

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • SEPTEMBER 2025

Trip of a lifetime

South Kentucky RECC proudly sponsors the statewide youth tour program, which gives students the chance to explore our nation's history, meet elected leaders and see cooperative principles in action.

"We believe in giving young people opportunities to lead," says Mallory Wafzig, manager of cooperative outreach for Kentucky Electric Cooperatives. "The youth tour helps students build confidence, expand their network and develop the leadership skills they'll carry into the future."

This year, Caleb Baker, Haley Burchett, Addison Carr, Hunter Daniels, Mattie Goley, Laila Hammond, Elise Meggs, Kelly Valazquez-Mejia and Chloe Williams represented South Kentucky RECC on the tour. "I have wanted to go to D.C. for years, but being able to go with all of these amazing people from Kentucky truly made it better than I could have imagined," Goley says.

"The way each participant was able to meet and interact with people from across their state and the nation offered a formative glimpse into who we are as a people," says Daniels.

Trip highlights included a tour of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where students took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon, the

Marine Corps Sunset Parade, and a walking tour of D.C.'s iconic memorials and monuments. Students also spent time exploring the Smithsonian museums and experienced the power of language at the Planet Word Museum.

"Laying the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of our delegation was an honor ... I'll remember forever," says Carr.

Students appreciated the chance to build friendships and network with peers.

"Not only did I get to experience the beautiful city of Washington, D.C., but I got to create new relationships and build on old ones," says Hammond.

For the first time, Kentucky's delegation toured the White House, with some students catching a glimpse of President Donald Trump as he oversaw a flagpole installation on the lawn. At the Capitol, students asked questions and explored how government works. They met with Sen. Rand Paul and engaged in thoughtful conversations about the farm bill and the role of Congress in shaping national policy. Staff from the House Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the offices of Rep. James Comer and Rep. Thomas Massie, offered a behind-the-scenes look at the legislative process.

"The opportunity to talk to our elected officials in our government was a dream," says Meggs. "We were able to ask



TIM WEBB



SOUTH KENTUCKY RECC STUDENT

After 17 years of chaperoning the Washington Youth Tour, SKRECC Energy Services Manager Alan Coffey, right, is passing the torch. Communications Generalist Justin Mayfield will now lead the effort, continuing SKRECC's tradition of guiding and inspiring future leaders.

questions, and they always answered—even giving us honest advice about life."

"Getting to come to D.C. on an all-expenses-paid trip is rare, and this opportunity is worth applying for," says Valazquez-Mejia.

"As part of our commitment to community, South Kentucky RECC invests in the leaders of tomorrow," says Kevin Newton, the cooperative's CEO. "The Washington Youth Tour is an experience that stays with them for life."

Stop by our new member services center at Somerset Mall!

South Kentucky RECC is proud to welcome you to our new service and payment center, now open inside the Somerset Mall. This convenient location is designed with our members in mind, offering:

- **Operating hours:** Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Secure payment drop box:** Available any time the mall is open.
- **Friendly, local support:** Our team is ready to assist you with payments, account questions and more.

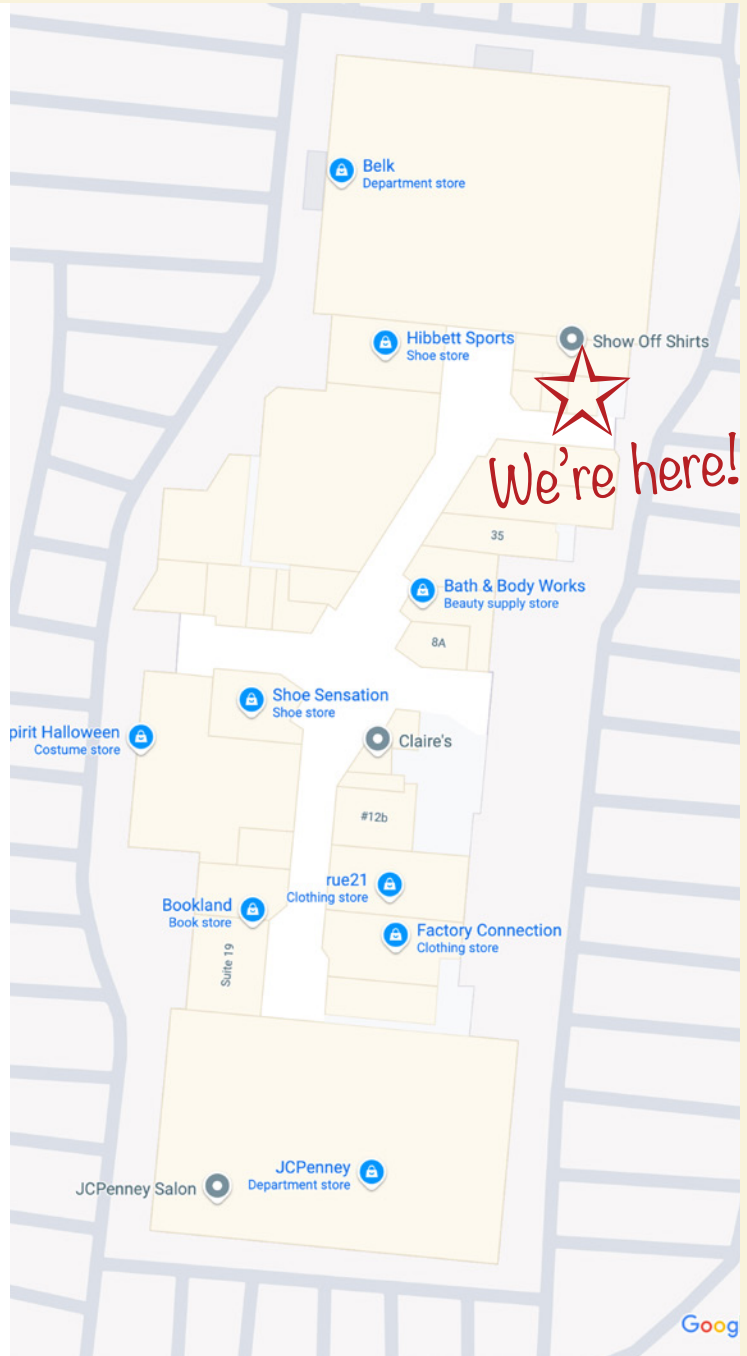


SOMERSET MEMBER SERVICES CENTER

Inside the Somerset Mall
(formerly the Pulaski County Clerk's
Office location)



**HOURS: 8 AM TO 4:30 PM
MONDAY–FRIDAY**



The value of electricity

In today's world, electricity plays a central role in nearly every aspect of our daily lives. From keeping our homes comfortable to powering the devices that connect us to the world, electricity has become an indispensable part of modern life. Our homes are connected to a nationwide power grid, and we have access to information, entertainment and communication tools—all powered by electricity.

In 2022, U.S. electricity consumption totaled 4.07 trillion kilowatt-hours, a significant increase compared to past decades. We rely on

electricity for everything from heating and cooling to lighting, cooking and entertainment. Imagine your kitchen or living room without electricity—no oven, refrigerator, freezer, microwave or lights. Modern conveniences such as televisions, music players and ceiling fans would be nonexistent.

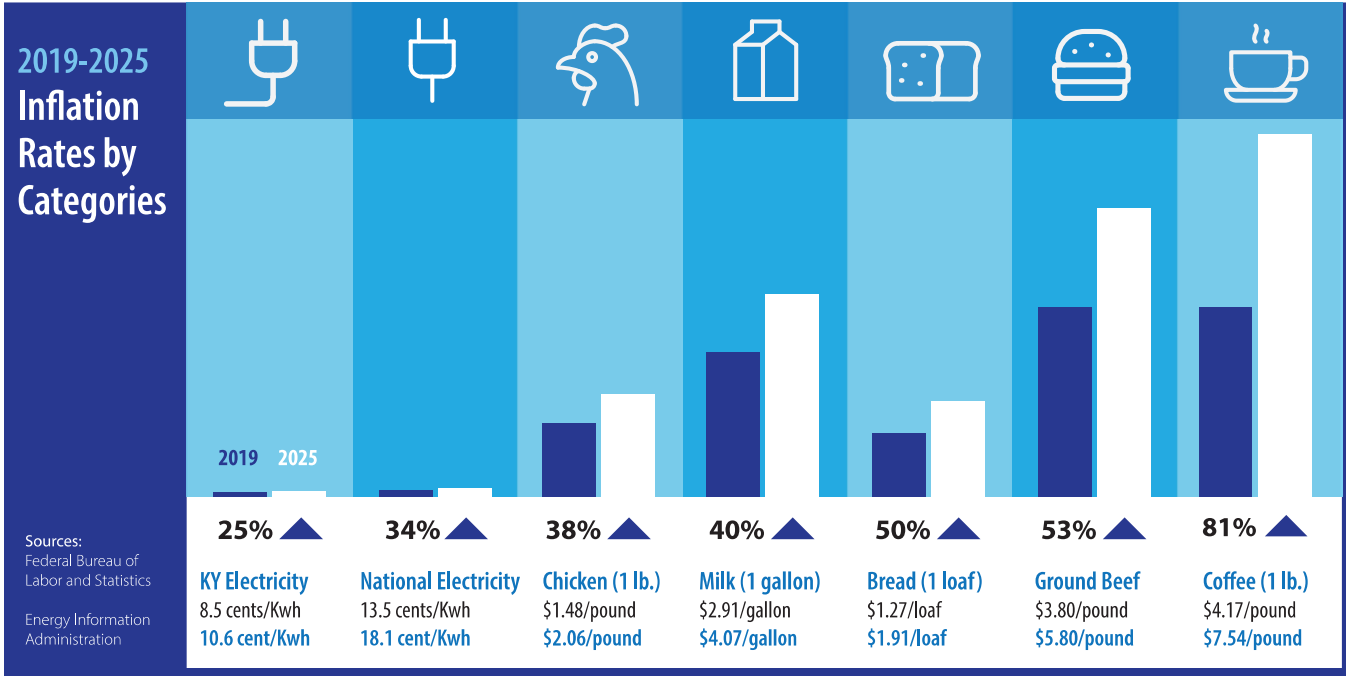
While the cost of electricity has risen over time, it remains a good value compared to other everyday expenses. Like the prices of gas, coffee and bread, the cost of electricity has increased, but it has generally risen at a slower pace than overall inflation.

Despite this, electricity remains a vital, affordable resource that powers the lifestyle we enjoy today.

Here are some common household electronics and the typical cost to operate them:

- Refrigerator: 22¢ for 24 hours
- Ceiling fan: 10¢ for 24 hours
- Microwave: 2¢ for 5 minutes
- Phone charger: 50¢ for 1 year
- Dishwasher: 4¢ for 1 hour
- 40-inch HD TV: 4¢ for 2 hours

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration



**South Kentucky RECC
offices will be closed on
Monday, September 1,
in observance of
Labor Day.**

To report an outage, please call
(800) 264-5112.

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Discovering South Kentucky is a newsletter insert to *Kentucky Living* magazine and is published by the Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, Louisville, KY, and by South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, P.O. Box 910, Somerset, KY 42502, (606) 678-4121.

Address all correspondence to: Discovering South Kentucky, P.O. Box 910, Somerset, KY 42502.

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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:



Time for a tune-up

Schedule a heating system inspection for energy savings and peace of mind

While late summer heat still lingers, now is the perfect time to schedule maintenance for your heating system—before cooler weather arrives and the need becomes urgent.

It's common for heating systems to break down right when they're needed most, often resulting in long wait times for repairs. Planning ahead helps avoid that frustration and ensures your home stays comfortable when temperatures drop.

A routine inspection or tune-up can help make sure your electric furnace or heat pump is ready for the season. Heating systems should be professionally checked once a year, ideally before the weather changes.

Regular fall maintenance offers several key benefits:

- Improved performance: An inspection can uncover small issues early,

allowing for adjustments or repairs that enhance overall heating effectiveness.

- Higher energy efficiency: A well-maintained system uses energy more efficiently, which can help reduce your utility costs.
- Fewer costly repairs: Catching problems early often prevents the need for expensive emergency service or replacement.
- Extended equipment life: Annual maintenance can significantly extend the lifespan of your HVAC system, protecting your investment over time.

Mark your calendar for National Tune-Up Day on Thursday, September 25. It's a great reminder to schedule a professional checkup for your heating system and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with being prepared for the cold ahead.



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