



White River Valley
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





**White River Valley
Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WELCOME

White River Valley Electric Cooperative is built from the ground up as a community-driven network. We're making responsive investments in new technology, remaining focused on the delivery of safe and efficient power through our operations, right-of-way and system maintenance schedules, and we are committed to engaging with our members where you want and need us most.

An organization is only as good as its employees. We said goodbye to many retirees in 2019. We are thankful for their years of dedication and talent. To prep for future needs, many departments and positions were restructured. Several recruits have joined the workforce, while many returning employees have embarked on new roles with the cooperative. This reorganization has allowed for thoughtful communication and increased collaboration between departments.

New committees have been formed, with both executive staff and board members, to evaluate our governance practices and fiscal operations. Equity management models and construction work plans have been reviewed and redeveloped to cut incremental costs and evaluate future needs from a methodical and very strategic approach. The road ahead encourages more engagement with our members and an opportunity for everyone to be involved in the decision-making process.

We have implemented new ways to deliver key information, including a members-only section of the website and our first-ever annual report. We understand that solid relationships with strong foundations are built from being transparent, so enhanced communication is the brick-and-mortar of our new structure.

Without your continued support and commitment, we would not exist. We appreciate each member and anticipate many more successful years as your electric cooperative.



CHRIS HAMON
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT US

White River Valley Electric Cooperative (WRVEC) origins are traced back to 1935 when the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was created. This New Deal agency was created to bring the same comforts to rural Americans – like electric lights to extend the day and electric motors to ease the daily workload – that city residents enjoyed.

While there was a strong desire for rural electricity, the means were elusive. Vast distances between members made stringing lines and setting poles costly. Electric utilities saw little, if any, opportunity for profit.

The REA opened the door for electricity in rural America through electric cooperatives – private partnerships owned and controlled by the people they serve. Today, electric cooperatives maintain nearly half of all distribution lines across the country.

WRVEC first flipped the switch in 1939, bringing 505 members into the modern age of electricity. Since then, WRVEC's service area has grown to cover 2,500+ square miles across five counties in Southwest Missouri. The cooperative has 44,000+ member meters and 5,300+ miles of energized line.

Providing electricity was the founding goal for WRVEC. Today, our advanced power system is an asset for the communities we serve. The not-for-profit, member system connects people in a shared mission of protecting and promoting a valuable community asset – one of America's most successful, advanced electrical power networks.



THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

WRVEC and other electric cooperatives are owned by the people, or members, who use the power the co-op provides. Electric cooperatives worldwide abide by core principles, including:

- ✓ Voluntary & Open Membership
- ✓ Democratic Member Control
- ✓ Member Economic Participation
- ✓ Concern for Community
- ✓ Autonomy & Independence
- ✓ Education, Training & Information
- ✓ Cooperation Among Cooperatives

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives



NRECA
America's Electric Cooperatives

OUR CO-OP FAMILY

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together. We believe in social and economic development of people, regardless of background.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY

In 1999, WRVEC joined Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of local, member electric cooperatives. Benefits include community programs, employee education, and reduced product cost.

AMEC

The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC) is a statewide service organization for Missouri's 47 electric cooperatives, providing legislation efforts, training, and marketing services.

NRECA

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national organization dedicated to representing the national interests of cooperative electric utilities and the consumers they serve.



DR. JEFF HYATT
Board President

Many changes have occurred over the past 81 years, but our commitment to you and the seven cooperative principles have remained constant. Delivering

service to more than 44,000 meters - we are proud to be your electric provider.

We work hard to keep your rates low through comprehensive operations and cost control measures. We focus on the reliability of the electric distribution system, which is continually strengthened through innovative upgrades and proactive maintenance. We strive to protect our members from electrical hazards and scams through active communications and continued education.

WRVEC is committed to paying capital credits to our members and we are honored to give back to our communities with the Operation Round Up program through grants, scholarships, and more. Our staff has also been working diligently to aid our members in the face of a pandemic.

We believe it is our duty and great privilege to carry forward the proud legacy of service set forth by the first WRVEC members over eighty years ago. Your cooperative is still committed to principles, not profit. We are an organization run by our members, and we will continue for our members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WRVEC is controlled and governed by its membership that elect individuals from their district to represent them on the Board of Directors. The Board collectively sets policy and helps to guide strategic planning.



2019-2020 Board of Directors from left to right: Pat Funk (E), Jenny Whorton (V.P., A), Jeff Hyatt (President, C), Lyle Rowland (B), Donnie Rains (B), Neal Crum (D), Keet Short (Sec./Treasurer, A), J.J. Leek (C), and Jim Kyle (E)

JENNY WHORTON
Board VP & Committee Chair

The Bylaws, Governance, and Engagement Committee was formed to evaluate best practices that continually improve the operations of the organization and help to better reach the membership. The committee launched the Member Alliance Program, making it easier than ever before for members to have a voice. Member feedback through the program is reviewed each committee meeting and implementation is considered in accordance of industry best practices, cooperative betterment, and engagement from the entire membership.



PAT FUNK
Committee Chair

The Finance and Equity Management committee was established to ensure and maintain the financial integrity of the Cooperative. Together, Executive Staff and Board Members provide financial analysis, advice, and oversight. This group helps to ensure the organization's transparency and fiscal responsibility with member interests best at hand. The annual budget, system reliability, member capital, and external audits are all critical activities reviewed and approved within this committee.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Strategic planning is important to the cooperative because it provides a sense of direction and outlines measurable goals. In 2019, we set forth to revamp our strategic thinking to guide day-to-day decisions, evaluate progress, and navigate changing industry standards more adequately. In order to make the most of our strategic plan, we gave careful thought to company-wide initiatives, set values that define our culture, and developed a roadmap to continually measure the behaviors and services that we expect from one another.

With the seven cooperative principles in mind, we set realistic goals that are thoroughly researched and have quantifiable benchmarks for evaluating results annually.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power - while enhancing the lives of those we serve.



Safety



Member Education & Engagement



Equity Management



System Reliability



Workforce Development



Risk Management



Emerging Technologies



Commitment to Community



Economic Development

SOME OF OUR 2019 OBJECTIVES...

SAFETY

Implement programs to help enhance the culture of safety, where employee-generated feedback is integrated through technology and team engagement.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Develop employee knowledge base through continued education and on-the-job training as well as bring in additional, qualified recruits to drive innovation.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Continue market review of renewable solutions for members and vendors. Evaluate electric vehicle analytics and present member-facing charging stations.

EQUITY/SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Create a financial forecasting model that considers long-term work plans and stable rates to promote financial sustainability and an enhanced network.



Promoting continued education and on-the-job training, employees are our greatest asset!

ANGIE O'DELL
Executive Business Administration



FINANCIAL STABILITY

YEARLY REVENUE

\$96,865,498

BILLED METERS

44,694



YEARLY kWh SOLD

761,845,783

ACTIVE MEMBERS

34,333

2019 MEMBER SNAPSHOT

KEET SHORT

Board Secretary & Treasurer



The Board of Directors of White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. has examined the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Operations for White River Valley Electric for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. All records and accounting procedures are kept in accordance to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles set forth by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. The Board of Directors review the financial statements on a monthly basis. In turn, an independent audit has been performed by, BKD, LLP a certified public accounting firm from Little Rock, AR., on all the cooperatives financial records for the fiscal years of December 31st, 2018 and December 31st, 2019.

The following statement is from a letter dated April 17th, 2020 submitted by the auditors to the Board of Directors. "In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., as of December 31, 2018 and 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended with no discrepancies and in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

BALANCE SHEET

	2018	2019
Assets (What we own)		
Electric plant less depreciation	\$ 202,724,404	\$ 206,395,487
Investments, associated organizations	\$ 40,117,726	\$ 43,861,904
Investments, other	\$ 14,843,710	\$ 13,645,709
General funds	\$ 11,302,332	\$ 9,252,801
Accounts Receivable	\$ 5,099,816	\$ 3,822,528
Materials and Supplies on hand	\$ 2,279,440	\$ 2,413,150
Other current & accrued assets	\$ 5,987,922	\$ 6,216,131
Deferred charges	\$ 20,171,173	\$ 26,757,017
Total Assets	\$ 302,526,523	\$ 312,364,727
Liabilities (What we owe)		
REA Econ Devel long-term debt	\$ 3,434,772	\$ 2,644,521
CFC long-term debt	\$ 154,953,479	\$ 154,775,605
Accounts payable	\$ 6,501,920	\$ 6,114,749
Consumer deposits	\$ 807,949	\$ 833,984
Other current and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,696,659	\$ 2,295,636
Deferred credits	\$ 262,553	\$ 281,789
Total Liabilities	\$ 168,657,332	\$ 166,946,284
Net worth (Our equity in assets)		
Membership fees	\$ 119,515	\$ 113,875
Patronage Capital & Other equities	\$ 133,749,676	\$ 145,304,568
Total Net Worth	\$ 133,869,191	\$ 145,418,443
Total liabilities and net worth	\$ 302,526,523	\$ 312,364,727

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2018	2019
Revenue		
Operating Revenue	\$ 99,250,797	\$ 96,865,498
Other Revenue	\$ 3,766,519	\$ 3,265,828
Total Revenue	\$ 103,017,317	\$ 100,131,327
Expenses		
Purchased Power	\$ 51,317,879	\$ 49,501,775
Operations	\$ 4,677,433	\$ 4,214,015
Maintenance	\$ 8,137,644	\$ 8,007,023
Customer Service	\$ 5,332,071	\$ 4,887,620
Administration & General	\$ 5,072,565	\$ 3,798,677
Depreciation	\$ 8,576,349	\$ 8,811,998
Taxes	\$ 1,468,481	\$ 1,530,701
Interest	\$ 6,843,115	\$ 6,630,664
Total Expenses	\$ 91,425,537	\$ 87,382,472
Net Margins	\$ 11,591,779	\$ 12,748,854



Financial strength is key for sustainable business growth and returning capital to members.

TIM SHAFER
Finance & Office Operations



EARLY RELEASE



White River Valley Electric Cooperative gave 3.87 million dollars back to the members to help offset the financial hardships faced due to COVID-19.

The member-owned cooperative supplies electric to five counties in Southwest Missouri; Christian, Douglas, Ozark, Stone, and Taney. Since WRVEC is a not-for-profit, money is returned to the members in the form of capital credits.

The Cooperative pays the bills for things like power generation, maintenance, and operations. The money left over after those bills are paid each year is called a margin. Margins provide equity for the Cooperative and are assigned to members through capital credits.

Traditionally, the co-op pays these credits in July. The Executive Staff and Board of Directors met to discuss how to help members during the pandemic and a vote for the early release of capital credits was unanimous. "These are unprecedented times and the financial impact of what we're going through could be felt for months," said Chris Hamon, CEO. "We know there are many families whose income has been dramatically affected. We're hoping these bill credits will help stretch the budget when it is needed most."

The nearly four-million-dollar release was based on how much electricity was purchased during a year. The early 2020 payment amount equals 100 percent of 1990, 50 percent of 1991, the remaining 50 percent of 2017, and 25 percent of 2018. Current members saw the payments applied to their billing statements as early as May 4. Those who are no longer members received a check.

To date, the cooperative has paid over 28 million dollars in capital credits.

As COVID began impacting members, WRVEC immediately and voluntarily suspended any disconnections that were due to non-payment. The Cooperative has continued providing service to members as long as payment arrangements are set and payments adhered.

"We want all of those in our White River family to have peace of mind that their lights will stay on as we navigate this uncertainty," stated Hamon.

In addition, WRVEC's trust program Operation Round Up, partnered with Community Foundation of the Ozarks to allocate 100 thousand dollars of grant monies for other nonprofits in their five-county area helping their neighbors during the pandemic. Cassie Cunningham, Communications & Member Engagement Manager shared, "Members can find the resources we've pooled together on our website. We'll get through this together." The member-driven organization has positioned themselves with a helpful hand for members and all those in the communities they serve.

WORKPLACE SAFETY

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Therefore, our goal has been to create and continue a culture of safety through awareness initiatives, education, and upgraded protective equipment. All of these combined practices provide you with reliable service, while making sure our employees go home safely.



All Ways Safe is our internal culture-building program to ensure employee safety is effectively communicated.



We've taken NRECA's pledge "Commitment to Zero Contacts" to combat serious injuries and fatalities among lineworkers.



Crews use a job planning app entitled "S.A.F.E." (abbreviation for "stop and focus everyday") to direct their attention to the life-saving rules used to help build and reinforce safe habits.



The Co-op calculates the DART rate, meaning "days away, restricted or transferred." This OSHA safety metric allows us to identify safety issues in the workplace.



White River Valley Electric Cooperative has always considered safety a top priority for not only its membership, but its employees as well. Each year, WRVEC linemen and operators participate in pole top and bucket truck rescue training.

Pole top rescue training is required by the United States Department of Labor. In order to successfully complete training, a lineman must perform in a hurt-man rescue scenario which finds a fellow worker unconscious atop a utility pole. The lineman must radio for help utilizing the proper mayday procedures, put on full climbing gear, climb a pole, remove dangerous obstacles like hot wire, and safely master a rigging procedure which secures the "hurt-man" in order to safely lower him to the ground.

White River Valley Electric Cooperative pushes their linemen to complete this scenario within four minutes - the time a non-breathing person has before permanent brain damage starts to occur.

"Routine education and practice is how we make things safer for everyone," said Larry Hughes, Manager of Safety & Training. "It means a lot to the linemen knowing that their team is capable to save lives in the event that a situation would ever occur."

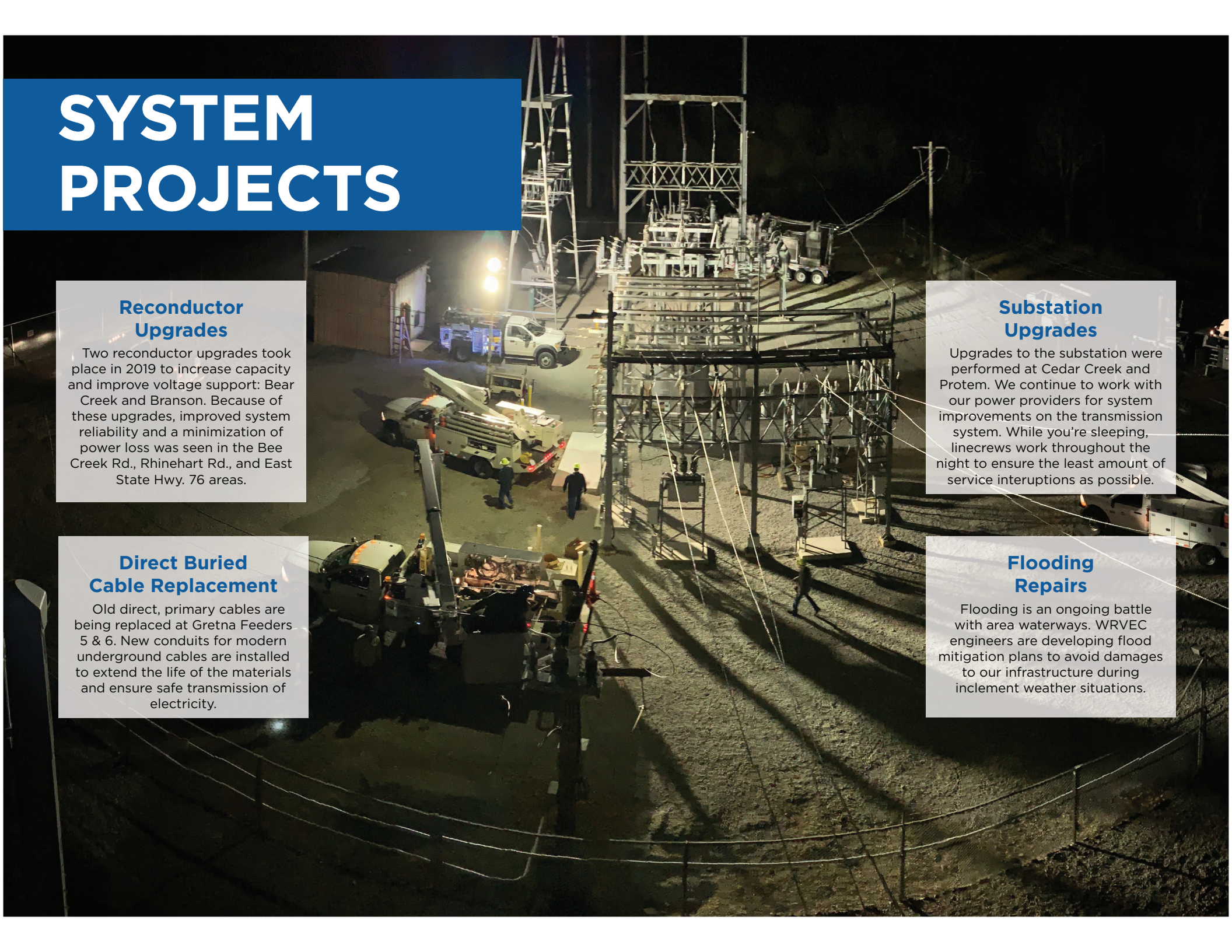
WRVEC linemen must perform this training annually, as well as, be certified in first aid, AED (defibrillator device that can re-establish a heartbeat), and CPR. They also attend monthly safety courses.



Routine education and practice is how we make things safer for everyone.

LARRY HUGHES
Safety & Training

SYSTEM PROJECTS

An aerial night photograph of an electrical substation. The scene is illuminated by bright work lights, casting long shadows. Several workers in high-visibility gear are visible, along with utility vehicles and large metal structures for power equipment. The overall atmosphere is one of active industrial work.

Reconductor Upgrades

Two reconductor upgrades took place in 2019 to increase capacity and improve voltage support: Bear Creek and Branson. Because of these upgrades, improved system reliability and a minimization of power loss was seen in the Bee Creek Rd., Rhinehart Rd., and East State Hwy. 76 areas.

Direct Buried Cable Replacement

Old direct, primary cables are being replaced at Gretna Feeders 5 & 6. New conduits for modern underground cables are installed to extend the life of the materials and ensure safe transmission of electricity.

Substation Upgrades

Upgrades to the substation were performed at Cedar Creek and Protem. We continue to work with our power providers for system improvements on the transmission system. While you're sleeping, linecrews work throughout the night to ensure the least amount of service interruptions as possible.

Flooding Repairs

Flooding is an ongoing battle with area waterways. WRVEC engineers are developing flood mitigation plans to avoid damages to our infrastructure during inclement weather situations.

SYSTEM INTEGRITY



Our system's reliability considers both planned maintenance and system upgrades. Servicing what we already have in place and continually evaluating the network to meet growing demands means that we are dedicated to operating to the best of our abilities and above industry standards.

“Does this pole need to be replaced?”

Linemen meticulously inspect between 11,000 and 12,000 poles every year, with 1,500 to 2,000 needing to be replaced. They perform tests such as visual, sound, and boring to check for failures. Common failures include shell rot, woodpecker damage, internal decay, and rotten tops.

Poles are also replaced if they have maxed their useful life. Doing this annually ensures our crews stay ahead of work demand and increase WRVEC's reliability.



INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Integrated Vegetation Management Program (IVM) is an integrated array of management practices tailored for our area to maintain a safe and reliable electric system. Our IVM program combines chemical and mechanical treatment methods including side pruning, risk tree removal, and selective herbicide application.

A vegetation management program often represents a utility company's largest operations and maintenance cost. IVM programs establish low-growing vegetation that out compete taller-growing species. As the landscape cycle transitions, WRVEC will spend less money maintaining the ROW through reduced mechanical controls and focused, selective chemical applications.



**Figures from June 1, 2019 to June 1, 2020*

970

Miles of
Right-of-Way
Maintained

1,798

Work Orders
Completed

12,955

Service Orders
Completed

100

Average
Restoration
Time (Minutes)



These practices provide the most dependable service for our members.

JOHN COMBS
Operations



NO TRANSIENTS, NO PROBLEM

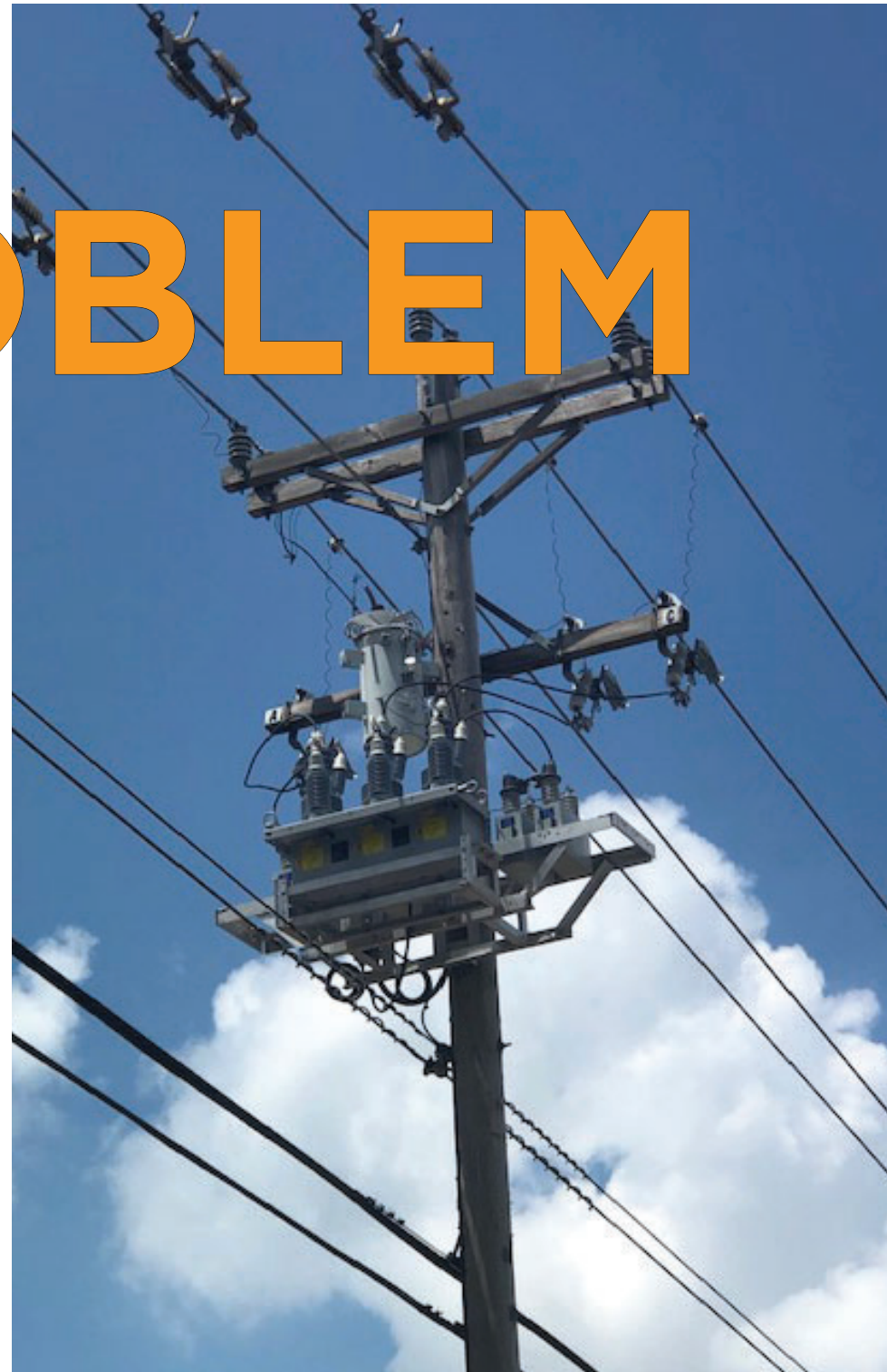
If you own and operate an amusement park, you know roller coasters are a star attraction. The last thing you want is to have one stopped in its tracks by an unplanned power outage. For Silver Dollar City, an 1880s-themed venue with some 2.2 million guests annually, this potential problem was much more likely to happen due to the demand that thrill rides operated at the park put on the electric system.

One of the most demanding attractions at Silver Dollar City is the Outlaw Run amusement ride. When the giant ride debuted, it was the world's steepest wood coaster. It features a 16-story drop – making it also one of the world's fastest wood coasters, a gut-churner that topped out at 68 miles per hour. Voted Best New Ride of 2013 worldwide by Amusement Today, this ride is advertised as one that will test just about anybody's grit. As it turns out, it also tested the capacitor bank just outside park grounds.

In 2019 while Outlaw Run was undergoing routine testing, the Cooperative received a call letting them know the ride had no power. Trouble shooters suspected an issue with the capacitor: a bad cell, animal intrusion or some other simple cause that could easily be addressed. However, they found absolutely nothing but some residue from the arcing that took out the fuse. WRVEC isolated the capacitor bank and got the ride back online. At the office, the engineering team came across research explaining how back-to-back capacitor switching can cause high frequency transients. These transients can be large enough to take out fuses, leaving the system without power.

After researching many product technologies available, our engineers selected the Trinetics SmartClose® 3-Phase, synchronous, zero-voltage close capacitor switch. The state-of-the-art switch averts the heavy in-rush of charging currents. No voltage, no transients. Problem solved. By installing this particular switch, WRVEC also gained easier installation, less maintenance, lower capital expense, and better technology.

At WRVEC, having a robust and dependable system is imperative to meet our members' needs. Through maintaining a solid network with the most advanced technology on the market, we distribute reliable energy to a diverse membership – no matter how big or small. WRVEC's top priority is to keep our members' lights on and amusement rides rolling.



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY



Technology Upgrades

Upgrades including storage and security servers, radio systems, automatic vehicle location, automated meter reading systems and computers ensure protection from security threats, increases reliability, and enhances productivity.

Cyber-Safety Campaign

A comprehensive cyber-safety campaign has been implemented. Not only do we protect our equipment and data with the latest software and hardware, but we train our employees on best cyber-safety practices. We also measure employees' cyber awareness.

Paperless Initiative

Membership applications are now digital. This saves over 25,000 printed pages per year. Work order printing is also down by 50%.

Public Wi-Fi

WRVEC, in a partnership with Sho-Me Power and Wisper Internet, will be providing free public Wi-Fi at all office locations. People are now able to park in designated spots within our parking lots and connect to the Internet.



Better tools help us to work smarter and safer.

JC ZALOG
Information Technology

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

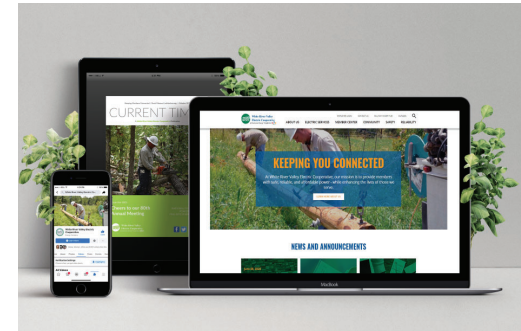
Whether it be through educational programs or technologies, we communicate with you to meet you where you need us.

We have rolled out a new website equipped with concise outage reporting features and a Members Only portal - all to increase your level of service.

Communication is the key to success within the membership, but also the business itself. In 2019, the Cooperative released its employee intranet platform to better disseminate information, boost morale, and aid in providing best-in-class service to our membership.

Enhanced communication has helped us deliver transparent information about our business operations, showcase features and program benefits, explain industry trends, and highlight what's going on in your cooperative. The push toward digital and online communications have put convenience at your fingertips and allowed significant cost-savings that are passed back to our members.

Our conversations with you on our various social platforms continue to build. We love conversing in real-time because we value your feedback.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@WRVEC



@WhiteRiver_EC



@WhiteRiverEC



@WhiteRiverEC



/WRVEC



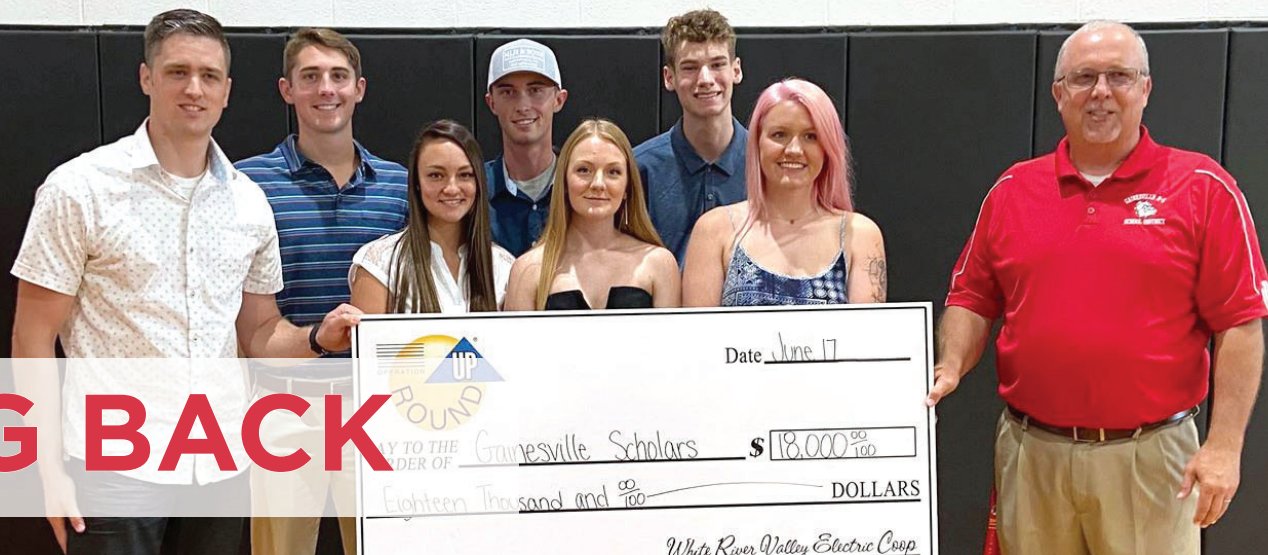
/company/wrvec



We communicate with you where you need us.

CASSIE CUNNINGHAM
Communications & Member Engagement

GIVING BACK



Operation Round Up

Since 1992 - WRVEC's Trust Program Operation Round Up, has collected and distributed more than \$3.8 million to students, local organizations, and families throughout Taney, Stone, Christian, Ozark, and Douglas counties. In 2019, \$57,517 in grant monies were awarded to individuals and organizations in the five-county area.

ORU is governed by the White River Valley Electric Trust Board of Directors. ORU Directors are separate from the WRVEC Board of Directors and are termed-volunteer positions representing each of the counties we serve.



Scholarships

To encourage higher learning in our community, WRVEC allocates funds from Operation Round Up to offer scholarships to local undergraduates within the community.

Candidates are evaluated based on financial need, overall academic performance, extracurriculars, and college acceptance.

This scholarship is renewable up to a maximum of four years, but students must reapply each year to be considered for another scholarship.

In 28 years of existence, Operation Round Up has given nearly \$2 million in scholarship funds. In 2019, 101 scholarships were awarded to students living within Taney, Stone, Christian, Douglas, and Ozark counties.

Power Up Grants

Power Up Grants are just one of the many programs funded by ORU. These grants are offered to support projects outside of the normal public school funding for grades K-12. Individual teachers may each submit one application per year for up to \$750. Any teacher located in a Taney, Stone, Christian, Douglas or Ozark county school can apply.

To be considered, proposals must meet the standards of the school's improvement plan and promote higher learning.

In 2019, 97 teachers received Power Up Grants. This meant that monies went to 38 schools within our communities.



Share The Harvest

WRVEC teamed up with the Missouri Conservation Department and the Conservation Federation of Missouri for Share the Harvest, a program that provides an easy way for hunters to donate venison to Missourians in need.

Hunters donate their extra venison — from several pounds to whole deer — to participating meat processors. The packaged venison is then given to local food banks and food pantries.

In 2019, thousands of Missouri deer hunters donated more than 259,400 pounds of venison to Share the Harvest — including 4,855 whole deer.

During season, WRVEC and The Conservation Federation of Missouri pay the processing costs for deer that are donated to the Oldfield Packing Plant by hunters in WRVEC territory.



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

Connecting with our members is part of who we are. For 81 years, we have helped drive progress in the communities we serve through outreach programs, fundraising events, scholarships, grants, and youth leadership initiatives - all part of our commitment to community and the principles on which we were founded.



RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



MOUNTAIN MUSHROOMS, LLC

Mountain Mushrooms, LLC is a certified organic mushroom factory in Theodosia, Missouri. The family-owned business has been producing Shitake and Oyster mushrooms since 1987.

The business partnered with WRVEC to obtain an USDA REDLG loan to fund the construction of their new facility. Inside, nine grow rooms can house thousands of pounds of mushrooms, which are ultimately shipped across the country for use in cafeteria systems, restaurants, and even government buildings.

BRADLEYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

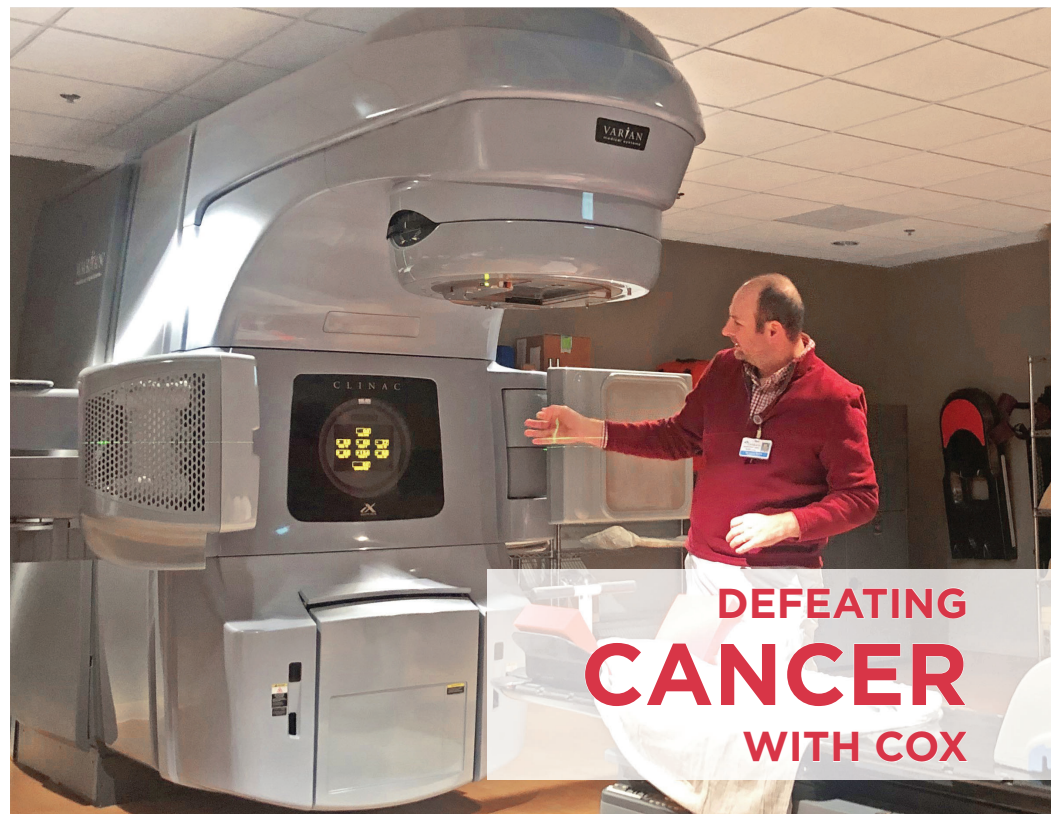
The district took advantage of the WRVEC Revolving Loan Fund. They replaced lamp fixtures with LED fixtures to conserve energy and cut costs. They were also able to preserve the wooden gym floor to prolong its life for generations to come.

TANEY COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT

TCAD is an emergency medical service providing exclusive ambulance transport for Taney County, Missouri. The new facility, located in Hollister, was funded by the USDA REDLG program.

FRITZ'S ADVENTURE

REDLG helped bring excitement to Branson with Fritz's Adventure. The indoor adventure has thrilling features such as rock-climbing walls, rope courses, slides and tunnels. Take a break from all the activities and enjoy their restaurant that serves up healthy menu choices.



The Cancer Center at Cox Medical Center Branson is saving lives with the help of a loan facilitated through White River Valley Electric Cooperative.

The loan is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. The program provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas.

With WRVEC's help, Cox was able to purchase equipment delivering image guided radiation therapy. This therapy allows radiation oncologists to deliver a higher dose of radiation more accurately, providing superior patient treatments while minimizing damage to healthy tissue. It also cuts down on time patients spend in the hospital receiving treatment.

"Cancer is debilitating enough without the worry of travel and job loss," said Devin Fisher, WRVEC Key Accounts & Economic Development Specialist. "The cancer center provides an opportunity for patients to receive treatment without the need to travel to Springfield. People with little time off do not have to worry about losing their jobs, and can focus solely on healing."

The therapy has provided over 3,000 treatments to over 160 patients. Cox and WRVEC plan to work together to obtain another loan in 2020 that will be used to upgrade equipment.

"We are passionate about improving the area through economic development programs," said Fisher. "By helping businesses obtain the finances needed, we improve our members' quality of life and the area's social well-being."

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Electric cooperatives have always had a strong commitment to their local youth. It's all part of a pledge to our communities through education - rooted from the seven cooperative principles that guide our member-owned organizations. WRVEC sponsors several activities and trips each year to ensure that area youth develop the leadership skills and co-op knowledge they need to lead the next generation.

GENERATION POWER

Generation Power, WRVEC's educational program for younger members, educates youth through after-school and summer school programs, career days, and school field trips. The knowledge gained through the Generation Power program helps kids contribute effectively to the development of their Cooperative. They learn about electricity, safety, careers in the industry and, most importantly, the nature and benefits of Cooperation.



Gainesville Elementary gifted students visited WRVEC for a fall fieldtrip to learn the ins-and-outs of electricity. Students tried on safety gear and were asked to perform tasks - like unscrewing a bolt wearing thick, rubber gloves. They also received a tour of the facility and watched a live demonstration presented by WRVEC linemen.

Each summer, WRVEC sends our communities' brightest teens on two once-in-a-lifetime trips...



2019 Youth Tour delegates: Reagan Swatosh, Katelyn Cobbs, Matthew Conradson

YOUTH TOUR

Youth Tour delegates spend a week representing their local cooperative on a whirlwind tour of the nation's capital. WRVEC's 2019 delegates toured many museums, visited America's most cherished monuments, and even met their elected officials to discuss the importance of electric cooperatives in their communities.

Students win their spot on the trip through an essay and speech presentation.



CYCLE

The Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience is held in Jefferson City for incoming high school juniors. Activities for the week focus on cooperative history, state government, and leadership development.

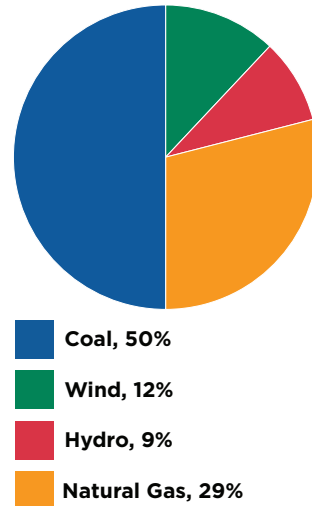


POWERING OUR FUTURE

At WRVEC, an accurate and dependable system is imperative to our success. Through maintaining a solid network and continually evaluating areas for growth, we are able to distribute some of the most reliable energy in the country.

GENERATION PORTFOLIO

Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI), our local power provider, uses the lowest-cost generation resources first to serve member electric requirements. This generation portfolio includes hydropower, coal, wind, and natural gas. They also look for market opportunities to purchase power from other utilities in those instances when it is cheaper to buy the power than to generate it. This diversity enables the wholesale supply to adjust as needed to make sure members are served with low-cost, reliable generation regardless of changing conditions. It also provides us with an increasingly clean energy supply that meets the needs of all our members, 100% of the time.



APPLIANCE REBATES

Smart energy choices make a home more comfortable and power bills more affordable. That's why WRVEC offers an array of appliance rebates to help members make their existing homes more energy efficient. Eligible appliances range from electric water heaters to thermostats to HVAC units.

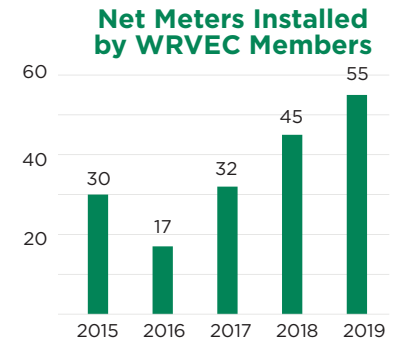
Businesses can take part in our commercial lighting rebate program. By utilizing LED lighting, these members can use less energy and save money.

NET METERING

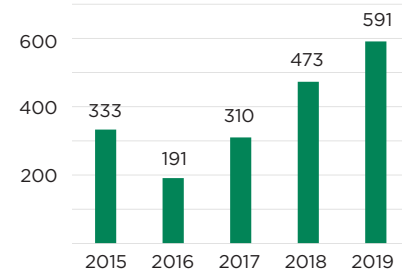
Members interested in solar energy (or other renewable power) can take advantage of our net metering program.

Net metering allows members to export power, in excess of immediate on-site needs, and offset some of the power supplied by WRVEC. This directs distributed generation from a member's solar array or other renewable source. It's a great way for members to save money, and make a positive impact on the environment.

WRVEC is proud to have more net metering members than any cooperative in Missouri.



Distributed Generation Capacity Installed



ENERGY AUDITS

High energy use while being energy-conscious may mean that a bigger issue is at hand. With the help of OACAC and Ozark Action auditors, WRVEC can help determine the underlying energy efficiency issues - air leakage, faulty duct-work, or old appliances.

The auditors' suggestions can then be applied toward a weatherization rebate, funding up to \$500 of the cost of improvements!

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

WRVEC introduced an informational portal to the website to educate members on the advantages of electric vehicles. The portal also includes a map of all vehicle chargers in our service territory.



We are able to distribute some of the most reliable energy in the country.

BEAU JACKSON
Engineering & Development

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