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**OFFICE HOURS**  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

**STREET ADDRESS**  
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Albion, IN 46701

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P.O. Box 137, Albion, IN 46701

**EMERGENCY POWER OUTAGES**  
To report a power outage, please call 800-933-7362. We are available to serve you 24 hours a day.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Rick Robertson, *Chairman*  
Doug Burnworth, *Vice Chairman*  
Bill Knox, *Treasurer*  
Andy Strack, *Secretary*  
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Sarah Dreibelbis,  
*Office Manager*  
Doug Dickmeyer,  
*Manager of Engineering & Operations*  
Kevin Dreibelbis,  
*Communications & Marketing Manager*  
Adam Chitwood,  
*Manager of Finance & Accounting*



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# HERE'S TO SAVING MORE IN 2024!

The start of a new year is normally marked with lists of resolutions and goals — things we want to start doing, things we want to do better and things we want to stop doing.

Some people are probably good at sticking to resolutions. Others are not.

Don't feel alone if you are in the second group. Research suggests only 8% of people keep their New Year's resolutions.

When people are asked about their resolutions, many aim to budget better and save money in the new year. Assuming this year will be no different, I thought it was time to remind you about some ways to use less electricity and keep more of your hard-earned money in your pocket.

With that said, the cheapest energy is the energy you never use.

Look around your home or business. Are there places where you could be more energy efficient? Do you see gaps and cracks around windows or doors where outside air gets inside? Caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation can help. Don't know where to start? Visit our YouTube page ([youtube.com/nobleremc](https://youtube.com/nobleremc)) for easy-to-follow DIY videos from our energy advisor, Brian Hawk.

Noble REMC also offers SmartHub, a free tool that allows you to see how much electricity you use each day. The tool can be accessed from your computer or mobile device to help you understand where you are using energy. Does your energy skyrocket on laundry day? Can you lower it by turning the thermostat down a few degrees while you are away from home? Try it for a few days and see if you can see a difference through your daily SmartHub graphs.

And lastly, choosing to use less electricity during our peak-demand hours, when power costs the most (Monday through Friday, 5-8 p.m.) can go a long way in lowering the co-op's overall cost, which is then passed on to you, our member.

Though the savings from all these tips may be a little here and there, it adds up over time. Most require small changes, and it's those small changes that turn into habits that add up to a big difference.

Whatever your resolutions are, here is to hoping that you are part of the 8% in 2024.



**RON RAYPOLE**  
*President/CEO*



# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Noble REMC understands the importance of investing in our community's youth. That's why we offer multiple programs and opportunities for our younger members throughout the year.

Do you have an adventurous middle schooler wanting to get out in nature this summer? Consider Camp Kilowatt.

Is your high school student interested in the inner workings of government? Have them apply for an opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., as part of the Indiana Youth Tour.

Are you a senior about to head off to college or a vocational school? Apply for one of our scholarships.

### CAMP KILOWATT, JUNE 5-8

A fun and unique camp experience for students entering seventh grade in 2024. The camp gives kids a chance to learn about energy while making new friends and enjoying activities and games. This three-day camp includes horseback riding, electric cooperative education, rock climbing, swimming and much more.

### INDIANA YOUTH TOUR, JUNE 16-23

During the month of June, Indiana's electric cooperatives, including Noble REMC, sponsor an unforgettable educational adventure to Washington,

D.C., for high school seniors-to-be. This weeklong trip includes visits with Indiana's congressional leaders on Capitol Hill and a youth event with student delegates from across the country.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Noble REMC believes in the future of our local youth and all they will accomplish. That's why each year Noble REMC awards three \$1,000 scholarships to help area students further their education at an accredited college or trade school of their choice.

The student must be an actively enrolled senior, and their parent or legal guardian must be a Noble REMC member, which means their primary residence is served by the REMC. Candidates are judged anonymously based on grade point average, a short autobiography, and their involvement at school and in the community.

### HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR THESE AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES?

Visit our website at [nobleremc.com/youth-programs](https://nobleremc.com/youth-programs), which will link you to each program's specific page and application. The deadline to apply for each is March 1.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 800-933-7362.

## SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

### RUN FOR THE NOBLE REMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Looking for a way to give back to your community? Noble REMC is seeking passionate, experienced members with unique perspectives to run for our board of directors.

Not familiar with the electric industry? We can teach you all about power generation, transmission and distribution.

Three districts are up for election this year:

**District 3:** This district includes Wayne Township in Noble County and part of Milford Township in LaGrange County

**District 6:** This district covers Jefferson and Albion Townships in Noble County.

**District 7:** This district encompasses Allen and Swan townships in Noble County.

Members interested in running for election, and who are in good standing with the cooperative, are encouraged to contact our office. You will need to set up a time to pick up a petition for election, as well as other board information.

Completed petitions and biographical information must be returned to the cooperative no later than March 20 and include the signatures of 15 Noble REMC members supporting the candidacy.

For more information about the board of directors' election, call Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis at 800-933-7362 or visit [nobleremc.com/board-directors](https://nobleremc.com/board-directors).



Audrey Bowser at her desk ready to help Noble REMC's members.

# LIGHTING *the Way*

## BOWSER BRINGS HEART TO THE CO-OP

Audrey Bowser's journey as a member services representative may have started at a different electric cooperative, but those years — and the members she met — left a lasting impression that brought her back to the co-op world.

Noble REMC is lucky to have her as part of our team, as she works hard to ensure each member feels heard and understood when they call or visit the office.

Let's learn more about Audrey:

### WHAT'S BEEN YOUR JOURNEY HERE AT THE CO-OP?

I started out in the co-op world at LaGrange County REMC and worked there for almost six years. Then, I took four years off to raise my family. I loved it, but I wanted some contact with the outside world again. When an opening came up here at Noble REMC, I jumped at it. I was happy to be able to get hired here.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I'm pretty sure 85% of those who have done this series have already said the same thing — the members. Working at an electric utility, most people would never have a personal conversation with the person on the other end of the phone. I like that we are local and that we know the people that we serve. We get to know them, and we

hear about the good parts of their lives and we hear about the bad things that happen. We form those relationships as an electric co-op.

### WHAT DOES AN AVERAGE DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

There is no average day. We spend a large part of our day talking on the phone, but even that part varies so much. We have certain times of the month where we're taking payments or making payment arrangements. We also handle service orders, balancing, paperwork, report writing and random things that come up — questions that we've never gotten. I've done this role for 10 years, and still I hear things that I've never heard before. Every day is a little bit different.

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WITH YOUR TIME OUTSIDE THE CO-OP?

I spend a lot of time with my family. My kids are pretty active. We do basketball in the winter and ragball in the summer. They're also involved in Cub Scouts here in Albion. I have an active role in the Albion Cub Scouts, and that keeps us pretty busy. I also like to read and listen to music. My husband and I like to go to concerts.

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE UP TO THIS POINT?

I have to say my kids. It's fun watching them grow and doing everything

that you can to raise them to be good people, watch them push past their fears and succeed when trying new things.

### WHAT MOVIE DO YOU THINK YOU'VE WATCHED THE MOST?

The movie I've watched the most, I would say, is "The Last of the Mohicans." I love that movie! I love the music in it. I have no idea how many times I've watched it.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC?

I listen to a little bit of everything, but I would say the majority of it is country music. But not the country music you hear on the radio. I specifically like Texas country, artists like Cody Jinks, Randy Rogers and Turnpike Troubadours.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT?

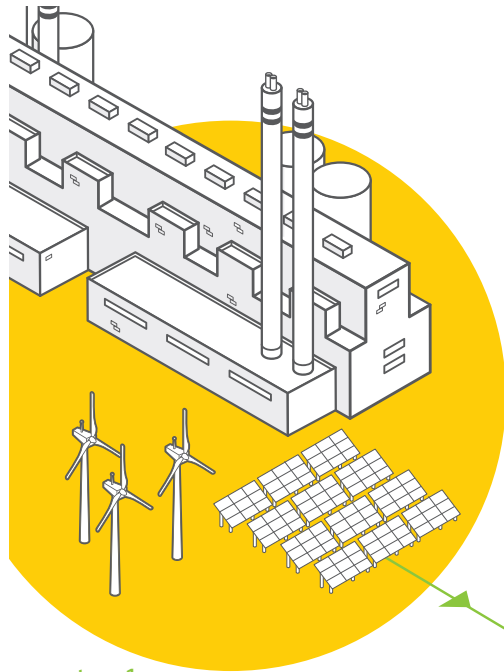
Probably, Albion Ale House. I get either the Doober Burger with no jalapenos or the Western Salad.

### WHAT IS ONE THING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I sing in my car. Constantly. Whenever I'm in an area where I don't think people can see me, I'm probably singing in my car.

# CRITICAL CONNECTIONS: HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU

The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.



## step 1

### GENERATION

Power plants generate electricity using a variety of energy sources, like solar, natural gas, nuclear and wind energy.

## step 2

### STEP-UP TRANSFORMER

A step-up transformer increases the voltage to push the electricity over long distances.

## step 3

### TRANSMISSION LINES

High-voltage electricity travels over long distances through these lines.

## step 5

### DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION

These substations lower the voltage again so the electricity is ready to travel on distribution lines.

## step 6

### DISTRIBUTION LINES

Lower-voltage electricity travels through distribution lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road.

## step 4

### TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION

Voltage is lowered at a transmission substation so electricity can travel across the local distribution system.

## step 7

### FINAL STOP

A transformer located on the ground or a utility pole reduces the voltage a final time, then electricity is sent inside your home, school or business.

