

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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Helping our neighbors to the south

By Joy Bullock

Be the beacon of light in someone's darkness."—Abraham Maslow, American psychologist, best known for developing a hierarchy of needs to explain human motivation.

While that quote from Maslow pertains to the human condition, South Kentucky RECC strives to be the literal "beacon of light in someone's darkness" through mutual aid agreements with other Kentucky electric cooperatives.

A mutual aid agreement with other co-ops means that SKRECC will provide emergency assistance in the form of personnel and equipment when they experience major outages. In turn, these co-ops will do the same if South Kentucky RECC experiences a major outage situation.

The most recent event for which South Kentucky RECC provided aid was in September. The co-op sent 11 employees to DEMCO, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to aid with restoration following Hurricane Ida.

South Kentucky RECC Chief Operations Officer Kevin Newton says the co-op and its employees are happy to be able to provide assistance when needed.

"Cooperation among cooperatives, which is one of the seven cooperative principles, is alive and well," says Newton. "The members with DEMCO benefited from the hard work and dedication of our employees as we supported their co-op to restore power to their members that were so greatly affected by Hurri-



The ladies in the center and the gentleman in the blue shirt, far left, DEMCO co-op members, fed South Kentucky RECC crews while they rebuilt the co-op's service on Bear Island Road, in Maurepas, Louisiana. The men, second from left and far right, are DEMCO employees. South Kentucky RECC lineworkers, third left to right, are Stephen DeBord, Derek Maurath, Mike Ramsey, Gabe Dick, Dakota Carter, Daniel Coomer, Nick Jones, Josh Johnson, Adam Neal and Byron Koontz. Photo: DEMCO

cane Ida. At least 75% of their system was affected by the major weather event."

In turn, Newton recalls the aid that South Kentucky RECC received during the ice storm that affected the SKRECC system in February.

"In February, we had approximately 21,000 without power, at peak, after an ice storm swept across our system. We were able to reach out for assistance, and crews from Salt River Electric from Bardstown, Carroll EMC from Carrollton, Georgia, and GreyStone

When SKRECC employees restore power in other areas of the country, they face different situations than what they see here. Line technician Josh Johnson and others worked in swampy areas restoring power. Photo: Daniel Coomer



SK South Kentucky
RECC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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Power from Hiram, Georgia, came to help us during our time of need.”

“I don’t know of any better way to show cooperation among cooperatives than by assisting a co-op that is trying to restore power following a major outage, days Newton.

“Another cooperative principle is concern for community. When it comes right down to it, we are all one community, and we need to help our neighbors.” **DSK**

Scenes from DEMCO electric restoration in southeast Louisiana



ERIC CHUMBLEY



GABE DICK



DANIEL COOMER



ERIC CHUMBLEY



GABE DICK

Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, for Thanksgiving—but our service never takes a break.

If you have an outage or issue, South Kentucky RECC employees will be at work before you can serve the pumpkin pie. Call your local office or (800) 264-5112 to report an outage.

If you need to make a payment, there are several ways to pay:

- By phone
- Online at www.skrecc.com
- Mobile phone app
- Somerset office kiosk
- At a local, participating retailer through CheckOut



KOLPAKOV/SVELTANA

The return of a tradition: Christmas Island to resume

It's been more than 20 years since Burnside Island in southern Pulaski County has been transformed into a winter wonderland for Christmas. Beginning November 18, the island will once again be twinkling and sparkling with the hundreds of thousands of lights (powered by South Kentucky RECC) that make up Christmas Island.

The event will run through January 2 and will be open Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. (all times are Eastern Time).

Burnside Mayor Robert Lawson says people have been asking him about bringing back Christmas Island since he took office in 2017.

"That was a goal of mine from day one, and I have pushed tourism to come up with a plan to make this happen. Burnside's Tourism Director Frank Crabtree Jr. started working on this a couple of years ago. We looked

at several options and eventually ended up working with Celebration Lighting of Corbin. Together we have accomplished bringing back Christmas Island this year. I am so excited to see this wonderful light show coming to Burnside Island and to Pulaski County. We are so grateful and excited that Cumberland Lake Shell is assisting us in this endeavor. It's great having them on board."

Burnside Tourism Board Chair Phyllis Coffey says there is a great deal of excitement surrounding the rebirth of Christmas Island.

"Christmas Island became a tradition of many families in our area. It was a



PHOTO: CITY OF BURNSIDE

beautiful location and so close for many people to enjoy. We really want families to be able to create the kind of memories that many of us enjoyed as children or to be able to make memories with our children or grandchildren. These are memories that will last a lifetime."

Coffey adds that everyone has gone through a difficult time, and she hopes Christmas Island, presented by Cumberland Lake Shell, can shine a light in people's lives.

"We hope to bring some joy to our community. It is a safe way for people to enjoy time together and just a short drive to Burnside Island. With support of local businesses and our community, we hope to make this an annual event."

Coffey says she encourages everyone to come with family or friends, get a photo with Santa, sing Christmas carols, but most importantly, make special memories.



PHOTO: HOLIDAY DESIGNS

Christmas Island Schedule • Presented by Cumberland Lake Shell

Monday through Friday, 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. ET; Friday through Sunday, 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. ET

Pickup Truck, SUV, Car: weekdays \$20 per vehicle; weekends \$25 per vehicle

Van or Church Bus: weekdays \$35 per vehicle; weekends \$40 per vehicle

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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:



WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

Make your home safer against snow, ice and colder temperatures this winter. It's never too late to start winterizing your home.

6 TIPS to winterize your home

1. Turn off outdoor faucets and have sprinkler systems blown out by a professional.
2. Drain outdoor hoses.
3. Remove and drain window A/C units.
4. Insulate pipes in exposed or unheated areas.
5. Keep your thermostat above 55°.
6. On especially cold days, open cabinets to let warm air reach sink pipes.

