

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • JULY 2023

Power for the people

Co-ops represent the communities they serve

Fireworks, cookouts and gathering with friends and neighbors to celebrate our nation's birthday—there's a lot to love about July. As the summer sun shines bright and we gather to celebrate Independence Day, let's also remember the independent spirit we honor daily at South Kentucky RECC.

In 1938, there was an independent streak in the group of local residents that banded together to improve their quality of life. These original co-op members had little help bringing power to their homes. They may not have known it at the time, but they were creating a new

way of life for the people of south-central Kentucky for generations to come.

The independent spirit of our creators is an enduring legacy. The groundwork laid by that small group all those years ago established a guiding principle of how South Kentucky RECC operates today.

Like all cooperatives, South Kentucky RECC is independent and autonomous. That means the co-op is controlled by you, the members it serves. We are built on the



RONALD TAVANIS/FLUTTERSTOCK

principles of independence and representation that we celebrate each July.

Members of South Kentucky RECC have a direct say in the decision-making process, electing fellow community members to serve on their board of directors. Unlike investor-owned utilities, the co-op's reason for being is to reflect the values and needs of the people and communities it serves.

This Fourth of July, as we gather with family and friends to commemorate Independence Day, let us remember the vital role electric cooperatives play in our communities. South Kentucky RECC embodies the spirit of

independence and cooperation, illuminating the path to progress.

From providing reliable electricity to supporting local businesses and investing in a sustainable future, electric cooperatives like South Kentucky RECC empower communities and symbolize the values we hold dear on this special day of celebration.

When you escape from the July heat into an air-conditioned house or when you bake that all-American apple pie in an electric oven, remember the independent spirit that made—and makes—it possible.

Happy Independence Day to one and all!





VICTORIA MADDOE STOCK

Let's stock the Ronald McDonald House

Throughout July, South Kentucky RECC is rallying members and employees to help us stock the Ronald McDonald House with needed items to comfort and support families of critically ill children receiving care at Lexington area hospitals.

By supporting Ronald McDonald House, you give families essential resources and provide a home away from home. You will be helping give a sick or injured child the one thing needed most: family.

South Kentucky RECC is collecting ordinary, everyday items such as cleaning products, laundry supplies, paper towels and trash bags. Bulk-size food items, plastic storage containers and individually packaged items are needed to fill the pantry. Travel-size personal hygiene items are also requested.

All donated items must be new and unopened. A detailed wish list can be viewed at rmhclxington.com; click on Wish List.

Bring your donated items to your local South Kentucky RECC office by Monday, July 31.

Need to make a quick payment? Try QUICK PAY!



All you need is the account number and the last name/business name associated with your account.

WE CLEAR CERTAIN AREAS IN OUR SERVICE TERRITORY, KNOWN AS RIGHTS-OF-WAY, TO:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs
- Keep you safe



Maintaining rights-of-way improves service reliability for you—our members!

NRECA

Beat the heat

July in Kentucky can be a month of sweltering heat and humidity, making life uncomfortable both indoors and out. Summer's high temperatures can also have a significant impact on your monthly electric bill.

In fact, the two largest uses of residential energy in Kentucky are heating, followed closely by cooling.

The U.S. Department of Energy says for optimum comfort and savings, thermostats should be set to 78 degrees in the summer months. But that doesn't tell the whole story. Setting your thermostat at 78 may be too high for comfort. But you can find a thermostat setting and a level of savings that both keeps you comfortable and saves money.

"For every degree you raise your thermostat in the summer, you save about 3%," says Josh Littrell, a Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives energy advisor. By moving your thermostat just five degrees you could save 15% off your cooling bill.

Indoor humidity can also affect comfort, and in the summer, the lower the humidity, the better. "Indoor comfort in the summer is as much a factor of the relative humidity as it is temperature. People are most comfortable between



45-50%, with 45 better than 50. Part of the air conditioner's job is not only to cool, but to remove moisture from the air inside your home. Keep an eye on the humidity in your home and if you notice it is high, consider having an HVAC professional check it out," Littrell says.

Here are some simple things you can do to save money while beating the heat.

1. Window coverings: Close blinds and curtains during the day to deflect unwanted heat generated by sunshine.

2. Thermostat: Don't cool an empty house. Increase your thermostat setting when you're leaving home for several hours.

3. Ceiling fan: A fan uses far less electricity than an air conditioner. Running a fan in conjunction with air conditioning lets you raise your thermostat a few degrees and remain comfortable.

4. Stove: Reduce indoor heat by cooking some meals on an outdoor grill.

5. Laundry room: Wash clothes in cold water and hang them outside to dry.

For more energy-saving ideas, visit togetherwesaveky.com

DO'S AND DON'TS CLEANING UP AFTER THE FLOOD

- **DO** keep a flashlight and batteries on hand for maneuvering through flood waters in the dark.
- **DON'T** allow power cord connections to become wet.
- **DO** replace all circuit breakers and fuses that have been submerged in water.
- **DON'T** touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse if your hands are wet or if you are standing on a wet surface. When resetting breakers, use a dry plastic- or rubber-insulated tool. Use only one hand.



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Visit 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 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:



2023 Leadership Lake Cumberland

Members of the 2023 Leadership Lake Cumberland class were given a tour of our Somerset Headquarters and received an electrical safety demonstration from Safety and Loss Control Manager Eric Chumbley and Lead Line Technician Jeremy Rayborn. The group also had the opportunity to watch a simulated hurt man rescue exercise. We always look forward to having members of our community visit with us.



PHOTOS: MORGHAN BLEVINS

South Kentucky RECC will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

In case of emergency or to report an outage, please call (800)264-5112 for dispatch.

JPLDESIGNS/SHUTTERSTOCK