

● MAY 2026

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

Shine the Light
contest returns

Participate in Franklin REC's
community solar program

Beef burger recipes

Franklin REC is hosting a community Book Drive ► See Page 13

CELEBRATING 142 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP: FRANKLIN REC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At Franklin REC, our mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity is guided by a dedicated team of leaders – our board of directors. Collectively, they bring 142 years of service to the cooperative, a testament to their unwavering commitment to our members and our communities.

Many board members have witnessed Franklin REC's evolution firsthand – from manual meter reads to advanced 24/7 meter communication. They've seen the cooperative embrace powerful tools and equipment that help our line crews provide safe, reliable service to every member. Their guidance ensures that as technology advances, the cooperative continues to meet our members' needs while keeping safety at the forefront.

Our board members don't just attend meetings – they champion rural power at the state Capitol, advocate for members in the boardroom and ensure the cooperative's decisions always reflect the best interests of those they serve. Their expertise is built on years



Back row from left: David Keninger, Matthew Roelfs, Dale Schaefer and Donald Greimann.
Front row: Darwin Van Horn, Gordon Greimann and John Snyder.

of training, industry knowledge and experience, allowing them to actively shape the conversations and strategies that have made Franklin REC a trusted energy provider.

Through thoughtful leadership and careful oversight, the board helps Franklin REC navigate the challenges of the evolving electric utility industry while keeping our members at the heart of every decision.

From regulatory changes to technological advancements, their guidance ensures our cooperative continues to innovate and thrive.

As we celebrate 142 years of combined service, we recognize the dedication, vision and leadership of our board members. They keep our cooperative strong, accountable and focused on powering the lives of our members every day.



Office

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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-3:00 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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to our employees celebrating work anniversaries this month! Their dedication and commitment play a vital role in keeping our cooperative strong. Through their hard work, we continue to provide our members with safe, reliable electricity and dependable service every day.



Chad Foster
29 years



Karen Ringleb
37 years



Trey Swaney
2 years



Dawson Wikert
1 year

RELIABILITY ISN'T AN ACCIDENT: A LOOK AT YOUR CO-OP'S 2025 PERFORMANCE

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



When you flip a switch, you expect the lights to come on every time. Most of the time, you probably don't think twice about it. Honestly, that's the goal!

At Franklin REC, reliability doesn't happen by chance. It's the result of ongoing maintenance, system improvements and a team that's ready to respond when something goes wrong.

Throughout the year, our crews focus on the work most people never see, like trimming trees, inspecting lines, upgrading equipment and preparing for the unexpected. All that work is aimed at one simple outcome: keeping your power on and restoring it as quickly as possible when outages occur.

2025 by the numbers

Each year, we take a close look at how our system performed. In 2025, Franklin REC members experienced an average of 2.6 outages over the year, with total outage time averaging 276 minutes.

That's higher than our recent 5-year averages, but there's an important reason behind it.

In 2025, we completed more than 20 miles of backbone system upgrades, rebuilding key three-phase lines that strengthen the overall system and improve our ability to backfeed power during outages. These are long-term investments that make the grid more resilient and flexible.

To safely complete that work, we scheduled several planned outages throughout the year. While those outages do impact our reliability numbers in the short term, they are a critical part of building a stronger system for the future.

When unplanned outages occurred, our crews restored power in an average of 105 minutes, which is slightly better than our long-term performance during storm-impacted years.

What this means going forward

Reliability isn't just about how often the lights go out; it's about building a system that can withstand challenges and recover quickly when issues arise.

The work completed in 2025 means:

- Stronger mainline infrastructure
- Improved ability to reroute power (backfeeding)
- Faster restoration options during outages

In short, we're not just maintaining the system, we're actively improving it.

Looking ahead

As we move further into 2026 and prepare for the summer storm season, we expect these improvements to pay dividends in both reliability and restoration flexibility.

We'll continue to invest in targeted upgrades, proactive maintenance and long-term planning to ensure we're



delivering the level of service our members expect and deserve.

Reliability is something we work at every day, not just when the power goes out.

At the end of the day, our responsibility is simple: keep the lights on and be ready when they go out. We take that responsibility seriously, and we're committed to continuing to strengthen the system that serves you.

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

RELIABILITY STATS		
2025	5-Year Average (with storms)	5-Year Average (no storms)
SAIFI - 2.62606	SAIFI - 1.8331	SAIFI - 1.7191
SAIDI - 276.2048	SAIDI - 212.8238	SAIDI - 173.2072
CAIDI - 105.3982	CAIDI - 112.4298	CAIDI - 103.3958

SAIFI is the average number of interruptions per customer during the year. It is calculated by dividing the total annual number of customer interruptions by the total number of customers served during the year.

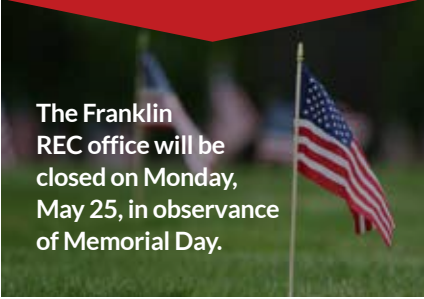
SAIDI is the average interruption duration per customer served during the year. It is calculated by dividing the sum of the customer interruption durations by the total number of customers served during the year.

CAIDI is the average interruption duration for those customers who experience interruptions during the year. It is calculated by dividing the annual sum of all customer interruption durations by the total number of customer interruptions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting Tuesday, May 26, we will transition to summer hours, operating from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you experience a disruption in your electric service, please contact us at 641-456-2557.



The Franklin REC office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.



FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the March meeting, Franklin REC directors considered the following:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$10,289.72
- Approved addition to Franklin REC tariff language pertaining to Section 9
- Approved a donation request
- Approved voting delegates for Corn Belt Power Cooperative Annual Meeting
- Accepted the Reliability Report

FRANKLIN REC'S COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM

Are you interested in solar energy but don't have the space or resources to install panels at your home or business? Franklin REC's Community Solar Program makes it easy and cost-effective to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without the expense or maintenance of a personal system. With a simple, one-time payment, you can subscribe to our community solar array and start saving on your electric bill.

New, lower price

As of May 1, the price per solar subscription has **dropped to \$448 per module**, making it even more affordable to participate.

How it works

- **Location:** The Community Solar Field is located south of the Franklin REC office at 1560 HWY 65, Hampton, IA 50441.
- **System details:** The array consists of 508 solar modules, each 340 watts, producing approximately 380 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually.
- **No extra costs:** After your one-time subscription fee, Franklin REC handles all maintenance, insurance and repairs at no additional cost to you.
- **Monthly bill credits:** Receive a credit on your electric bill based on your subscription and the solar field's monthly energy production.
 - Credits are calculated using Franklin REC's kWh charge rate, offsetting your location's usage.
 - You can purchase up to 30 subscriptions, depending on your average energy usage over the past three years.
 - All subscriptions remain active through April 2042, giving decades of predictable savings.

Why join?

- In 2025, one panel generated a total credit of \$56.61.
- No maintenance, insurance or repair costs – just the benefits of clean energy.
- Support renewable energy and contribute to a cleaner environment.
- Enjoy long-term savings through April 2042.



Ready to join?

Take advantage of the new lower subscription price and start benefiting from solar energy today. For more information or to reserve your panel, contact Franklin REC at 641-456-2557.

FRANKLIN REC HOSTS COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE TO STOCK FREE LENDING LIBRARIES

Franklin REC is excited to announce a community-wide Book Drive running through May 29! Our goal is to support access to books in rural communities and encourage reading for all ages throughout our service area.

As part of this initiative, Franklin REC has hand-built five new free community lending library houses to be placed in towns across our territory. These small wooden structures, filled with books of all genres, allow residents to borrow, read and return books at their convenience – and even contribute their own titles to share with neighbors.

The Book Drive will also restock several existing lending libraries in our area to ensure they are full and ready for summer reading. Once the new library houses are stocked, they will be donated to their respective towns, and each city will decide the best location to install the library for public use.

How you can help

Bring your lightly used books to any of our partnered drop-off locations and help fill these community libraries for the summer. Donated books will be

sorted and placed into both new and existing lending houses, making them accessible to readers of all ages.

By contributing, you help bring the joy of reading to your neighbors and strengthen the sense of community across Franklin REC's service area.

For questions or more information, please contact Franklin REC at 641-456-2557.

Let's fill these libraries and inspire a summer of reading in our rural towns!



DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Franklin REC**
 Location: 1560 HWY 65, Hampton
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Chairish Life**
 Location: 626 Main St., Ackley
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.,
 Sat. 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Block 10**
 Location: 309 Gilman St., Sheffield
 Hours: Tues.-Fri. 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce**
 Location: 5 1st St. SW, Hampton
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Franklin County Extension Office**
 Location: 6 2nd St. NW, Hampton
 Hours: Drop-off available 24/7
 inside vestibule
- First Bank Hampton**
 Location: 211 1st Ave. NW, Hampton
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.,
 Sat. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
- First Security Bank & Trust**
 Location: 100 1st St. NW, Hampton
 Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.,
 Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

MOVE OVER. SLOW DOWN. SAVE A LIFE.

Every mile of road you drive is a potential danger zone for someone working on the roadside. Franklin REC crews maintain over 800 miles of high-voltage power lines, powering thousands of homes – and every day, their biggest concern isn't the lines they're working on – it's the vehicle approaching them from behind.

Iowa law is clear: when you see hazard lights or a vehicle parked along the road, you must slow down and, if safe, move over. This isn't just about utility trucks – it applies to any roadside vehicle, from emergency responders

to a car pulled to the shoulder.

Those warning signs, hazard lights and pylons aren't just for show; they're your signal to protect life. Giving crews room to work safely can prevent a serious accident or worse.

Remember: it only takes a few seconds to slow down and steer clear, but those seconds can save a life. Whether it's a Franklin REC truck or any vehicle on the side of the road, your actions behind the wheel matter.

Move over. Slow down. Protect lives – including your own.





Franklin REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

May 2026

Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

POWERING YOUR LIFE

It's good to know your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is always there. For generations, we've powered the growth of our neighborhoods, businesses and everything in between. Today, our commitment is stronger than ever to provide affordable and reliable energy.

YOUR SOURCE FOR POWER. AND INFORMATION.

VISIT US AT: WWW.TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM