

● OCTOBER 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**How co-ops differ from
other energy providers**

**Planning ahead to keep
your power reliable**

Fall-inspired recipes



Save the Date: 2025 Light Up the Night ► See Page 12

PLANNING AHEAD TO KEEP YOUR POWER RELIABLE

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



At Franklin REC, our mission is straightforward: to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members. For

nearly 90 years, that focus has guided every decision we make. As a member-owned cooperative, we exist to serve you, not outside investors, so every dollar is spent with your best interests in mind.

Our wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Cooperative, has informed us that generation and transmission charges will be changing in the near future. These changes are driven by factors such as higher material costs, growing electric demand and new requirements placed on the broader electric grid.

While these adjustments are outside of Franklin REC's control, they will continue to flow through the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA), a line item already on your bill that ensures

changes in wholesale power costs are passed along fairly and equitably based on each member's energy use.

How we're working for you

While we can't control wholesale prices, we can take steps to protect our members from unnecessary costs. Our board of directors and staff are committed to:

- Building financial reserves to soften the impact of rising costs
- Finding smarter, more efficient ways to operate without adding expenses
- Planning finances responsibly to keep rates as stable as possible

These proactive steps have helped keep our rates steady compared to many other household expenses such as housing, food and fuel, which have risen sharply in recent years.

Looking ahead with transparency

Investing in reliable service means continuing to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and cybersecurity systems to ensure our grid is strong and dependable. Even when new demand or infrastructure improvements happen outside your immediate community, these upgrades benefit all members by making the electric system more resilient.

Any potential rate changes are carefully reviewed by your member-elected board of directors, who are fellow members that live and work in the same communities you do. Their decisions are made with transparency and one clear goal: to keep your power reliable, secure and as affordable as possible.

Franklin REC will continue to share updates as these wholesale changes move forward. We encourage members to explore our energy efficiency programs and rebates, which can help control your usage and keep your bill manageable.

Garrett Thompson is the general manager/CEO at Franklin REC.

ELECTRIC CO-OP GLOSSARY



Cooperative:

An enterprise or organization owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services.



Wholesale power provider:

An entity that sells electricity in bulk to other entities, like electric cooperatives, utility companies or energy suppliers, for resale to end-use consumers.



Energy Cost Adjustment:

A variable charge or credit on a power bill that reflects the fluctuating costs of generating and purchasing electricity.



Wholesale power cost:

The price of electricity on the open market, determined by supply and demand, which electricity generators and utilities pay to buy and sell electricity before it reaches the end-use consumer. This cost, measured in dollars per megawatt-hour, covers the cost of generating electricity and delivering it to the high-voltage grid and can fluctuate hourly or daily based on factors like fuel prices, demand and grid conditions.



Transparency:

Being open and honest.



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

GET TO KNOW US

In this edition of our “Get to Know Us” series, we’re excited to introduce three valued members of the Franklin REC team: Tom Demro, Tessa Haller and Gordon Greimann.

They’ll share the experiences and accomplishments that have stood out to them during their time with the cooperative, as well as how they’ve seen Franklin REC positively impact the community. They’ll also reflect on the growth of the cooperative and offer advice to those just beginning their careers.

Keep reading to learn more about Tom, Tessa and Gordon and the important work they do at Franklin REC!

TOM DEMRO
Lineman



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC?

Providing reliable power to our members.

Q: How would you describe Franklin REC’s impact on the community?

We go out of our way to try and help with things that better the community such as our Light Up the Night festivities.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? We go out, no matter the weather, to provide dependable service.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Safe, reliable, professional.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Stay busy and ask questions.

TESSA HALLER
Consumer Accountant



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC?

The family-like atmosphere dedicated to providing the best possible service for our members.

Q: How would you describe Franklin REC’s impact on the community? Franklin REC has a very positive impact on the community, not only for our members, but also its dedication to programs and activities outside of the cooperative.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Innovative, transparent, passionate.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Love what you do.

GORDON GREIMANN
Board Director



Q: What’s your favorite part of being involved with Franklin REC? Learning about the electrical industry. And all the relationships I have formed with people all over the state in the co-op family.

Q: How has Franklin REC changed since you started? Things like meter reading (my mom used to drive around reading meters), billing, communication, tools for the linemen and safety have all changed a lot. Risks like cybersecurity and power supply (people wanting to shut down our power plants before we have other alternatives) are issues we never had to worry about when I first started.

Q: What’s one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? How every employee goes the extra mile to keep the lights on as safely and affordably as possible.

Q: What’s a project or initiative at Franklin REC that you’re especially proud of? Our solar fields. They give our members a chance to participate in solar energy without a huge investment.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Dedicated, family, community.

Q: As a director, do you have any additional thoughts to share about serving your local co-op? There is a lot to learn and keep up on as a director, but I find it very fulfilling. If you think you would like to run in your district, contact the REC. It is always good for people to have a choice in an election.

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the August meeting, Franklin REC directors approved the following:

- Approved construction and special equipment work orders of \$154,112.21
- Approved estate patronage retirements
- Appointed a National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) voting delegate
- Approved a donation request

SAVE THE DATE! FRANKLIN REC CELEBRATES 5 YEARS OF LIGHT UP THE NIGHT MERRIMENT

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 29, as Franklin REC celebrates five years of Light Up the Night! What began as a small-town holiday gathering has grown into a community-wide tradition that brings families together to kick off the season in a festive and memorable way.

Each year, the event gets a little bigger and brighter – and this year is no exception! Enjoy a full

day of family fun with activities for all ages. From the movie matinee and firehouse lunch to photos with Santa, horse-drawn rides and the dazzling lighted parade, there's something for everyone.

Whether you join us for the whole day or just stop by to catch the lights, Light Up the Night is your night to celebrate. We can't wait to see you there!



CELEBRATING MILESTONES AT FRANKLIN REC

Please join us in congratulating our team members as they reach important work anniversaries. Their years of dedication and service have made a real difference in our cooperative and community. We're grateful for their commitment and proud to have them as part of our team.



GARRETT THOMPSON
General manager/CEO
5 years

Garrett marks five years with Franklin REC. During this time, he has focused on leading the cooperative with care and a strong commitment to our members.

Garrett works hard to ensure reliable service and community support remain top priorities. His steady leadership continues to guide Franklin REC toward a positive future.



MADISON ALERT
Communications specialist & key accounts representative
6 Years

Madison is celebrating six years with Franklin REC. She supports members and the community through clear communication and dependable service. She takes pride in helping members feel informed and connected.

SHARE the ROAD
with Farmers

Be safe.
Be courteous.

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only available routes.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

- 1 Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2 Do not pass if you are in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3 Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.
- 4 Do not tailgate.
- 5 Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

Share the road with care. Farmers are just trying to get to and from their job, too.

Source: Texas Tabin Top (Texas Farm Bureau)

Safe Electricity.org

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH: POWERED BY PURPOSE

This month, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you – the members who make it all possible. For Franklin REC, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you – our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.



We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible – because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Franklin REC crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, or partnering with volunteer organizations in the area, we are always looking for ways to improve

the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought – it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

This National Co-op Month, Franklin REC encourages you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer – you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Effective May 22, 1991, the Iowa Utilities Commission passed a ruling requiring all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its membership:

If a member has a question or concern regarding his/her electric service, please write or call Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative at 1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437, Hampton, Iowa, 50441-0437 or 641-456-2557. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 6:30

a.m. to 3 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Labor Day to Memorial Day.

If your complaint is related to Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative's service rather than its rates, and Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative does not

resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling 515-725-7300 or toll-free 877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Ave, Room 69, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-0069; or by email to customer@iuc.iowa.gov.



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Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop

WHERE WE HAVE MEMBERS WE ACTIVELY LIVE OUR COMMITMENT



Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

As your **Touchstone Energy® cooperative**, we are your energy community. The power we provide is much more than a way to keep the lights on, it plugs into the family, friends, and neighbors that make up your local co-op.