

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • JANUARY 2021

Resolve to save money in 2021 with Co-op Connections

Story by Joy Bullock

Welcome to the new year! It's the time of year that many of us pledge to lose a few pounds, get in shape or tackle a new project or major life change. How about resolving to save money? South Kentucky RECC can help with that one.

It's been about 15 years since South Kentucky RECC began the Co-op Connections program to help members save money when dining out, staying at hotels, or making purchases.

With 511 co-ops across the nation participating, including South Kentucky RECC, which was among the first to participate, members can always find a deal or a discount. There are more than 150,000 local and national business offerings currently available to South Kentucky RECC members.

The Co-op Connections program has expanded over the years to include prescription savings, and in 2020, SKRECC members who don't have prescription insurance or needed prescriptions not covered by insurance saved nearly \$20,000 on prescriptions.

In addition to prescription savings, the program introduced Healthy Savings Discounts savings



on lab and imaging services, chiropractic, dental, vision, and hearing care in 2011 to help members live healthier every day. The discount program is NOT insurance and cannot be used in conjunction with insurance; however, for SKRECC members who may not have insurance that covers prescriptions or certain health services, this could offer significant savings.

In 2014, the SKRECC Co-op Connections program added another feature to give members cash back on online purchases. With Co-op Connections' Cash Back, you can earn up to 20% back when you shop online from such stores as Best Buy, Walmart, Target, Bass Pro Shops, Expedia, and other big name merchants. Once you collect \$15 or more, you will receive a check in the mail. Be sure

There are more than 150,000 local and national business offerings currently available to South Kentucky RECC members through the Co-op Connections program.





Visit www.skrecc.com or www.connections.coop to learn more about how and where you can save through Co-op Connections.

to bookmark the page and do your online shopping to earn cash back.

There are many benefits to being a member of South Kentucky RECC—you are a part-owner of the electric co-op and can help make decisions for the co-op; you have access to local offices for assistance and our employees are your friends and neighbors; and last—but not least—you are eligible for the Co-op Connections program, which can save you money every day.

For more information on Co-op Connections or to get a card, please contact your local South Kentucky RECC office. You can also download

the app to your smartphone; search Co-op Connections in the App or Play store.

To get information on the various deals available through the Co-op Connections program, visit www.skrecc.com and look under the “Community” tab, or visit www.connections.coop.

SKRECC’s Co-op Connections program can make resolving to save money in 2021 a resolution you can keep, and you don’t even have to give up sweets! **DSK**



EVERYDAY SAVINGS

THAT'S THE POWER OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

Savings on everyday items — like up to 85% off prescription drugs at participating pharmacies nationwide.

FIND ALL THE WAYS TO SAVE AT CONNECTIONS.COOP



Beware of scams

The number of scam phone calls to South Kentucky RECC members has been on the rise through the ongoing pandemic.

Be aware and know that South Kentucky RECC NEVER calls in person demanding payment by phone. You may receive an automated phone call reminding you that your bill is delinquent after business hours. If you get an automated call, you will be given the option to pay your bill electronically.

No account information is being given to a live individual.

In addition, scammers can be very specific about the type of payment they need, such as a pre-paid credit card. Members should consider this a red flag as the co-op allows for several different types of payment options.

SKRECC members receiving these types of calls should tell the person on the other end of the line that they will call their local co-op office. Members should NEVER give out financial or

personal information to anyone that calls them and claims to be from the co-op, or to send money via Western Union or any other wire transaction.

If SKRECC members initiate the call to their local co-op office to pay their bill or for some other business transaction, please know it is safe to give any necessary information to employees.

South Kentucky RECC wants to keep its members protected. The co-op says to be wary and to err on the side of caution.

Be more energy-efficient in 2021

With the winter heating season upon us, it is never too late to start thinking about what you can do to help keep your electric bills manageable, and South Kentucky RECC has several programs designed to help members do just that.

The first option is to do your own energy audit using South Kentucky RECC's Virtual Energy Assessment. This home energy analysis technology, available on SKRECC's website, www.skrecc.com, and free to members, provides essential data and analyses that take the guesswork out of electricity consumption.

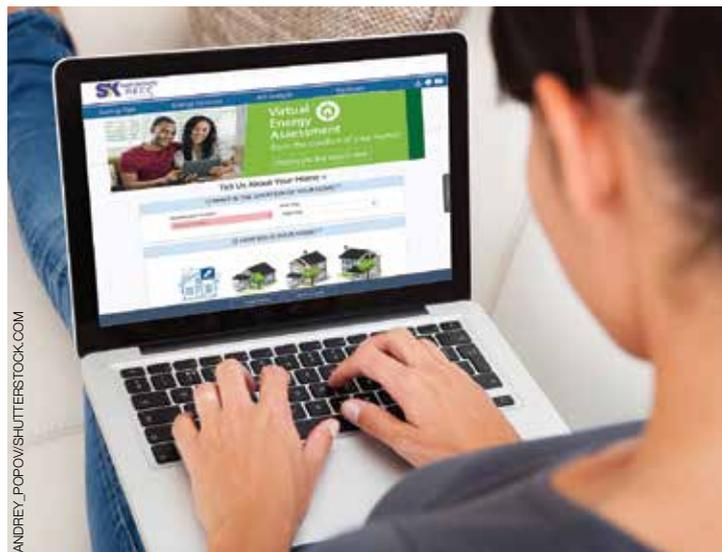
With a few taps on a mobile device or clicks of a computer mouse, Virtual Energy Assessment allows a co-op member to track their home's electricity use and learn exactly where energy is being consumed. The digital tool uses the actual energy data for your home or business, and local temperature information to calculate specific electricity use and costs, which makes it more accurate than any other online energy program.

Along with learning how much power you're using, Virtual Energy Assessment technology can pinpoint

specific problem areas and electricity hogs that contribute to higher energy bills. Users also receive do-it-yourself suggestions for reducing energy use, based on individual circumstances and a profile of your home or business, and upon completion of the analysis, members will receive a free LED lightbulb.

Button-Up is another South Kentucky RECC program designed to help members increase their home's energy efficiency. Earn up to \$750 in rebates by performing simple upgrades to your home like air sealing and adding insulation. To qualify, your home must be at least two years old and electrically heated. Call your local office and talk to an energy advisor if you are interested in the Button-Up program. The energy advisor will have to conduct a pre-blower door test for you to qualify for the incentive.

Resistance heat systems, such as baseboard heat, ceiling cable and electric furnaces are costly to operate. Consider replacing your existing heating source with a high-efficiency heat pump for energy savings. Members may receive up to a \$750 incentive for replacement of an existing heat source that must be either an electric furnace, baseboard heat, ETS (Electric Thermal Storage), or ceiling cable heat, with a high-efficiency heat pump. The heat pump must be rated at 14 SEER/8.2 HSPF or higher. This program is for existing homes that are at least two years old and replacing electric resistance heat. New manufactured homes also apply. All rebates for electrically heated, residential homes only.



Use South Kentucky RECC's Virtual Energy Assessment to identify areas in your home where you can be more energy efficient. You will get a free LED light bulb for completing the analysis.

Finally, South Kentucky RECC's Smart Thermostat Program can make it easy to manage your home's energy use. You can adjust your thermostat on the go, or allow it to set an automatic schedule that optimizes your energy usage based on your routine.

By enrolling your thermostat in the SimpleSaver program, you agree to allow brief, limited adjustments to your thermostat during times of peak electric demand. Enroll a qualifying Wi-Fi thermostat in the program to receive \$10 per thermostat (up to 2 thermostats). If you purchased your thermostat on or after March 2, 2019, you may be eligible for an additional \$100 per thermostat.

You can also earn an additional yearly \$20 in credits at the end of the summer season for participating.

Get details at www.enrollmythermostat.com/simplesaver.

For more information on these programs, call an energy advisor at your local South Kentucky RECC office or visit our website at www.skrecc.com. Let SKRECC help you withstand the winter doldrums.



A smart thermostat can help you optimize your energy use and earn you bill credits through South Kentucky RECC's smart thermostat program. Check it out today.

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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:



SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Tips for safe selection and use of electric space heaters

- Make sure the space heater has been tested to the latest standards and is certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Use only portable space heaters that have an automatic “tip-switch,” which will cause it to turn off automatically if the heater is tipped over or not upright.
- Make sure it has a guard around the flame area or heating element.
- Place the heater on a level, hard, nonflammable surface; do not place on rugs or carpets, near bedding or drapes, or on tables or countertops.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from bedding, drapes, furniture or other flammable items.
- Turn the space heater off if you leave the room, and never leave a space heater on while sleeping or if you leave home.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.



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