



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



A LOOK AHEAD TO 2025

By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO

With the new year fast approaching, I am enthusiastic about the opportunities and projects on the horizon for our cooperative. Our commitment to delivering reliable, safe, sustainable, and affordable services to our members remains steadfast.

Renewable Energy Projects

One of the most exciting areas for us is the development of two solar projects that are expected to be interconnected by December 2025. Our first project is in partnership with fifteen area electric cooperatives and developer OneEnergy Renewables to leverage economies of scale. Our project called “Hannibal Solar” will be located on Hazel Lane and interconnected to the Hannibal substation, which is located on Highway 73. The 2.5 Megawatt (MW) solar array will sit on 13.5 acres and be made up of 5,200 solar panels. It is expected to generate about 5,225,890 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually, enough to power 630 homes. Hannibal Solar will supply us with locally produced clean energy and help reduce our wholesale power costs by

allowing us to purchase the output at a long-term fixed rate.

Our second project is in conjunction with our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and consists of a 2 MW solar array with a 4 Megawatt-hour (MWh) battery for storage. This project will supply local renewable energy while energy stored in the battery system can be deployed strategically to reduce costs and congestion during times of peak energy use. By providing local energy during peak energy load periods, this project will reduce the need for additional power delivery infrastructure and save us from some expensive capacity upgrades. The location of this project will be on Tiger Cat Road and will be interconnected to the Round Lake substation on County Highway B.

Work Plan Projects

One of our strategic goals is to improve the reliability of our distribution system and this year’s work plan projects are intended to do just that. With the inflationary pressures we have seen on electrical components over the past four years, you simply can’t replace as

much infrastructure with the same amount of money as you could before. However, we have been successful in obtaining some State and Federal grants to help offset these increases and continue to make improvements to our system. This year we plan to complete the following projects, which are all conversions from overhead to underground lines:

- 4.5 miles along County Hwy E, Williams Road, Williams Resort Road, and Yopps Road
- 2.9 miles on Morgan Road from Highway 77 to Brandt Road
- 3.2 miles along County Hwy E and Indian Lake Road
- 1.3 miles along Tiger Cat Road from McClaine Road to Oriole Lane

Looking Ahead

As we embark on this new year, I want to thank you for your ongoing trust and support. The strength of our cooperative comes from our members. Please continue to participate in our member meetings, events, and communications. Your input and feedback are vital as we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.

DIRECTOR VACANCY RESUME DEADLINE: JANUARY 20

In December, District 7 members were informed about a vacancy on the board of directors. Resumes and letters of interest for this director position are being accepted until **January 20**. The appointed member will serve the remainder of the current term, ending in April 2025.

In early January, **Nomination for Director Petitions** will be mailed to members in Districts 2, 7, and 8. If you wish to become a director candidate and appear on the Annual Meeting ballot, follow the instructions on this petition. Directors elected at the Annual Meeting will serve a three-year term. More information on page 16.

District 7 members have two opportunities to serve as a director:

1. **Director Vacancy:** Serve February–April 2025
2. **Director Election:** Serve a three-year term following the Annual Meeting election

Megawatts (MW) and megawatt-hours (MWh) are not the same:

A Megawatt (MW) is a unit that measures how much power is being used or produced at a specific moment. Think of it like the speed of a car – it tells you how fast the car is going right now.

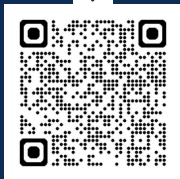
A Megawatt-hour (MWh) is a unit that measures the total amount of energy used or produced over time. It’s like the distance the car travels – it tells you how far the car has gone over a period of time. So, if a 1 MW solar array produces 1 MW of power, and it runs for 1 hour, it would produce 1 MWh of energy.

THE ROAD TO BECOMING A DIRECTOR CANDIDATE

(SCAN THE BELOW QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION.)

1 REVIEW JREC'S BYLAWS

JREC members whose primary residence is in Districts 2, 7, and 8 may be eligible to become a director candidate. Director qualifications can be found under Article IV, Section 3 of the JREC's bylaws.

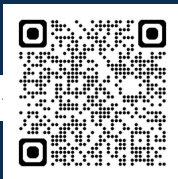


2 IDENTIFY YOUR DISTRICT

Find a district map online at jrec.com.

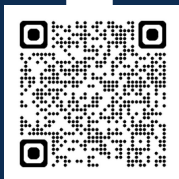
3 GET SIGNATURES

Have 15 or more members from the district you reside in sign your Petition for Director Nomination paper and promote your campaign.



4 RETURN PETITION

Return the member-signed petition to one of our two cooperative offices by February 25 at 4 p.m. Cooperative personnel will validate signatures and districts. A photo will be taken of the candidate at that time. Qualified candidates are subject to a background check prior to being placed on the ballot.



5 ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING

Directors are elected by the membership. Elected directors serve a three-year term and attend monthly as well as occasional regional and national meetings. Read more on director expectations at jrec.com.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

For Qualifying Members



If you need assistance paying your winter heating and utility bills, certain government organizations can offer heating assistance or point you in the direction of where you can get help. You can find contact information and links to many assistance programs at jrec.com/energy-assistance or go to homeenergyplus.wi.gov. You can also call 1-866-HEATWIS, Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund – Bill Pay Assistance at 1-800-981-9276, or contact your county's Department of Health and Human Services for assistance.

DON'T FORGET YOUR ENERGY SENSE REBATE!

Energy Sense is JREC's rebate program and one that typically changes each year. In 2025, we will be offering a lot of the same rebates, but we added a few, including a \$125 rebate for an all-in-one washer/dryer combo.



This program is designed to put money back in your pocket when you make energy conservation changes or purchase Energy Star® appliances.

You can find the detailed list of all available rebates and the appropriate forms online at jrec.com. Please keep in mind that most rebates must be claimed within three months of purchase or installation date.



Energy Sense
Together we can... Together we will



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SET A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Making a New Year's resolution is always a good idea. A 2024 survey by Forbes Health/One Poll found that 48 percent of people aim to improve their fitness, while 38 percent focus on their finances. However, keeping resolutions can be challenging, with the average resolution lasting just 3.74 months.

Resolve to use SmartHub

Good news! JREC believes this resolution is one you will keep: resolve to use SmartHub, our online account portal. SmartHub not only saves you time but can also save you money by helping you avoid late fees. Plus, it can even put money back in your pocket.

Members can earn a one-time \$15 energy credit by signing up for autopay with a checking or savings account and an additional one-time \$10 energy credit for opting for paperless billing. That's \$25 in your pocket!

SmartHub also allows you to monitor your usage, report outages, receive outage text alerts, and vote electronically in the director elections coming up at the Annual Meeting held in April.

Each new year and new month bring an opportunity for a fresh start. It's time to sign up for SmartHub—a win-win resolution you can keep this year and beyond. Scan this QR code to sign up today.



Resolve to be energy efficient year-round

We can all play a part in conserving resources and reducing our bills. Here are some practical tips to boost your home's energy efficiency through-out the year:

- 1. Know your energy consumption:** Review your past 12-24 months and calculate your average monthly usage to establish a baseline for measuring your energy efforts. You can find this information under the usage tab on SmartHub.
- 2. Adopt no-cost ways to save energy:** Turn off lights, unplug electronics, close window coverings, change air filters regularly, and use ceiling fans strategically (clockwise in winter to force warm air down).
- 3. Get smart with your thermostat:** Optimize your heating and cooling by using a programmable or smart thermostats. Don't forget to submit your Energy Sense rebate. In general, adjust the thermostat a few degrees up or down for energy savings.
- 4. Insulate your home:** Weatherproofing is key to maintaining comfort and reducing energy use.
 - Check for air leaks around windows and doors.
 - Apply caulk or weather stripping to prevent drafts.
 - Remember to keep doors closed to maintain indoor temperature.

Visit jrec.com or SafeElectricity.org for more tips on building a resilient and efficient home.

WHAT IT CAN COST TO STAY WARM

No one wants to pay more on their electric bill. Before turning on an electric heating device that can help you stay warm this winter, consider its operating cost. For example, portable electric space heaters are 100 percent efficient and convenient, but they should only be used for supplemental heat. As the name implies, space heaters are designed to heat a small area, not your entire home.

Using these items improperly or beyond their intended use can be costly to both your wallet and safety. There are more economical ways to heat your home. Contact our office to find out about cost-effective electric heating options and our dual fuel program that can save you money.



ELECTRIC FIREPLACE

4 hours per day=\$.67
\$19.98 per month



ELECTRIC BLANKET

8 hours per day=\$.09
\$2.66 per month



900-WATT HEAT TAPE

24 hours per day=\$2.40
\$71.93 per month



1500-WATT SPACE HEATER

8 hours per day=\$1.33
\$39.96 per month

These costs can be used as a general guide. Specific products usage/costs may vary.

5 REMINDERS

Find more information at jrec.com.

OFFICES CLOSED

In celebration of the New Year, our offices will be closed January 1. The board of directors and employees of JREC wish you a happy and safe New Year!



SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

JREC will be offering 33, \$1,000 scholarships to graduating homeschool or high school seniors and non-traditional students. Active members or dependent students of active members should go to jrec.com/scholarships for more information.



MEMBER COMMITTEE

Members interested in serving on the Rules & Resolution Committee should call 715-532-5524 by January 23. This committee reviews the rules of the meeting and any proposed resolutions to be presented at the annual meeting.



UPCOMING DEADLINES

February 25 is the deadline for both the Director Nomination Petitions and any proposed resolution that is to be considered at the annual meeting. Members in districts 2, 7, and 8 were mailed director nomination forms in early January.



ANNUAL MEETING

The 87th Annual Meeting will be held at the Ladysmith headquarters warehouse with a livestreamed meeting held simultaneously at the Hayward outpost on April 26. More to come in future issues of this magazine.

You can read more on how to become a director candidate on page 16.

DUCK...DUCK...TURKEY! THAT'S 13 TURKEY'S AND NO GOOSE!

Congratulations to our Lucky 13 turkey winners! The drawing box was overflowing with tickets again this year, just like a cornucopia brimming with cheer.

The following members each won a turkey, just in time for Thanksgiving: James Suchy of Couderay; David Galetka of Glen Flora; James Gaul, Roy & Ellen Townsend, Ronnie Weberg, Andie Quaderer, Janet Ziem, and Lynn Grandbom of Hayward; Ann Hattamer of Holcombe; Donna Miller, Brian Pfalzgraf, Marcia Dieckman of Ladysmith; and Cory Johnson of Sheldon.



David and Marcia Dieckman






Andie Quaderer

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715-532-5524 (Ladysmith); 715-634-4575 (Hayward) • www.jrec.com



Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook (left) and Instagram (right).

After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111
Pay by Phone: 888-255-6489


Find us on Facebook, X, and Instagram   

Denise Zimmer, Editor



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.