

CONTACT US

Office: 800-933-7362

24/7 PAYMENT BY PHONE

833-410-0497

WEBSITE

www.nobleremc.com

EMAIL

remc@nobleremc.com

OFFICE HOURS

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

STREET ADDRESS

300 Weber Road
Albion, IN 46701

MAILING ADDRESS

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*
George Bennett
Mark Demske
Joe Hutsell
Larry Ott
Jay Wysong

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ron Raypole,
President & CEO
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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WHAT IS BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION?



If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well,

you can. It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification."

This means that innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Noble REMC and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

Here's how this concept impacts you: When Noble REMC takes advantage of advances in technology and the market, it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the member.

ELECTRICITY IS GETTING CLEANER

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you can benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the



increased efficiency of the appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources soon. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

SMALL STEPS HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools and state-of-the-art electric vehicles over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers, or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment.

DOING OUR PART TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Noble REMC is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available.

We will also continue promoting energy efficiency through our Power Moves® program, which offers rebates for energy efficient heating and cooling, water heaters, new construction and more. In addition, through our SmartHub app, we offer our members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their energy use. And don't forget about signing up for our Co-op Solar or EnviroWatts programs!

While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions, and that means a brighter future for all of us.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



Do you know your co-op?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE BY TAKING OUR NOBLE REMC QUIZ

Noble REMC has been in the community for 85 years. How well do you know the history of the cooperative? Some of the answers might just surprise you. Circle your choices and check the bottom of the story for the right answers!

1930s

How much was our original established membership fee?

- A. \$2.50
- B. \$4
- C. \$5
- D. \$7.50

1940s

Why did the co-op move its annual meeting date away from February?

- A. To avoid unpredictable winter weather issues
- B. To avoid conflict with the county basketball tourney
- C. To expand our outdoor entertainment offerings
- D. To stop members from using it as their Valentine's Day night out

1950s

What programs were implemented in the 1950s? (Circle all that apply.)

- A. Right-of-way trimming
- B. Security lighting

- C. Underground line installation
- D. Power Use Advisor

1960s

What newly implemented government program affected the co-op's finances in 1963?

- A. Clean Air Act
- B. Medicaid
- C. 5-digit ZIP codes
- D. Indiana sales tax

1970s

In April of 1974, what natural disaster caused \$27,000 in damage to our power lines?

- A. Strong winds
- B. Snowstorm
- C. Tornado
- D. Earthquake

1980s

Which substation was constructed – with our operations department as the general contractor – and energized in this decade?

- A. Diamond Lake
- B. LaOtto
- C. Skinner Lake
- D. Fairfield

1990s

How far in advance did the co-op start preparing for Y2K?

- A. Two years
- B. One year
- C. 6 months
- D. Just crossed our fingers and hoped for the best

2000s

Noble REMC entered agreements in 2000 to provide two new services. Which were they? (Circle both.)

- A. Propane
- B. Irrigation load management
- C. Automatic payments
- D. Long distance telephone

2010s

How many solar panels are located at the LaOtto Solar Generating Station, which was finished in 2019 as part of our Co-op Solar program?

- A. 1,112
- B. 2,364
- C. 3,648
- D. 7,250

Time to check your answers, and hopefully, learn something new about Noble REMC!

ANSWERS

- 1930s: C – It would go down to \$4 in 1943.
- 1940s: B – This is Hoosier country after all!
- 1950s: A, B – The board voted to "refuse to install underground lines" in 1974, and the Power Use Advisor program began in 1962, with the first advisor hired in 1964.
- 1960s: D – The 2% sales tax was required

- beginning with December's billing and netted \$835.
- 1970s: C – This was nothing in comparison to an ice storm that caused \$100,000 in damage in 2002.
- 1980s: A – It was energized in 1984; the others were completed in the 1990s-2000s.
- 1990s: B – We began reviewing compliance issues in the last part of 1998

- to ensure continued service in the new millennium.
- 2000s: A, D – Initial cost of propane was set at \$1.17 per gallon, and in-state and out-of-state long-distance calls were 6.5 cents per minute.
- 2010s: C – The solar array is also unique in that wildflowers were planted on site to attract pollinators and help the environment two-fold.



Do we owe you money?

We have cash back that's burning a hole in our pocket.

That's why we have posted a list of names to our website for members, or former members, to view and check that they've received all the patronage capital — the money we return to our members every year — that is due to them.

Several names on the list are former members for whom we have no current address. Others are current members who neglected to cash their check from the previous two years.

The list of members who have unclaimed patronage capital checks can be found easily online at nobleremc.com/news-and-events. After clicking on the link to the list, look through the names, and if your name is there, please call our office and let us know.

Noble REMC attempts to return patronage for two years. Following those two years, the unclaimed patronage is returned to the cooperative.

If you have any questions about patronage capital, contact us at 800-933-7362.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE AN *impact*

2021 is starting off with a bang for our Operation Round Up grant program.

This year marks more than 700 grants awarded since the inception of the program in 2002, and it also celebrates a recent milestone in participation, with more than 85% of our members choosing to give back. Thank you for your support of our community through this program!

For those who need a refresher, Noble REMC's Operation Round Up program allows members to round up their electric bills each month. This money is then put into a trust fund and given back locally through community grants each quarter.

You may think it's just a bit of extra change, but to the nonprofit organizations who receive these grants, it's so much more.

The first quarter distribution of the Operation Round Up Trust Fund totaled \$12,000 and supported six organizations, including:

- **Central Noble Construction**, \$2,000, canned goods
- **Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana**, \$1,500, Economics for Success program
- **American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana**, \$2,500, home fire relief
- **St. Martin's Healthcare, Inc.**, \$2,500, COVID Care Kits
- **Inspiration Ministries, Inc.**, \$2,500, Recovery Access Camp
- **Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society (History Center)**, \$1,000, school group program for local youth

For local nonprofit organizations who are seeking funding for a project, please fill out and return an application to the Noble REMC office by Thursday, April 1, to be considered for the next round of Operation Round Up disbursements. Applications can be downloaded from the REMC website, nobleremc.com/operation-round-up.



Noble REMC
A Teachers' Energy Cooperative

NOBLEREMC.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS

NOBLE REMC
SCHOLARSHIPS
2021

APPLY TODAY
SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, AVAILABLE
AT NOBLEREMC.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS,
BY MARCH 25.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

APPLY NOW TO RUN FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Only a few weeks remain to return your application for a spot on our board of directors. What are you waiting for?

Noble REMC is looking for members who are passionate and hardworking individuals and will bring their experience and perspective to learn how to best serve their fellow co-op members. We'll teach you the electricity part.

There are three districts up for election this year, and they include:

DISTRICT 3 — Currently represented by Andy Strack, this district is made up of Wayne Township in Noble County and part of Milford Township in LaGrange County.

DISTRICT 6 — Currently represented by George Bennett, this district covers all of Jefferson and Albion townships in Noble County.

DISTRICT 7 — Currently represented by Mark Demske, this district encompasses Allen and Swan townships in Noble County.

To run for election, qualified members of Noble REMC, who live in Districts 3, 6 or 7, must file a petition with the signatures of 15 Noble REMC members supporting the candidacy.

The cooperative will provide the petitions for election, as well as other board information, and completed petitions and biographical information must be returned to the cooperative no later than April 5.

For more information, please call Communications and Marketing Manager Kevin Dreibelbis or President/CEO Ron Raypole at 800-933-7362.

ANNUAL MEETING REMAINS VIRTUAL

Noble REMC's Annual Meeting is going virtual — again — this year! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 5, and be on the lookout for more information in upcoming issues of Indiana Connection.

POWER MOVES

Energy-Smart Solutions from Your Local Electric Cooperative

ONE LEAN, GREEN, WATER HEATIN' MACHINE

HOT WATER FOR LESS MONEY

When you switch to an ENERGY STAR® certified heat pump water heater, you'll save up to 50% on your water heating energy costs. That's because a heat pump water heater operates more efficiently than gas alternatives. It has a smaller carbon footprint, too, to the tune of about half the carbon emissions of a propane or natural gas water heater.

Best of all? Noble REMC will help you switch by giving you cash rebates on installation. That's some sweet savings on one mean machine.

Visit PowerMoves.com/water-heater to learn more.

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