

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • FEBRUARY 2023

## We love serving our consumer-members

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of. But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day full of flowers, candy and of course, greeting cards professing our love. So, in that vein, it seems like the perfect time for us to say we love serving you, the members of South Kentucky RECC.

We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. As one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, South Kentucky RECC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1937—to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not. Our members come first. Every day. That's our commitment to you.

South Kentucky RECC members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to

safely restore power.

We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

You and other South Kentucky RECC members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here, too, and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why South Kentucky RECC donates to local charities, schools and scholarship funds. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors. Sponsoring war veterans for the Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. and taking an active



TIM WEBB

role in supporting the Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games are just two examples of our commitment to community.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive. **DSK**

### Making an impact

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are helping build stronger communities through economic development initiatives. In 2022, these efforts helped bring \$2.5 billion in new investments and create an estimated 1,750 jobs. Since 2015, more than \$11 billion in new investment and 16,500 new jobs have been created in commonwealth communities served by electric cooperatives.

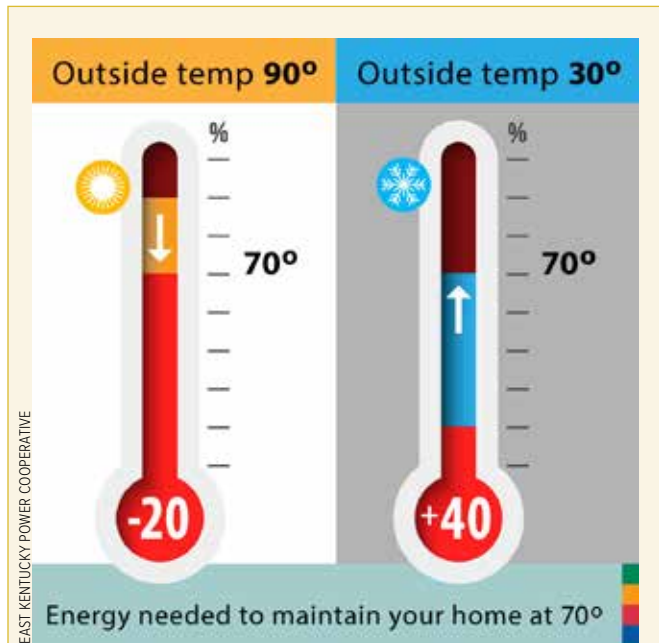
# Connect to health savings

February is Wise Health Care Consumer Month, a perfect time for South Kentucky RECC members to connect to savings on medicine and other health services with the free Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections program.

As a co-op consumer-member, you can save money on prescriptions and healthcare expenses such as vision and dental—in February, and every month. Being connected means you get more than 150,000 discounts from businesses in our area and national companies. There are also cash-back offers for online shoppers and deals for travelers.

Find discounts immediately by downloading the free Co-op Connections app for mobile devices. Search “Co-op Connections” in your favorite app store. If you prefer to use a discount card, call our office at (800) 264-5112 to request one.

Get connected and keep more money in your pocket. Co-op Connections—it’s just one more benefit of being an owner-member of South Kentucky RECC.



Even if you don't touch your thermostat, cold weather will raise utility bills. If the furnace is set on 70 degrees, and it's 30 outside, your HVAC system works harder to keep the house 40 degrees warmer. Look for our Virtual Energy Assessment at [skrecc.com](http://skrecc.com) to learn ways to save energy dollars.

## Sam J. Hord memorial scholarship

Established in 1980 in memory of longtime South Kentucky RECC manager (1942-1974) Sam Hord, the Sam J. Hord Memorial Scholarship provides an opportunity for a student who resides in Pulaski County or an adjacent county and demonstrates financial need.

Interested students must be a member of South Kentucky RECC, or a dependent student whose parents are members, to be eligible for the scholarship of tuition fees at Somerset Community College.

Deadline for the fall semester is generally around March 1. Call Somerset Community College for more information, or visit [www.somerset.kctcs.edu](http://www.somerset.kctcs.edu) and click the “Affording College” link for deadline.



# Mid-winter: Perfect time for new habits

It's too late for New Year's resolutions and too early for spring cleaning, but mid-winter is the perfect time to break bad habits when it comes to using electricity around the house.

For example, are you still using the extension cords you unpacked when you decorated your house for the December holidays? If so, put them back in their boxes. Extension cords are designed for temporary use only. And if you're hiding them under rugs, they could be getting frayed and damaged, which is a fire hazard.

It's never the wrong time of year to seal leaks around windows, doors and penetrations in walls where wires and cables enter the house. Use caulk and weatherstripping, and engage your children in this energy-efficiency exercise. It will teach them how to conserve energy and use it wisely.

Finally, consider making energy-efficient home improvements around the house before remodeling season emerges with spring weather and contractors are hard to hire. Have a programmable thermostat installed, restore or replace any historic single-pane windows in your house and add insulation to the attic.



JULIA/ADOBE STOCK

## Electric lingo

When you call an electrician to assist you with a problem, it's helpful to know the lingo. Familiarize yourself with these electrical terms below:

**Electrical service panel:** Distributes electricity to switches, outlets and appliances. This is where you can restore the flow to an overloaded circuit or shut down the power to the circuit.

**Fuse:** Safety device used to protect individual circuits that were installed in homes before 1965. Every time a fuse is blown it must be replaced.

**Circuit breakers:** Safety devices used to protect individual circuits that are now used in newer homes. When a circuit is "tripped" it just has to be mechanically reset to resume operating.

**Arc fault:** A dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*

**Arc fault circuit interruptors (AFCIs):** AFCIs are new protective devices that replace standard circuit breakers in the electric service panel. AFCIs provide enhanced protection against additional fire hazards known as arc faults.

**Tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs):** A wall outlet that features an internal shutter mechanism which prevents children from sticking objects like hairpins, keys and paper clips into the receptacle.

**Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs):** Electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults or leakage currents.

**Grounding:** The method used to connect an electrical system to the earth with a wire. Grounding will help protect the person working on the system, the system itself, and any appliances and equipment that are connected to the system.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR HOME'S ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Understanding how your home's electrical system functions is important not only to keep it properly maintained, but for your safety if a problem arises.

If your electricity short circuits or an overload shuts down power, your service panel is where you restore the flow. It is your responsibility to make sure no circuits are overloaded.

A general rule is to have only one big ticket item on a circuit. This means you would not put your refrigerator and washing machine on the same circuit.

If your circuits frequently overload, it may be time to contact an electrician to add more circuits to your service panel.







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**Visit [www.skrecc.com/career-opportunities](http://www.skrecc.com/career-opportunities)** to explore exciting career opportunities with the South Kentucky RECC Team.

South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

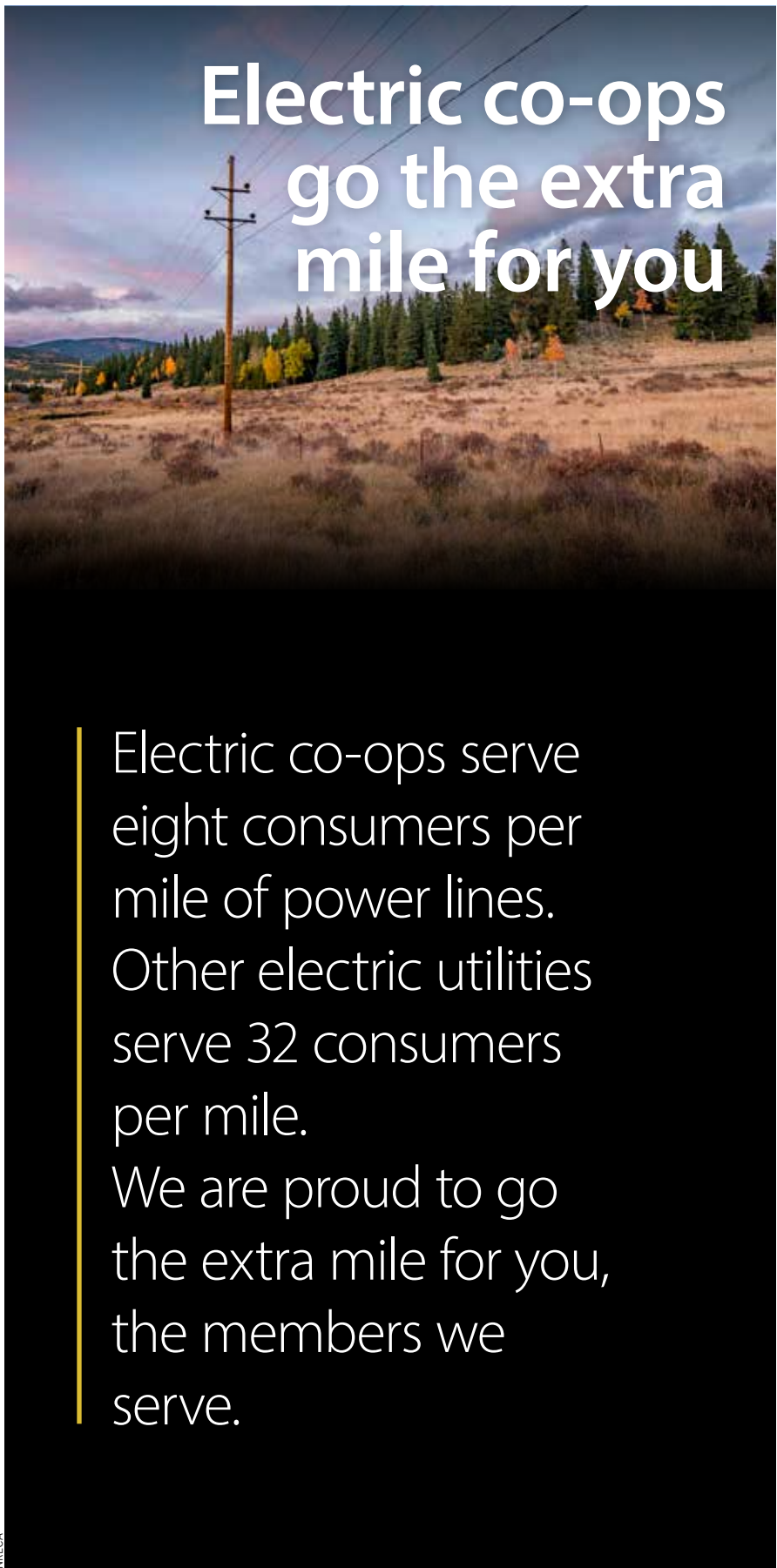
**Visit [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com)** to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

**To report an outage 24/7/365**, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

**Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:**



NRCCA



# Electric co-ops go the extra mile for you

Electric co-ops serve eight consumers per mile of power lines. Other electric utilities serve 32 consumers per mile. We are proud to go the extra mile for you, the members we serve.