



Co-op Chronicle

July/August 2025

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The Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC has named Shane Smith as its new Chief Executive Officer. The UDWI REMC Board of Directors selected Smith after a national search process to replace Doug Childs who will retire this summer after nearly eight years with the cooperative.

Smith currently serves as Chief Operating Officer and has nearly 28 years of experience at the cooperative, including serving as an engineer, Manager of Engineering, and Manager of Operations and Engineering prior to being named COO in 2020.

In his current position he directs all strategies related to the operation and design of the cooperative's electrical system, economic development, and key account relationships.

Smith is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of Indiana, and is a Certified Key Account Executive through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). He received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Indiana Institute of Technology in 1997 and Masters of Business Administration from Xavier University in 2022. Smith is a native of Greene County and currently resides near Switz City with his wife Kelly.

As CEO, Smith will advise and assist the Board of Directors in the development of strategy, policies, budgets and contracts. He will also oversee the day-to-day operations, foster member relations, and ensure that the activities and operations of the cooperative are conducted in accordance with the bylaws, policies, mission, and goals.

UDWI REMC NAMES SHANE SMITH AS CEO

"I am truly humbled and deeply grateful for the trust that the Board of Directors has placed in me to lead the Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC into the future. We've made tremendous strides under the outstanding leadership of CEO Doug Childs, and I look forward to continuing to build on his legacy of an unwavering focus on serving our members and financial stewardship. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to lead the dedicated and talented employees of this cooperative. Together, we can continue to build on the progress we have already achieved." – Shane Smith



July 4



Our office will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

September 1

Our office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.



Air Evac Member Program

UDWI is teaming up with AirMedCare Network to provide financial protection for emergency air medical transport to all of our members at a discounted rate.

[Learn More on the UDWI Website Under Member Programs!](#)

2025 Rebate Programs | Learn more at www.udwiremc.com

Residential HVAC Tune-UP

Members have the opportunity to apply for a HVAC tune-up service incentive valued at 50% the tune-up cost up to \$50.



Residential Electric Outdoor Equipment

Members receive a rebate up to \$50 off new equipment: electric lawnmowers, leaf blowers, trimmers, chainsaws, snowblowers, root-tillers, & pressure washers.



Residential HVAC

Members have the opportunity to apply for the residential rebate program for the following equipment: air source and dual fuel heat pumps, mini-split heat pumps, or geothermal heat pumps.



Residential Water Heater

Members can apply for the residential rebate available for heat pump water heaters and WIFI-enabled electric storage water heaters.



Meter Testing Continues:



UDWI meter technicians continue with routine meter tests in our entire service territory. 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.

UDWI REMC Community Fund Donated \$5,000 For Tornado Relief To Local Residents

The UDWI REMC Community Fund, Inc. donated \$5,000 in disaster relief funds to the American Red Cross, providing relief to local Monroe and Greene County residents affected by the tornado and severe storms that swept through the area on May 16.

The two local Red Cross locations that provided relief for the May 16 tornado/storm disasters were the following: United Way of South Central Indiana, or United Way, (Monroe County) at 431 S. College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47403 and the Linton First Christian Church (Greene County) at 9878 W. State Rd 54, Linton, IN 47441. As local organizations, United Way and Linton First Christian Church often partner with nonprofits, such as the American Red Cross of Southeast Indiana, to support their local communities in Monroe and Greene Counties.

"We know disaster recovery doesn't happen overnight," said Michelle Ellis, a United Way Board Member and Director of Training Programs at Wagler Education and Training Center. Ellis continued to describe how United Way was able to help provide local disaster relief in Monroe County, saying "But with the strength of our community and the support of donors and partners, we can help ensure that no one has to face recovery alone."

[Read the full story on our website homepage](#)

Energy-Saving Tips:

As summer continues, periods of high heat indexes can be expected, which can result in A/C systems and other electrical devices using more energy. When able, members should follow these tips to conserve energy and save money on their electric bills:

1. Raise your thermostat by a few degrees
2. Turn off A/C unit & fans, opening your windows
3. Switch to LED lights
4. Turn off lights, TVs, & other electronics when not in use

About UDWI REMC Community Fund:

UDWI's Community Fund is a non-profit organization that provides members with an avenue to make a difference in their communities. The program allows members to round up their energy bills to the next whole dollar to create the funds. Then, the community fund board awards the amount collected to local organizations. Applications accepted until June 18th.

**Interested in giving back to your community?
Call our office to enroll in the round-up program!**