



# Co-op Chronicle

## March/April 2026



### UDWI REMC 2% RATE INCREASE



#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

The 2% increase **will go into effect on April 1** and will first be seen on your May bill statements. Members can expect to see a **\$3 increase for every 1000 kWh of electricity used** (UDWI members use an average of 1,100 kWh per month).

#### WHY ARE RATES INCREASING?

Because of our supplier's rise in its cost to generate and transmit power, inflation, and the overall cost of power predicted in the coming years, we will be raising rates 2% in 2026 and 1% in 2027 and 2028 (total increase of 4% over 3 years).



### UDWI REMC Announces a Rise in Rates for 2026

Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC announces a 2% increase in residential rates in 2026 followed by a 1% increase in 2027 and 2028—a total 4% increase over the next three years.

The rate adjustment is the first increase to UDWI's base rates since 2014 and has become necessary due to inflation, rising operational costs and the overall cost of power predicted in the coming years. Hoosier Energy, the cooperative's power supplier, is experiencing a rise in its cost to generate and transmit power. With approximately 65% of UDWI's expenses coming from purchasing its power from Hoosier Energy, this in turn raises the cooperative's costs.

"As your cooperative, we were very intentional about keeping this rise in rates as low as possible, only increasing it as much as absolutely necessary to ensure we are providing members with safe, reliable power," said Shane Smith, CEO of UDWI REMC. "We understand that any rate increase impacts our members. We also continue to offer resources for our members to help manage their bill, such as prepaid metering, charts to monitor their usage, budget billing, and time-of-use rates."

The 2% rate adjustment will go into effect on April 1, 2026, and UDWI members can expect to see it on their May bill statements. With the increase in rates, members' electric bills will increase approximately \$3 for every 1000 kWh used. The average kWh used by a residence in UDWI's service territory is 1,100 kWh per month; the kWh for your home can fluctuate based on multiple factors including the size of your residence and the type of heating/cooling systems you use.

In 2025, many electric providers across Indiana have instituted a significant rise in rates. According to the Energy Information Administration, residential rates in Indiana rose nearly 18% last year with many utility providers (both private companies and nonprofits) having announced further rate increases for 2026—ranging from 2.9% to 7.3%.

Compared to the significant rate increases many electric companies have experienced in the last several years, UDWI has been able to keep member rates relatively steady, even decreasing base rates twice during the past eight years. With the electric residential base rate increases throughout Indiana in 2025, UDWI's rates fell below the state average—measured at total cost per kWh—and will remain below the state average in 2026 even with this increase.

UDWI REMC members that have questions about their electric bill increase should contact the UDWI office at 812-384-4446. To learn more about UDWI, go to its website at [www.udwiremc.com](http://www.udwiremc.com). In March, more information on rates will be available under the "Rates and Tariffs" section.

We understand that an increase in rates can be cause for concern. If you have questions about your specific bill, please reach out to us.



April 3

Our office will be closed in observance of Good Friday.

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS  
April 22, 2026 | 6:00 PM @ UDWI REMC HEADQUARTERS

# UDWI REMC 2026 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

As a member-owned cooperative, UDWI REMC is governed by a board of directors who represent the membership in individual districts. Directors are elected by the membership to serve three-year terms on the board.

Voting will open soon for the 2026 UDWI REMC Board of Directors Election with three districts up for election—David Kirkling (District 1), Todd Carpenter (District 5), and Melinda Hendrix, President (District 7). **Online voting will begin March 23 at 8:00 a.m. and remain open through April 20 at 11:59 p.m.** Members will also receive mail-in ballot materials toward the end of March. Voting online is the easiest and most economical way for members to cast their vote, and UDWI encourages members to use this free service. Information on each candidate is available through the voting process, regardless of the method you choose.

As no member petitions were submitted to challenge the incumbents, the three districts in this year's election are uncontested. The cooperative bylaws require candidates to receive a mandated number of votes from the membership to validate the election. We thank you in advance for your time and your vote!

The directors will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Members on April 22, 2026, at UDWI's headquarters in Bloomfield. Doors will open at 5 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 6 p.m. UDWI CEO Shane Smith will provide an annual review of the cooperative. Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES



David Kirkling  
District 1



Todd Carpenter  
District 5



Melinda Hendrix  
President,  
District 7

## COMMUNITY FUND:

The UDWI REMC Community Fund, Inc. 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.

Interested? Call our office to enroll in the round-up program!



## 2026 REBATES

RESIDENTIAL HVAC TUNE-UPS  
RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC  
OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT  
RESIDENTIAL WATER HEATERS  
RESIDENTIAL HVAC'S

## UDWI REMC App:

Download today in the IOS App Store or Google Play Store.

*Easily view your electric usage, pay your bill online, enroll in autopay, and even report outages, all on the UDWI REMC App!*

## 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.