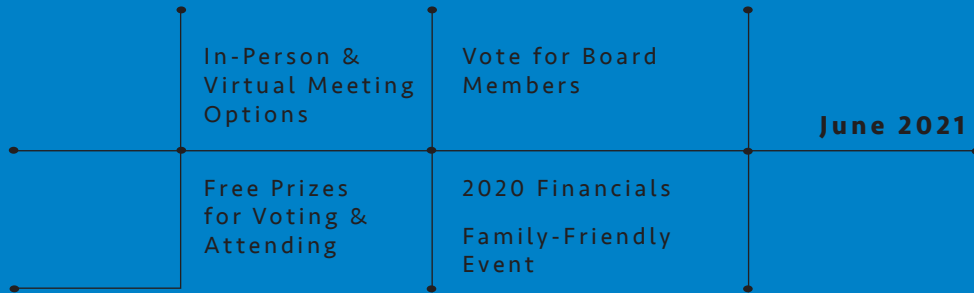




YOUR TRUSTED ENERGY PARTNER



2021 ENERGY EXPO & Annual Report

Fall River Electric Cooperative



FALL RIVER
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Where Service Matters

2021 Energy Expo & Annual Report to the Members

As we put 2020 in our rearview mirror, we want to provide you with a summary of Fall River Electric's work on your behalf and share some thoughts and plans regarding the remainder of 2021.

It's no secret that 2020 was a very difficult year. We all faced new challenges, which in some cases also became new opportunities. While it is easy to focus on all the hardship, we want to take a moment to express our appreciation for the hard work and dedication our staff and management team exhibited in keeping the power and propane flowing to our members and maintaining excellent customer care and service.

We persevered. As an essential business, we quickly adapted our operations to keep our line crews working safely while our office staff worked remotely from home. The strategies and technologies the Cooperative has proactively invested in were intended to prepare for a large-scale natural disaster or some other significant service interruption. The world's COVID-19 pandemic tested those plans, as well as the reliability of our power grid and our staff. We could not be prouder of staff's commitment and dedication to the communities we serve.

We gave back. Fall River Electric ended 2020 in the best financial position in its 82 years of service. Due to the Cooperative's favorable financial position, the board acted quickly, taking timely action to divert savings to support local food pantries with donations totaling \$20,000. An additional \$30,000 donation was made to the Fall River Helping Hands nonprofit organization to assist members in need with their heating and energy costs. And finally, 2020 concluded with the board approving the return of \$1.015 million in patronage capital and authorized an additional \$1 million to be paid to members in early 2021 as an instant owner rebate, which infused more than \$2 million back into our local communities.

We exceeded expectations. Fall River looks forward to the opportunity to report the Cooperative's accomplishments to our owner-members, and in the past year there have been many notable ones. The following represent a small sample:

- Fall River's electric rates remain among the lowest in the nation and are lower than the average electric rates in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.
- Fall River's electric power is primarily renewable carbon-free power generated from hydro-electric facilities. Our power portfolio consists

of 95% carbon-free power comprised of 84% hydro, 10% nuclear, and 1% from wind.

- The Cooperative is in the best financial position it has ever been in, with a 45% equity ratio, while maintaining low competitive electric rates.
- Fall River was recognized as a Top 100 Idaho Private Company in 2020. The international accounting firm KPMG compiled the list of top performing companies in Idaho. Fall River was the only electric company included on the list.
- In a national utility member survey, 95% of Fall River members were satisfied or very satisfied with the Cooperative's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Cooperative's first ever virtual annual meeting saw a record number of members voting—18.6% of the membership participated, combined with record viewing of the Cooperative's virtual annual meeting.
- We initiated a Young Member Advisory group to help the Cooperative find better ways to connect with and engage our younger Cooperative members.
- The staff's focus on reducing outages has resulted in increased system reliability and a significant reduction in the number of outages. Staff reduced power outages by 29% from 2019 to the lowest level in more than five years.

We planned for the future. Across our country, the broader western landscape, and Fall River's multi-state service area, we see homeowners and businesses alike seeking greater clarity and confidence in today's energy infrastructure and how it will meet their needs now and in the future. While news headlines pose new questions about the reliability, resiliency, and efficiency of today's energy grid, at Fall River we have been contemplating, innovating, and investing in technology and infrastructure to proactively prepare for an exciting future. We are focused on being a trusted energy partner and your energy experts.

Your Cooperative has assembled numerous tools and resources for members to get answers to questions and assist our owners as you consider backup generation, purchasing an electric vehicle, investing in rooftop solar, energy conservation, or considering battery backup options for your home or business.

Fall River's new website has been enhanced to provide you with frequently asked questions, questions for you to ask when purchasing rooftop solar, electric vehicles, sample requests for proposals to get bids from



contractors, and comparisons of electric vehicle specifications and costs. Please visit www.fallriverelectric.com for information on those topics and more.

In addition, Fall River is offering the opportunity for members to test drive an electric vehicle on June 19 as part of the Energy Expo and have also scheduled several additional member test drive events in the following communities: Victor, July 8; Rigby, July 10; Driggs, July 17; St. Anthony, July 24; West Yellowstone, August 7; Island Park, August 13; and Rexburg, August 19. You can register for these additional dates for free on our website after the Energy Expo in June.

We innovate. We are also in the process of developing a community solar program, which we refer to as Fall River's "Cooperative Solar" project. This project provides an opportunity for members to participate in solar without needing to install solar panels at their home or business. Creative Energies of Victor was awarded the work and have started construction on the project in Driggs. Your Cooperative has applied for several grants to keep the price to you, our members, low. Participation in the project by owner-members will be priced low, with the intention of making the program inclusive and accessible to as many members as possible, regardless of financial status.

As your "Trusted Energy Partner," we are dedicated to preparing the Cooperative and our members for the future. We hope you will join us in-person or virtually on Saturday, June 19, for our Energy Expo. Meanwhile, please visit our website for information on conservation, backup generation, solar, electric vehicles, battery technologies, and much more. As your energy expert, we invite you to call our friendly and helpful staff when you have questions pertaining to anything energy related.

Dede Draper

Bryan L Case

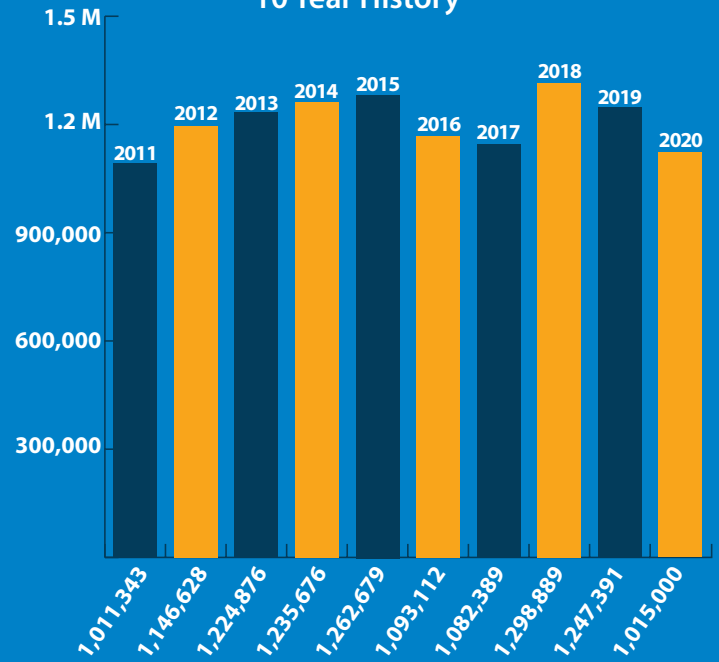


Dede Draper
Board President

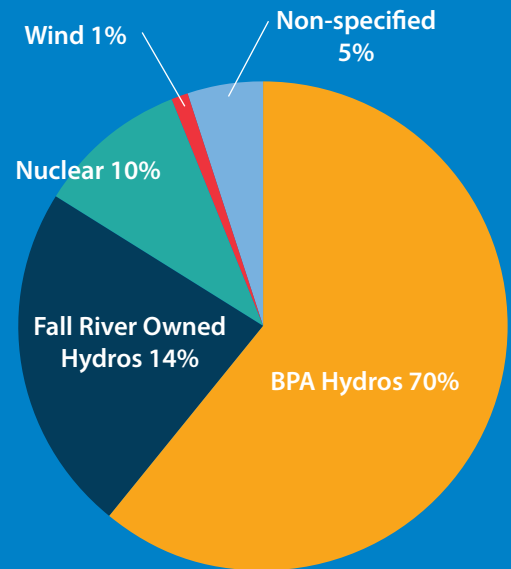


Bryan Case
CEO/General Manager

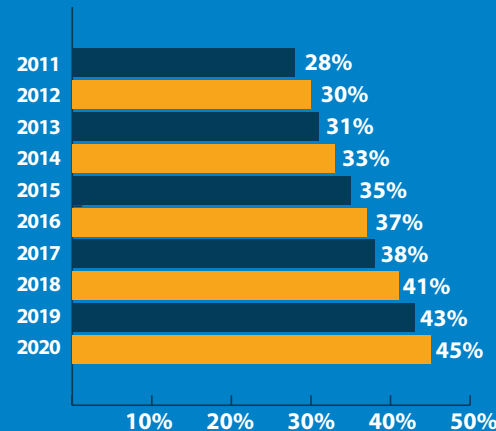
Patronage Capital Member Payback 10 Year History



Delivering 95% Carbon Free Power to Fall River Electric Members!



Equity Ratio 10 Year History



Fall River Electric Cooperative Energy Expo

Saturday, June 19, 2021

North Fremont High School in Ashton



Fall River Electric's traditional breakfast will NOT be served due to on-going COVID-19 concerns.

- Doors open at 9 a.m.
- Registration and voting for candidates from 9-10 a.m.
- Every member* attending will receive a FREE rechargeable electric lighter and a grab bag of other goodies.



- Masks or other appropriate face coverings are encouraged.
- Visit our Fall River Electric booths, including ones from Member Services, Operations, Engineering, Electric Vehicles, Fall River Propane, and Energy Conservation.

Conservation kit includes:

- Six LED light bulbs
- A thermostatically-controlled showerhead
- Nightlight
- A faucet aerator for the kitchen and another for the bath



*Only one lighter and conservation kit per membership, not per individual, while supplies last

FREE high-voltage electrical safety demonstration conducted by Fall River Electric linemen at 9:15 a.m. outdoors on the west side of the high school

BRING THE KIDS!

- Lots of fun activities for the kids focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
- PLUS every child that attends receives a FREE LED key chain! *



*While Supplies last.

Business Meeting for Members held at 10 a.m. in the High School Auditorium—social distancing will be observed

- Scholarship winners presented—over \$70,000 awarded
 - Financial report from auditors DeCoria & Co.
 - 2020 annual report
 - Energy Partner \$1,000 Scholarship drawing
 - Results of the board election—which three candidates will win?
- If you are unable to attend in-person, the Business Meeting will be streamed LIVE online. Just go to fallriverelectric.com and click the tab titled Energy Expo directly below the rotating banners on the homepage.

FREE PRIZES!

Dozens of prizes will be given away at the business meeting to BOTH in-person AND online virtual attendees.

Prizes include –

- \$1,000 Energy Credit Grand Prize
- PitBoss wood pellet grill and smoker
- Outdoor canopy and chairs
- Husqvarna professional-grade chainsaw
- \$100 Amazon gift card
- Dozens of other prizes and gift cards



2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

One of the seven cooperative principles that guides Fall River Electric is “Democratic Member Control,” which means the Cooperative is controlled by its owner-members, or in other words, by you, the Co-op’s customers. You elect representatives that serve on a nine-member Board of Directors who actively set the policies and make the decisions that guide the Co-op forward.

Each year, members elect three of the nine directors on the board. This year’s board election covers districts one, five, and six. Every member is eligible to vote, no matter which district you reside in, and members vote for ALL candidates in all districts.

FOUR WAYS TO VOTE:

1. VOTE ONLINE: Save a stamp and vote online by going to directvote.net/FRREC. Use the member number and election passcode found on your enclosed ballot to log in, then just follow the simple directions to vote. Voting online STARTS Friday, May 28, 2021, at 1 p.m. MDT and ENDS at 1 p.m. MDT June 16.

If you vote online, you do NOT need to mail in a ballot.

2. VOTE BY MAIL: Use the ballot and return envelope that are enclosed with this mailing to vote. Your ballot must be RECEIVED by Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at the address on the ballot envelope. **Do not mail your ballot to Fall River Electric!**

3. VOTE BY PROXY: Fall River Electric’s Energy Expo at North Fremont High School in Ashton on June 19, 2021, welcomes members to vote in-person from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. inside the high school cafeteria area. Enter from the back of the school (north side).

NO VOTING OR BALLOT COLLECTION WILL OCCUR DURING THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, WHICH STARTS AT 10 A.M.

4. VOTE IN PERSON: If you want to vote in-person, please do so BEFORE 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 19.

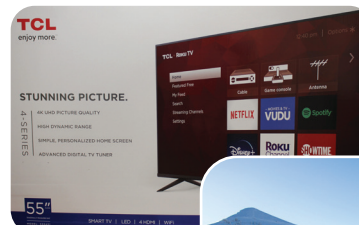
If you vote online or mail in a ballot, you DO NOT NEED to vote in-person.

Beginning on the following pages, please review the candidates for each district up for election this year, along with their statements, and cast your vote for all three districts.

BE SURE TO VOTE!

Members of Fall River Electric Cooperative who vote online or by mail will have their name entered into a random drawing to be conducted on Monday, June 21, 2021, for the chance to win the following prizes:

- 55" flat screen Smart TV with 4k picture quality
- Ski & Stay vacation to Grand Targhee Resort
- \$200 Amazon Gift Card



*No purchase necessary

Candidates for District 1, Rexburg/Rigby

Rick Clements



Please let me introduce myself to those who may not know me. I am Rick Clements from Hibbard, just northwest of Rexburg. My wife and I live on a few acres located on the farm that I grew up on.

After becoming a local electrician and attending Ricks College (BYU-I), I left the valley in 1982 for further education and enhanced career opportunities. In 1991, I joined the Williams Companies out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and served in several positions providing energy through natural gas and natural gas liquids pipelines that span the breadth and width of the U.S. Much of this gas is provided to gas-fired electrical power generation plants throughout the country.

My years as a telecommunications engineer for Williams Energy took me to many diverse parts of the U.S. as I participated in supplying the energy needs of almost every state in the union. As we learned this winter in Texas, producing and supplying an uninterrupted source of energy to the consumer is vital in maintaining the heartbeat of businesses and the very lives of the people of our country.

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the Fall River Board of Directors and pledge my personal dedication to its goals.

Brent "Husk" Crowther



I have practiced engineering and business management for nearly twenty-five years; developing, planning, designing, and managing both public sector and private sector projects in several states, including Idaho for the past seventeen years. Throughout this time, I have developed a reputation for technical competence, high character, and professional integrity. I earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Utah State followed by an M.S. in civil/environmental engineering, also from Utah State. Subsequently, while working full-time as a professional engineer, I attended night school at the University of Utah and earned an MBA in strategy and finance. I used that education and experience in managing a turnaround for two engineering companies, establishing my own engineering and business strategy consultancies, and recently organized a company developing, designing, and constructing renewable energy projects.

Locally, I serve as the current president of Madison Economic Partners, on the board of the Rexburg Chamber of Commerce, and on the BYU-I Civil Engineering Advisory Board. Previously, I was a board member for the Eastern Idaho Water Rights Coalition, a member of the Rexburg Kiwanis, and the Zone Chairman for Ducks Unlimited.

I am married to Marina Crowther, an RN at Madison Memorial Hospital, and am the father of four children. I understand project development, finance, and management. I have successfully established and managed companies and I have served in volunteer community activities. I would like to apply that experience as a Board Member for the Cooperative to protect the assets and to review and set policy. Thank you for your support.

SUBMIT A QUESTION

If you have a question you would like to ask the Fall River Electric board or management team, please submit your question(s) via email to memberservices@fallriverelectric.com.

Answers to the questions submitted will be included in upcoming editions of the Co-op's monthly newsletter *FLASHES*, starting with the August edition.

Candidates for District 5, West Driggs/Tetonia

Emily Nichols



I look forward to serving the members of the Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative as the board member representative for District 5. Growing up in the mountain west has given me a unique perspective on energy production and the needs of our community, which include safe, reliable, and affordable power. I grew up in Montana and have made Teton Valley, Idaho, my home for more than seventeen years. I am proud to raise my children here.

I have served our community in many capacities over the years including marketing, communications, journalism, governmental, and nonprofit work. I have served as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for the City of Tetonia and have worked for and volunteered with numerous nonprofit boards. I have the skills necessary to serve the patrons of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative in a fiscally responsible

and strategic manner.

I am invested in our region's sustainable future and am excited to see our communities thrive. I understand the wildly varying community of power users and partners and will work hard to find sustainable solutions for all. From farmers running electric pivots and families in need of affordable rates to fuel their homes, to the tourists visiting our beautiful region in electric vehicles, I recognize the vast needs and viewpoints and am ready to work hard for all our needs. I am committed to clean energy solutions that are affordable and reliable and am motivated to find innovative solutions for our region's energy needs.

Please vote for me as I work to build a sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy future for generations to come.

Brent Robson



I am a third generation Teton Valley resident and I grew up on the family farm in Felt. After graduation from Teton High School, I went on to earn a degree in animal science from Utah State University. After college, I returned to Tetonia where my wife, Linda, and I have raised our five children. We now enjoy spending time with our fifteen grandchildren who have joined the family.

Linda and I have been Fall River Electric members since 1974. I have been self-employed for many years in the gravel and excavation business where I have been able to do most of my work outdoors. For fun, I enjoy fishing, snowmobiling, flying a power parachute, and a host of other outdoor activities.

I served for several years on the Teton County Planning and Zoning Commission and for eight years as a Teton County Commissioner. Most recently, I have served for nine years as a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Certified Director on the Fall River Electric board. I have enjoyed my service on this board. Fall River Electric is a wonderful organization with a rich heritage. Service is an important goal of our organization and our dedicated staff contribute greatly to Fall River's success. I would appreciate your vote so that I may be able to continue my service on this board.



Register on Fall River Electric's website and then come early on June 19 to test drive Fall River Electric's Tesla Model 3 electric vehicle

- Test drives from 8-10 a.m. and again from 11 a.m. - noon. **YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE**
- Only 12 test drive slots open**
- To register, go to fallriverelectric.com and click the Energy Expo icon on the home page and follow the instructions

**Valid Drivers License and proof of insurance required to test drive.

Candidates for District 6, Ashton

Greg Bitter



I am a small business owner and partner in several businesses, notably Performance Motor Sports in Ashton, and MTNTK Performance in St. Anthony, Idaho. I've been an Independent Insurance Broker and Investment Advisor for the past 21 plus years. I grew up on a farm in east Idaho and received an associate degree from Ricks College and a bachelor of science from Utah State University. After college, I moved to the Midwest to see what corporate America had to offer for a few years, and then moved back 21 years ago. My wife, Amanda, and I have three teenage daughters who go to school at South Fremont. I have been very involved in the community and church as a scout and youth leader, and coached UVYA and travel ball. I love to read and research. I hike, hunt, fish, ski,

snowmobile, and love the outdoors. I have served as president and board member on National Association of Financial Advisors and been a member of Kiwanis International and the Chamber of Commerce. I frequently travel to Washington DC and Boise, fighting potential adverse legislation. My knowledge and experiences will help me as a board member, and because of my diverse background, I relate to both business and personal interests. I will be an advocate for member's rights, while helping to make decisions to foster a strong, well-run electric co-op. It is amazing how many neighbors and friends tell me that they wish they were on Fall River Electric and I want to keep that tradition alive and well.

Dede Draper



Having served on the Fall River Electric Board for seven years, I am seeking re-election to continue representing all of our cooperative members. Well-schooled by our electric trade associations and still intensely interested and involved, I would like to serve another term.

Your Fall River board is immersed in planning the future of our energy supply. The existing contract for power purchase with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) expires in 2028. I am excited to be part of the team considering all options for providing reliable affordable power for the future.

Our Cooperative is rolling out a solar project on the rooftop of the Driggs office this spring and recently FRE acquired an electric vehicle for staff and co-op members to test in our mission to be your "Trusted Energy Partner."

Currently, I have the honor of being the second woman in our 82-year history to be Board President. I also serve as your board representative on the Fall River Propane board, our for-profit subsidiary, as well as on our finance and policy committees and Helping Hands.

Even though 2020 was such a challenging year, we managed to take care of business efficiently, thanks to a fabulous staff and great management team. We diverted funds from the annual meeting to our community through Helping Hands and donations to local food banks. We paid out over \$1 million in patronage capital and another \$1 million in an instant owner rebate to infuse money back into local economies.

I appreciate your support and look forward to serving another three years. Thank you.

Britney Stegelmeier



The power of an electric cooperative is only as powerful as the voice of its members. I feel uniquely qualified to represent that voice. Growing up as the daughter of a hard-working Fall River lineman, I grew to understand the operations of an electric cooperative at a young age. I was proud of him and the other employees for keeping the lights on during the hardest of times.

My leadership and volunteer opportunities began with Fall River as I attended the NRECA Youth Rally for two years during high school. At this conference, I better understood the need for well educated, hard-working directors to ensure a successful cooperative.

I graduated from North Fremont High School and attended BYU-Idaho where I received my degree in

Elementary Education. I taught for three years in Fremont County before deciding to be a full-time mom and farm wife. My husband and I live in Ashton, where we have five active children.

Currently I am serving on the Idaho Farm Bureau State Promotion and Education committee and the Fremont County Fair Board. I have volunteered in various organizations and at several functions serving our community and helping in our schools.

I will give you my best as I strive to work well with the other directors in maintaining quality, affordable service. My experience and willingness to work with others will help me be a good representative for the members of Fall River. I want to help keep the lights on; I appreciate your support.

Fall River Electric's Top 20 Accomplishments of 2020

- **Implemented a COVID-19** business continuation plan that **ensured on-going power supply** and member service
- **Paid \$1.015M** in Patronage Capital **to members**
- **Reached** an equity ratio of 45%, **a 60% increase from 2011**
- **Reached best financial** position in **history** of the **Cooperative**
- **Named** one of **Idaho's Top 100** businesses
- **Residential power rates lower** than the **average** rates in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
- **Paid \$1M to all members** as Instant Owner Rebate, infusing money into **our local communities**
- **Highest number** of members **voted** for board candidates and bylaw changes in Co-op's history
- **Installed 466 electrical** connections, a 4% increase over 2019
- **Fall River-owned** hydro facilities generated **8.4% more power** than the prior 3-year average
- **Completed installation** of solar and wind demonstration units at **3 local high schools**
- **Information technology** systems operated at a **rate of 99.8%**
- **No lost time** accidents
- **Established** a Young **Member Advisory group** to engage younger members
- **Created** a new enhanced **website** with **advanced tools for members** considering rooftop solar or electric vehicles
- **Generated \$1.6M in** operational savings and **fiber optic leases** due to our **smart grid implementation**
- **Reduced power outages** by 29% from 2019 to the **lowest level in 5+ years**
- **Crews spent \$2.6M** on improvements and repairs to our power grid thus **ensuring greater reliability**
- **Fall River's** four **hydroelectric power plants** generated over 53M kilowatt hours of power, **enough to power nearly 4,500** homes annually
- **Fall River Propane** added 937 **new customers**



2020 By the Numbers

Over 14,000
owner-members

18,330
meters connected

2,443
miles of power lines

53,230,905
kilowatt hours
generated by Fall River
hydros in 2020

Over \$60,000
awarded in
scholarships to
children of members

44,736
incoming calls to
Member Services

3,612
members contributed
to nonprofit Helping
Hands

466 new electrical
services installed

\$125,748 in energy
conservation funds
paid to members

Revenues, Expenses, & Patronage Capital

years ended 2020 and 2019

	2020	2019
OPERATING REVENUE		
Electricity sales	\$33,373,061	\$34,148,692
Propane sales	4,726,120	4,804,374
Other operating revenue	1,038,071	822,350
Total operating revenue	\$39,137,252	\$39,775,416
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Power production expense	1,819,313	2,034,811
Cost of purchased power	13,039,453	12,580,307
Cost of propane	2,245,188	2,464,508
Cost of propane installation and delivery	1,617,347	1,208,770
Transmission expense	32,084	46,276
Distribution - operations	2,997,145	2,990,820
Distribution - maintenance	1,600,583	1,400,949
Member accounts	1,155,477	1,042,326
Member service and information	140,837	141,748
Sales expense	265,107	189,092
Administration and general expense	3,793,529	3,809,078
Depreciation and amortization expense	4,369,337	4,268,592
Taxes	796,812	816,635
Interest on long-term debt	2,474,284	2,705,729
Other interest charges	-	9,417
Other operating expenses	302	-
Total operating expenses	\$36,346,798	\$35,709,058
Net Operating Margins	2,790,454	4,066,358
NON-OPERATING MARGINS		
Interest income	64,872	127,343
Generator lease Income	20,592	20,592
Gain or (loss) on disposal of general plant	11,403	96,457
Other non-operating income (expense), net	183,510	143,789
Total non-operating margins	\$280,377	\$388,181
Capital credits from associated organizations	380,364	398,507
Net margins	3,451,195	4,853,046
Patronage capital, beginning of year	51,792,117	48,186,462
Retirement of capital credits	(1,215,530)	(1,247,391)
Patronage capital, end of year	\$54,027,782	\$51,792,117

Consolidated Balance Sheets

as of December 31, 2020 and 2019

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Noncurrent Assets		
Utility plant, net	\$92,926,398	\$94,594,859
Investments	6,017,941	5,832,885
Note receivable	91,236	93,191
Non-utility property, net	5,227,399	4,426,493
Total noncurrent assets	\$104,262,974	\$104,947,428
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	10,209,488	7,007,203
Accounts receivable, net	5,319,613	4,996,190
Materials and supplies inventory	1,634,238	1,642,081
Other current assets	157,330	516,017
Total current assets	17,320,669	14,161,491
Deferred charges	2,249,735	2,819,673
Total assets	\$123,833,378	\$121,928,592
MEMBERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Members' Equity		
Patronage capital	54,027,782	51,792,117
Other equities	1,108,964	937,517
Total members' equity	\$55,136,746	\$52,729,634
NONCURRENT Liabilities		
Long-term debt, due after one year	55,809,438	58,756,859
Total noncurrent liabilities	\$55,809,438	\$58,756,859
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Long-term debt, due within one year	5,198,821	3,988,388
Accounts payable	1,860,942	1,895,982
Consumer deposits	289,884	327,372
Deferred revenue	195,136	175,750
Other current liabilities	2,916,704	1,993,012
Total current liabilities	10,461,487	8,380,504
Deferred credits	2,425,707	2,061,595
Total members' equity and liabilities	\$123,833,378	\$121,928,592

2020 Highlights

→ **Paid members \$1,015,000 in Patronage Capital** – historical payout totals **\$25,643,887**

→ **Improved Cooperative's equity ratio to 45%**, highest ratio in more than 10 years

→ **\$1M paid to Cooperative members** as a one-time Instant Owner Rebate

→ **Invested over \$2.6M for improvements & repairs** to the power grid thus increasing system reliability

→ **Decreased long-term debt by \$1.7M**

→ Hosted the **Cooperative's first-ever virtual annual meeting**

→ **Fall River Electric's residential rates are among the lowest in the U.S.**



Cooperative Solar

FALL RIVER ELECTRIC

Fall River Electric is excited to announce the Cooperative's first-ever community solar project titled "Cooperative Solar."



Creative Energies Solar crew installs solar panels on one of our Driggs buildings.

Victor, Idaho-based Creative Energies Solar was selected to design and construct an array of solar panels on the rooftops of Fall River's buildings in Driggs. A total of 230 panels are planned, which will generate an estimated 144,300 kilowatt hours of power annually. Fall River has applied for three different grants to help fund this project, one of which is intended to fund a portion of the solar production for low-income members. Until the status of the three grant applications are determined, the subscription rate for owner-members of the Co-op cannot be finalized.

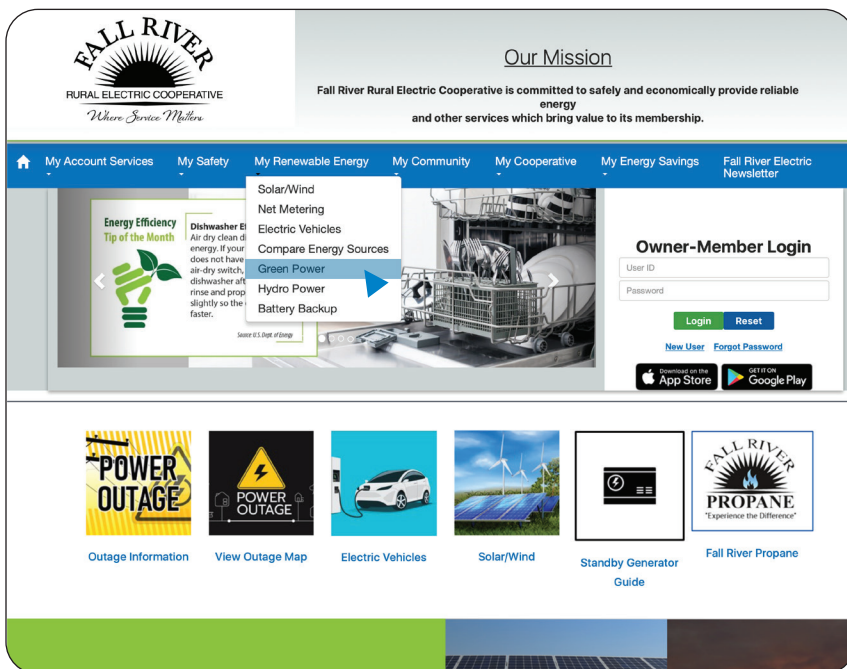
All owner-members of Fall River Electric, no matter where you have electric service from the Co-op, will be invited to purchase shares. Power generated by a member's shares from Cooperative Solar will be shown as a monthly credit on the member's power bill. Shares may be transferred if a member moves to a different location within the Co-op's service terri-

tory. If a member leaves our area, Fall River Electric will "buy back" member's shares on a pro-rated basis.

This is a fantastic way for members to participate in a distributed energy generation resource without the significant cost and hassle of their own rooftop solar investment. Additionally, some members are prohibited from doing their own solar project because their residence is in a poor location to utilize solar or their Homeowner's Association (HOA) will not permit rooftop solar panel installation.

The cost of shares and how to participate will be announced in just a few short months. Join with many of your fellow environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible members as we move even further to protecting our environment and helping to sustain the natural resources we love. GO GREEN with the assistance and leadership of your trusted energy partner, Fall River Electric Cooperative.

Fall River Electric, the energy experts!



Visit our new website for all the expert information you need on:

- Solar & Wind
- Electric Vehicles
- Battery Backup Systems
- Net Metering
- Hydropower & Green Power

Everything you need to know is just a click away, courtesy of your trusted energy partner!

FALL RIVER FLASHES

JUNE 2021

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Fire!
Summer Storms
Take Home Safety
Youth Rally Awards
FRE Cares



Trent Yancey, operations manager, Fall River Electric (top). Energized power line on the ground could have resulted in a wild fire, but crews caught it early (bottom).

Fall River Electric Applauds Property Owners' Mitigation of Fire Danger in Island Park By Trent Yancey

There has been a concerted effort in Island Park during the last few years to mitigate fire danger in the area. Property owners have been encouraged to make their properties fire wise and safe by taking steps like removing fuel sources, cutting back ladder fuels on existing trees, and removing material around cabins. Thanks to the hard work of many, this effort has been hugely successful, and you need only to drive around some of the treated properties to see the progress that has been made.

The Island Park Sustainable Fire Community is a local nonprofit in Island Park working to encourage more homeowners to make their properties fire wise and safe, following the example of those who have already made the commitment. If you would like more information, you can contact them at IPSustainableFire@gmail.com or 208-680-6852; or by visiting their website at www.islandparkfirecommunity.com.

Fall River Electric applauds these strategies. Given the recent fires in California and the resulting devastation, we share our members concerns. The cause of the fires in California were power lines that ran across wooded areas, leaving fatalities and billions of dollars in property damage, as well as a power company bankruptcy. We are working to avoid a situation like this at all costs.

Fall River Electric's systems that serve areas such as Island Park, West Yellowstone, and some wooded portions of Teton Valley are vulnerable to the risk of wildfires, especially during dry summers and late fall. Most of Fall River's transmission system, sub-stations, and a significant portion of our distribution lines are on the Targhee and Gallatin National Forests. We have special use permits that dictate conditions for safe operation of our systems. Right-of-way easements are spelled out in the permits and it is Fall River's responsibility to maintain those easements.

On private land, our distribution lines also have right-of-way easements. The National Electric Safety Code is the jurisdictional authority and provides

the guidelines for the widths of power line easements. For our 7200-volt distribution lines that serve dozens of subdivisions in the IP/WY areas, there is to be no vegetation ten feet from any conductor, above, below, and on both sides. Fall River has spent millions of dollars in the last ten years reclaiming our easements on both public and private land. That effort has paid off in more reliable service to our members and safer spaces on our member's property.

Trees outside of the mandated 10 feet that reside on private property are the responsibility of the owners to maintain. When members identify a dangerous tree, Fall River has two options: We can cut dangerous trees at our discretion or homeowners can schedule a time for us to let the power lines down for tree removal or trimming by private contractors.

We also ask that our members report dangerous trees or downed lines to Fall River Electric and we can send someone out to advise.

Never try to remove a tree or limbs on a power line, never get close to a line that is low hanging or on the ground, and never try to cut a tree that could contact a power line.

Our system is designed with reclosing equipment that will recognize a downed line or a tree on the line and will isolate the faulted section from the rest of the line. During dry conditions, the fault may not produce enough fault current to operate the reclosing device and the lines continue to stay energized. This will cause arcing that in turn could cause a fire. During these conditions especially, we need our members to be vigilant and quickly report any dangerous trees or downed lines. And remember, always assume a power line is HOT! Stay away and keep others away!

We ask that our members support our dedication to keeping our easements well-maintained. When you receive notification that we will be in your area clearing right-of-way easements, it is to the benefit of all our members so that Fall River Electric can continue to provide safe, reliable power.



We Are Prepared For Summer Storms ... Are You?

Summer is here, school is out, and families are gearing up for a few months of fun. While summer brings fun in the sun, it can also bring occasional severe storms with heavy rain, wind, and lightning. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that the crews of Fall River Electric are ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages during the summer are from damage to power lines caused by falling trees and branches. This is especially true in many forested areas of Fall River's service territory. Fall River works nearly year-round to clear right-of-ways near power lines to ensure our lines stand little risk of being damaged. But despite our best efforts, during major storms damage can occur to lines, poles, transformers, and substations. When this occurs, Fall River's first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time. Big problems such as transmission lines are handled first as those serve hundreds or even thousands of members. Then, focus is shifted to areas where localized damage has occurred. If you experience a power outage anytime of the day or night, call 800.632.5726 and our crews will work as quickly and safely as possible to get the power back on!



MANAGEMENT STAFF

- Bryan Case**
Chief Executive Officer / General Manager
- Linden Barney**
Chief Financial Officer
- Shannon Hill**
Manager of Information Technology
- Sheena Stricker**
Manager of Member Services
- Dave Petersen**
Manager of Engineering
- Trent Yancey**
Manager of Operations



Fall River's **FLASHES** newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is

certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

Want your *Fall River FLASHES* faster? Click the Quick Link Newsletter on our website's home page at fallriverelectric.com.

Keep up-to-date on news, including power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at [facebook.com/fallriverrec](https://www.facebook.com/fallriverrec).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created **electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see**. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

NEVER GO NEAR downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. **STAY AWAY** and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment **do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.**

Take Home Safety: Falls Are Preventable

The risks of falling are typically related to recreational activity, home, or the work environment.

Examples of recreational activities include climbing or hiking. Falls around the home would include individuals working on ladders, on their roof, or tripping on items inside their home. Factors that contribute to falls are faulty safety equipment, inappropriate use of equipment, and the consumption of alcohol before or during home activities.

Walk through your home and ask yourself these questions:

Do you have throw rugs on your floor?

What to do: Remove rugs or use double-sided tape or non-slip backing so rugs will not move.

Do you have books, papers, or other objects on the floor?

What to do: Keep floors tidy and develop

a system that keeps them that way.

Do you have steps from your porch or garage into your home or steps up or down to different levels of your home?

What to do: Make sure lighting is sufficient by using nightlights. If steps are uneven or chipped, get them repaired. Check to ensure carpeting is not torn or loose and fix handrails if loose.

Other suggestions:

- Keep a lamp close to your bed that is easy to reach. If you need eyeglasses, keep them close by, too.
- Use nonskid floor polish and wipe up spills if you have tile or hardwood floors.
- Place a non-slip mat in the tub or shower and add grab bars.
- Falls occur at all ages so take precautions to prevent them.





RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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
Secretary/Treasurer



Jay Hanson
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor
Vice President



Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia



Dede Draper
District 6, Ashton
Board President



Jodi Stiehl
District 7
South Island Park



Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park



Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



Congratulations to:

(pictured clockwise from top left)

Congratulations to the following students:

Eric Anderson, Traeger Hathaway, Trenton Martindale, Brooke Reynolds, and Tayla Warnke, all of North Fremont High School, and **Brock Huchendorf** of Madison High School

Youth Rally Scholarships Announced

Fall River Electric is an annual participant in the Idaho Consumer Owned Electric Utilities Association's Youth Rally event held each summer in the Treasure Valley/Boise area. This weeklong event allows high school students of Fall River members to apply to attend. Your teen can form 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!

Unfortunately again this year, the event has been canceled due to on-going COVID-19 concerns. However, Fall River Electric decided to still accept applications and award

selected students a \$500 scholarship to advance their education after high school. Additionally, Fall River will host a one-day mini rally on July 12 for those students at the Co-op's Ashton office.

"It is important that we support our youngest members, not only to enrich their lives, but also to instill in them the importance of cooperative membership," says Fall River Electric's CEO/General Manager Bryan Case. "After all, these young people will one day become community and possibly co-op leaders."

Outreach with Fall River's youth and improving the quality of life in the communities Fall River serves is just one more way your Co-op cares for you.

NWPPA Safety Heroism Award Given To Dave Peterson

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) and its Engineering & Operations Conference Planning Committee have selected Dave Peterson of Fall River Electric for the association's 2021 Safety Heroism Award.

The Safety Heroism Award recognizes an NWPPA member utility employee or team that displayed an act of unselfish and voluntary assistance in a situation where life, significant injury, or significant property loss would have been incurred were it not for the efforts of the individual or team. The NWPPA E&O Safety Subcommittee selects the winner of the annual Safety Heroism Award with concurrence from the NWPPA E&O Policy Committee.

In a statement regarding the award, the organization said: "Engineering Manager Dave Peterson was snowmobiling with friends in a remote area in Idaho when another snowmobiler began experiencing a heart attack. A call was made to 911, who

dispatched a helicopter for emergency evacuation. Once the helicopter arrived, Peterson led the nurses

to the victim's location. He then loaded the victim onto his snowmobile, took the person to the helicopter, and helped the crew get the victim loaded onto the helicopter. The snowmobiler survived following heart stint surgery. The first aid training Peterson had received over his 35-year cooperative career helped him know what to do to aid the victim, while waiting for help to arrive."

NWPPA is an international association representing and serving more than 150 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada. The association also serves over 300 associate members across the U.S. and Canada who are allied with the electric utility industry.



Fall River Co-Op Cares



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF TETON VALLEY

nearly fifty member nonprofits. You can donate to your favorite nonprofit during the Tin Cup's Giving Period, which is open now until July 23. Your donation through Tin Cup receives a match from the Community Foundation's Challenger Fund based on donations each nonprofit brings in during the Giving Period. The Tin Cup Event Day will be held on Saturday, July 17, at Driggs City Park.

If you or a business you are involved with would like to make a donation or if you would like to see the list of participating nonprofits, visit cftetonvalley.org/tin-cup-challenge.

Teton Valley is the home of a significant number of fantastic nonprofit organizations, which makes it nearly impossible to support them all with individual donations. In order to support as many nonprofits as possible, Fall River Electric has donated to the Community Foundation of Teton Valley in conjunction with the annual Tin Cup Challenge.

Since 2008, this event has raised more than \$16 million, of which \$1.7 million was collected last year, to directly benefit



OFFICES CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Fall River Electric offices will be CLOSED for Independence Day on Monday, July 5, 2021. Fall River crews will remain on stand-by to handle any power emergencies. If you experience an outage on the weekend or holiday, call 1.800.632.5726 and a crew will be dispatched immediately. Have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day weekend from your friends at Fall River!

PROPANE OFFERED AT THE LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR

Fall River Propane, owned by you the members of Fall River Electric, is now offering the highest quality propane at the lowest price of the year during Summer Fill! This is typically the time of year when propane prices are at their lowest. As a Fall River Electric owner-member, if you get your propane from another company, consider switching to Fall River Propane. The annual profit Fall River Propane earns goes back to your electric provider and then becomes part of the patronage capital that is paid to you. It's like buying from the company you own!

Call us at 800.632.5726 to order your summer fill-up or to schedule a switch to Fall River Propane... serving residential and commercial customers for more than 20 years. Already a Fall River Propane customer? Forget the phone call, just order online at fallriverpropane.com or use your smartphone to order using the FRP app. It's that easy!

