

Working (quietly) for you

Theodore Roosevelt talked about speaking softly and carrying a big stick in his foreign policy negotiations. And while that doesn't directly apply to what we do as a cooperative, cooperatives do quietly work hard for their members in the background. While our big stick is providing competitive, reliable power to your homes and businesses, we're also doing things to make our communities better.

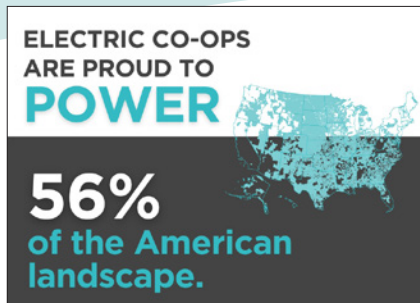
This October, Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives celebrate National Cooperative Month.

Touchstone Energy is a nationwide alliance of more than 700 member-owned electric co-ops. Each is committed to the highest standards of service, adhering to core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are a network of 17 co-ops working to improve local members' quality of life through a variety of initiatives—many happening quietly behind the scenes. Some of the benefits our members and communities realize from this alliance are:

Economic Development.

Fleming-Mason Energy is attracting jobs and business investment to the



Of nearly 900 electric co-ops in the U.S., more than 700 are Touchstone Energy co-ops. Graphic: NRECA

area via access to state-of-the-art technology and a professional economic development team. It was recently announced that Kentucky now ranks third in the nation in economic projects per capita, many resulting from the efforts of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Community Improvement.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives pool funds to jointly sponsor activities such as an annual Honor Flight for war veterans, Kentucky's Special Olympics Summer Games and Ronald McDonald House lodging for families with hospitalized children.

Energy Education. Our Touchstone

Energy membership provides access to research and expertise, allowing us to be a trusted source of energy solutions amid rapidly changing technology. Through our website, togetherwesaveky.com, members can learn about saving energy, lowering costs, and adopting beneficial electricity technologies.

Renewable Energy. Innovative projects like Cooperative Solar aren't affordable for a single co-op to undertake. By working with fellow Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we're able to offer a variety of renewable energy options to our members.

Through special projects and everyday commitments, Fleming-Mason Energy and our fellow Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are demonstrating the power of the cooperative spirit—sometimes quietly but always proudly. Happy Co-op Month!

At your service, 24/7

Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.

Brandon Hunt
PRESIDENT & CEO



Contact us:
In Fleming County:
(606) 845-2661

Other Counties:
(800) 464-3144

Hours:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Editor
Lori K. Ulrich
President & CEO
Brandon Hunt

Board of Directors
Tom Saunders
CHAIRMAN
John M. Roe
VICE CHAIRMAN
Dina Gooding
SECRETARY TREASURER

Other Directors
Timothy S. Eldridge
Rick Hord
Regina Rose
Shane Smoot

Attorney
Earl Rogers III

Follow us on:



Fall fix up

Install LED outdoor lights for security, visibility

Outdoor lighting not only enhances a home's curb appeal, but it also improves security and visibility. That's especially important as the days grow shorter.

Besides their well-known energy-efficiency, LED lights are a popular investment for outdoor lighting because of their durability and long-lasting performance. The lifetime of a quality, weather-resistant LED light exceeds 50,000 hours, a sturdiness that translates to low maintenance plus constant light for property owners.

Among the most common types of LED outdoor lighting are floodlights, path lights and wall-mounted lights for outdoor decoration and lighting security. Use these lighting choices to effectively illuminate different areas around your house, such as backyards, porch steps, pathways and outside your garage.

To light up the area outside your home for a variety of reasons, and to add an appealing atmosphere, consider these factors:

Weather resistance. Outdoor LEDs should have a high IP rating (indicates ability to withstand dust, moisture and other environmental conditions). Bulbs rated as IP65 are resistant to dust and low-pressure spray of water, which is enough for everyday exposure in open air. Lights with IP67 rating are more protected and can even be submerged in water for some time.

Brightness. Expressed in lumens, the brightness you'll need depends on the location and application of the light. Illuminating pathways requires lighting of between 100 and 200 lumens per square foot to ensure good vision for safety. Install lights providing 200 to 400 lumens for patios and decks to provide adequate light while avoiding excessive brightness. Security lights should range from 700 to 1,300 lumens per square foot to promote safety and security as well as discouraging intrusion.

Home improvement stores stock a variety of LED outdoor lighting options, making it easy to find the supplies for an easy fall fix-up project.



STELLASTOCK/ADOBE STOCK

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 5–10% 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.



Plan now to breathe easy

Power outages can pose a serious health risk for individuals who rely on home oxygen equipment. Fleming-Mason Energy members who rely on electric medical devices, such as oxygen concentrators, are urged to take steps now to be prepared for emergencies that could be caused by fall and winter storms.

PLAN FOR A POWER OUTAGE

- Draft an **ACTION PLAN** with emergency phone numbers and medical device information.
- Stock **BATTERY BACKUPS** that can provide power for a few days.
- Install an **EMERGENCY GENERATOR** as an alternative power source.
- Use **COMPRESSED OXYGEN** as a non-electric delivery method.



- Be prepared to **MOVE** to a place where you can use your oxygen. Have a plan, people to call and a place to go.
- Keep **CELLPHONE** charged to call for help.

Nominate an outstanding person

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives #WhoPowersYou contest

Fleming-Mason Energy, a Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is proud to bring the exciting #WhoPowersYou contest to our members. In the past, the national contest has recognized people across the country who make a difference. Now, the contest is open to Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' members only.

If you're a Fleming-Mason Energy 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 Marketing and Public Relations Manager Lori Ulrich. "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 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 a co-op member.



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 Fleming-Mason Energy's way of making life better.

Avoid turning on heat until necessary

Bundling up in a thick sweater and dressing in layers are two great ways to keep warm indoors during the month or two when it's starting to get chilly outdoors but it's not quite cold enough to turn the heat on.

In fact, many households wait until November or later to turn on the heat to save money on heating and to save energy, which is good for the environment.

If you'd like to try holding off on the heat until a bit later than usual, try these tips for keeping warm indoors:

- Cover the base of doors leading to the outdoors so the cold air can't sneak in underneath. You

can purchase draft stoppers—tubes filled with sand or other material—or make your own.

- Run ceiling fans, but switch the direction of the spin. To distribute rising warm air around the room, the blades should rotate clockwise.
- Open curtains and blinds on sunny days so warm sun can heat up your rooms. Close them at bedtime to keep drafts out of the house.
- If your home isn't carpeted, scatter throw rugs in the rooms you use most.
- Apply weather stripping around windows to keep chilly air from



getting inside.

- Throw an extra blanket on each bed in the house.
- Gather the family all in one room in the evenings to watch TV, read or play games, and run a space heater only in that room if needed.