

summer 2023 issue

RENEW MISSOURI NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES

*RENEW MISSOURI'S
SCORECARD REVEALS THE
STATE OF MISSOURI RURAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES*

WORKING TO ADDRESS ENERGY BURDENS

IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA

*EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW ABOUT*

**THE
INFLATION
REDUCTION
ACT**



NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



If you like what you see in this newsletter, please consider sending a donation. Anything helps and we appreciate your continued support!

A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

Change is hard. This we know. When you talk about renewable energy and energy efficiency in Missouri, some utility leaders and policymakers will go to great lengths to justify sticking with the status quo. The way things are continues to make a few people lots of money, after all. Plus, it's a lot of work to enact change. It is much easier to cast dispersions and propagate misinformation: to say solar and wind are unreliable, to say renewables are a concept for the distant future, to dismiss all clean energy as a fad as some have done.

Here at Renew Missouri, we know change is hard. We also know it is slow. For example, we worked to form a national coalition to push rural electric cooperatives to retire their fossil fuel generation and move toward a clean energy economy. Those talks happened in spring of 2020. The legislation didn't pass Congress until the summer of 2022. Details on the mechanics of this plan were not introduced by the federal government until this past May! The results of this work may not be apparent for a few more years.

Another example: Renew Missouri advocated for a low-income community solar pilot in 2018. This was approved by regulators in the same year.

As I write this letter, we are still working on the details. But it will get done and we will show that clean energy can be a benefit to all Missourians. You do not have to be a wealthy or connected city dweller to enjoy clear skies, healthy air, lower utility bills, and more economic opportunity.

Such efforts take time, dedication, and determination. As a supporter, you should be very proud of the work Renew Missouri is doing day in and day out to affect this change. We are bigger and better than ever. In the past year, we have added staff members in the Springfield area as well as Southeast Missouri. We have expanded efforts to reach out to member-owners of our state's rural electric cooperatives (or "RECs" or "co-ops" as we will sometimes refer to them in this newsletter) while increasing our ability to advocate for issues at the federal level. This has allowed us to work with rural communities to help push for electric bus deployment to rural school districts. It has also allowed us to point out how RECs need to do more to serve their member-owners. You will read about that topic in this newsletter.

We are not simply advocating before the Public Service Commission on renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts for our investor-owned utilities. We are working with transmission advocates from all over the country to ensure clean energy has a way to get from Point A to Point B. Renew Missouri has undertaken a massive project to determine the true impact of a utility bill on our neighbors' household budgets and plan to use this data to increase energy efficiency efforts with low-income customers currently undercounted. While this project is starting in St. Louis, our intention is to secure funding to explore that topic throughout the State.

Change is hard and it is slow. But it is also worth it. The Renew Crew puts 110% of their skills and efforts into making Missouri a better place to live every single day. I am hopeful this annual newsletter gives you a snapshot of our efforts. I do also hope that you like what you read and see fit to support us financially. We literally cannot do this without you and please know I am grateful for your support. Please enjoy our newsletter, and we look forward to receiving your support after you see all the incredible work we are doing.

JAMES OWEN
Executive Director

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ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

The Clean School Bus Program (CSBP), as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal), allocates \$5 billion in loans and grants from 2022-2026 to replace diesel school buses with cleaner alternatives. The 2022 rebate round selectees were announced last fall.

The next round will offer \$400 million in grants; applications opened this past April and are due **August 22, 2023**. This second round of CSBP funding will prioritize school districts in low-income areas. Grant awards are anticipated to be announced in late 2023 or early 2024.

BENEFITS OF CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES

Improved air quality

Electric school buses don't produce tailpipe emissions. This means students, drivers, and community members are exposed to far less harmful diesel pollutants, such as nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM). This improves public health significantly.

Saved money and reduced emissions

Electric school buses require less maintenance, save on fuel costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Improved grid resilience

Using bidirectional chargers, school buses can store energy for distribution to the grid when needed. This improves grid resilience during weather or climate related emergencies.

**MISSOURI'S CSBP
REBATES – 2022**
\$21.8 million awarded
26 school districts awarded
58 new buses (57 electric, 1 propane)

What's covered with the rebate?
Up to 100% of the cost of 25 school buses per school district and their charging stations.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

1. Contact your local school district board, teachers, and parents associations to get their support for this transition.
2. Contact your local utility. They are essential for the new infrastructure and can also be co-investors for the buses and chargers.
3. Check the EPA for new rounds of funding, 2023 grants, and educational materials.

For more information, visit...

Alliance for Electric School Buses at electricschoolbuses4kids.org
epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.

You can also contact...

info@cleanenergyworks.org with any questions or James Owen at james@renewmo.org.

CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM LIST OF AWARD WINNERS IN MISSOURI 2022

School District	Electric Buses	Total Awarded
El Dorado Springs R-Ii	13	\$5,125,000
Cassville R-Iv	5	\$1,975,000
Knox Co. R-I	4	\$1,580,000
Clark Co. R-I	3	\$1,185,000
Paris R-Ii	3	\$1,185,000
Fair Play R-Ii	2	\$790,000
Gideon 37	2	\$790,000
Green Ridge R-Viii	2	\$790,000
Holcomb R-Iii	2	\$790,000
Kennett 39	2	\$790,000
Pattonsburg R-Ii	2	\$790,000
Ralls Co. R-Ii	2	\$790,000
Salisbury R-Iv	2	\$790,000
Kingston K-14	2	\$790,000
Bell City R-Ii	1	\$395,000
Campbell R-Ii	1	\$395,000
Concordia R-Ii	1	\$395,000
La Monte R-Iv	1	\$395,000
Monroe City R-I	1	\$395,000
Neelyville R-Iv	1	\$395,000
Northeast Randolph Co. R-Iv	1	\$395,000
Schuyler Co. R-I	1	\$395,000
Sillex R-I	1	\$395,000
Morgan Co. R-I	1	\$395,000
Van Buren R-I	1	\$395,000
Winona R-Iii	1	\$395,000
East Prairie R-Ii	0	\$30,000

The term “no news is good news” comes to mind when talking about the happenings of the 102nd General Assembly convening in January of 2023 and ending on May 12th, 2023. Thousands (2,323 to be exact) of bills were filed by lawmakers through session. In the end, **fifty-nine** were passed by both chambers of the Legislature and sent to Governor Mike Parson’s desk. Of those bills, nineteen involved the budget; something Missouri lawmakers are mandated to approve. Meaning 2023 will sit in the record books as the least productive session in state history.

This is not necessarily a bad thing! In fact, there were many pieces of legislation Renew Missouri opposed that stalled at one point or another. For the fourth session in a row, lawmakers filed a bill allowing utility companies to charge customers to construct nuclear power plants that are not yet on the grid. Such a policy encourages wasteful spending and mismanagement while discouraging the deployment of clean energy. Also, the state’s largest utilities pushed an idea

“2023 WILL SIT IN THE RECORD BOOKS AS THE LEAST PRODUCTIVE SESSION IN STATE HISTORY.”

to give them a monopoly over the construction of transmission lines. Getting rid of the competitive bidding system on these projects would be a disaster for getting renewable energy to more customers. Lawmakers also tried to make it harder for solar companies to locate generating facilities in Missouri. Thanks in part to our efforts, that particular bill didn’t make it out of committee.

The RECs also made their annual push for anti-solar legislation that will add more to your bill if you have a distributive generation system on your property. The co-ops will continue to push this legislation until they have made it impossible for you to recover any costs from the solar array you purchased and will run every solar company out of business. The RECs’ high-paid lobbyists in Jefferson City tell people “...

our Board members are demanding that we push this legislation.” Seems to me that the RECs need new Board members making these decisions who will focus on treating all their customers fairly.

There were a few issues that Renew Missouri did want to see cross the finish line that were delayed by last-day theatrics. Since the Missouri Supreme Court ruled the property tax exemption on solar equipment unconstitutional, our group has worked with the solar industry as well as county executives on a legislative compromise that would allow local governments to collect reasonable assessments while allowing solar to flourish. We had a compromise that, while not perfect, would have helped move the ball down the court. The vote on this bill was stalled by one State Senator upset that his legislation was also not being passed.

Renew Missouri were also grateful for the assistance of freshman Senator Curtis Trent (R-Greene County) for filing our community


solar bill. This would give customers cost-effective options in selecting how they buy their solar energy. While this legislation didn’t receive a hearing, we are grateful for Senator Trent’s leadership on this issue and hope for progress in future sessions.

While there’s no news to report, this does not mean our efforts were fruitless. Renew Missouri spends many hours in the Capitol every year. We have a lobbyist under contract who can monitor and negotiate bills into the wee hours. Luck had nothing to do with bad legislation losing this year. It takes resources and lots of skill. Your continued support ensures our ability to continue having a presence in the legislative process. We cannot do this without you. If you have any specific questions about our work in Jefferson City, do not ever hesitate to contact me at james@renewmo.org. As for now, I need to get ready for next session. Think I am kidding?

JAMES OWEN
Executive Director

THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE

A REPORT FROM THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE CAPITOL



Working to Address ENERGY BURDENS IN THE ST. LOUIS REGION

Energy burden is defined as the proportion of a household's income that goes toward electric and gas bills. Nationally, vulnerable populations – particularly African American and Latino communities – experience higher energy burdens, sometimes as much as three times higher than the average.

These disparities are linked to low incomes, adverse health conditions, inefficient housing, and are concentrated in specific geographical areas. In St. Louis, a city consistently ranking among the top ten with the highest energy burden for African American households, these financial and health challenges stem from historic injustices perpetuating generational inequities along racial, economic, and geographic lines.

To address these issues, we have joined forces with the Consumers Council of Missouri to study and understand disparities in energy burdens. Through our partnership, community advocates gain access to decision-makers and opportunities to influence energy and health outcomes in their neighborhoods. Too often, utility decisions are left in the hands of a small group of lawyers and regulators who fail to respond urgently to the existing inequities in the system.

Our project has been underway for over a year and a half and unfolds in two parts. Firstly, we are developing a web platform and conducting an analysis of current energy burdens across Eastern Missouri. This analysis is crucial as it forms the foundation for legal and policy arguments in favor of improved, expanded utility programs and government actions that address inequities in our energy systems. Our interactive web tool will map energy burdens alongside variables such as income, race, and health conditions. Renew Missouri is working with Ameren and Spire to use real utility bill data as well as the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to obtain other necessary information.

“THROUGH THIS PROJECT, WE SHED LIGHT ON THE DISPARITIES FACED BY VULNERABLE NEIGHBORHOODS, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY WORKING CLOSELY WITH THOSE IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, WE STRIVE FOR SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENTS IN HOW ENERGY RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE ARE DISTRIBUTED.”

Our initial analysis and web tool will concentrate on the Greater St. Louis Metro area, with hopes to replicate these efforts statewide. This map will go live in the coming months, so stay tuned for the announcement!

The second part of our project revolves around community engagement activities led by the Consumers Council of Missouri. The intent is to amplify the voices of communities deeply impacted by high energy bills and health problems linked to energy-related issues, including childhood asthma and mold contamination. Our “Community Advisory Committee,” comprised of affected residents, expands our participation in public utility hearings and governmental forums. Together, we conduct public meetings, develop priorities, and advocate before decision-makers to implement lasting solutions that bring about meaningful change.

Witnessing the direct positive impact of our advocacy on individuals affected by energy burdens is truly rewarding. In April, Consumers Council collaborated with Ameren, Spire, the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, and Southside Wellness Center to offer two workshops for ratepayers. Both events were standing room only with over 40 participants receiving information on and applications for

energy assistance and efficiency programs. One woman with high energy burden arrived at the meeting with her small child, distraught that her utility service had been shut off. Thanks to the quick work of Consumers Council’s Director of Advocacy, Jackie Hutchinson, and CAASTLC staff, she was reconnected, received energy assistance, and was enrolled in Keeping Current that same day!

While this particular case stands out due to the timely interventions and collaboration of the right individuals, Renew Missouri recognize enrolling in energy assistance programs often takes longer than a single evening. The journey to address energy burdens in our state won’t be instantaneous, but it remains an urgent and multifaceted endeavor. Through this project, we shed light on the disparities faced by vulnerable neighborhoods, and more importantly, we strive for systemic improvements in how energy resources and assistance are distributed by working closely with those in affected communities.

ANDREW LINHARES
ST. LOUIS REGIONAL DIRECTOR & SENIOR COUNSEL

Rural Electric Cooperative Scorecard

How is your REC doing?

At Renew Missouri, our work with RECs involves advocating for coal plant retirement, expanded energy efficiency offerings, access to solar, and more transparent governance.

RECs are owned by the members they serve — but how much control do member-owners actually have over decisions made by their co-op? Renew Missouri created this scorecard to quantify and benchmark Missouri RECs to see where they can improve in serving their member-owners

RECs provide electricity to approximately 15% of Missourians, and a majority of that power comes from dirty, expensive, and unreliable coal. It is time to re-invest in RECs as they serve vital functions of rural communities by providing energy and jobs in these areas. It is time for them to help rural Missouri enter the future as they have done for over 80 years.

The scorecard rankings include five primary categories:

- » Elections;
- » Bylaws;
- » Information Access;
- » Energy Efficiency;
- » and Solar Access.

Each category had a possible score from 0-5. To get the overall REC score, we added together all scores in each category. The highest score a REC could get is 25.

Our team combed through all 40 Missouri RECs and assigned a numeric value in accordance with how well they performed in each category. It should be noted that this scorecard did not follow a statistically significant methodology.

The most important way for REC member-owners to be democratically involved is to vote for their representatives on the co-op's board of directors. But in many REC elections, incumbent board candidates face no challengers during elections and maintain their seats for years and sometimes decades.

KEY FINDINGS

The categories where co-ops performed the worst were 'Energy Efficiency' and 'Solar Access'. Only three out of the 40 co-ops offered some form of solar program, which had a significant impact on the overall score since the category is pass or fail.

Co-ops scored the highest in the 'Bylaws' category, largely due to the accessibility of Missouri REC bylaws, voting procedures, and communications around annual meetings for members. The higher the accessibility, the higher the score received.

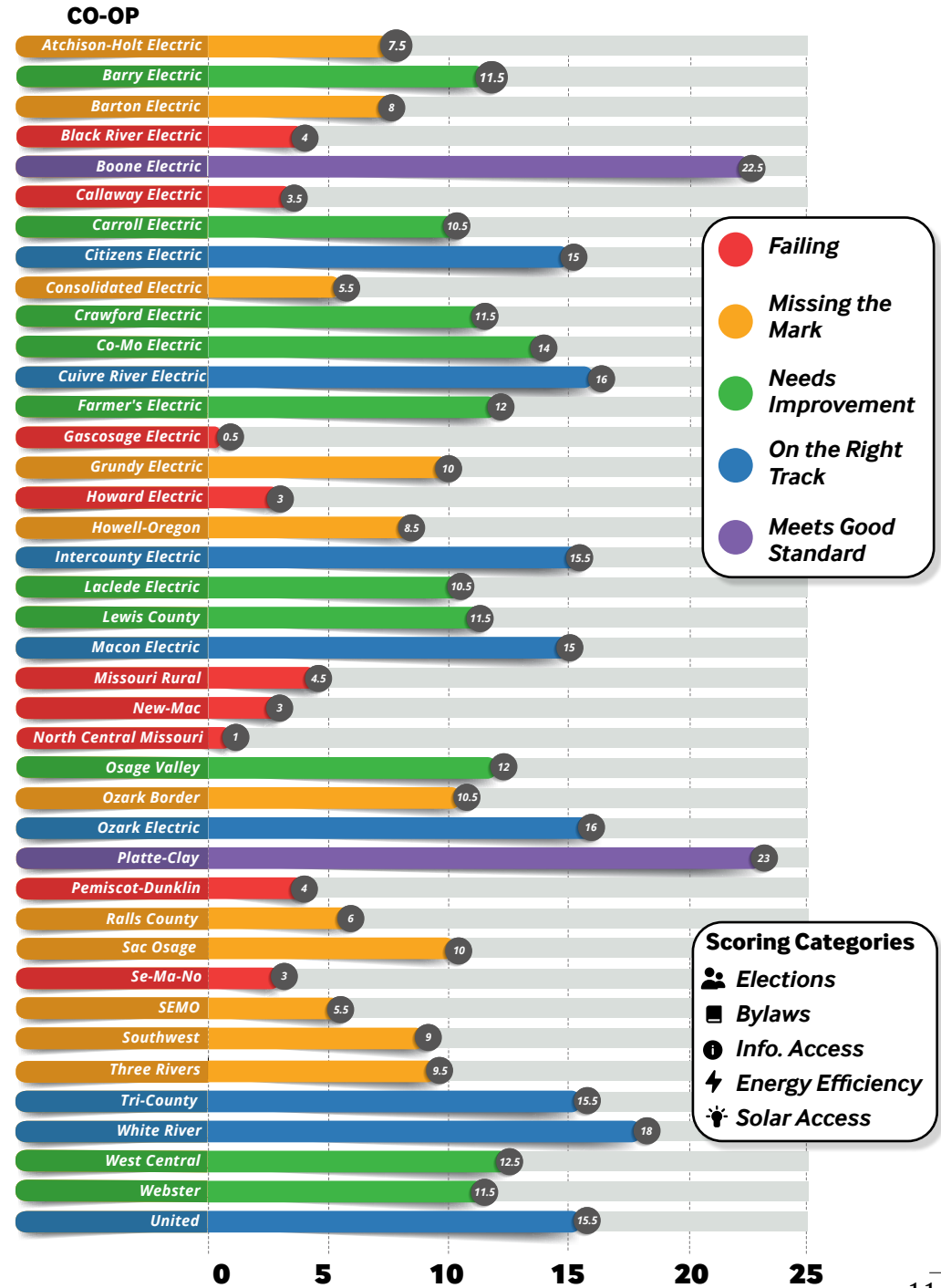
Most co-ops underperformed in almost every category, with only two RECs reflecting decent standards. Co-ops that are 'On the Right Track' should focus on improving their solar access and energy efficiency offerings to increase their score.

Overall, this scorecard highlights a severe lack of energy efficiency and solar access for member-owners. Developing such programs is crucial for cooperatives as it can improve reliability, create energy savings, and foster community resilience.

Our RECs have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to receive federal funding through the recently created New Era programs. These provide federal tax credits for solar and wind projects accessible to RECs and offering a clean pathway to improve their scores by participating in one or more federal programs designed to support local investments in clean energy projects.

PHILIP FRACICA
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

MISSOURI RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SCORECARD





THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: What You Need to Know

Let's talk about the *Inflation Reduction Act*, known as the *IRA*. This is not the same thing as the investment account. Nor is it the same thing as the Irish Republican Army. Regardless of the confusing name, the *IRA*, and I cannot stress this enough, is the **SINGLE most important climate change legislation to have ever passed**.

Renew Missouri hopes to provide guidance on the impacts of the *IRA* for Missourians and how YOU can make the most of it. There are many important *IRA* provisions but because there is so much information to deliver, we are going to focus on how the average individual can make the most of the *IRA* funds.

THE BIG PICTURE

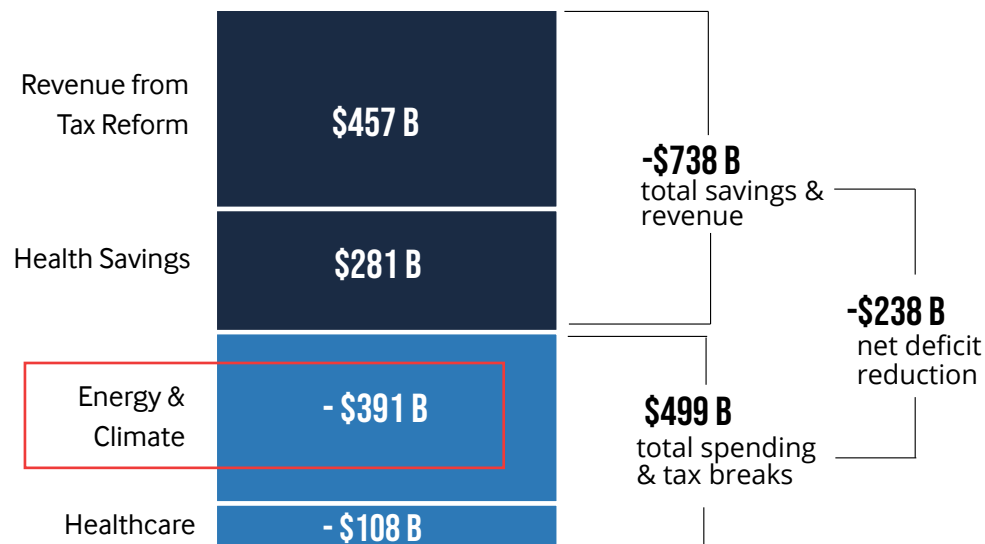
On August 16, 2022, President Joe Biden signed the *IRA* into law. It includes \$499 billion in new spending and tax breaks to boost clean energy,

reduce healthcare costs, and increase tax revenue (Graphic 1). Through the *IRA*, new spending and tax credits for energy and healthcare are projected to generate an estimated \$238 billion in deficit savings over a decade (Graphic 1).

About \$391 billion is set aside for energy and climate-related policies including tax credits, rebates, incentives, and grants (Table 1). Not only will the *IRA* have a big impact on our economy, but it will also have a significant impact on our emissions output. Reports show the *IRA* will reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 31-44% from 2005 levels.

So how can the average Missourian take advantage of this money? We are going to break it down into three sections: 1) Tax Credits, 2) Rebates, and 3) REC Opportunities.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT PROVISIONS



Graphic 1: An estimated \$499 billion in new spending and tax credits for energy and healthcare will yield an estimated \$238 billion in deficit savings over a decade. The discrepancy in numbers of the net deficit reduction is due to the fact that revenue and deficit reductions are estimates of future savings from tax breaks and spending.

Energy & Climate Spending	\$391 billion
Clean Electricity Tax Credits	\$161 billion
Air Pollution, Hazardous Materials, Transportation and Infrastructure	\$40 billion
Individual Clean Energy Incentives	\$37 billion
Clean Manufacturing Tax Credits	\$37 billion
Clean Fuel and Vehicle Tax Credits	\$36 billion
Conservation, Rural Development, Forestry	\$35 billion
Building Efficiency, Electrification, Transmission, Industrial, DOE Grants & Loans	\$27 billion
Other Energy and Climate Spending	\$18 billion

Table 1: List of policies and programs in the *IRA* that are for energy and climate spending.

IRA Tax Credits

Tax credits under the IRA are available to just about everyone – homeowners, renters, business owners, large corporations, low-income, tribal nations, etc. can access the tax credits. Also, these credits are available right now!

The Residential Clean Energy Credit

➔ WHAT DOES IT DO?

The Residential Clean Energy Credit is essentially a renewable energy tax credit. This is a 30% tax credit of the cost of qualifying renewable energy equipment.

➔ WHO QUALIFIES?

In Missouri, only homeowners qualify.

➔ WHAT DOES THE CREDIT COVER?

- » Solar Rooftop
- » Solar Water Heater
- » Fuel Cell Property Expenditures
- » Small-Scale Wind
- » Battery Storage
- » Geothermal Heat Pump

➔ WHEN IS IT AVAILABLE?

The credit is available NOW and will step down in following years:

- » 30%: now - 2032
- » 26%: 2033 - 2034
- » 22%: 2034

➔ RESTRICTIONS

- » This tax credit is NOT available for direct pay, which means you don't get \$6,000 off the sticker price of the solar array. Just the tax credit.
- » You can't claim the tax credit if you are renter and your landlord installs the system. You must be the owner of the system to claim the credit.

➔ WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

- » A taxpayer may carry forward the unused amount of the credit to reduce tax liability in future tax years.
- » The fuel cell credit is 30% of costs up to a maximum credit of \$500/each half kilowatt of capacity.



Credit for Previously Owned Clean Vehicles

➔ WHAT DOES IT DO?

The Credit for Previously Owned Clean Vehicles provides a tax credit to purchase pre-owned electric vehicles.

➔ WHO QUALIFIES?

To qualify for this tax credit, you must fall under the following income qualifications:

Tax Filing Status	Gross Income
Single	\$75,000
Head of Household	\$112,500
Married, filing jointly	\$150,000
Married, filing separately	\$75,000

➔ WHAT DOES THE CREDIT COVER?

Eligible vehicles can qualify for the tax credit of up to \$4,500 or 30% of the vehicle price; whichever is less. There are no additional manufacturing or sourcing requirements for this credit other than the vehicle must be \$25,000 or less in value.

➔ WHEN IS IT AVAILABLE?

The credit is available now.

➔ RESTRICTIONS

- » The model year of the vehicle is at least two years earlier than the calendar year in which the taxpayer acquires the vehicle; For example, a vehicle purchased in 2023 would need a model year of 2021 or older;
- » The purchasing taxpayer is not the original user of the vehicle;
- » Vehicles must be sold by a dealer;
- » It must have a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 14,000 pounds;
- » Be an eligible FCV (fuel cell electric vehicle) or plug-in EV with a battery capacity of at least 7kWh;
- » Sale price must be \$25,000 or less and can only be claimed once per vehicle; and
- » Individuals can only claim once every three years.



The Clean Vehicle Tax Credit

➔ WHAT DOES IT DO?

The Clean Vehicle Tax Credit creates a tax credit to purchase NEW electric vehicles.

➔ WHO QUALIFIES?

To qualify for this tax credit, you must fall under the following income qualifications:

Tax Filing Status	Gross Income
Single	\$150,000
Head of Household	\$225,000
Married, filing jointly	\$300,000
Married, filing separately	\$150,000

➔ WHAT DOES THE CREDIT COVER?

Eligible vehicles can qualify for a tax credit of up to \$7,500. However, this credit amount depends on if vehicle meets the critical minerals requirement (\$3,750) and/or the battery components requirement (\$3,750). A list of qualified manufactures can be found on the IRS website.

➔ WHEN IS IT AVAILABLE?

The credit is available now. However, the credit must be claimed in the tax year the vehicle is placed in service, meaning the tax year that includes the date the taxpayer takes the delivery of the vehicle. It cannot be carried over.

➔ RESTRICTIONS

- » Cannot be acquired for resale;
- » Must be manufactured by a qualified manufacturer;
- » Must meet the definition of a "motor vehicle" under Title II of the Clean Air Act (that is, any vehicle manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways. It must also have at least



- four wheels);
- » Must have a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 14,000 pounds;
- » Must be powered to a significant extent by an electric motor with a battery capacity of 7kWh or more and must be capable of being recharged from an external source of electricity;
- » Must have final assembly in North America (use VIN number to track assembly);
- » Credit limitations on the price of the vehicle are based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP), not the actual price you paid;
- » The credit is not refundable and cannot be carried forward;
- » Starting in 2025 batteries cannot contain critical minerals extracted, processed, or recycled by a foreign entity of concern;
- » Starting in 2024, car buyers can transfer the credit directly to dealers at the point of sale so that it can directly reduce the purchase price; and
- » ****NEW REQUIREMENT**** If you take possession of a new clean vehicle on or after April 18, 2023, it must meet the critical mineral and battery component to qualify! This applies even if you bought the vehicle before April 18th.

The Energy Efficiency Home Improvement Credit

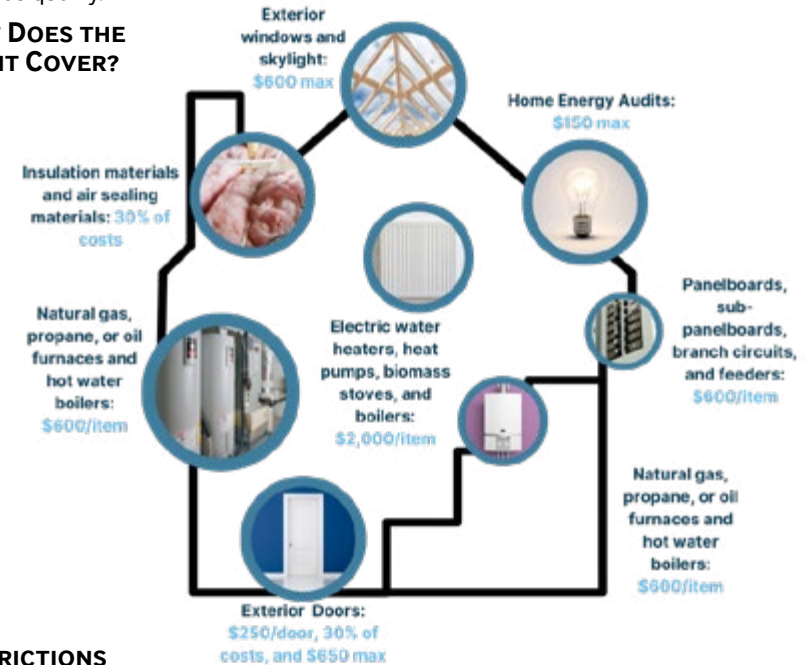
➔ WHAT DOES IT DO?

This is a tax credit for all energy efficiency-related home upgrades/home retrofits. It is a 30% tax credit for qualifying energy efficiency upgrades to a homes building envelope and/or energy property.

➔ WHO QUALIFIES?

Homeowners and renters for the primary place of residence qualify.

➔ WHAT DOES THE CREDIT COVER?



➔ RESTRICTIONS

- » This tax credit has an annual cap of \$3,200. This annual cap is split into two buckets: energy property measures (\$2,000 annual cap) and building envelope measure (\$1,200 annual cap).
\$1,200 + \$2,000 = \$3,200

- » The home must be in the U.S. and owned and used by the taxpayer as the taxpayer's principal residence. Credits are NOT available when the improvements are made to homes not used as a residence by the taxpayer. Landlords cannot use credits

➔ WHEN IS IT AVAILABLE?

The credit is for qualifying properties installed or placed in service on or after January 1, 2023 and before January 1, 2033.

➔ WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

The credit will not cover labor costs for building envelope components but CAN include labor costs for energy property items.

- to improve homes that they rent out if they don't live there themselves. For example, you cannot use the credit for a hunting cabin.
- » The credit does not apply to used products.
- » Credits do not carry over to the next year if the taxpayer has insufficient tax liability.
- » Taxpayers cannot claim the credits until the year the property is installed.
- » The credit is not applicable to new construction but is applicable for renovations.

IRA Rebate Programs

A lot of the hubbub about the IRA revolves around the numerous rebate programs that aim to alleviate the financial burdens of investing in home electrification. The rebate program is particularly exciting because individuals can receive cash incentives for energy-efficient purchases. However, it's important to note that these rebate programs are still being developed and are not currently available. State Energy Offices – such as Missouri's Division of Energy (DE) – will be responsible for handling the dissemination of these funds. Nevertheless, this information is still relevant as it allows people to prepare for when these programs become available.

High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act (HEEHRA)

➔ WHAT DOES IT DO?

The HEEHRA is a 10-year rebate program that provides point-of-sale rebates for electric, efficient appliances. This rebate program awards money to DE for the implementation of the rebate program. Missouri was allocated \$75,366,640 for this program.

This is a voluntary program that covers 100% of electrification project costs (up to \$14,000) for low-income households and half the costs for moderate-income households with a cap of \$14,000.

➔ WHEN IS IT AVAILABLE?

HEEHRA rebates are not available yet, they may become available in 2024.

➔ WHO QUALIFIES?

Both residential and multifamily building owners qualify, and the size of a rebate depends on income levels. This provides 50% of the cost for incomes 80 - 150% of area median income (AMI), and 100% of the cost for incomes 80% AMI and below.

➔ WHAT DOES THE CREDIT COVER?

Income Eligibility and % Costs Covered	
Low-income: <80% Area Median Income (AMI) % costs covered (including installation)	100%
Moderate-income: 80-150% AMI % costs covered (including installation)	50%
Overall Incentives	
Max Consumer Rebate	\$14,000
Max Contractor Rebate	\$500
Rebates for Qualified Electrification Projects	
Heat pump HVAC	\$8,000
Heat pump water heater	\$1,750
Electric stove/cooktop	\$840
Heat pump clothes dryer	\$840
Breaker box	\$4,000
Electric wiring	\$2,500
Weatherization (insulation, air sealing, ventilation)	\$1,600

Home Energy Performance-Based Whole House Rebates (HOMES Program)

➔ WHAT DOES IT DO?

The HOMES program is a whole-house energy retrofit rebate program, meaning rebates are delivered based on demonstrating the improvement of a home energy efficiency (i.e., performance-based retrofits). Similar to the HEEHRA, this program will be run through DE.

➔ WHEN IS IT AVAILABLE?

The HOMES rebate program is not available yet, they may become available in 2024.

➔ WHO QUALIFIES?

Residential and multifamily property owners qualify. The level of rebate amount depends on AMI level. This provides 50% of the cost for incomes 80 - 150% of area median income (AMI), and 100% of the cost for incomes 80% AMI and below.

➔ RESTRICTIONS

You cannot combine HEEHRA rebates with HOMES rebates, but you can combine either with energy efficiency tax credits and utility rebate programs.

➔ WHAT DOES THE CREDIT COVER?

MODELED ENERGY SAVINGS PATHWAY

Energy Savings	Single-Family	Multifamily
20% to 34%	\$2,000 or 50% of the project cost (whichever is less).	\$2,000 per unit with maximum of \$200,000 per building.
	For low -and moderate-income (LMI) individuals, \$4,000 or 80% of project cost.	
>35%	\$4,000 or 50% of project cost.	\$4,000 per unit with max. of \$400,000 per building.
	For LMI individuals, \$8,000 or 80% of the project cost.	

MEASURED ENERGY SAVINGS PATHWAY

Energy Savings	Single-Family & Multifamily
15% & over	\$2,000 payment rate per kWh saved equal to a 20% reduction for the average home in the state, or 50% of the project cost.
	For LMI individuals, \$4,000 payment rate per kWh saved equal to a 20% reduction per home or dwelling unit, or 80% of project cost. For multifamily buildings to qualify, at least 50% of residents must be LMI.
	Energy baselines are calculated based on the average energy use of single-family homes or multifamily buildings in the state.

40 CO-OPS SERVING 760,000 MISSOURIANS | \$9.7 BILLION IN GRANTS & LOANS TO PHASE OUT COAL

How will the IRA impact RECs in Missouri?

Let's shift our focus to the transformative impact of the IRA on rural communities, which have previously been underserved by clean energy advances. Missouri's RECs, will experience significant benefits from the IRA's green energy provisions. With 40 electric cooperatives serving 760,000 customers in the state, Missouri is poised for big changes. **The IRA has allocated billions of dollars specifically for co-ops to invest in projects aimed at reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.**

Under the IRA, RECs that currently own and operate coal plants can replace them by investing in renewable energy, battery storage, and enhanced transmission infrastructure. The bill covers a quarter of the project costs, which can amount up to \$970 million. These investments in rural communities nationwide are expected to create 90,000 new jobs over the next decade, strengthening the economies of small towns, and ensuring community stability.

Here are the program details and funding opportunities available for co-ops under the IRA:

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM (REAP)

This program offers loans and grants for clean energy projects benefiting rural small businesses and agricultural producers in areas with 50,000 or fewer residents.

RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM (RESP)

Recently expanded, this program provides loans for RECs and municipal utilities to finance energy efficiency programs. It also supports renewable energy generation and energy storage projects.

EMPOWERING RURAL AMERICA (NEW ERA)

Through grants and loans totaling \$9.7 billion, this program aims to assist RECs in phasing out aging and costly coal plants. The funds can be used for transmission improvements, renewable energy investments, and offering energy-efficient systems to member-owners. The program facilitates the diversification of electric generation and manages the retirement of coal plants. Applications will be evaluated based on emissions reductions and local economic opportunities resulting from the projects.

POWERING AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

PACE provides forgivable loans to utilities serving communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer. These loans can cover up to 60% of project costs for various renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, biomass, and energy storage.

AS A RURAL CO-OP MEMBER, HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Member-owners across the state are facing rate increases as our co-ops are still recovering from the extreme winter weather events in recent years. Rate increases can be especially hard for folks in rural areas when we are dealing with rising inflation. 92% of REC service territories are already dealing with persistent poverty and our rural communities can't afford to pay more.

The IRA programs intend to ease the burden of federal debt our co-ops are grappling with and will allow rural communities to re-invest in new clean energy projects. We cannot afford to miss out on this generational opportunity to upgrade our energy system without taking on more federal debt. This is the largest investment in rural America since 1936 and we should not expect to see any future opportunities like this. There is no need for rate increases from any co-op in the state when there are billions of federal dollars waiting to be used to lower energy bills for all member-owners today.

Want to get involved? Contact us today if you want to bring energy and bill savings to your local co-op!

FINAL REMARKS ON THE IRA

The IRA is an extraordinary piece of legislation that holds immense significance for both the economy and the environment. For the state of Missouri, the IRA offers numerous opportunities including an estimated \$6.6 billion of investment in large-scale clean power generation. Homeowners, renters, and businesses can access tax credits for renewable energy, energy efficiency improvements, and clean vehicle purchases. Furthermore, the IRA's focus on RECs provides funding and support for transitioning to clean energy sources, creating jobs, and bolstering the economies of small towns.

So, how do we get ready? Even though some of the rebates are not available yet, there are still ways to prepare. Track what projects, features, or items you may want, get a local energy auditor to look at your home to see what changes will make biggest impact on your home's efficiency, and stay up to date with our emails!

Overall, the IRA represents a pivotal step toward a more sustainable future and offers tangible benefits for individuals and communities alike.

TORI CHEATHAM
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION





"We are bringing together the nexus of energy efficiency and proper home valuation through home certification."

As you know at Renew Missouri, we love energy efficiency and for good reason.

We always say the cleanest and cheapest energy is the energy you don't use. Over the past decade, we've pushed utilities to offer more energy efficiency rebates and increase their energy efficiency program budgets. However, we know that efficiency can do so much more. That is why we have partnered with Pearl Certification to create a new program called Renew Missouri Homes! In last year's newsletter we introduced this partnership and now it has grown into a full-fledged program. All in a quick twelve months!

Background

In 2018, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) Division of Energy established the Missouri Home Energy Certification (MHEC) to encourage Missourians to reduce energy usage by making energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The MHEC is designed to promote energy-efficient homes by showcasing efficiency-related investments and clearly communicating that value to potential home-buyers. That is where Renew Missouri comes in.

We partnered with MoDNR to help spread the word about the MHECs, which populate the state's Green Building Registry. MoDNR recognized Pearl as an official scoring tool, and Pearl and Renew partnered to expand access to residential energy efficiency improvements in Missouri.

What is Renew Missouri Homes?

It is a statewide program that makes energy efficiency more accessible and prepares the state to deliver IRA rebates to Missouri homeowners. The program leverages MoDNR's MHEC, the state Green Building Registry, Renew Missouri's deep understanding of the local energy efficiency sector, and Pearl's unique approach to market transformation. Renew Missouri Homes ties energy efficiency features to home value to drive consumer demand for high-performing homes.

Our program, Renew Missouri Homes, brings together the **nexus of energy efficiency and proper home valuation through home certification**. The certification documents high-performing home features so they can be properly valued at the time of sale or refinance.

Energy efficiency is undervalued when it comes to buying and selling homes. When people look at a place to live, they see the visible features like granite countertops or open floor plans. But what about a home that has highly efficient features like a brand-new heat pump or top-of-the-line insulation? How do we make those equally important features more visible? With third-party certification.

Our goals are to educate homeowners on the value of home certification, connect them with high-quality contractors to make the improvements that result in energy savings, learn what rebates or other incentives are available to them to help offset the costs, and find real estate

agents to help them sell their high-performing home when they are ready.

We want to increase homeowner energy efficiency adoption and create accurate market value for these homes in the real estate market. Not only does this program reward energy efficiency improvements, it also connects homeowners with trusted contractors to get the work done. We all know finding honest contractors can be difficult, that is why Renew Missouri Homes connects homeowners with vetted contractors through the Pearl network.

Where are we now?

The collaboration between the MoDNR, Pearl Certification, and Renew Missouri demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships to meet an important public need. The Missouri Home Energy Certification is a critical tool for educating Missouri homeowners on the value of making energy efficient improvements on their homes.

The Renew Missouri Homes program is promoting the MHEC through Pearl's contractor network, homeowner engagement, leveraging national partnerships, and engaging with local partners who can expand access to residential energy efficiency in Missouri.

Pearl Certification has certified 4,000+ Missouri homes, engaged three contractors, and trained real estate agents and appraisers in St. Louis on how to effectively market and value the MHEC and Pearl Certification for participating homeowners. Pearl anticipates delivering 100 Missouri Home Energy Certifications by the end of 2023, and is preparing to scale that number into the thousands in 2024 and beyond as Missouri rolls out the \$75 million in residential rebates allocated to the state through the IRA.

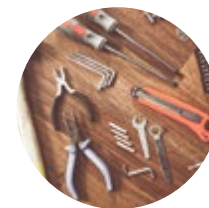
TORI CHEATHAM
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION



Home Certification
The Missouri Home Energy Certification and the nationally-recognized Pearl Certification highlight homes that go above and beyond in comfort, health, and energy efficiency.



Documentation
Certifications provide documentation to help appraisers accurately assign value to smart improvements homeowners make.



Contractors
Use Greendoor to connect Missouri homeowners to contractors who can improve the energy efficiency and overall performance of their homes.



Real Estate Stakeholders
By connecting with real estate agents who understand how to effectively market high-performing homes, a Pearl Certified home, on average, sell for a 5% premium.

To learn more about certifying your home or more information about the program, visit www.renewmohomes.com

PSC Advocacy Highlights:

MISSOURI'S' CLEAN ENERGY PROGRESS

DID YOU KNOW?

A CCN is the official authorization granted by the PSC to grant the utility the legal right to operate and provide their service within a defined geographic area. CCNs are necessary when a utility company wishes to construct a new power plant, transmission, lines, or other significant project. The utility must demonstrate the need for said project!

DID YOU KNOW?

A Time of Use (TOU) rate is a way for electricity providers to charge different prices for electricity based on the time of day. Instead of a flat rate for electricity, TOU rates vary depending on when you use electricity. The purpose of TOU rates is to encourage consumers to shift their electricity usage to off-peak hours when the rates are lower. By doing so, it can help balance the demand for electricity throughout the day and potentially reduce strain on the electrical grid during peak hours.

We are proud to report that 2022 and 2023 have brought some exciting successes at the Missouri Public Service Commission thanks to Renew Missouri's advocacy. Last year was filled with major advancements in solar energy, a surge in corporate demand for clean energy, and the launch of groundbreaking pilot programs. In this update, we will provide a brief overview of our advocacy highlights.

ADDING RENEWABLE RESOURCES TO THE GRID

Ameren Missouri made significant progress in expanding its renewable energy resources during 2022. With the addition of two new projects, Ameren is set to include 350 MW of solar energy in its portfolio. This development will benefit customers by providing clean, affordable, and reliable energy. In July 2022, Ameren applied for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) to construct a 200 MW solar facility named Huck Finn. This facility will fulfill Ameren's Renewable Energy Standard requirements and bring job opportunities and lease payments to landowners in Missouri. Ameren also applied for another CCN to build a 150 MW solar facility called Boomtown and submitted an application for a commercial

solar subscription program. Prior to filing these applications, Ameren secured agreements with ten sustainability-focused companies in its service area, demonstrating that commercial customers value renewable energy availability. These agreements exceeded the capacity of the facility, suggesting potential for future renewable resource expansion to meet commercial demand. Thanks to Renew Missouri's support, both solar facilities received regulatory approval and will soon begin serving customers.

RATE CASE SUCCESSES

During the time of our annual newsletter last summer, Renew Missouri was actively engaged in a rate case with Evergy. This rate case yielded several positive outcomes thanks to the work of Renew Missouri's advocacy team. To begin, Renew Missouri successfully negotiated the creation of a Low-Income Solar Subscription Pilot, which was initially proposed by Evergy as part of a previous agreement with Renew Missouri. However, the pilot faced opposition from state regulators. Renew Missouri worked diligently to secure the pilot in settlement terms and also advocated for program design improvements to provide greater bill savings to participants. Consequently, Evergy has allocated 1 MW of its Hawthorne solar facility to provide clean energy to 250 low-income customers who meet income eligibility

criteria. These customers will also be guided to various assistance programs to potentially offer additional bill savings.

Additionally, Renew Missouri secured a settlement term establishing Evergy's Residential Battery Storage Pilot. This program involves the installation of 50 batteries in customer homes across Evergy's Missouri service territories. Priority will be given to customers with solar panels, electric vehicles, or those utilizing time-of-use (TOU) rates. The program aims to study the effective utilization of battery storage to provide demand response benefits to the electric grid. This pilot is the first of its kind in Missouri, and we hope to expand its success with a larger-scale distributed battery rollout across the state.

Furthermore, we collaborated with Evergy to reach an agreement in which the utility will provide us with the necessary data to conduct a comprehensive energy burden assessment within its service territories. This study will build upon Renew Missouri's ongoing efforts in St. Louis and potentially expand into a statewide assessment for public sharing, education, and advocacy. By analyzing energy burden, Renew Missouri plans to advocate for funding low-income utility programs more effectively for those who need assistance the most. This assessment will provide valuable insights into the number of households requiring low-income programs and help extend the economic and health benefits of energy efficiency to more Kansas City residents.

In another achievement, we negotiated a settlement term requiring Evergy to conduct a comprehensive study on integrating TOU rates with net metering and distributed generation customers. Currently, net metering customers can only take advantage of the low-differential TOU rate offering, limiting the potential savings they could achieve by combining their distributed resources with these time-varying rate options.

At the time of this writing, Renew Missouri learned the Commission will also require Ameren to conduct the same study for incorporating TOU rates with net metering and distributive generation customers. Ameren was opposed to this and required Renew Missouri to litigate the matter before the PSC. We are thrilled by the Commission's decision.

Lastly, the Commission opened a working docket to evaluate the impact of IRA funds in Missouri. This working docket has already resulted in two stakeholder workshops – one evaluating the potential of IRA funding more generally and one related to "braiding" IRA rebates with utility energy efficiency programs. While many questions remain as we wait for federal guidance, one theme is clear: the IRA will spur unprecedented investments in clean energy in our state. We look forward to updating you as we learn more and we hope you stick around to see what 2023 brings!

ALISSA GREENWALD
KANSAS CITY REGIONAL DIRECTOR & COUNSEL

The Renew Crew



JAMES OWEN
Executive Director

James is Executive Director of Renew Missouri, having served after taking the reins from co-founder P.J. Wilson in 2017. In addition to handling the day-to-day management of the group, James also oversees fundraising, communication, government relations, and corporate governance. He also serves as an expert witness for the organization in dozens of cases as well as working with other advocacy groups in Kansas and Kentucky to offer insight and testimony on clean energy throughout the region.

James lives in Columbia with his wife, Claire, and their two kids and dog. For fun, he pens a film column for the Columbia Daily-Tribune and is finished writing a non-fiction book about an unsolved murder in Southwest Missouri. P.S. He is still looking for an agent!



ANDREW LINHARES
St. Louis Regional Director & Senior Counsel

Andrew serves as the Regional Director and Senior Counsel in Renew Missouri's St. Louis office. Andrew is the State Lead for the Missouri Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) coalition, which focuses on energy efficiency for affordable multifamily housing and energy equity for disadvantaged communities. Andrew is also the administrator for Renew STL Solar, a commercial solar group buy program serving the St. Louis region. Andrew graduated with a J.D. from Saint Louis University School of Law in 2011, and is a licensed member of the Missouri Bar. Andrew loves to play music, barbecue, and enjoy the outdoors with his wife and two kids.

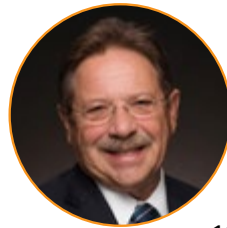


ALISSA GREENWALD
Kansas City Regional Director & Counsel

Alissa joined Renew Missouri in August of 2021 as the Kansas City Regional Director and Counsel. She focuses on carrying out our clean energy advocacy in KC and is part of the legal team that represents Renew Missouri at the Missouri PSC. Alissa graduated from University of Kansas School of Law in 2021 and is a licensed member of the Missouri Bar. She graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in Political Science. In her free time she enjoys baking, walking her dog, and spending time with her nephews.



PHILIP FRACICA
Director of Programs
Philip currently serves as the Director of Programs in Renew Missouri's Columbia Office. In 2021 his focus shifted to primarily work on improving rural access to clean energy throughout Missouri including our advocacy for REC programs in the IRA and working to create the Rural Power Coalition. Philip also serves on the Missouri Weatherization Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council to help improve the state's weatherization program and is also serving as a member of the Columbia Water & Light Advisory Board here in Columbia. Philip enjoys hanging out with his two cats, watching movies, sports, and playing video games in his free time.



JIM KREIDER
Southern Missouri Regional Director
Jim joined Renew in August of 2022. He graduated from Missouri State University in 1977 with an Agricultural Business/Economics degree.

Jim was elected to the State House in 1992 representing Christian County. He served 10 years in the legislature, was on the Energy and Environment Committee, and ended his career as Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. He then served as the Executive Director of the Missouri Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) for 18 years. Jim and his wife, Debbie, live on the family farm.



TORI CHEATHAM
Director of Outreach & Education
Tori has been at Renew for over three years and now serves as the Director of Outreach & Education. She has her

M.S. in Environmental Science from Southern Illinois University: Edwardsville and works in our St. Louis office assisting with various advocacy efforts including: policy research, graphic design, communications, and coalition building. She also manages the Renew Missouri Homes program to promote homeowner energy efficiency adoption in Missouri. Tori has lived in St. Louis most of her life. She loves tennis, swimming and camping with her friends. She enjoys reading sci-fi novels and painting in her free time.



MIRACLE BIRD
Southeast Missouri Coordinator

Miracle joined Renew in March of 2023. She works in the Southeast Missouri region helping small rural communities with strong minority populations to get access to renewable energy. Miracle graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a B.A. in Political Science and is currently working on her Masters in Public Administration. In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her friends and family.

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We would like to thank our incredible Board of Directors who make our work possible. Renew Missouri's successful advocacy is directly attributable to their support, dedication, and insight.

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