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[State of Indiana](#)

Consumer News... For You! The OUCC's December 2019 Newsletter

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Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

CONSUMER NEWS... FOR YOU!
DECEMBER 2019



'TIS THE SEASON!

Are you hosting friends and family during the holidays? If you'll have a large group in the house, turn the thermostat down shortly before your guests arrive. The body heat will make up for the lower temperature, helping you save energy and money. If you're traveling for the holidays, remember to use timers on lights. Either way, when you're putting the lights up, consider [LEDs](#) for long-term savings.

CASE UPDATES

The OUCC is scheduled to file its closing briefs on [Indiana Michigan Power's](#) (I&M's) rate request and [Indianapolis Power & Light's](#) (IPL's) proposed infrastructure plan in December.

In the [Duke Energy](#) rate case, the IURC's evidentiary hearing is scheduled to start on Jan. 22.

In rate cases involving small water and wastewater utilities, the OUCC has requested a public field hearing in the [LMH Utilities](#) case for Dearborn County. The [Howard County Utilities](#) case has been stayed, with the OUCC scheduled to file recommendations on [Aqua Indiana's](#) Crawford and Montgomery County requests in early 2020.

RURAL ENERGY INNOVATION

Communities throughout rural Indiana can now apply for [Rural Energy Innovation Grants](#), as recently announced by Gov. Eric J. Holcomb and Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. The Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED) is administering the federal grants, which may help applicants receive up to \$50,000 for energy-related projects. Examples include energy efficiency retrofits, alternative fuel vehicles, comprehensive energy plans, and more. The deadline is Dec. 13.



SHRINKING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

14 high-speed internet expansion projects throughout Indiana will receive \$28.4 million through the state's [Next Level Broadband](#) initiative. Local broadband service providers are matching the grants to bring the total investment to \$51.7 million. It's the first phase in the \$100 million program, which is the largest single state effort to bring broadband to unserved areas.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The OUCC's recently released [Annual Report](#) offers an overview of the work we're doing on behalf of Indiana utility consumers. We're committed to giving ratepayers the strongest legal and technical representation in rate cases and additional regulatory cases every day, and our report shows how our team continues to carry out our mission.



OUR MISSION

To represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, and creative problem solving.

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