7** -Linda Haggard
Current Director: Ron Barnett

DISTRICT 4 -Ken Bradley
Current Director: James Meredith

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PROJECT INDIANA: Empowering Global Communities for a Better Tomorrow

Fourteen Indiana electric cooperative lineworkers traveled to Guatemala in late April, as part of an international initiative to bring electricity to developing areas. The crew temporarily resided in the village of Peña Roja, along the western edge of Guatemala, from April 27 through May 13, extending their electric infrastructure to approximately 26 homes. Kevin Bay, lineman at JCREMC, was among this crew for the second time since 2019, and sat down with JCREMC Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Rachel Drabick, to discuss his experience:



What would you consider to be the most challenging part of your trip to Peña Roja? The terrain, the travel and just getting to the job. We also had limited tools and equipment.

What were the villager's reactions to the linemen, upon arrival? People are always super nice and the kids enjoy interacting with us, mostly because we have candy. A group of kids challenged us to a game of soccer.

What is one thing you wish people here in the states knew about your experience? Many don't realize that there are people in this world who still live in such underdeveloped areas. Villagers work all day long for the things we do in minutes, such as constantly gathering firewood and tending to the fire, for both a heat source and cooking. Every time I come back from this trip, I feel very rich.

The linemen celebrated with the villagers once their job was done, complete with a feast, music and dancing. A few linemen snuck away prior to the celebration to purchase 65 pairs of shoes, 65 coloring books, soccer balls, piñatas, fireworks and backpacks – all bought with personal money they had pooled together. By the time the Project Indiana team left the mountain at the end of that day, every home in Peña Roja had working electricity – great job, team!

Battery Energy Storage Systems

This year, JCREMC is focusing on the implementation of a battery energy storage system (BESS). This initiative has two main benefits – long-term cost savings and reliability. Kevin Shelley, Director of Engineering, answers some questions about this new venture.

What is battery storage used for?

The BESS's primary use will be for electrical demand reduction. We will discharge the battery when we anticipate Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO) peak conditions. This will lower our power bill from our wholesale provider. There are other potential cost saving measures that we can use the BESS for in the future, and we will be constantly evaluating future potential opportunities.

Why does battery storage make sense?

The BESS makes sense as a way to lower our current power bill and hedge against future cost increases. The incentives offered to cooperatives as part of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 made it the right time to invest in the technology.

When would battery storage be deployed?

The BESS will be discharged during potential peak times of MISO. In the summer, this is likely to be on the hottest days between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. In the winter, it is likely to be on the coldest days between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

How will battery storage benefit members?

The biggest benefit to our membership is cost control of our power bill. This control will help JCREMC minimize rate increases in the future. There are also potential reliability benefits that we will continue researching and implement when the time is right.

Want to know what upgrades we offer to help with growing electrical need? Check out our website jcremc.com.

JCFiber Announces Final Two Zones

Closing the digital gap in Johnson County



JCREMC subsidiary, JCFiber, has announced the fifth and sixth zones of fiber internet have expanded to underserved areas. The completion of these two zones brings much-needed fiber internet to every corner of the county.

Zone 5 runs along the rural areas in the northeast corner of the county, situated east of I-65 and north of Needham. Zone 6 covers rural areas in the middle of the county, generally between SR 135 and US 31, from New Whiteland to SR 252. Residents will soon begin seeing mainline construction in these areas and will be notified by postcard when eligible for sign up.

The expansion is part of a 4-year plan that kicked off in December 2020, taking broadband internet service to underserved residents, who currently have no wired quality internet solution. With this initiative, rural areas will have access to superior technology by the spring of 2024.

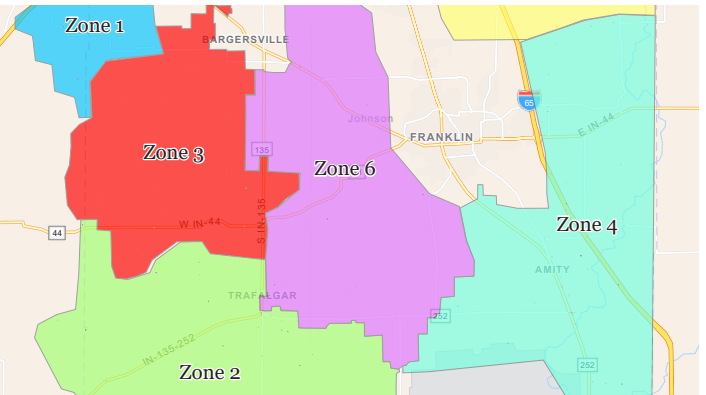
“We are excited to continue expanding the best available technology to residents of our community who don’t currently have access to high-quality, high-speed internet,” said John Sturm, JCREMC CEO and JCFiber President. “Fiber internet can be life-changing for rural

residents who have previously struggled to work, learn, stream, and game from home.”

JCFiber offers a no-gimmick and no hidden fees 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.

“JCFiber was the only high-quality wired internet provider who expressed interest to our county commissioners in making certain all rural residents would get the internet service they needed, today and into the future,” said County Commissioner Kevin Walls. “Their early commitment and continued progress to reach every rural resident is impressive, and we are pleased that JCFiber stepped up for our county.”

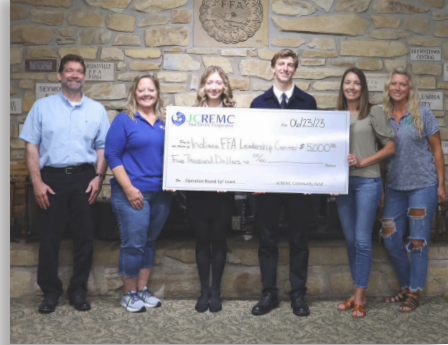
Expansion zones 1-4 are nearing completion. All residents in Zone 1 are eligible to sign up for service. In Zone 2, 95 percent are eligible, and in Zone 3, 90 percent, Zone 4, 50 percent are eligible. Households are notified by postcard when service becomes available.



Check out the full-sized expansion map at our website



See the full-sized expansion map and check sign-up eligibility at jcfiber.com. JCFiber is also on Facebook at @JCFiber.



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 2023 grants will be available October 1 – 31. Learn more under the Community tab at jcremc.com. During the spring 2023 cycle, the fund dispersed \$34,470.62 to 11 organizations. Here are the impacts consumer contributions are making:

City of Franklin Fire Department
- Thermal Imaging Cameras

Johnson County 4-H Goat Club
- Event Fence Panels

City of Franklin Public Art Commission
- Intersection Art

Johnson Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Diabetes Awareness Event

Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation
- Traveling School Supply Store

Second Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
- Food Pantry Cold Storage

Franklin Chamber Foundation, Inc.
- Meeting Space Improvements

Union Christian Church DDC, Inc.
- AED Equipment

Humane Society of Johnson County
- Whiskers for Wellness Project

Indian Creek Senior High School
- CREEK Manufacturing Program

Indiana FFA Leadership Center
- Lifejacket Project

After the Storm in March: The Johnson County REMC Community Fund was pleased to donate \$10,000 to the Salvation Army Central Indiana Command, to aid in the April tornado disaster response efforts in the town of Whiteland.

2023 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 2023 recipients:

Micah Robertson is a 2023 graduate of Center Grove High School. He plans to attend Indiana University to study intelligent systems engineering.

Ailyn Hendricks is a 2023 graduate of Franklin Community High School and plans to continue her education at Franklin College to study biology, with a pre-dental concentration.

Learn more about the JCREMC Academic Scholarships at jcremc.com by clicking “Academic Scholarships” under the “Community” tab.



100% ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Considering an EV? Call JCREMC!

Electric vehicles (EVs) are gaining popularity, and JCREMC wants our members to have the best and most accurate information when considering the purchase of a new vehicle. We will be hosting **EV Day on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 750 International Drive, Franklin.** This event is a free opportunity for the community to see various EV models (some available for test drive) and ask questions of JCREMC's team members. Don't forget that JCREMC members can test drive the cooperative's Chevrolet Bolt through our EV Experience program, and our website has a host of EV-related resources, including a cost calculator, and rebates. Learn about these program and resources online at jcremc.com/electric-vehicles.



JCREMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax to 202-690-7442 or by e-mail to program.intake@usda.gov