

em **POWER**

WINTER 2026

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PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

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JCREMC Operation Round-Up[®] Members Contributing to Community

In fall of 2025 another incredible roster of local non-profit organizations received grant funding from the JCREMC Operation Round-Up (ORU) Community Fund. Since 2019 this program has been helping local non-profit organizations, and it's all due to the generosity of our members who elect to have their bills rounded up to the next whole dollar.

Local non-profit organizations can apply for up to \$5,000 in project-based grant funding during each cycle, in October and April. For the Fall 2025 cycle of Operation Round-Up, 15 great organizations were selected by our independent advisory board to receive funding for projects that will positively benefit the local community. To learn more, apply for a grant, or see our full list of previous grantees, go to jcremc.com/community/operation-round-up.

- **Bluff Creek Christian Church:**
Playground Fencing
- **Center Grove School Corporation:**
JCAMP
- **Central Nine Career Center:**
Greenhouse Upgrades
- **Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation:**
Camping Essentials
- **Edinburgh Fire Department:**
Outfit Second Ambulance
- **Girls Inc:**
Playground Equipment
- **Habitat for Humanity:**
Management System Upgrade
- **Indian Creek High School:**
Computer for Media Design
- **KIC-IT:**
Outdoor Storage Sheds
- **NHJ Education Foundation:**
Sensory Path
- **Purdue Extension of Johnson County:**
Embryology Program
- **Red Alert Robotics:**
Motors, Printing Books, Modules
- **The Hope Gallery:**
Training Center Refresh
- **Trafalgar Farmers Market Corp:**
Farmers Market Expansion
- **Webb Elementary PTO:**
Picnic Tables and Trash Cans

Board of Directors Information

The business affairs of JCREMC are managed by a seven-member board of directors, one director for each of the seven districts in the service area of JCREMC. Director elections are open to all eligible JCREMC members. Elections are held during the Annual Meeting of the Membership, and each member has a single vote. For more information about the board of directors and each of the seven JCREMC districts visit jcremc.com/company/leadership.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE POWER: Mike Hussung

Mike Hussung has been with JCREMC since 1995. He initially started out in a custodian style role, before becoming a lineman. He is now our Special Projects Engineer. In his role, Mike takes care of our Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), which include the solar arrays and battery energy storage systems (BESS).

Most recently, Mike had a key role in implementing the new solar array and BESS at our Tracy Microgrid, which will be used to help offset peak demand times, such as during frigid temperatures in the winter and blazing heat in the summer. Microgrids are a relatively new technology, which has brought both excitement and challenges.

"It's new to JCREMC, and requires a new skill set. No one tells you how to troubleshoot everything, you have to experience it and learn from it," Hussung said.

Hussung knows that solar arrays can be difficult to understand, and land being used for agriculture purposes is often preferred to an array. That's why JCREMC has partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make part of our solar array a Voluntary Habitat Improvement Project, this includes planting wildflowers which provides an area for pollinators like bees & butterflies to thrive.

While these changes are significant, they're done with careful consideration of our members and their needs. Mike's days are never the same, and he stays motivated knowing he's working for JCREMC members. That is exactly what keeps Hussung going after over 30 years with the co-op.



"One of the best things about working for a co-op is we're owned by our members, and we're based on service, not profits," Hussung said. "Our employees live in the areas we serve, and we're keeping the lights on and costs down for our members as well as our own families."

Outside of work, Hussung's family is his main source of pride.

"My family is number one. I spend as much time with them as I can. I'm a new grandfather, and it's probably the coolest thing that's ever happened to me in my life," Mike ended with a smile.



Operation Round-Up grants are made possible by JCREMC members who elect to have their monthly electric bills rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. The rounded amount is placed in the JCREMC Community Fund to provide financial support for charitable causes and non-profit organizations in the communities served by JCREMC. Each participant contributes about \$6 a year on average.

Uncontested Districts Up for Election

DISTRICT 1: Glenn McAlpin

DISTRICT 4: James Meredith

*Each attending membership will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing for these prizes:

\$3,000 (one winner)

\$2,000 (one winner)

\$1,000 (two winners)

\$500 (four winners)

\$250 (four winners)

*Must be present to win



CEO John Sturm addressing members at the 2025 JCREMC Annual Meeting

2026 JCREMC Annual Meeting: Prepared for the Future

Please join us for the JCREMC Annual Meeting of the membership on **Saturday, April 18, 2026** at Franklin Community High School, 2600 Cumberland Drive, Franklin.

The Annual Meeting is a time for JCREMC members, directors and staff to celebrate the prior year's accomplishments and look forward to the future. The meeting will include breakfast, entertainment, the board of directors election and the yearly cooperative business meeting.

Doors open at 8 a.m. for our traditional hot breakfast. Cody Ikerd & The Sidewinders will provide entertainment beginning at 9 a.m., followed by the business meeting at 10 a.m. Our CEO and members of the Board will give updates on the cooperative's financial standing, new initiatives to strengthen local control, continued growth with JCFiber and priorities for the coming years.

Message From John Sturm Concerning Rates

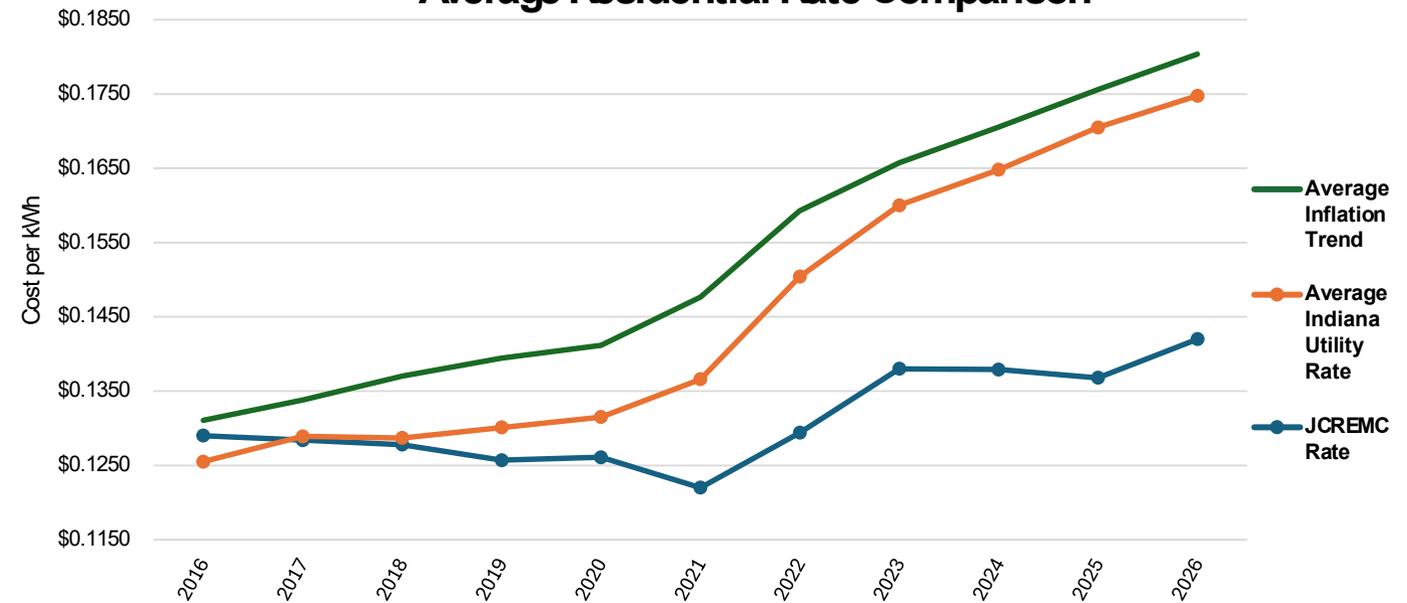
"We have made tremendous progress over the past year, and we're more than ready for the changes ahead," says JCREMC CEO and JCFiber President, John Sturm. "We've worked to introduce innovative solar and battery storage technologies that ease demand during peak times and strengthen reliability. We've established new operational and financial strategies to minimize the impact of rising costs. We've also completed our initial buildout for JCFiber and are excited to bring our high-speed fiber internet to even more homes and businesses in our community. These projects have been years in the making, and it's rewarding to see them come to life. While much has changed, our mission remains the same: to serve our members and deliver the most reliable, safe, and efficient electric and internet services possible."

Looking ahead, JCREMC must continue to combat rising costs. The JCREMC Board of Directors approved a slight overall rate increase of 3.49% for 2026, due to rising costs in all aspects of doing business. Residential rates are increasing by 3.01%.

"Our goal is to maintain stable rates at the lowest possible cost," Sturm said. "Over the past decade, we have made several efficiency improvements and investments to help keep rates low. This rate adjustment is attributed to increased distribution and transmission delivery costs caused primarily by inflation impacting labor, materials and maintenance requirements."

Despite the increase, JCREMC's average residential rate will have risen 10.2% over the past 10 years, which is significantly lower than the 34% average increase experienced by all other Indiana utilities over the same period, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Average Residential Rate Comparison



JCREMC understands the financial pressures many households face and remains committed to supporting its members. JCREMC offers energy advising, rebates and various time-of-use rate structures to help members lower their electricity bills.

Sturm will share additional updates, along with goals outlined in JCREMC's new five-year strategic plan, at the 2026 Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing our members in April!

PERFORMING LIVE Cody Ikerd and the Sidewinders

Cody Ikerd and the Sidewinders are a high energy country-rock band from southern Indiana and have been performing all over the midwest and south for the past 11 years. Cody won "Vocalist of the Year - Outlaw Country" in 2024, and the band won "Group of the Year - Outlaw Country" in 2025 at the Josie Music Awards in Nashville, Tennessee.



JCFiber Expands Business Opportunity

JCFiber's goal has always been to provide high-speed, reliable fiber internet to areas underserved by other internet providers. We take pride in offering a fantastic product at a competitive cost, all while offering something different than the rest – fully local staffing and support!

We're honored to hear consistent positive feedback from our customers and community most recently by being awarded the best Internet and Broadband Supplier in the Daily Journal's Best of the Southside competition. This is our third year in a row receiving this honor, and we plan to continue being the best internet supplier going forward!

Best Internet Supplier



JCFiber recently expanded its reach by bringing commercial availability to downtown Franklin. We're honored to expand our reach to such a thriving part of Johnson County, and we're ready to get local businesses connected to our award-winning fiber internet.

We currently serve nearly 200 different businesses across our territory, from thriving restaurants to warehouses, and we appreciate the trust they put in our service to keep their businesses running efficiently.



Coffeehouse Five Testimonial

Coffeehouse Five, a local coffee company, has put their trust in JCFiber for their Bargersville location since 2023. The shop is a bustling local spot, boasting fresh roasted beans and gourmet pastries. Many patrons use it as a space to work remotely, take meetings and more.

For a busy shop like theirs, having high-speed fiber internet is critical to all areas of operations, from data storage, taking care of guests at their register, to offering their guests a great internet connection for their personal devices.

When deciding on a internet provider for the location, Coffeehouse Five Owner Brian Peters said it really wasn't a hard choice.

"Having quality internet is really one of the keys to success of our business," Peters said. "Our customers walk in the door and they expect to have an internet connection. It really is no different than lights, heat and air conditioning."

Peters said since the partnership began in 2023, JCFiber has continued to step up to the plate and knock it out of the park.

"Our experience with JCFiber has been excellent," Peters said. "We have had zero interruptions here since we opened in 2023."



Award Winner - Delaney Small

Sixth-grader Delaney Small of Greenwood was chosen as one of the winners of Indiana Electric Cooperative's Youth Power & Hope awards.

The awards celebrate children in grades 5-8 who create projects that support their community. To win, applicants must be served by an Indiana electric cooperative and Small's family are members of JCREMC.

Small, who went through personal health challenges years ago, created her project, Laney's Love, to raise awareness of the importance of blood donation in Indiana. In addition to hosting community blood drives, Small collects funds to buy toys for patients at Riley Children's Hospital and gives homemade bracelets with encouraging messages to blood donors. JCREMC is proud of Delaney's bravery and kindness!



Each June, Indiana's electric cooperatives sponsor a group of high school students entering their senior year to embark on a life-changing education adventure to Washington D.C. Highlights of this seven-day trip include visits to historic monuments and museums, meetings with Indiana's congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, opportunities to make lifelong friends, and much more. Application deadline is February 13, 2026. Apply at:

indianaec.org/programs/youth/youth-tour



Indiana's electric cooperatives are accepting applications from sixth-grade students (entering seventh grade in the fall of 2026) for Camp Kilowatt. Each year, students who attend camp have the opportunity to gain knowledge about the electric cooperative industry and electricity, participate in fun summer activities, and make new friends. Apply at:

indianaec.org/programs/youth/camp-kilowatt/application

Cooperative STUDENT ART CONTEST

You could *win \$200*
ENTER YOUR BEST ARTWORK

ELIGIBILITY
Indiana public, private or home-schooled students in kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2025-26 school year are eligible to enter the contest.

DETAILS AND DEADLINE
A complete set of rules and required entry forms are available at indianaconnection.org/for-youth/art-contest. Artwork must be received by Feb. 27, 2026.

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