

NOVEMBER 2026

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



Iowa linemen help to bring
electricity to Guatemala

Investing for the future
while protecting members

Twists on turkey leftovers

Franklin REC hosts Light Up the Night: A Hometown Tradition ▶ See Page 13

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE WHILE PROTECTING FRANKLIN REC MEMBERS

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



One of Franklin REC's most important responsibilities is maintaining safe, cost-effective and reliable electric service for the homes, farms, businesses, schools and communities who trust us to provide exceptional service every day.

We depend on reliable electricity every day, often without thinking about everything that goes into delivering it. Behind our service is a complex electric system requiring generation, transmission, substations, distribution equipment, maintenance and long-term planning.

The electric grid must be prepared for the hottest afternoon, the coldest night, severe storms and unexpected equipment failures. Continued planning and improvements throughout the electric system are essential to maintaining the reliable service our member-consumers expect and deserve.



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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Investing for a reliable energy future

Before electricity can reach our members, enough power must be available to meet their needs. As electricity use continues to evolve, planning for dependable generation is an important part of maintaining a reliable electric system. At the same time, some existing generation facilities are aging, facing higher maintenance costs or nearing retirement. New generation can help replace retiring resources, maintain adequate capacity and ensure power is available when consumers need it most.

Planning for new generation helps meet peak demand, maintain adequate reserves and respond to emergencies. A strong transmission system is equally important. Transmission lines move electricity across regions, connect generation resources, relieve congestion and provide additional options when the system is under stress.

Strong generation and transmission systems support both reliability and affordability by providing access to diverse energy resources and allowing electricity to move where it is needed.

Our role in delivering reliable electricity

These broader grid improvements ultimately connect to the distribution system that delivers electricity directly to our members. This is where Franklin REC plays a critical role in maintaining the infrastructure that connects the broader electric grid to the homes, farms and businesses we serve.

Franklin REC maintains approximately 860 miles of power lines across six counties, along with utility poles, transformers, meters and other equipment needed to deliver

electricity safely and reliably. Keeping our system strong requires ongoing inspections, vegetation management, equipment replacement, line reconstruction and system upgrades.

These improvements may not always be visible, but they are an important part of the service members experience every day.

Growth must be responsible

Every major project must also be considered through the lens of cost. Families, farmers and businesses are watching their budgets, and economic growth should not come at the expense of existing members.

That is why Franklin REC believes costs should be assigned fairly: the consumer who causes the cost should bear the cost.

When a new large consumer requires dedicated substations, transmission upgrades, feeder extensions, generation capacity or other facilities, those costs should not be shifted to existing residential, farm or commercial members who did not create the need.

These standards also help reduce the risk of stranded costs. If a large consumer requires significant infrastructure before reaching full operation but later delays, downsizes or leaves, existing members should not be left responsible for facilities built specifically to serve that consumer. Appropriate upfront payments, long-term commitments, exit fees or other protections can help ensure the consumer requesting the facilities remains responsible for the costs it creates.

At the same time, improvements that strengthen the broader system can benefit existing members as well as future consumers. The goal is responsible

growth – welcoming new opportunities while protecting the members who already depend on the cooperative.

Looking ahead

Maintaining safe, affordable and reliable electric service is a long-term obligation. The decisions we make today will shape the system our members rely on tomorrow. If we underinvest, we increase the risk of outages, higher emergency costs, constrained growth and diminished reliability. If we invest without discipline, we risk unnecessary cost pressure on members. The right path is prudent investment, transparent planning and fair cost responsibility.

The future of reliable energy will require investment at every level – from generation and transmission to the distribution lines that bring electricity to our members' homes, farms and businesses. It will require Franklin REC to continue strengthening the system our members rely on while ensuring future growth pays its fair share.

In the end, this is about trust. You, our members, trust that when you flip a switch, the power will be there. You trust that Franklin REC is planning ahead, scrutinizing costs and making decisions that protect both today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities.

Reliable electricity is a shared investment, and maintaining it is a responsibility Franklin REC takes seriously. By planning ahead, strengthening the distribution system our members rely on, making prudent decisions and ensuring growth is managed fairly, Franklin REC can continue providing the safe, reliable and valuable service our communities count on – today and for generations to come.

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

HELP SHARE HOLIDAY CHEER WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS

Do you have a few extra holiday cards tucked away in a drawer or leftover from a pack you purchased and didn't use? Consider giving those cards a new purpose by helping us spread holiday cheer to residents in our local care facilities.

Each year, Franklin REC employees come together to personalize more than 400 handwritten holiday cards to be delivered to residents at local nursing homes, care facilities and independent/assisted living communities. These simple messages of kindness and well wishes bring a special touch of holiday joy to those who may not receive many cards during the season.

We invite you to share your unused holiday cards with Franklin REC as we prepare for this year's holiday card project. Whether you have one extra card or a handful, your donation can help brighten someone's holiday.

Cards may be donated now through the new year and can be dropped off at our office:

Franklin REC
1560 Hwy 65
Hampton, IA 50441

Thank you for helping to continue this meaningful tradition that brings a little extra holiday cheer to our community.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for our members and the communities we are privileged to serve. Thank you for your continued support of Franklin REC and for being an important part of our cooperative family.

In observance of Thanksgiving, the Franklin REC office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27.

While our office is closed, our crew remains on call, and our phones are answered 24/7 at 641-456-2557. If you experience a power outage or service issue, please contact the cooperative so we can resolve the issue.

From our Franklin REC family to yours, we wish you a safe, happy and memorable Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, connection and time with those who matter most.

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

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

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$262,561.18
- Approved 2027 board meeting dates
- Approved 2027 Annual Meeting date
- Approved 2027 IAEC medical plans
- Approved patronage discount percentage
- Approved Vantage Point engineering services for future projects

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.

WINTER WEATHERIZATION: KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE, COMFORTABLE AND EFFICIENT

As the temperatures drop, your home works a little harder to keep your family warm and comfortable. Fall is the perfect time to prepare your home for the season ahead. A few simple weatherization and safety checks can improve comfort, reduce energy waste and help protect your home from winter hazards.



Seal out cold air

Cold air can find its way into your home through gaps around windows, doors and utility openings. Adding weatherstripping or caulk is an inexpensive way to keep warm air inside and cold air outside your home. You'll stay more comfortable, and your heating system won't have to work as hard.



Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Heating equipment gets plenty of use during the winter months, emphasizing the importance of working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Test each detector monthly, replace batteries annually and, if needed, gently clean away dust to keep sensors working properly.



Use space heaters safely

Space heaters can be an effective way to warm a single room, but they should always be used safely. Keep them at least 3 feet away from furniture, bedding and curtains and place them on a level, stable surface. Always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet – never into a power strip or extension cord – and choose models with automatic shut-off and overheat protection.



Inspect electrical cords and holiday lighting

Before plugging in holiday lights, electric blankets or

other seasonal items, inspect cords for fraying, cracks or damaged plugs. Replace anything that shows signs of wear. Avoid overloading outlets or power strips and remember to unplug decorative lighting before leaving home or going to bed.



Prepare your heating system

Your heating system works hard all winter long, so a little preventive maintenance can go a long way. Replace furnace filters regularly and schedule routine maintenance for your furnace or heat pump. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, have the chimney inspected and cleaned each year to reduce the risk of chimney fires.

Available rebates

If you're planning home improvements before the winter, remember to maximize your cooperative membership. Franklin REC offers rebates on a variety of qualifying energy-saving projects, including heat pump checkups, insulation and weatherization improvements, and eligible heating and cooling equipment. Before starting your next project, contact Franklin REC to learn which rebates may be available to help lower your upfront costs while improving your home's comfort and efficiency.

Winter weather doesn't have to catch you off guard. Taking a little time to prepare your home now can help improve safety, increase comfort and reduce energy waste throughout the heating season. Whether you're looking for ways to improve your home's efficiency, reduce energy costs or take advantage of available rebates, Franklin REC is here to help every step of the way.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: A HOMETOWN TRADITION

Hometown traditions are what this time of year is all about. Bring your family and spend the day enjoying festive activities throughout downtown Hampton on Saturday, Nov. 28, as Franklin REC hosts Light Up the Night: A Hometown Tradition.

Now a staple of the community, Light Up the Night brings neighbors together for an afternoon and evening filled with lights, laughter and fun for all ages. Enjoy lunch at the firehouse, visit Santa, get creative with festive crafts and take part in activities throughout the afternoon.

As the sun goes down, bundle up and get ready for the highlight of the evening – the Lighted Parade at 5:30 p.m. With twinkling lights, creative floats and plenty of hometown cheer, the parade is a tradition you won't want to miss.

Make a day of it and create new memories with family, friends and neighbors. For the full schedule of festivities and event updates, visit the Franklin REC website, follow the event on our Facebook page or scan the QR code in the graphic.



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 within Franklin REC's service territory. 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 that this amount is automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Light up the Night

A HOMETOWN TRADITION

WHEN

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 28**

WHERE

**DOWNTOWN
HAMPTON, IA**

Make a day of it with the family! Enjoy time with Santa, create festive crafts, catch a family-friendly movie and take part in fun activities throughout the day. Then, settle in for the Light Up the Night parade and enjoy the magic of the season together.

Follow along at the Facebook Page
**Light Up the Night:
A Hometown Tradition**
or scan the QR code.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

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