



Co-op Chronical



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July/August 2023

Energy Conservation and You: Reducing Energy Usage this Summer

Energy conservation is the prevention of the wasteful use of energy and is an incredibly important part of the utility world. It can be achieved by using fewer energy services or using energy-efficient products in your everyday life. Energy conservation is a big part of sustainability and sustainable development.

UDWI encourages its members to conserve energy when they are able to. Members can voluntarily conserve energy by taking these simple steps to help reduce usage. These actions will also help you save money on your monthly utility bill.

Change air filters regularly. A dirty air filter makes an HVAC system work harder, which uses more energy. Combining an energy-efficient HVAC system with high-quality air filters and changing them regularly benefits the environment and your wallet.

Do laundry and other chores requiring electricity during the early morning or late evening hours. Completing chores during non-peak 'energy hours' can save energy because less electricity is typically used in the early morning and later in the evening. This simple switch can help lessen the load on the overall power system.

Raise your thermostats by a few degrees if health permits, and shut off air conditioners when leaving home for extended periods. You can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by turning your thermostat back 7°- 10°F for eight hours a day from its typical setting. A suggested temperature range is between 74-78 degrees during the summer months.

Turn off unneeded lights, appliances, or other electronics. Some products are better to turn off completely, as they use energy even when they are not actively being used. Appliances such as televisions, stereos, computers, and more draw energy from the power grid when plugged into a wall even when they are shut off. To reduce energy usage, make sure these devices are completely unplugged and not connected to a power source when not in use.

Opt for LED light bulbs, close curtains and blinds, and check seals around doors and windows. These additional small tips can save big money in the long run. LED bulbs use 75 percent less energy, last 25 times longer, and run much cooler than standard incandescent lights. Also, preventing direct light and heat from entering the home via windows, and preventing your cold air from escaping, will make a difference!

OFFICE INFORMATION



Our office will be closed:
Monday, Sept. 4—Labor Day

*Wishing you a safe &
happy holiday!*



For the first time in nearly 20 years, Appreciation Day is BACK for members of UDWI REMC! Join us Friday, July 21 for utility demonstrations, giveaways, food, games & prizes, and more. Additional details coming soon - follow our Facebook page to see all the information and plans as we announce more!

UDWI Fiber Partnership Updates



Smithville Update

Stanford Phase 1 - 4: Open and taking fiber orders

Stanford Phase 5: In final stage of inspection and it should be open for fiber orders around the start of July

Stanford Phase 6: Splicing is scheduled to be complete by the end of June and should be ready for orders around the beginning of August

Stanford Phase 7: Targeted for 2024

SCI Update: The ODC (fiber cabinet) has been spliced and tested and is ready to serve people in Freedom Northwest and Freedom West once electronics are installed. Freedom Northwest has been spliced and tested and will soon be ready for drops along *Straight Line Rd*, part of *Goose Creek Rd*, *Hoot Rd*, *Sand Lick Rd*, *Peregrine Ln*, *Ault Rd*, and *New Rd*. Freedom West will be spliced in the next couple of weeks, then it will be ready for drops. Construction has started on the Freedom East splitter cabinet and will be ongoing for the next month or two. The bore crews are finishing up on the boring in the town of Freedom and placing fiber/strand where possible on *Gentry Rd*, *Freedom Arney Rd*, *Big Four Rd*, and *Strouse Rd*. We are collecting data on Freedom South, Freedom Northeast, and Freedom East cabinets. **Early registration is encouraged to help expedite the construction and drop process! If you are interested in receiving fiber internet service, please register as soon as possible at join.sciremc.com.**

Meet UDWI's Newest Board Members!



My name is David Kirkling and I live in Clay City. I graduated from Clay City High School before attending Indiana University for my undergraduate degree and later Logan College for my Doctorate in Chiropractic. In my free time, I love to collect antiques, and I am a sports fanatic and a trivia buff. I wanted to serve on the UDWI board to best represent my district and be a fair voice for the members. I am looking forward to working with the other members of the board as well as learning the ins and outs of the utility business. I am a hard worker and ready to learn more about the co-op!

David Kirkling
District 1



My name is Melinda Hendrix and I live just outside of Bloomfield. I attended Bloomfield High School before going to Purdue University to get my B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and later earned my Masters in Business Administration at Ball State. I like to read, take walks, and spend time with my family. I joined the UDWI board to serve my community in a new way. I've been on the board for Hoosier Heritage Management (HHM) for 10 years and I'm looking forward to learning more about the utility world and get a chance to make a difference. I think we've come a long way in the past 10 years and I want to be a good representative for all of our members. I hope members will reach out and let me know if they have concerns or ideas on how we can keep improving!

Melinda Hendrix
District 4



“THE BIGGEST THING IS THE MISSION AND THE PEOPLE: SERVING THE MEMBERSHIP, SERVING THE AREA WHERE I GREW UP. I FIND THAT PART OF THE ROLE VERY FULFILLING. NOT BEING PROFIT-FOCUSED REALLY SPEAKS TO ME.”

SHANE SMITH
UTILITIES DISTRICT OF WESTERN INDIANA REMC
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARD YOUR CAREER? Visit WePowerIndiana.org

Indiana Electric Cooperatives' monthly publication features employees who have grown in their career within the cooperatives to show real-life examples of professional success in various roles.

Our very own Shane Smith (Chief Operating Officer) was chosen as the latest feature! His career began with UDWI as an intern during college and was later hired as an engineer. He's held the roles of Manager of Engineering and Manager of Operations and Engineering before transitioning into his current role.

We are so grateful to have Shane on our team and leading our cooperative every day. Congratulations!

Meter Testing Continues: UDWI meter technicians continue with routine meter tests in our entire service territory and will do so over the next few years. Employees 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.

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, contact customer service at 812-384-4446 or email memberservice@udwiremc.com.