

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • OCTOBER 2024

## Happy National Co-op Month!

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found on the web in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

South Kentucky RECC is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of our electric cooperative community.

This October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For South Kentucky RECC, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local

economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including South Kentucky RECC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement.

These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At South Kentucky RECC, this happens through paying your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously



focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve. Happy Co-op Month!

# Nominate an outstanding person

## Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives #WhoPowersYou contest

South Kentucky RECC, a Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is proud to bring the exciting #WhoPowersYou contest to south central Kentucky. In the past, the national contest has recognized people across the country who make a difference. Now, the contest is open only to members of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

If you're a South Kentucky RECC member, you can nominate an unsung hero in our community. Someone in Kentucky will win \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second and \$250 for third place. The prize money is awarded to co-op members who show the power of human connections.

"It's easy to enter. Just share a brief description of how that person has made a difference in the community," says SKRECC Chief Membership Officer Doug Hutton. "We know there are so many wonderful people in our area and we want to recognize their dedication to improving our area."

Simply visit [www.whopowersyouky.com](http://www.whopowersyouky.com) to nominate someone special in your community. Be sure to include KY in the website URL. The contest is open Oct. 1-31. Winners will be announced in mid-November.

The nominee must be an active member of a participating cooperative to be eligible. Nominators do not have to be co-op members.



**THE #WHOPOWERSYOU CONTEST**

Your Nominee could **WIN \$1,000**



Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives\*

EKPC

Help us share word of the contest by using the hashtag #WhoPowersYou on social media and let others know you recognize those making a difference. It's South Kentucky RECC's way of making life better.

## SKRECC member Valerie Inman awarded WIRE scholarship

South Kentucky RECC is thrilled to announce that SKRECC member Valerie Inman has been awarded one of three \$1,000 scholarships given by the Kentucky Chapter of Women in Rural Electrification. The prestigious scholarship supports outstanding Kentucky students in their

pursuit of higher education and is awarded based on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, career goals, recommendations from professors and community leaders, and financial need. This scholarship highlights the power of community and the importance of investing in future leaders.

Shown from left, South Kentucky RECC District 6 Director Boris Haynes, Valerie Inman, Sharon Haynes and South Kentucky RECC CEO Kevin Newton. Photo: Morghan Blevins



# Vanquish the power suckers

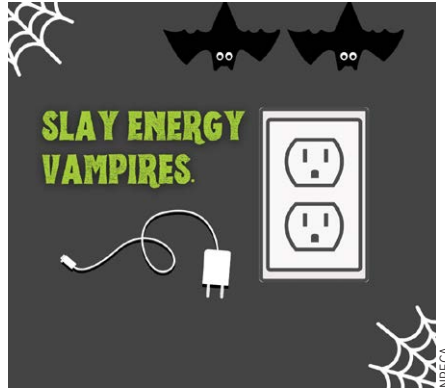
When you can't figure out why your electric bill is creeping up, you may want to look for common "energy vampires" in your home.

Vampire energy, also known as standby power and phantom load, is the electricity consumed by appliances and electronics when they are turned off but still plugged in.

Your home could have several, even dozens of items plugged in at any given time, that are actually using electricity while they're off. About 75% of the electricity these devices consume is used when they aren't on. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, idle gadgets can account for 5 to 10% of the average home's power bill.

To slay energy vampires:

- **Tug the plug.** Appliances with a continuous display, like a small red light or a clock, are still draining energy when plugged in. Avoid standby functions by unplugging items like televisions, video game consoles, computers, coffee makers and microwaves when not in use. Don't forget to unplug chargers when they aren't being used, too.
- **Use power strips.** Plug electronics into a power strip, and shut it off when the devices aren't being used.



Use a smart power strip to automatically cut power when devices are in standby mode.

- **Set for sleep.** Rather than using a screensaver, activate the "sleep mode" on your computer and monitor when they aren't used for 10 minutes or more.
- **Look for the label.** When shopping for new appliances or electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR label. Devices with this designation use up to 50% less electricity than less efficient models.

Don't let silent power suckers trick you into wasting power and increasing electric bills. Take these simple, proactive actions to vanquish your energy vampires—no stakes required.

## What would Halloween be without **ELECTRICITY?**

Electricity plays a big part in the make-believe world Halloween allows us to explore. But don't turn your Frankenstein laboratory into a true-to-life horror story through electrical fires or hazards.

Use the following tips for a safe and happy Halloween:

Make sure your outdoor decorations only **LOOK** or **SOUND** spooky. Inspect each mechanical ghoul, ghost or goblin for cracked, frayed or bare wires. You don't want them to really cause a shock or start a fire.

Want to convert your yard or open garage into a haunted house? Only use electrical items marked "for outdoor use." Plug those decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.



## South Kentucky RECC will be closed Monday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, PLEASE CALL (800) 264-5112 FOR DISPATCH

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Visit [www.skrecc.applicantpro.com/jobs/](http://www.skrecc.applicantpro.com/jobs/) 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.

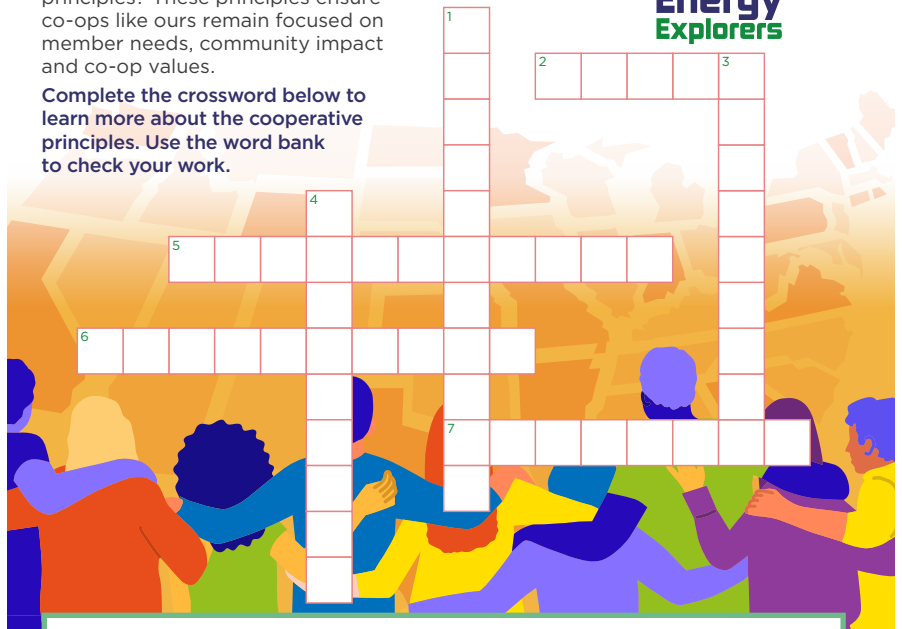
Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



**SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Did you know electric co-ops are guided by a set of seven cooperative principles? These principles ensure co-ops like ours remain focused on member needs, community impact and co-op values.

Complete the crossword below to learn more about the cooperative principles. Use the word bank to check your work.



**ACROSS**

- 2. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Co-ops \_\_\_\_\_ and learn from other co-ops.
- 5. Autonomy & Independence: Co-ops are \_\_\_\_\_ and can operate on their own.
- 6. Member Economic Participation: Members \_\_\_\_\_ money to ensure the co-op runs smoothly.
- 7. Open & Voluntary Membership: Co-op membership is open to \_\_\_\_\_.

**DOWN**

- 1. Concern for Community: Co-ops give back to their local \_\_\_\_\_ to help them thrive and grow.
- 3. Education, Training & Information: Co-ops focus on \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure employees and members have the info they need.
- 4. Democratic Member Control: Members get to make \_\_\_\_\_ about the co-op.

**ANSWER KEY**

2 ACROSS: SHARE 5 ACROSS: INDEPENDENT 6 ACROSS: CONTRIBUTE 7 ACROSS: EVERYONE  
1 DOWN: COMMUNITIES 3 DOWN: EDUCATION 4 DOWN: DECISIONS



**How many Americans receive electricity from electric cooperatives?**

- A. 24 million
- B. 38 million
- C. 42 million



Answer: C. 42 million