

# Duck River EMC named ‘5-Star Co-op’ by NRECA

*Recognition honors co-op’s participation in nationwide get-out-the-vote effort*

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation has been named a “5-Star Co-op” by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The 5-star designation recognizes DREMC’s high level of participation in *Co-ops Vote*, a national get-out-the-vote campaign. The campaign is a non-partisan effort that seeks to boost voter turnout in areas served by electric co-ops all across the country.

“Electric cooperatives play a unique and special role as a voice in their communities,” said DREMC President and CEO Michael Watson. “That level of strong engagement is evident in the conversation DREMC has created around the opportunity to vote. Elections are important, especially in rural areas, and DREMC has used the *Co-ops Vote* program to increase awareness of our civic duty on every Election Day. I’m pleased to congratulate our cooperative on this accomplishment as they make a real difference in the communities we serve.”

Five-star status marks the highest level of engagement in *Co-ops Vote* and is achieved when a participating electric co-op completes at least five activities under the program.

The *Co-ops Vote* campaign was launched by America’s electric co-ops in response to continued voter apathy, particularly in rural America. According to officials, rural voter turnout dropped 18 percent in the 2012 presidential election. Since the *Co-ops Vote* launched its initiative, more than 560 electric co-ops have joined forces through *Co-ops Vote* to increase voter turnout in areas served by co-ops, which include much of rural America.

More information on *Co-ops Vote* is available at [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop), where people can register to vote and find a variety of voter resources, including information on the candidates, election dates, voting locations and brief descriptions of key co-op issues.

*NRECA is the service organization that represents the nation’s more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. With 42 million members in 47 states, electric co-ops can stand together as a powerful voice in this year’s elections.*