

DECEMBER 2025

# iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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# FRANKLIN REC BOARD POSTPONES 2026 RATE INCREASE TO SUPPORT MEMBERS

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



At Franklin REC, our mission has always been simple: to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to the members we serve.

In the spirit of transparency, we want to share an important update about how we're working to balance increasing wholesale costs with our commitment to keeping your bills as stable as possible.

## Understanding the Energy Cost Adjustment

Earlier this year, we shared information about changes to the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA), a line item on your bill that reflects fluctuations in the cost of wholesale power purchased from our generation and transmission cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric). These costs have increased due to factors beyond our control, including higher material and construction costs, increased system demand, and new reliability and compliance requirements across the electric grid.

Basin Electric, Franklin REC's wholesale power provider, has informed us of wholesale cost adjustments that, depending on market conditions, could result in member bill impacts ranging from 5% to 10% over the next two years. The exact percentage will depend on factors like energy commodity prices, which can fluctuate significantly.

Because the ECA directly tracks these wholesale cost changes, it ensures that the impact is shared fairly among members based on actual energy use. While this approach maintains our billing transparency and equity, it also means that recent wholesale cost increases are more noticeably reflected in our monthly statements.

## Board decision to postpone the 2026 rate adjustment

Franklin REC originally planned a 1.6% base rate adjustment effective Jan. 1, 2026, as part of our long-term financial planning strategy. However, after careful review, your board of directors voted to postpone that rate increase in light of the current ECA adjustments.

The decision reflects our cooperative values in action, prioritizing members' needs. While postponing

this rate adjustment affects our financial timeline, the board agreed that it was the right decision to provide some relief to members as wholesale costs continue to adjust.

## Committed to long-term stability

Even as we navigate these short-term challenges, Franklin REC remains focused on long-term stability and reliability. Our team continues to:

- Strengthen financial reserves to buffer against future cost increases
- Invest in system upgrades that improve efficiency and dependability
- Explore cost-saving measures to maintain service quality without unnecessary expense

These proactive steps help ensure that our cooperative remains financially sound and prepared for the future, without compromising reliability or safety.

## Transparency and trust

Every rate and policy decision at Franklin REC is made by your elected board of directors, fellow members who live and work in the same communities you do. Their decisions are guided by one goal: ensuring reliable, affordable service today and for generations to come.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed as changes occur. In the meantime, members are encouraged to explore Franklin REC's energy efficiency programs and rebates, which can help manage usage and reduce monthly costs.

If you have questions about your bill or the ECA, please get in touch with our office. We're here to help.

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

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Franklin REC will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. Additionally, the office will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.



### Office

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

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 7:00 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

1-855-940-3953

### Website

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# SCHOLARSHIPS AND YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Franklin REC has revamped its scholarship program to better reflect what makes rural northern Iowa thrive – and applications for 2026 are officially open.

If you're a dependent of a Franklin REC member, now is the perfect time to check out these opportunities on our website. And for members looking to restart their education or career journey, our Reignite Your Future Scholarship is here to give you a boost. Whether you're aiming to earn a degree, gain new skills or explore a fresh path, we want to help you get started.

But that's not all. Our 2026 Youth Tour applications are also open! This

all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., gives one lucky high school sophomore

or junior the chance to explore national landmarks, meet elected officials and learn about the cooperative difference alongside other Iowa students. It's truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

From scholarships to youth programs, we're proud to invest in your future – whatever stage you're at.

**Learn more and apply today at [www.franklinrec.coop](http://www.franklinrec.coop).**



# CELEBRATING FOUR YEARS WITH FRANKLIN REC



Franklin REC is proud to recognize First Class Lineman Austin Neff for celebrating four years of service

with the cooperative. Since joining the team, Austin has demonstrated a strong commitment to safety, reliability and member service. His hard work and dedication play an important role in keeping power flowing to our members each day. Congratulations, Austin, on this milestone anniversary!

# FOOD DRIVE

**Full Shelves, Full Hearts**  
Help stock the shelves of our local food pantries. Shelves are emptying faster than ever – together, we can help fill them again.  
Every donation helps support local families this holiday season.

**Donation Drop-Off Locations**

|                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Center One<br>5 First St. SW, Hampton<br>Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00AM-4:00PM                                        |
| Franklin County Extension Office<br>6 2nd St. NW, Hampton<br>Hours: 24/7 Drop-Off Available in Breezeway       |
| Franklin REC<br>1560 HWY 65, Hampton<br>Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:00AM-3:30PM                                         |
| First Security Bank & Trust<br>100 1st St. NW, Hampton<br>Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30AM-4:00PM, Fri. 8:30AM-5:00PM |
| First Security Bank & Trust<br>511 Main St., Dumont<br>Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30AM-3:00PM, Fri. 8:30AM-5:00PM    |
| First Security Bank & Trust<br>319 Main St., Rockwell<br>Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30AM-3:00PM, Fri. 8:30AM-5:00PM  |
| First Security Bank & Trust<br>308 Main St., Thornton<br>Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00AM-12:00PM                       |
| Hampton Community Christian Daycare<br>104 12th Ave. NE, Hampton<br>Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6:00AM-6:00PM             |

**NOV. 3 – DEC. 22**

# TOUCHSTONE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Scott Hagenson for being selected as the Touchstone Energy® Volunteer of the Month for October.

In recognition of his dedication and community spirit, Scott has chosen to donate \$100 to the Iowa Firefighters Memorial Wall, which honors the bravery and service of Iowa's firefighters. Thank you, Scott, for your generosity and commitment to giving back!

# LIGHT UP THE NIGHT 2025

The park was aglow, laughter filled the air and the holiday spirit was everywhere – Light Up the Night 2025 was truly a sight to behold! Franklin REC thanks everyone who joined us and helped make the evening so magical. Your energy and participation brought the lights, the joy and the celebration to life.

The display will continue shining through the new year, so take a stroll, enjoy the sights and soak in the season. We can't wait to celebrate with you again next year!

## FRANKLIN REC RECOGNIZES LOCAL POWER PLAYERS

Franklin REC is proud to celebrate local high school football linemen who went above and beyond this season. Through the Power Player of the Week program, student-athletes were recognized for their leadership, perseverance and impact on their team.

Throughout the season, Franklin REC highlighted outstanding local football players. Each week, a standout lineman was recognized for making game-changing plays and showcasing remarkable strength, skill and teamwork on the field.

Often the unsung hero of the game, these athletes serve as the backbone for their team –displaying the same power, determination and commitment that Franklin REC’s own linemen bring to their work every day. Recognizing these players is a testament to the strength and determination linemen bring to every game.



### AGWSR

**Blake Willems**  
Offensive and  
Defensive Lineman  
Senior



### AGWSR

**Gage Van Loh**  
Strong Tackle and  
Defensive Lineman  
Junior



### H-D CAL

**Briggs Gruelke**  
Defensive Lineman  
Junior



### Iowa Falls-Alden

**Brooks Hickman**  
Offensive and  
Defensive Tackle  
Junior



**Iowa Falls-Alden**  
**Reece Rankin**  
Offensive and  
Defensive Lineman  
Junior



### West Fork

**Owen Schmidt**  
Defensive End  
Senior



### West Fork

**Wyatt Bonnema**  
Offensive and  
Defensive Lineman  
Senior



### West Fork

**Parker Sheriff**  
Offensive and  
Defensive Lineman  
Senior

## STRENGTHENING OUR SYSTEM: 2025 COMING TO A CLOSE

Cooler weather signals the end of another busy building season for Franklin REC. With the help of contracted crews, Franklin REC has rebuilt over 30 miles of power lines to increase your service reliability and strengthen the power we provide to you.

Contracted crews completed 22 miles of multi-phase lines across varied sections of our territory. Their work directly supports our members by improving reliability and preparing our system for future growth. Projects included installing a new air switch between the Hampton and Geneva substations, upgrading single-phase lines to multi-phase, and taking on a challenging two-mile hilly stretch with seven strands of power lines.

Our Franklin REC crew also made important contributions. While fall weather was favorable, spring brought storms, fallen trees and high winds that damaged lines and snapped poles. Thanks to their hard work, our crew rebuilt 10 miles of single-phase lines, installed new underground services for members, and retired aging overhead lines to keep your power system strong and dependable.

These upgrades aren't just about replacing old equipment – they're about providing peace of mind for our members. By evaluating the age of equipment, addressing areas of system wear and planning for growing energy needs, Franklin REC is preparing today so that you continue to receive the safe, reliable service you depend on tomorrow.

## FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the October meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved construction and special equipment work orders of \$1,018,737.94
- Approved 2026 Franklin REC board meeting dates
- Approved Franklin REC annual meeting date
- Accepted submission of Tax Forms 990, 990T and IA 1120
- Accepted Encompass IA 1120 tax form
- Approved patronage discount percentage
- Approved renewal of Franklin County Development Association partnership

# SERVE YOUR CO-OP: JOIN FRANKLIN REC'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At Franklin REC, our members are more than just consumers of electricity – you are the owners of your cooperative. One of the most meaningful ways you can shape Franklin REC's future is by serving on the nominating committee.

This committee plays a vital role in keeping our cooperative strong and member-focused. By helping identify candidates for the board of directors, you are directly shaping the leadership that represents all Franklin REC members.

## What is the nominating committee?

The nominating committee consists of a minimum of three electric cooperative member-owners, each representing one of Franklin REC's districts. The primary responsibility is to ensure members have a strong, capable leadership by identifying and recommending qualified candidates for Franklin REC's board of directors.

## Responsibilities include:

- Seeking qualified candidates
- Reviewing director qualifications for potential candidates
- Submitting a slate of nominees for Franklin REC's board of directors election
- Counting the ballots at Franklin REC annual meeting

## Why serve?

Serving on the nominating committee is about more than attending a few meetings – it's about giving back to your community and helping guide the future of your cooperative. By participating, you can:

- Ensure fair and democratic director elections
- Connect with fellow members and expand your network
- Gain a deeper understanding of how your cooperative operates
- Receive a per diem rate and mileage reimbursement for your time

## What's the commitment?

Serving on the nominating committee is a meaningful way to get involved without taking up too much of your time. Here's how it works if you choose to be on the committee:

- **December:** The board of directors appoints committee members from each district.
- **Early January:** Committee members begin reaching out to fellow members to identify potential candidates for the board. Franklin REC provides all the contact information you need.
- **Mid-January:** The committee gathers at Franklin REC to present nominations, which will appear on the annual meeting ballot.
- **April:** The committee assists at the annual meeting with ballot counting and revealing election results.

With just a small amount of time, your involvement makes a lasting impact on your cooperative and community.

## No experience needed

You don't need any special skills to serve – just a willingness to participate and help guide your cooperative. Franklin REC's CEO/General Manager Garrett Thompson will meet with the committee to provide information and support along the way.

## Ready to make a difference?

If you have ever wanted to play an active role in your cooperative, now is the time. Join the nominating committee and help shape the future of Franklin REC while serving your fellow members.

To learn more or volunteer, contact a current director or reach out to Franklin REC at [franklinrec@franklinrec.coop](mailto:franklinrec@franklinrec.coop) or 641-456-2557.



## SHOW YOU CARE WITH RECare

As an electric cooperative, Franklin REC is invested in helping our communities thrive, and that means supporting our low-income member-owners, too. RECare is a nationwide program exclusive to rural electric cooperatives encouraging fellow members to make a one-time or monthly donation to potentially help alleviate the stress for other members straining to pay their electric bills.

Funds may also be used to weatherize the recipient's home to make electricity use more efficient. And don't worry; your donation is directed to a local community action agency for distribution to low-income families on Franklin REC lines. You can feel good that the dollars you donate are helping your friends and neighbors.



# YES

**I want to help my neighbors by contributing to RECare.**

- ☐ I will make a one-time contribution to Franklin REC's RECare program. My check is enclosed.
- ☐ I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to Franklin REC's RECare program. I understand this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine  
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December 2025

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



## ALL OF OUR LINES ARE **CUSTOMER SERVICE LINES.**

Some deliver electricity. Others deliver information. All must deliver on the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives mission: to provide you with service that's just as dependable as the energy you count on us for every day. Learn more about your locally owned and operated Touchstone Energy cooperative at [TouchstoneEnergy.com](http://TouchstoneEnergy.com).



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