

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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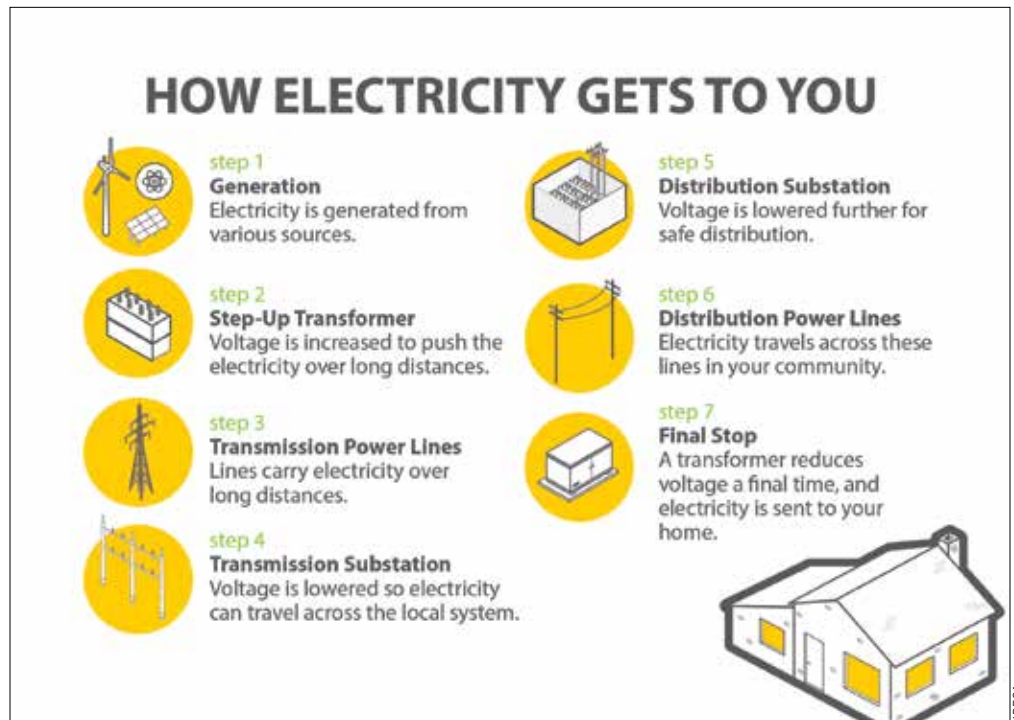
Electricity plays essential role in everyday life

Electricity powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.



At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that spans the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently, but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a

balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants

Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

South Kentucky RECC receives power from our generation and transmission co-op, East Kentucky Power Cooperative. We work closely with EKPC to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like

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you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you



SKRECC EMPLOYEE

typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels. After

traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you—to power everyday life.

These are just a few reasons the electric grid is known as our nation's most complex machine—and one of our nation's greatest achievements. We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider.

Mark your calendar

Make a note about these important happenings at South Kentucky RECC in the coming year.

Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games

- May 31–June 2, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond: South Kentucky RECC and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives will again sponsor the games.

South Kentucky RECC Annual Membership Days

- June 11–Wayne and McCreary county offices
- June 12–Russell and Clinton county offices
- June 13–Somerset office

Ronald McDonald House Wish List Collections

- July 1–31—South Kentucky RECC, along with other Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, will collect items for the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington all month. Watch www.skrecc.com and our co-op social media channels for a list of items needed. Checks/cash donations are also accepted.



MISMINIMIA/DOBE STOCK

Honor Flight

- September—South Kentucky RECC will sponsor two military veterans for the all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. Veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars are eligible. Find details and applications at honorflightky.org.

Who Powers You Contest

- October 1–31—Inspired by a fellow cooperative member making a difference in our community? Tell their story and they could win \$1,000. To make a nomination, go to WhoPowersYouKy.com. Winners are announced in mid-November.

Don't ignore the signs of electrical overload

Are you familiar with this common occurrence? You're watching TV in the den on a cold January day, then suddenly find yourself in the dark and the cold—all because someone started the microwave in the kitchen.

The problem? It could be an overloaded circuit. A circuit overload occurs when appliances, TVs and other electronics like a toaster oven, for instance, draw more electricity than one circuit can handle. In other words, you asked your electrical system to do more than it's designed to do. It's a problem particularly common in older homes with outdated wiring.

Overloaded electrical circuits can cause not only inconvenient power outages, but may also lead to personal injury and electrical fires.

Watch for these warning signs that indicate your electrical system is overloaded:



1. Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily.
2. Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often.
3. Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored.
4. Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is heard from outlets.

If you detect any of these symptoms disconnect power to the circuit and promptly schedule a home electrical inspection to correct them. The time and investment in performing a few home repairs and upgrades are small compared with the protection and safety they can provide.

Kids corner

South Kentucky RECC's Manager of Member Engagement and Energy Services Alan Coffey and safety robot, Buzz, captivated the attention

of Nancy Elementary students during career day. The students learned all about electrical safety and the magic behind light switches.



PHOTOS: JACKSON SMITH

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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit 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:



KEEPING WARM

Heating pad, electric blanket and space heater safety

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Temperatures are dropping, and families are pulling out their trusty electric space heaters and blankets. But don't forsake safety as you stay warm.

DO read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully before using any space heater or electric blanket.

DON'T leave a space heater or electric heating blanket unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.

DO inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use.

DON'T use the heater if plugs are frayed, worn or damaged.

DO keep heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.

DON'T use an electric blanket if there are dark, charred or frayed spots.

DO plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.

DON'T use electric blankets while sleeping or as a mattress pad.

DON'T place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.

DON'T fold an electric blanket when it's in use. Folded or tucked blankets could overheat and cause a fire.



NEW AFRICA/ADDOBE STOCK