

# InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF  FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

June 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



A WORD FROM



**Garrett Thompson**  
Chief Executive Officer

## New metering system coming soon to FREC

lin REC (FREC) began the process of researching a new advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system. Over an eight-month period, the board and senior staff examined all the available options to find a system to meet FREC's needs. We chose Tantalus, a system that will allow us to identify outage locations before a truck even leaves the cooperative yard. It will also provide a great deal of data and information, giving us a better picture of where system upgrades need to take place. In addition, it will also allow you, the members, to access your daily usage from your smart phone with the SmartHub app.

To help expedite the process, we have hired Anixter to perform our meter exchanges. By the time you read this newsletter, FREC and Anixter will have already replaced 50 meters in the field as a test run before the full deployment takes place in July.

Anixter is scheduled to work within our service territory from July

5 through July 29. Our plan is to have every meter changed by the end of July, which will be quite the feat when it is accomplished. Please be aware that Anixter vehicles will be coming to your home and/or business to exchange your meter(s). The exchange should not take long. Their vehicles will also have Franklin REC magnets on them so you can rest assured that they are working on our behalf.

As the system becomes operational, we will be sharing more information through our newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube on the features you will be able to access through our SmartHub app. If you haven't downloaded the app, we highly recommend that you do so in anticipation of taking advantage of the features and information that will be available to you with the new meters.

As always, please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Technology is great, isn't it? It can help us in many ways to make our lives easier and more efficient, but once that piece of technology becomes outdated, that's when the fun stops. Without fail, when we look at replacing said technology there are now more choices, it can do more things, and it is much more complex. Electrical metering systems are no different!

Due to the increased cost to maintain our current metering system, as well as opportunities to leverage technological advancements since our last system was put in place in 2009, Frank-

## SPARKS of news

### Board room highlights

At the April meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved the Special Equipment capitalization
- Approved a contribution to the CFC Integrity Fund
- Reviewed and approved a resolution to the NRECA RS and 401k plans

## IT'S FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR TIME!

Join us July 13-17, at the Franklin County Fair! Franklin REC employees will be in the parade on Tuesday evening. We will also have a booth set up at Grandpa's Farm, where our line crew will be performing demonstrations every half hour on Wednesday and Thursday from 1-4 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will also be games, trivia, a photo op, and more!

Don't forget to bring your ice cream coupon, included in your bill this month. The coupon, courtesy of Franklin REC, is redeemable for two FREE ice creams at Pleasant Hill on the fairgrounds.

We are thrilled to offer a drawing for a FREE community solar subscription to the Franklin REC solar array. FREC members can sign up at our location at Grandpa's Farm for this prize worth \$560.



# Adjust your thermostat this summer

The U.S. Department of Energy and most electric utilities recommend that you set your thermostat at 78 degrees during the summer to save energy, if you have a central air unit.



For additional savings, before you leave for work, crank it up to 85 degrees. When you turn in for the night, nudge it up to 82.

If that sounds a bit toasty for summertime, consider inching your thermostat up one degree at a time rather than all at once.

Take the remembering out of it and consider replacing a manual thermostat with a programmable model so the settings will change automatically.

Contact your heating and cooling specialist if you have a heat pump, as there are special considerations for those units.



## 5 ways to help save the earth

Want to be part of the solution rather than the problem when it comes to protecting the earth? Consider these suggestions:

1. Throw less away. Reuse it, recycle it, or donate it. Or collect fewer disposable items.
2. Use less water. That saves water but also energy if the water you save would have been hot water.
3. If you still have any incandescent light bulbs lingering around your home, switch them out for LED bulbs or fixtures.
4. Buy energy-efficient electronics and appliances when it's time to replace your old ones. Be sure to look for the Energy Star label.
5. Turn off and unplug electric devices when you're finished using them for the day.



**Nominate a local volunteer  
and they could win  
\$2,000 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at  
**[IowaShineTheLight.com](http://IowaShineTheLight.com)**



**Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives**

*The power of human connections®*

70% of  
lightning fatalities  
occur June through August

- National Weather Service



There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. That is why the National Weather Service advises, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from rain, even if you don't see clouds.

Learn more at

 Safe  
Electricity.org

## Storm safety tips: Before, during, after

By Abby Berry, NRECA

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Share these tips with your loved ones:

### Before the storm

- *Discuss the dangers* of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors. Talk to your family about the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home.
- *Make a storm kit*, and include water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies, and pet supplies.

### During the storm

- *Pay attention to local weather alerts* and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- *If you find yourself in the path of a tornado*, head to your safe place to shelter and cover your head with your arms or blankets and pillows.
- *If you're driving during a severe storm* or tornado, pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

### After the storm

- *If the power is out*, try to conserve your phone battery.
- *Stay off the roads* if trees, power lines, or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized.
- *Wear appropriate gear* if you're cleaning up storm debris. Thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves will help protect you.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared.

## Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



# UNCLAIMED PROPERTY – IT COULD BE YOURS!

Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative, located at 1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437, Hampton, Iowa, 50441, is holding unclaimed property resulting from a refund due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address above, emailing [kringleb@franklinrec.coop](mailto:kringleb@franklinrec.coop), or calling 641-456-2557. If the cooperative does not hear from the owner within six (6) months, we are allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law or deliver this property to the State Treasurer's Office for disposition as abandoned property.

Some of the names listed below have had checks mailed out that were never cashed or returned to the office. If you are holding a check, please contact the Franklin REC office.

Below are former members with names beginning with A-K. Former members with names beginning with L-Z will appear in the July issue of *InTouch*. You can see the full list on our website at [www.franklinrec.coop](http://www.franklinrec.coop).

ADELMUND, JENNIFER AND LARRY – ACKLEY IA  
AGWEB LLC – AKRON IA  
ANDERSON, DUANE – ARLINGTON TX  
ANGEL, ROGER D – MASON CITY IA  
ARNDT, KYLE A AND JACKIE - ROCHESTER MN  
AYERS, JAMEY – BRISTOW IA  
BANGER, TIM – FARMINGTON MO  
BARKELA, DENNIS – SHEFFIELD IA  
BARKER, HARLAN – CLEAR LAKE IA  
BERTRAM, ROBERT E AND DELLA M – JANESVILLE IA  
BLOMKER, CATHERINE J – SHEFFIELD IA  
BLOMKER, DENNIS – SHEFFIELD IA  
BRIGHTON, SANDRA – IOWA FALLS IA  
BUSEMAN, ANIKA – ALEXANDER IA  
CALLES, JOSE – ALEXANDER IA  
CAMPBELL, LYNNE – WOODWARD IA  
CARR, KEN & ROSEMARY BLAU CARR – SHEFFIELD IA  
COUNTY LINE ENGINEERING – CLIVE IA  
CRAWFORD, DAVID W – BELMOND IA  
DASS, DARRELL D – MASON CITY IA  
DEAN, JAMES D – CEDAR FALLS IA  
DODD, DONALD L – HAMPTON IA  
DOW, JOSH – IOWA FALLS IA  
DUNN, ROGER & SONS – ALDEN IA  
EMHOFF, CHAD – SHEFFIELD IA

ENGELS, MAT – SWALEDALE IA  
EVANS, MARTI J – IOWA FALLS IA  
FARIS, DORIS H & ROBERT D – NEW PROVIDENCE IA  
FITZ, ALLAN – GRANGER IA  
FITZ, JEANETTE K – LATIMER IA  
FRIMML, BETTY – GIBSON CITY IL  
GAMBLE, GREG & SHELIA – ALEXANDER IA  
GAMM, BLAKE W – MASON CITY IA  
GARZA, JUAN – BRITT IA  
GERZEMA BROS – IOWA FALLS IA  
GIBBS, LISA M & DELWIN – RAWLINS WY  
GJETLEY, KIM – TAMA IA  
GLOVER, LARRY – JEFFERSON SD  
GREINER, MATT S – ELY IA  
GREVE, DONALD – ROCKWELL IA  
HACKBARTH, DALE – IOWA FALLS IA  
HALLER FARM ACCOUNT – JAMESTOWN OH  
HANSEN BROTHERS FARMS – VIENNA VA  
HARMS, SHELLY AND KENT – JEWELL IA  
HARMS, TROY L – ACKLEY IA  
HARTKOPP, CHERYL – AMARILLO TX  
HARTSON, DARYL – FREDERICKSBURG IA  
HARTWIG, STACY – AMARILLO TX  
HAUPT, DUANE – ANKENY IA  
HEEREN, ALAN – NORTHWOOD IA

HEITLAND, JERALD – IOWA FALLS IA  
HENKE FARM – WATERLOO IA  
HODAK, GREG A AND ALLYSON – IOWA FALLS IA  
HOFSSOMMER, EARL, – HAMPTON IA  
HOVENGA, JODY – CLARKSVILLE IA  
HOVERSTEN, SHERRI – ALDEN IA  
HOWEY, TAMI J – BRISTOW IA  
JACKSON, CHARLES R JR – ROCKWELL IA  
JAMES, LAURA – ROCKWELL IA  
JOHNSON, THOMAS E – WINOMA MN  
JONES, KAREN C AND CLIFFORD A – TRENTON MO  
JOST INC. – VERMILLION SD  
G B KEISTER FARM TRUST – MINNEAPOLIS MN  
KETCHUM, KAREN – MASON CITY IA  
KINTZEL, CINDY – ACKLEY IA  
KLAVER, ADAM – IOWA FALLS IA  
KOCH, EDWARD, % JEFF KOCH – NORA SPRINGS IA  
KOPPEN, PEGGY H – SAN DIEGO CA  
KOTHENBEUTEL, DARYL F – CLEAR LAKE IA  
KOTHENBEUTEL, JANICE – ROCKWELL IA  
KOVARNA, DAVID & SUSAN – MASON CITY IA  
KRUMM, JERRY E SR – MASON CITY IA

If you recognize any of the listed names, please contact the office at 641-456-2557 and ask for Karen.



## Franklin REC marks Arbor Day with tree planting

There's no better way to celebrate Arbor Day than to help Franklin County Conservation plant trees.

Friday, April 29, Franklin REC employees assisted in planting trees at both Robinson Property and Maynes Grove. Between the two parks, we planted and installed protective sleeves for over 150 trees.

Thank you to the Franklin County Conservation for letting us help plant the next generation of trees!

**Intouch®** is published monthly for members of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative  
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