



Co-op Chronicle

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Work Begins as Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC Partners with Mainstream to Expand Rural Broadband Access with Fiber-Optic Internet

The Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC and Mainstream Fiber Networks will begin building the infrastructure needed to serve the cooperative's members with high-speed fiber-optic connectivity starting this month.

Mainstream and its construction and design contractors, Tango Fiber and Helix Engineering, will be in the area during the coming weeks to begin installation of an initial "loop" through Greene County, which will serve as the backbone for a fiber ring that will eventually allow members access to the new service. UDWI will provide advice and assist Mainstream in routes and strategic locations for the project.



MAINSTREAM
fiber networks

Phase One construction will continue through 2025 and will put in place the framework to connect up to 4,000 meters in the county. During this phase, Mainstream expects to begin connecting members, and as the project progresses, members will receive more information as fiber becomes available in their specific area.

"Access to reliable internet is a fundamental necessity for today's digital economy," said Mainstream CEO Bryan Gabriel. "By continuing our focus on rural communities, we are not only creating new opportunities for economic growth and innovation but also fostering equality of opportunity for all Hoosiers. This collaboration with UDWI embodies our commitment to bridging the digital divide between densely populated areas and the numerous rural communities."

Installing fiber in rural areas is challenging and costly, and this project allows UDWI and Mainstream to work together to bring multi-gigabit fiber broadband more quickly and efficiently. By partnering, each company can leverage its assets, making it possible to increase connectivity in hard-to-serve areas in the region. There is no cost to UDWI members for this project. If members decide to subscribe to the fiber service, it will be billed directly through Mainstream.

"Fiber access has been a longstanding and challenging issue in our area, and we made a public commitment to our members that we would work to find strategic and cost-effective ways to make high-speed internet available—this partnership is the next big step in making it happen," said UDWI REMC CEO Doug Childs. "Mainstream and UDWI will use the electric distribution infrastructure already in place to significantly expand the number of members with access while keeping costs of building the fiber network down. We are setting the stage to make our residents, schools and businesses more connected and more competitive in today's digital environment."

While Phase One will focus on portions of Greene County, the goal of the UDWI and Mainstream partnership is to eventually offer fiber access to the majority of unserved and underserved homes in the cooperative's service territory. The progress of this project will span a total of five to seven years and will rely partly on continued grant funding and the time needed for construction across the multiple counties in the service territory.

More information on Mainstream can be found at www.msfiber.com and www.udwiremc.com. Please follow UDWI REMC on Facebook for additional updates.

Office Information



The UDWI REMC office will be closed multiple days throughout the holiday season.

Veterans Day - Nov. 11
Thanksgiving - Nov. 28 - 29
Christmas - Dec. 24 - 25
New Year's Day - Jan. 1, 2025



Solar panels are a great way to reduce your carbon footprint, save money on your electric bill, and more. UDWI REMC members can see just how much they would save with our Rooftop Solar Assessment.



Take the assessment at:
www.udwiremc.com/my-services/member-programs/solar-savings-tool/

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.

Two candidates will be elected at the 2025 annual meeting. **District 2 and District 6 are up for election.** Candidates will be elected to serve a three-year term.

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

Completed packets must be turned in on or before January 22, 2025.

CSR Appreciation Week

October 7 - 11 is National Customer Service Week! National Customer Service Week recognizes the importance of customer service within organizations and honors those who work in this field. During this time, join us in thanking our amazing customer service representatives who go above and beyond to serve our members! We appreciate all that you do everyday!

In this past year, our customer service team has worked to serve new and existing members, taking tens of thousands of calls.

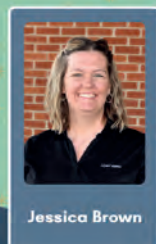
HAPPY CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK!



Jennifer Field



Stacy Henry



Jessica Brown



Nikki Burns



Chelsie Doughty



Meter Testing



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!

UDWI REMC Community Fund

Want to give back to local not-for-profit organizations? Call our office to enroll in the round-up program!



Please join us in congratulating the most recent Community Fund grant recipients!

Bedford Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Bloomfield-Eastern Greene County Public Library
Bloomfield School District Police Department
Child Evangelism Fellowship of South-Central Indiana
Greene County Sheriff's Department
Shakamak High School
Stone City Alliance for Recovery and Hope, Inc.
Worthington Lions Club