



West Central Electric Cooperative

April 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Electric News

Revenue increase explained

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funding from foundation
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2025 Nominating Committee is announced

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for each district here
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West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.



Headquarters

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452,
Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-939-3639
(*please note this new number)

To report outages 24/7

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803
Report online at
www.westcentralelectric.coop under
"Report Outage"

District office

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop



facebook



Instagram

General Manager

Michael Newland

Board of Directors

Densil Allen Jr., *President*
Clark Bredehoeft, *Vice-President*
Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*
Robert Simmons, *Secretary*
Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Secretary*
Richard Strobel, *Director*
Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*
Colby Dowell, *Director*
Elizabeth Houtsma, *Director*

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

From the Manager's Desk

Smart solutions to rising power costs

In 2023, your cooperative took an extensive look at the revenue needed to continue to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity over the coming few years. Taking into account the rising costs of materials, wholesale power and other costs associated with accomplishing this, the study identified a rate adjustment would be necessary. At that time, your board of directors opted to spread that amount out over several years rather than institute a larger amount all at once.

Since we conducted the study, a few positive factors have unfolded. These factors, which I'll detail below, made us realize we could enact a smaller rate adjustment for this year.

WELCOME NEWS

In 2024, WCE received \$1.4 million in unexpected wholesale power cost discounts that we can use to offset the amount from rates. Another development within the past two years was the addition of some large "interruptible" loads (such as data centers) to our system. This means we can shut these loads down, (they are NOT residential), when we are approaching a peak. Peaks determine our wholesale power cost for the next year, so avoiding higher peaks can help keep our wholesale costs from increasing quite as much.

OBLIGATION TO FINANCIAL STABILITY AND RELIABILITY

Because we operate at cost, the only way to maintain the financial stability of the co-op while operating at optimum safety and reliability (while the costs of providing power are increasing) is to increase the revenue your cooperative is taking in. Adjusting rates, using our unexpected power discounts, and utilizing our interruptible loads at crucial times allows us to work together with you, our members, to garner the revenue needed without relying completely on rates.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Many Missouri cooperatives have had to adjust rates this past year because of the inevitable and uncontrollable increases in the cost of providing power to their members. Rates are essentially a pass-through of wholesale costs from the power supplier.



Michael Newland
General Manager

WCE is no different, but where we are unique is our percentage of residential services and residential kilowatt hours sold. (A detailed explanation is printed on the facing page.) WCE offers some of the lowest rates in the state, and that is something we are proud of!

WE CONTINUE TO WORK DAY AND NIGHT FOR YOU

The more residential a system is, the more weather affects the rates you pay. Since we operate at cost, that cost has to be passed on to you, our members, in one way or another. However, your board is doing everything they can to minimize rate adjustments by using all available resources to assist in acquiring the revenue needed to continue to serve you with reliability and affordability first in our minds.

Thank you for continuing to trust us to provide you with the safest and most reliable service at the lowest cost possible.

WCE Residential Rate Schedule

(Monthly Electric Rates effective May 2025)

Residential Rate

Service Availability Charge @ \$1.37/day
First 800 kWh @ \$0.1130
Excess kWh @ \$0.0965

Lighting

Dusk-to-Dawn Lights @ \$10.45/month

Commercial and large industrial rates
available upon request

What you need to know

Residential Reality



91%

West Central Electric's kilowatt hour sales are 91% residential

1st

WCE ranks 1st out of Missouri's 40 electric co-ops in residential percentage of kilowatt hours sold

4th

WCE ranks 4th out of 812 electric co-ops nationwide in residential percentage of kilowatt hours sold

32nd

WCE has the 32nd lowest residential rate of Missouri's 40 electric co-ops, but is **3rd highest** in what we pay for wholesale power

**The more residential the electric system is, the more weather affects rates. This causes a higher wholesale power cost per kilowatt hour.*

JUST THE FACTS...

An increase in **revenue** is necessary to continue to provide our members with safe and reliable power, and to continue to serve our members the way you have been accustomed to being served.

This will be accomplished in **3** ways, which, together, will accomplish the extra **revenue** we need to provide for our members without having to rely completely on rates.

1. POWER COST DISCOUNTS

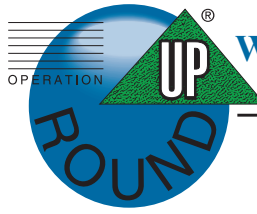
In 2024 we received **unexpected wholesale power cost discounts of \$1.4 million**. This will be used to help garner the extra revenue needed to cover increases in wholesale power and other costs in 2025.

2. RATE ADJUSTMENT

We have been absorbing as much of the increases in our wholesale power costs for years as we could, either by only passing a percentage of those costs on to our members, or some years absorbing the entire amount (no rate increase.) This year, a 6.5% rate adjustment will help reach the revenue needed. **In 2023, your board opted for smaller increases spread over several years rather than a larger increase all at once to make it easier for members to handle.**

3. INTERRUPTIBLE LOADS

Any time we set a peak in energy usage, it increases our wholesale power cost. We continue to provide members information on how they can help conserve during periods of high heat and extreme cold. Another tool we have in our arsenal is interruptible loads. During these times when reaching a peak is nearly inevitable, we are able to shut down those large loads (such as data centers, NOT residential) during crucial hours to keep our peak lower.



WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC ROUNDUP FOUNDATION

Proudly Funded by West Central
Electric Cooperative Members

*Thank you
WCE members!*

"Participating in Operation RoundUp costs WCE members literally only pennies, but we can do so much good and benefit so many with what amounts to less than a handful of change per month. The maximum any one member could contribute in a year is \$11.88, and the average is around \$6 or \$7 per year. That amounts to less than a fancy cup of coffee."

--Amy Hoover
RoundUp Foundation President

FIRST QUARTER 2025 ROUND-UP GRANTS FUND AREA PROJECTS

\$2,000 GRANT



Warrensburg HS Industrial Tech. Dpt.
Updated shop and classroom equipment

\$3,300 GRANT



Holden School Dist. WINGS Academy
Setting up alternative school classrooms

\$2,000 GRANT



Duster's Trap Club
Facility electricity project

\$1,500 GRANT



Tri-County Outreach
Food Pantry

\$2,000 GRANT



Higginsville Montessori Schoolhouse
Wellness Initiative

\$1,500 GRANT



Concordia Senior Citizens
Senior center kitchen project



Lineworker Appreciation Day • April 14

When you think of West Central Electric, the first person you would probably picture is a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and a sense of service and commitment.

This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

There are many behind the scenes.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at West Central Electric, there is a team of highly-skilled professionals working behind the scenes such as engineers, member service representatives, information technology experts and more. These are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our communities.

West Central Electric Cooperative Linemen

HIGGINSVILLE

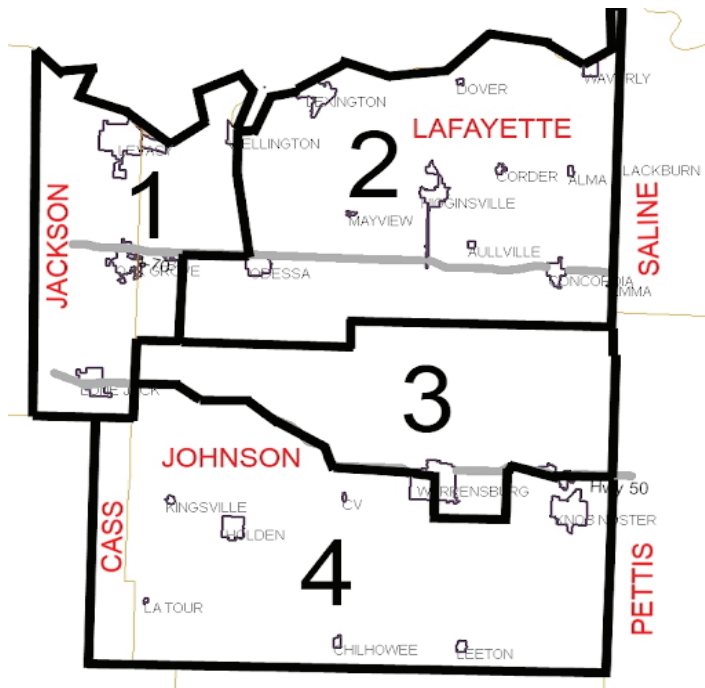
Adam Beck
Derek Cole
Tucker Crowe
Tim Frerking
Scott Gard
Todd Gast
Brandon Heck
Nathan Johnson
Conner Lamphier
Dylan Lilleman
Cabot Long
Billy Mackie
Pete Nelson
Zac Wallpe

OAK GROVE

Kade Collins
Austin Hatfield
Garret Nair
Matt Schellman
Drew Schmidt
Johnathon Sullins
Jesse Underwood
Eric Wegener
Wyatt Wilkinson

From your cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative District Map



**District 5 is an "At-Large" district encompassing the entire service area*

Board of Directors Qualifications

To apply/run to be a director and remain a director, a person must comply with the following qualifications:

- (a) Be an individual,
- (b) Have the capacity to enter into legally-binding contracts,
- (c) Not have been convicted of or plead guilty to a felony,
- (d) Be a member who continuously uses cooperative energy and services at his/her permanent, primary place of residence in the district which they were elected to serve,
- (e) Not in any way be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business, including selling any form of energy. They also must not be in the business of selling electrical supplies to the cooperative,
- (f) Not have been, in the last 3 years, employed by the cooperative or be a close relative of said employee.
- (g) Not be a close relative of a current board member.
- (h) A close relative will be defined as a child, parent, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, grandchildren, grandparents. This includes their spouses and anyone living in the same household.
- (i) Attend 2/3 of the regular meetings unless excused for cause by 2/3 of the remaining board members.

2025 West Central Electric Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2025 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on Thursday, May 1, 2025 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting Aug. 1, 2025 in Warrensburg.

District 1

Adam Heater
8968 Powell Rd.
Odessa, Mo. 64076
816-529-6594

Blaine Beissenherz
9236 Christy Rd.
Odessa, Mo. 64076
816-786-6751

District 3

Virginia Haller
510 NE 201st Rd.
Warrensburg, Mo. 64093
660-747-7330

Jeremy Sanders
613 NW 1001 Rd.
Holden, Mo. 64040
660-909-3165

District 2

Lance Tieman
P.O. Box 212
Higginsville, Mo. 64037
660-909-2127

Paul Nolte
711 W. 35th St.
Higginsville, Mo. 64037
660-909-7285

District 4

William Grauberger
513 NW 1201st Rd.
Holden, Mo. 64040
816-277-4171

Laura Smith
660 SW 301st Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-909-3612

District 5

Stephanie Othick
41 SW 251st Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
660-864-6687

**Terms will expire for District 1 director Colby Dowell, District 2 director Stan Rhodes and District 4 director Elizabeth Houtsma. Members will elect ONE director each from Districts 1, 2 and 4.*

Generator Safety

Beyond opening the box: Take steps to operate a generator safely

When the electricity goes out, your initial thought might be to run to the local hardware or big box store and buy a generator. However, using a generator should not be taken lightly, since it can be dangerous and even life-threatening if used incorrectly. There are several steps you should take before ever starting one up.

But first, homework

Before purchasing a generator, the first step is to research the best option for your home and budget. The second, and more important step, is to educate yourself on how to use one safely.

Homeowners can choose from two types of generators: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly into the home's electrical system and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and is, well, portable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator can create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Safety tips

When you refuel a portable generator, make sure the engine is cool. Keep children and pets away from the generator, as it could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated during inclement weather. Use a generator only when necessary during wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.



Generators can be deadly

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 20 feet from your home.

Misusing a portable generator or using a standby generator that is not installed correctly (and does not meet the electrical code) can cause backfeed, which puts you and others in danger. Backfeed happens when a generator feeds electricity back through a home's electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent this dangerous scenario, standby generators should have a transfer switch installed by a licensed professional. Do not plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Instead, use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

WCE has a meter socket with a manual transfer switch built in that they will install for a small fee. Please contact the office before having a contactor install any type of generator connection to ensure they are following WCE guidelines.

When not in use

Operate your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure it is running properly. Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Have a standby generator installed in an easily accessible, weatherproof area.

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held January 22, 2025

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at 8 a.m. Jan. 22, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Independence, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Colby Dowell, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Elizabeth Houtsma. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One addition was made to add policy 3.18.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Dec. 19, 2024; expenditures for the month of December 2024; new membership applications and membership terminations and the Treasurer's Report for December 2024.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the December 2024 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. She reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. She also gave the investment report. She presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. She reported on interest rates and the impact of large loads on the budget and projections for January margins. The year-to-date income statement and deferred revenue was reported on. She also reported on year-end numbers. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written Operations Report. He reported on crews and outages and causes for the month, including a report on the recent ice storm. He gave a mechanic and fleet report. He also gave a brush crew and right-of-way report and reported on the contract signed with Asplundh.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. As of December 31, 2024, employees have worked 790 days without a lost time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 31,721 miles as of the end of December without a serious accident. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. He reported on the widening of public roads right-of-way and poles to be moved. Meters with low usage to no usage were discussed. He reported on the contract with Stella Jones that was not signed regarding poles.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided his written Member Services Report. His report included RoundUp enrollment and RoundUp updates. He reported how impacts of the winter storm were relayed to the members on Facebook. He gave a net metering report. Chamber meetings attended were reported on. A District 1 Member Services meeting was attended at NW Electric. The electric vehicle was discussed.

IT Report

Tim Bowler gave an IT report. He gave an update on the dispatch center and reported it was performing well. He discussed the plan for SCADA and reporting on security breaches in the United States that are ongoing.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. They discussed margins, a copper theft, outages, sub-contractors and the demand discount.

APPOINT 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2025 Nominating Committee was appointed consisting of: Adam Heater, Stephanie Othic, Virginia Haller, Laura Smith, Jeremy Sanders, William Grauberger, Lance Thieman, Blaine Beissenherz, and Paul Nolte.

APPOINT NRECA VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Simmons was named the NRECA voting delegate and Newland as the alternate.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 2.6

Policy 2.6 was approved as presented.

REVIEW OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Smiley reviewed the policy and it was approved,



REVIEW AND EXECUTE FIDUCIARY DUTY POLICY 3.17

Smiley reviewed the policy it was executed by all board members.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 3.18

Newland presented Policy 3.18 and it was approved.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE REVENUE DEFERRAL

Hoeflicker presented a resolution on revenue deferral which was adopted by the board.

REVIEW AND APPROVE 2025 BUDGET

Hoeflicker presented the 2025 budget. She reviewed assumptions, different scenarios including rate increases, the operating budget, the cost of purchased power, projected revenue, expenses, debts, capital investment, potential metering equipment to be purchased and historical data. The budget was approved as presented.

REVIEW AND APPROVE RATE INCREASE

Newland presented the Cost-of-Service Study and discussed different scenarios, the budget, projected sales and deferred revenue. The board approved a 6.5% rate increase beginning May 1, 2025.

ROUNDUP FOUNDATION REPORT/DISCUSS OPEN ROUNDUP SEATS

Dowell reported on what was awarded by the foundation and on the board members who have termed out of their positions on the board.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Newland presented the monthly Manager's Report. He received a request for large power at the Dover Substation for 300 kW to 700 kW which would qualify for the incentive rate at NW. He will ask for NW to approve the rate at their next board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:48 a.m. and was out at 12:01 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

Special meeting

Special called meeting of the Board of Directors held Jan. 29, 2025

A special called meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 6 p.m. on Jan. 29, 2025 pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by Robert Simmons. Attorney Sheri Smiley was present by phone and caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Simmons, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Colby Dowell, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Elizabeth Houtsma. Densil Allen Jr. and Clark Bredehoeft were present by phone. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session at 6:05 p.m. and exited at 7:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2024 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2024	YTD 2023
Revenue	\$3,175,956	\$36,902,132	\$32,952,911
Power Bill Expense	1,231,861	21,944,035	19,197,477
Operation & Maintenance Expense	628,633	8,545,823	7,586,394
Depreciation Expense	215,208	2,530,744	2,695,089
Interest Expense	138,094	1,601,451	1,490,532
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	2,213,796	34,622,053	30,969,492
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	962,160	2,280,079	1,983,419
Other Margins	994,176	1,309,401	1,510,723
TOTAL MARGINS	\$1,956,336	\$3,589,480	\$3,494,142