



FALL RIVER FLASHES

March 2026

Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.

2026 ENERGY EXPO & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Fall River Electric's annual meeting of members will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, in Driggs, Idaho, inside Teton High School. This is an opportunity for members to enjoy breakfast, learn about products and services the Co-op is offering, win some prizes, and attend the Co-op's annual business meeting, where three members of the Board of Directors will be elected. This year's popular event will start at 8 a.m.



LET'S ALL CELEBRATE ON APRIL 13TH

National Lineman Appreciation Day is Monday, April 13th, and is a time to recognize the dedicated work of our line crews who are on the job day or night, in all kinds of weather, and in all seasons to keep the power flowing to your home or business!

HELP TO PAY YOUR WINTER ENERGY BILL IS HERE

For most states, this is the final month applications will be accepted to receive financial assistance to pay winter heating bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) program and the Weatherization Assistance program are both available to Fall River Electric members. To inquire, call the office in your state:

IDAHO – 208.522.5391
MONTANA – 406.587.4486
WYOMING – 800.246.4221

No Rate Increase For 2026

If you have followed news reports in recent months, electric rates are increasing everywhere. Three investor-owned utilities (IOU) that serve customers in Idaho have raised residential rates from 3.7% to 7.4%, with one currently seeking the state's IPUC for an additional 13.09% for 2026. A nearby municipal utility has increased rates by 6.3%, while in much of Montana, rates have skyrocketed 39.4% since 2022.



Back Row: Daug Schmier, Jeff Keay, Anna Lindstedt, Jodi Stiehl, Dede Draper, Travis Markegard
Front Row: Brent Robson, Georg Behrens, Husk Crowther, Bryan Case

Even electric cooperatives have not been immune to rate increases. Two nearby co-ops have increased rates by 7.9% to 10% and one is increasing rates by another 2% this month. Fall River Electric Cooperative's board and management, however, are excited to announce that there will be **NO RATE INCREASE** in 2026 for Fall River Electric owner-members!

"We do see wholesale power rate increases ahead but we are positioned financially with an exceptional equity ratio, the best in the Co-op's history, to be able to smooth out rate increases in the future," Fall River's CEO/General Manager Bryan Case says. The no rate increase announcement for 2026 follows the Co-op's patronage capital disbursement in December of more than \$1.7 million and this month's (March) distribution of \$1.5 million as an Instant Owner Rebate issued as credit on members' billing statements.

Watch For Your Patronage Capital Summary In April



One of the greatest benefits of being an owner-member of Fall River Electric Cooperative is that members receive patronage capital. In April, members will receive in the mail a summary of their patronage capital allocated for 2025, in addition to any other years of membership. The amount of patronage capital you are allocated each year is based on how much electricity you used during the year.

Once allocated, your patronage capital is held by the Cooperative as a resource to rebuild aging infrastructure, increase capacity, maintain reliability, and operate the Cooperative. This system of utilizing patronage capital helps keep your rates low and your service reliable.

Patronage capital is generated whenever your Cooperative collects more money annually than what it costs to operate the Co-op. In the nonprofit cooperative world, these funds are referred to as "margins," whereas, in the for-profit business community, that money would be called profit. In time, you will receive all your allocated patronage capital back, even if you move outside of Fall River Electric's service area. The Cooperative's Board of Directors retires patronage capital when finances allow, most often on an annual basis in December. The oldest patronage capital is retired first. Fall River currently retires patronage capital on a rotation of approximately 20 years.

For more information on patronage capital, visit our website's homepage at www.fallriverelectric.com and watch the video that explains Patronage Capital.



Where Service Matters

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Husk Crowther
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby
President

Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor

Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia

Dede Draper
District 6
Ashton



Jodi Stiehl
District 7
South Island Park
Vice President

Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park
Secretary/Treasurer



Doug Schmier
District 9, West Yellowstone

Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



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Want your Fall River *FLASHES* faster? Click www.fallriverelectric.com and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fallriverrec.

Your High School Student Is Invited To Youth Rally

Pictured are Fall River's 2025 student attendees.



High school students of members of Fall River Electric Cooperative can build leadership and team building skills, gain knowledge about the electric industry, and learn about cooperatives and industry-related careers, while meeting new friends from across the Northwest—at no cost to you by participating in this year's Youth Rally. Plus, students earn a \$500 scholarship!

Fall River is now accepting applications for the Idaho Cooperative Utility Association's (ICUA) Youth Rally to be held on the campus of the College of Idaho from July 6-10. Fall River Electric will select up to five local students to attend. For qualifications and an application, visit <https://fallriverelectric.com/youth-rally>.

Hurry...the application deadline is Friday, April 17, 2026! Applications can be postmarked on that date or dropped off at any of Fall River's three office locations—Ashton, Driggs, or West Yellowstone.

You Could Make A Difference



This year, Fall River Electric Cooperative members will be electing three owner-members to the Co-op's nine-member Board of Directors, and you could be one of them. Fall River is guided by seven cooperative principles, one of which is democratic member control. Your cooperative is controlled by you, the owner-members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Your

elected representatives are accountable to the Co-op's membership, where members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and are organized democratically.

If you are interested in becoming a board candidate, you may submit your name via petition along with fifteen signatures of other Co-op members. Those names and signatures must arrive at the Ashton, Idaho, office of Fall River Electric by April 19, 2026, to be placed on the official election ballot. Remember, to be a qualified candidate, you must reside in one of the districts where directors are being elected this year. Those districts are number 2, West Victor; district 3, East Victor; and district 8, which is the northern Island Park area.

Ballots and voting information will be mailed to ALL owner-members of Fall River Electric in mid-May, and winning candidates will be announced at the Co-op's annual meeting on June 13th in Driggs.

Take Safety Home: National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month, and Fall River Electric wants its members to eat healthy. Harvard Medical School recommends you balance your plate with the following:

- **Healthy protein** like fish, poultry, beans and nuts
- **A variety of whole grains**, like brown rice and whole-wheat bread
- **More veggies and plenty of fruit**
- **Drink lots of water** and avoid sugary drinks
- **Use healthy oils** like olive or canola while limiting butter

Make better nutritional choices for a healthier life!

