

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • OCTOBER 2025

Energy efficiency

South Kentucky RECC has you covered

Have you seen any all-black woolly worms this fall? Whether you believe in the power of the woolly worm predictions, the Farmer's Almanac, or the TV weather forecasters, very soon in Kentucky the leaves will fall and the temperatures will, too.

That also means energy use will go up for nearly all homes and businesses in our service area when that cold weather arrives.

As a locally based, not-for-profit cooperative, we're here to help.

Let's take a look at some of the services and programs South Kentucky RECC offers to help our members better manage your energy use and save money.

- **SmartHub usage alerts**—Use your phone or computer to manage your power use. You can set up alerts to know when your energy use is approaching the threshold you choose. It lets you know if you need to turn the thermostat down an extra degree or two.
- **Virtual Energy Assessment**—This free digital tool, available at skrecc.com, allows you to track your electricity use and receive customized do-it-yourself suggestions for using less power.
- **Button-Up program**—Through simple upgrades like air sealing and insulation, you can make your home more comfortable while saving energy and



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money on your electric bills. Qualified participants can earn a rebate, too.

- **Rebate programs**—Are you planning to replace your ceiling cable, baseboard or electric furnace heating with a new heat pump? They're much more efficient than older resistance heat. Check with us first to see how you can earn cash back in the form of a rebate.
- **Together We Save**—Tap into this digital library of energy-saving information offered by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including South Kentucky RECC.

Visit TogetherWeSaveKY.com for ideas and tutorials.

- **Levelized billing**—If you sign up, no matter what the weather is outside, your bill won't be a surprise. It takes the guesswork out of your monthly energy bill.

Before the days grow shorter and the mercury slides down the thermometer, contact us for more details about these energy-saving programs and others. Call us at (800) 264-5112 or visit our website at www.skrecc.com.

Nominate an outstanding person

#WhoPowersYou contest run through October

Nominate an outstanding person to win Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives #WhoPowersYou contest.

South Kentucky RECC, a Kentucky Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is excited to bring back the popular Who Powers You contest to south-central Kentucky this year.

Nominate an unsung hero in our community. Someone who is doing amazing work in Kentucky to better their community will win \$2,000 for first place, \$1,500 for second and \$500 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 Morghan Blevins, SKRECC communications administrator. "We know there

are so many wonderful people in our area and we want to recognize their dedication to improving our communities."

Simply visit www.whopowersyouky.com to nominate someone special in your community. Be sure to include KY in the web address. The contest is open October 1-31. Winners will be announced in mid-November. See website for complete contest details.

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

Past SKRECC winners have included a cancer survivor fighting for legislation to help him and others fight the disease, and another local business owner who organized a program to feed the less fortunate.

Help us share word of the contest by using the hashtag #WhoPowersYou on social media and let others know you



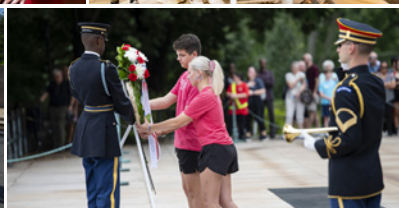
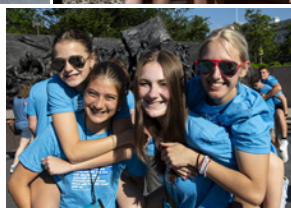
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recognize those making a difference. It's South Kentucky RECC's way of making life better.



STEP UP AND LEAD

★
2026 YOUTH TOUR
WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 15-20



- MEET ELECTED LEADERS
- EXPLORE CO-OP ENERGY ISSUES
- MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE
- INCLUDES ALL-EXPENSES-PAID DAY TRIP TO FRANKFORT AND WEEKLONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (application required)



PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

High school juniors apply by December 17, 2025!

Learn more at skrecc.com/scholarships

SK South Kentucky
RECC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Plant utility-friendly trees in fall

Late fall is prime tree-planting time in Kentucky. The cooler temperatures and increased rainfall provide ideal conditions for root establishment before winter, giving trees a head start in spring.

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and South Kentucky RECC recommend selecting and planting trees that won't interfere with overhead power lines. Serious conflicts often develop between utilities and trees. Trees that grow into electric wires pose serious safety issues and can lead to service issues down the road.

Understanding the growth habits of trees and planting the proper species for the location can reduce many of these problems. To ensure adequate clearance:

Choose "utility-friendly" trees.

Assess the mature height and width of a tree before planting it. Never plant trees that exceed 25 feet at maturity. Among the best ornamental trees recommended for fall planting on Kentucky lawns are: Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood and Japanese Maple. UK Cooperative Extension recommendations suggest



NRECA

timing fall tree planting after the leaves have fallen and the soil is workable. Plant about a month before the first frost so the root system can establish before facing serious winter cold.

Look up. Don't plant under power lines. Even "utility-friendly" trees should be planted at least 25 feet away from power lines. For trees that grow taller than 25 feet, consult recommendations

for acceptable distances from lines.

Trees planted too close to power lines will require constant and severe pruning, which can harm the tree's health and appearance.

If you have questions or concerns about planting trees near power lines on your property, contact South Kentucky RECC at (800) 264-5112 for specific requirements.

South Kentucky RECC receives Governor's Safety and Health Award

South Kentucky RECC was recognized at the annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference and Exposition in Owensboro for excellence in workplace safety and health. The cooperative is among 49 Kentucky employers honored for achieving a significant milestone in employee safety, qualifying for the award earlier this year when it reached 500,000 hours worked without a lost-time accident.

Administered by KYSAFE, the Governor's Safety and Health Awards Program recognizes employers who demonstrate outstanding workplace safety performance, while also providing education, training, and technical assistance. Through these efforts, Kentucky employers, including South Kentucky RECC, continue to promote a culture of safety and protect the well-being of their workforce across the state.



From left, Lynn Whitehouse, director of KYSAFE; Brandon Wesley; Roy Bray; Eric Chumbley; Daniel Coomer; Justin Mayfield; and Jamie Link, secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet. Photo: Megan West

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Visit 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 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:



Keep an eye on safety for Halloween

Don't become a scary statistic for Halloween. South Kentucky RECC urges our members to take these precautions for safe and fun trick-or-treating:

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- Avoid costumes that are too long or have flowing fabric that could cause a tripping hazard.
- Avoid masks that may obstruct vision. Use makeup instead.

BE VISIBLE

- Add reflective tape or stickers to costumes and bags.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Stick to well-lit streets in familiar neighborhoods.

PAY ATTENTION

- Children under 12 should have adult supervision. Older youth should trick-or-treat in groups.
- Walk responsibly. Put electronic devices down and keep your head up.
- Stay on sidewalks and use crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- Be aware of cars. Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Only approach homes that have exterior lights on.
- Drive with headlights on and proceed slowly through spooky celebration areas.
- Inspect all candy before allowing children to eat it. Discard anything questionable.

Follow these simple safety precautions to help ensure that everyone has a happy and safe Halloween.

