

News Release

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For immediate release:



Electric cooperative launches community enhancement program to benefit five counties

Branson, Missouri – White River Valley Electric Cooperative is expanding their charitable initiatives with a new program focused on community development and volunteerism.

"Plugged In", WRVEC's Community Enhancement Program, provides grants and old-fashioned sweat equity to organizations seeking assistance for community-driven projects in Taney, Stone, Christian, Douglas, and Ozark Counties. The program is designed to grow area economies, promote community revitalization, and strengthen overall livability in each county the cooperative serves.

To be considered, projects must do at least one of the following:

- Increase employment and economic opportunities
- Rehabilitate and upgrade residential housing
- Preserve wildlife, marine, and recreational areas for public enjoyment
- Improve public safety or promote education thereof
- Enhance neighborhood appearance or cleanliness
- Improve viability of commercial areas and enhance the business environment
- Provide programs and training opportunities for resident to prosper

Grants will be given to organizations that offer strong missions, proposals, and track-records. Up to \$15,000 in grant monies are available for each county project plus volunteer participation, where applicable.

"Plugged In" is funded through a partnership of White River Valley Electric Cooperative and the Cooperative's trust program, Operation Round Up. WRVEC employee volunteerism will be considered based on the program and timing of the project.

"We are eager to take the next step in our commitment to community with Plugged In," said WRVEC CEO Chris Hamon. "Being a locally-owned cooperative means that we live and work here too. These communities are ours as well."

WRVEC is a member-driven organization that continues to offer engagement opportunities to bolster the communities they serve.

Applications open March 1. Learn more about Plugged In, WRVEC's Community Enhancement Program, at www.whiteriver.org/community/plugged-in

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White River Valley Electric Cooperative is a <u>Touchstone Energy Cooperative</u> dedicated to ensuring our members receive safe and reliable service in their homes and businesses across five southwest Missouri counties including Ozark, Taney, Stone, Christian and Douglas.