



Washington
Electric
CO-OP

Washington Electric Cooperative

Louis Porter - General Manager

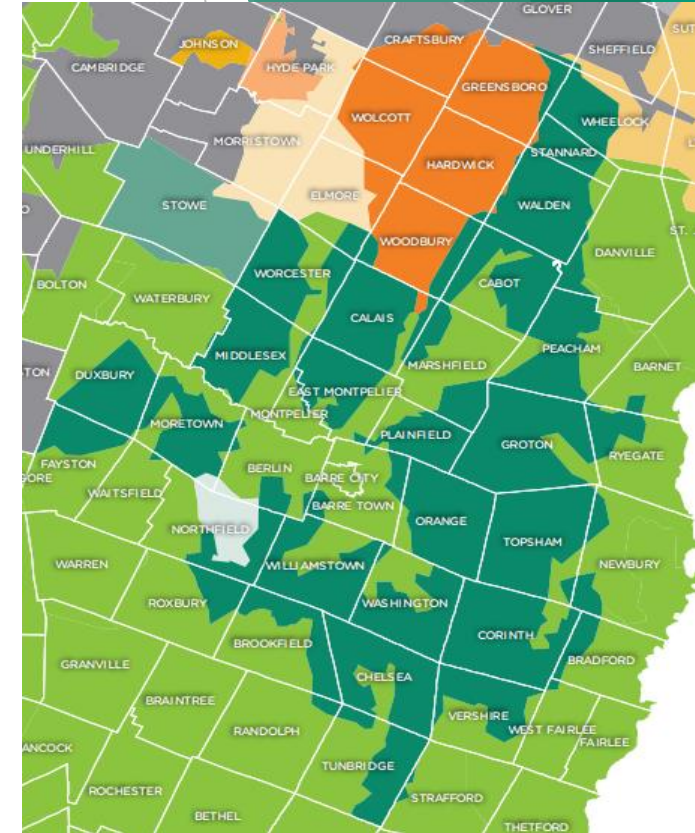
Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.
East Montpelier, VT

Thursday, October 30, 2025

WEC Relies on Federal Grants and Loans

WEC serves ~12,000 members across 41 Vermont towns and maintains more than 1,300 miles of line. Our low member density (about 9 members per mile) means each member pays more than other utilities to maintain reliability. Federal grants and low interest loans help to offset this and make serving our territory possible.

- ❖ Rural Electrification Administration low-cost loans help to start many cooperatives (1930's).
- ❖ \$29 million in current outstanding debt from Rural Utilities Service (RUS -USDA) including an essential \$11 million in 2025 to modernize our infrastructure.
- ❖ \$2.5 million grant award championed by US Sen. Sanders to replace our out-of-date meters.
- ❖ Almost \$1 million over the last four years in critical FEMA storm reimbursements for four events.
- ❖ \$588,000 FEMA mitigation grant to rebuild a section of our lines.
- ❖ \$850,000 in ESAP (Energy Storage Access Program).
- ❖ \$1.4 million in GRID (Grid Resilience and Infrastructure Development).



Federal Uncertainty Impacts

WEC has so far managed to avoid major impacts from uncertainty and changes at the federal level, but it has been a bit of a roller coaster ride.

- ❖ Office of Management and Budget freezing federal energy programs in January raised uncertainty for critical \$11 million infrastructure loan.
- ❖ Canadian Energy Products Tariff uncertainty on WECs 2MW Hydro-Quebec US contract.
- ❖ Uncertainty on \$2.5 million grant award being clawed back – it has not been.
- ❖ Potential impact on other federal grant programs – ESAP, GRID, etc.
- ❖ Future availability of FEMA funding for storm recovery/declarations. Working with the NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) and others on the pending bipartisan “FEMA Reform Act of 2025”.

Removal of critical federal funds will financially impact WEC members. Continued uncertainty will delay much needed projects.