



Co-op Chronical



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January/February 2023

Brace for the Cold, and Potentially Higher Energy Costs



Record high energy prices, inflation, supply chain disruptions, and events across the globe are having a significant impact on the cost of electricity and will affect members as we begin 2023.

Starting with February billing, we expect a 4% increase for the average member, resulting in about \$6.50 more per month, based on current models and trends. We have been proactive to cut costs across all areas so that we absorb as much of the cost increase as possible. However, we cannot sustain operations with the current price of energy without members sharing in some of the cost.

UDWI purchases our electricity from Hoosier Energy, a generation and transmission co-op. Electric generation requires a fuel source, primarily natural gas and coal. Coal prices are up nearly 300% since this time last year, and natural gas prices have increased more than 100% year-over-year. This has resulted in wholesale power prices increasing more than 175%.

In July 2022, the power cost we paid to Hoosier Energy increased by 6%, compared to the previous quarter. We were aware at that time additional increases may be coming and began to work even harder to ensure the impact was minimal to our members.

Unfortunately, due to the cost of power from Hoosier energy, we have no option but to pass this cost directly to members. We do not, and will not, benefit from this increase, as it will be used to pay Hoosier Energy for the power that is purchased for our members.

The UDWI website contains suggestions and tips on ways members can continue to be mindful of daily electric usage and how to save energy around the house. Several programs are available to help members optimize energy consumption like budget billing, and daily usage monitoring via the UDWI smartphone app or website. There are also assistance programs to help pay for utility bills, including the federal Energy Assistance Program.

The global nature of power supply costs is making it difficult to predict with certainty how long prices may remain elevated. However, UDWI expects the challenging environment to continue into the foreseeable future, possibly the next few years as prices around us continue to rise for most goods and services.

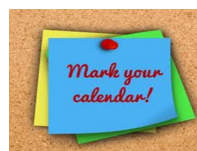
We will continue to work for our members and do what is within our power to help control costs. Prices are up on nearly everything from gas to groceries, and we understand that the overall effects of inflation are hitting everyone hard. We are here and we are listening.

Members can visit our website, Facebook page or call the office at (812-384-4446) for more information.

OFFICE INFORMATION



The UDWI REMC office lobby is OPEN for all business. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Masks are encouraged. Visitors should continue to maintain proper social distancing. Let's continue to keep everyone safe & healthy!



ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

April 18, 2023
UDWI REMC Headquarters main garage
Doors open 5 p.m. / meeting begins 6 p.m.

December 2022 Community Fund Recipients

The following organizations were awarded grants from the UDWI REMC Community Fund.

Thank you to those members who contributed to this worthwhile program!

Applications are being accepted from non-profit businesses and organizations for the next round of Community Fund grants until **March 15, 2023**.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

Citizens for a Better Worthington
Loaves & Fishes
Lyons Community Food Pantry
Pregnancy Choices
Shakamak Counseling Department
Solsberry United Methodist Church
Stone City Alliance for Recovery and Hope, Inc.
Worthington Lions Club

Did You Know?

Members who sign up to receive electronic billing statements and opt-in for automatic payments from a checking or savings account can save money on their electric bill every month! Eligible accounts can receive a bill credit of \$2 per account every month.

For more information on this bill credit, please contact customer service Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. at 812-384-4446 or 800-489-7362, or email memberservice@udwiremc.com.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT—Tanner Baker

How long have you worked at UDWI REMC? 3 years

Current Position: Mechanic

What is your favorite part of working at the co-op? Maintaining the trucks and equipment

What are your hobbies? Hunting, fishing, spending time with family

What are your pet peeves? Laziness

Favorite Food & Drink: Bacon & eggs, and coffee

Random fact about me: I'm a twin!



Pole Top Rescue Training

Every year, UDWI's linemen undergo annual training to ensure everyone on our team is up-to-date on safety protocols. UDWI's training yard allows our team to train in-house in a secure environment for simulating on-the-job scenarios while keeping our team members safe.

A recent training focused on pole top rescues. This training prepares the team for a situation where someone becomes injured or experiences an accident on a pole, and another team member can go up and rescue them safely. We use a lifelike dummy to ensure safety and accuracy.



Qualifications for UDWI REMC Board of Directors

To be eligible to become a director of the REMC, a person must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be a member of the cooperative;
2. Must be a bona fide resident in the district which he/she is to represent;
3. Must not be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the REMC, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to members of the cooperative;
4. Must not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the REMC.

Three candidates will be elected at the 2023 annual meeting. **Districts 1, 2, and 4 are up for election.** Candidates will be elected to serve a three-year term.

Interested candidates must contact the UDWI office to receive a candidate packet.

Completed packets must be turned in on or before **Wednesday, January 18, 2023**.

Meter Testing Continues

UDWI REMC meter technicians continue with routine meter tests in our entire service territory and will do so over the next few years.

Each employee will be driving a white utility van with our logo placard. Be sure to identify these items before approaching any vehicle that may be in your area. Report suspicious behavior to your local law enforcement office.

"Like" us on Facebook to stay up to date on current testing locations.

