

OCTOBER 2023

# iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**5 reasons electric co-ops  
are great places to work**

**Franklin REC supports  
first responders**

**Perfect pork recipes**

**Generac generator discounts available for Franklin REC members ▶ See Page 4**



## FROM YOUR BOARD ROOM

During the August board meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$151,111.21
- Appointed a nominee for the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation District 5 director
- Appointed voting delegate and alternate for Corn Belt Power Cooperative meeting
- Approved National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives benefit and insurance plans for 2024
- Approved Franklin County Development Association agreement
- Approved quote for roof repair to the office portion of the co-op headquarters
- Approved donations to local first responder organizations



#### Office

1560 Highway 65 • P.O. Box 437  
Hampton, IA 50441

#### Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

#### Telephone Number

641-456-2557  
Calls answered 24/7

#### Secure Pay-by-Phone Number

1-844-344-4370

#### Website

[www.franklinrec.coop](http://www.franklinrec.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## MEMBER EXCLUSIVE GENERAC GENERATOR DISCOUNT NOW AVAILABLE

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



Franklin REC is now offering a new member benefit! We are thrilled to partner with Generac to offer all Franklin REC members

discounted pricing on generators. Admittedly, we hope you never have to use a generator, but we all know nature has a mind of its own.

I'm sure there are a lot of questions surrounding this new program, so we developed a summary of frequently asked questions below. Please don't hesitate to call the Franklin REC office to ask for additional information or help.

Thank you for being a member of Franklin REC!

### Q: What Generac generator models will Franklin REC offer?

Franklin REC can order any generator listed on the Generac website at a discounted price. Lead times may vary depending on the demand of a specific model.

### Q: Where can I see Franklin REC's discounted Generac generator pricing?

Franklin REC does not offer this information to the public. For interested members, we can obtain current pricing from the supplier per your request.

### Q: Will Franklin REC install the generator?

No. Franklin REC is not approved or licensed to perform electrical work on the member's side of the meter.

### Q: Can I do my own electrical work for the generator hookup?

Franklin REC recommends hiring a qualified electrician of your choice, but it is not required to purchase the generator.

**Q: Will Franklin REC deliver the generator?** No. Generators are delivered directly to the cooperative from the supplier. Members are responsible for transporting the generator from Franklin REC to the desired location. A 10% restocking fee will be charged to members who do not pick up the generator within 10 working days of being notified by Franklin REC that the generator has arrived at the headquarters.

### Q: Why does Franklin REC care where my generator is located?

When referencing the purchase request form, Franklin REC requests the location of where the generator will be installed. This information is for the safety of our lineworkers. During an outage, generators will power on, creating an electric back flow onto the power grid, thus creating an additional danger to our lineworkers. This information will notify our lineworkers where generators are located within our system and help to identify potential hazards during an outage.

### Q: How do I make a warranty claim?

All warranty claims will need to be processed through Generac **directly**. If you need to file a claim, please call Generac at 1-888-436-3722. **IMPORTANT:** All work done on warranty claims must be completed by a Generac-certified technician. To find a technician in your area, please visit [www.generac.com](http://www.generac.com) and click "Find a Dealer."

### Q: Additional questions about this new member benefit?

Reach out to Franklin REC by phone at 641-456-2557, email [contact-frec@franklinrec.coop](mailto:contact-frec@franklinrec.coop) or text at 641-456-6466.

*Garrett Thompson is the general manager/CEO of Franklin REC.*

# HONORING RURAL IOWA'S UNSUNG HEROES: FRANKLIN REC SUPPORTS FIRST RESPONDERS



Spanning a distance of more than 1,000 miles and serving dozens of rural communities, local first responders and volunteer fire departments are the backbone of rural Iowa's emergency response system. Their unwavering commitment to serving communities despite all the challenges is a testament to the enduring spirit of rural America.

**In observance of National First Responders Day in October, Franklin REC is paying tribute to all emergency first responder departments and volunteers.**

Franklin REC's core principle of "Concern for Community" works to meet the needs of cooperative members and the community while improving the overall quality of life for residents.

The cooperative acknowledges the indispensable role of emergency responders in rural Iowa communities and wholeheartedly endorses the invaluable services provided.

## Empowering local first responders

In small, rural communities, not only are first responder departments predominantly sustained by

volunteers, but these departments are often constrained by limited funding. Franklin REC acknowledges the significance of providing adequate training and personal protective equipment to ensure safe and effective performance of first responders' responsibilities while also recognizing the associated costs involved in supporting their crew.

Through the funds contributed to each emergency response department, Franklin REC aspires to empower these entities to fulfill their specific needs.

Franklin REC takes immense pride in supporting the departments that serve the cooperative's membership and the broader community.

These departments react swiftly to emergencies within our communities, including our loved ones, during times of crisis. Franklin REC's donation contributes to empowering these emergency response teams with the knowledge and capabilities to respond adeptly and effectively.

Franklin REC extends its heartfelt appreciation to all first responders who dedicate themselves to safeguarding the rural Iowa community.

## Funding awarded to 29 groups

The following first responder and volunteer fire departments received funds on behalf of Franklin REC and the cooperative's members.

- Ackley Fire Department
- Ackley Volunteer Ambulance Service
- Alden Fire Department
- Alden First Responders
- Alexander Fire Department
- Aredale Fire Department
- Bradford Fire Department
- Coulter Fire Department
- Dougherty Fire Department
- Dows Fire Department
- Dumont Fire Department
- Dumont Volunteer Ambulance Service
- Franklin General EMS
- Geneva Fire Department
- Hampton Fire Department
- Hansell Fire Department
- Hardin County E-Squad
- Iowa Falls EMS
- Iowa Falls Fire Department
- Latimer Fire Department
- Meservey Fire Department
- Meservey-Thornton EMT
- Rockwell Fire Department
- Rockwell-Swaledale EMT
- Sheffield EMS
- Sheffield Fire Department
- Swaledale Fire Department
- Thornton Fire Department
- West Franklin EMS

# COMMITTED TO RELIABLE SERVICE AND PROACTIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Powering our members' lives and businesses and the communities in Franklin REC's service territory with reliable service is a top priority for the cooperative. Franklin REC understands the significance electricity plays in our everyday lives, which is why the cooperative proactively works to minimize interruptions in our service territory.

While Franklin REC cannot control many factors that may lead to outages, such as severe weather, critter catastrophes or a mismatch of supply and demand across the grid, our team works strategically to maintain exceptional reliability and minimize the time members are without power. Franklin REC linemen annually

inspect the cooperative's power lines throughout the entire service territory, nearly 850 miles, and identify any looming issues that may cause an interruption or safety issue.

## Managing vegetation around power lines

While we all appreciate the benefits of a large shade tree, a fallen tree branch or tree planted too close to a power line can cause significant issues. Franklin REC's preventative vegetation management program ensures Franklin REC linemen regularly trim trees and clear branches out of the electric right of way. The line crew personnel are trained to trim near powerlines, allowing for proper proximity to energized lines while maintaining vegetation.

As a member of the cooperative, it is your duty to ensure new vegetation is planted the correct distance from the utility poles while also maintaining any excessive growth occurring around the base of the utility pole. If you notice your trees are starting to grow into power lines, please don't hesitate to call the Franklin REC office at 641-456-2557 to discuss tree trimming options. Do not attempt to cut branches near power lines!



# NEW BATTERY TECHNOLOGY, SAME RELIABILITY

Franklin REC and its power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, held a ribbon cutting for the 1.425 megawatt Tesla® Megapack battery energy storage system at the Hampton Substation on June 27. The festivities brought together representatives from Corn Belt Power Cooperative and its distribution cooperatives. The newest addition to the substation resides next to the original 750-kilowatt diesel generators inside the REA Museum.

"Our goal with the project is to learn more about battery technology, the process of procuring and installing batteries, how to operate them, and how a battery can benefit the cooperative," Ken Kuyper, executive

vice president and general manager of Corn Belt Power Cooperative shared during the ribbon cutting. "On a good day, this battery could power around 150 homes for about six hours. It's far from what we need to serve our entire membership. However, we will see economic benefit to the Corn Belt Power membership by lowering demand charges in times of high use."

## Cooperation among cooperatives

As an alternative to having several 150-kilowatt batteries across its system, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, collaborated with its membership to develop a plan that allowed each member-cooperative to pool its individual allocation.

Together, it was determined to integrate a 1.425-megawatt Tesla Megapack battery energy storage system into the Hampton Substation.

"Each of our cooperatives played a role in getting this project off the ground," Kuyper said in his speech.

"The battery energy storage system is the byproduct of our relationship with our member-cooperatives. I always say that doing things by consensus and as a team will yield good results and position Corn Belt Power well into the future."

## Long-term savings and learning

The total project cost is nearly \$3.5 million, which includes the battery pack, engineering, site preparation and labor. The goal is for the battery to pay for itself in approximately 11 years. The stored power from the battery will allow Corn Belt Power Cooperative to avoid purchasing up to 1.425 megawatts of power during peak use times. Once the battery's energy is depleted, it will recharge during off-peak times in preparation for its next discharge.

The Tesla Megapack battery energy storage system will help shave costs for Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Franklin REC, in turn creating savings for our members.





# THE POWER OF COOPERATION

"We're here to serve you." We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us – your local electric cooperative – they mean everything.

Franklin REC was established in 1936 to serve the needs of our rural community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our cooperative for the common good, as it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the areas where there was none. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we continue to power rural Iowa while promoting

our community's growth. The cooperative's focus remains steady on providing reliable energy to our members at a fair cost.

Today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different from decades ago. That's why we're continuously adapting to keep pace with ever-changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

So, the next time you hear Franklin REC use the phrase, "We're here to serve you," we hope you know we sincerely mean it. Service is deeply ingrained in who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we have found additional ways to



serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We are here whenever you need us. Connect with us in person, online or through our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

## CELEBRATING CO-OP WORKIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following Franklin REC employees for reaching service anniversaries at the cooperative this month!



Consumer Accountant **Madison Alert** reaches four years of service to the cooperative.



General Manager/CEO **Garrett Thompson** is recognized for his three-year tenure with the cooperative.

We applaud our employees' commitment and appreciate their continued contributions to the success of Franklin REC.



## SLEIGH THE DAY & LIGHT THE NIGHT

Save the date for Franklin REC's third-annual holiday festival on Saturday, Nov. 25. You're invited to "sleigh the day" with activities throughout Hampton, then "light the night" with the lighted parade and park festivities. Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with event details and announcements.



## JOURNEYMAN CARD ACQUIRED

Congratulations to Franklin REC Lineman Tom Demro on receiving his journeyman card!

The process to gain the title of journeyman is a vigorous cycle of learning, testing and applying knowledge over a two-to-four-year education course. Journeyman Demro has been with the co-op for more than nine years.



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The magazine  
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Iowa's electric  
cooperatives.

October 2023

Visit our website at [www.franklinrec.coop](http://www.franklinrec.coop)

# I AM THE CO-OP

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