

National Co-op Month: Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Celebrating our communities during National Co-op Month

Happy National Co-op Month! Here at Fleming-Mason Energy, we are always excited for this annual opportunity to celebrate some of the ways we create shared prosperity for our members and our communities.

This year, I want to especially lift up the communities that are at the heart of the co-op.

Because we are member-owned, decision-making and operations all tie back to the communities Fleming-Mason Energy is a part of. From Chatham to Salt Lick—and many places in between—we are one under the cooperative power lines that energize our lives, homes, and work.

Improving the quality of life in these communities is an everyday mission at the co-op. It's why we fund economic development initiatives aimed at bringing new jobs to our area. It's also the reason we support local schools and our cooperative system maintains a strong alliance with the Kentucky Community & Technical College System to benefit teachers.

We improve the lives of community members through activities such as Fleming-Mason Energy's sponsorship of



Fleming-Mason Energy employees Kent Stanfield and Jamie Hawkins recently placed a barn quilt for members Gary and Peggy Rose. The quilt can be viewed when traveling on East Fork Road in Bath County. Photo: Peggy Rose

Honor Flight participants. We provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for local veterans so they can visit war and military memorials erected in their honor. The 2020 trip had to be canceled, but Fleming-Mason Energy will continue its support when the tour resumes in 2021.

Families of sick children benefit from the hands-on support co-op

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At your service, 24/7

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



Joni Hazelrigg
PRESIDENT & CEO

Contact us:

In Fleming County:

(606) 845.2661

Other Counties:

(800) 464.3144

Hours:

7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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employees provide to the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington. Our efforts help to provide lodging, meals and other comforts for local families who must stay in the city while caring for a hospitalized child.

Our commitment to communities also means you can count on the cooperative to always have your best interest at heart. Helping you lower your electric bill with online tools

like the Virtual Energy Assessment is another way we demonstrate caring.

Co-op Month lasts just a few days each year, but Fleming-Mason Energy's commitment to the people and communities we serve remains constant. Along with delivering safe, affordable and reliable electricity, we are always working to improve the quality of life in the places we call home.

Fleming-Mason Energy employees retire

Fleming-Mason Energy would like to congratulate Jenny Wills on her recent retirement from the co-op. Jenny began her career at Fleming-Mason in 1999. She most recently worked as a service order specialist. We know both Jenny and her husband, Melvin, are excited to have more time to enjoy their grandchildren and pursue hobbies.

Fleming-Mason Energy also wishes to extend our congratulations to Billy Sapp on his recent retirement. Billy began his career as an apprentice lineman in 1981. Billy and his wife, Mona, are looking forward to more time to enjoy their family and farm.

Fleming-Mason Energy would like to thank both for their years of service to the co-op and wish them each a happy and healthy retirement. We are going to miss you!



Jenny Wills, left, and President & CEO Joni Hazelrigg. Photo: Lori Ulrich



Billy Sapp. Photo: Tim Webb

Long-term members

Recently, we decided to go through the archives and determine which accounts have been members of Fleming-Mason Energy the longest. Our system assigns everyone a member number based on when they became members of Fleming-Mason Energy. For example, Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church was the 25th member to join the co-op. Congratulations and thank you!

- 25 – Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church
- 104 – Poplar Plains Methodist Church
- 124 – Hillsboro Methodist Church
- 130 – Bethel Church
- 154 – Lawrence Creek Christian Church

Save electricity as a family

When everyone is spending more time at home this fall, the lights, computers and TV are running almost all the time.

That's perfectly fine if family members are in the rooms where those devices are switched on. But it's a waste of energy if lights and electronics are on when nobody's around.

The best way to get your children to avoid wasting electricity is to point out how your family could do better and engage them in the cure. Some examples:

- Buy LED lightbulbs for your lamps and overhead fixtures, and challenge your kids to replace all of the less-efficient bulbs with these. Residential LEDs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- Get an inexpensive caulk gun and some caulk from the hardware store and show your little ones how to caulk around windows, doors and openings around cable and phone lines. They'll feel grown up when they use the equipment.
- If you don't have a programmable thermostat yet, assign one of your kids—someone who can reach the thermostat—the job of turning it up at bedtime by about 7 degrees if the air conditioning is still out or down about 7 degrees if the heat is on. Do it every evening and you could save up to 10% on heating.

Note that programmable thermostats generally are not recommended for heat pumps. Do not change heat pump thermostat settings during heating mode more than 1 or 2 degrees. Consult manufacturer's manual or contact the co-op's energy advisor for more information.



OVERHEAD LINE SAFETY

WHEN IN DOUBT LOOK UP AND OUT

LOOK UP...

- When using tools of any kind, especially when trees are nearby.
- When using cranes or other lifting devices that approach working distance within 20 feet of power lines.
- When putting up scaffolding, framing a building, painting, pruning trees or picking fruit.
- When moving a tree under a power line. Determine the overhead clearance from the top of the tree. Trees can conduct electric current.
- When working on top of buildings.

When working on an outdoor project, stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. If your ladder or piece of equipment touches an overhead line, both you and the equipment can become a path for the electricity.



The month of October brings

"FREE BULB FRIDAYS" TO FLEMING-MASON ENERGY!

Every Friday during October,
National Cooperative Month, you
will receive a free bulb when you pay
your bill at our drive-thru window!



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



* while supplies last
* limit one bulb per member

Get smart about power cords

Here are five tips about power cords that will keep your family safe and your appliances running better.

1. Never bend a power cord. If you are rolling it up to store it, don't crimp the cord. Cords and cables have wires inside. Bending them can break them—which will ruin the cord.

2. Avoid covering a cord with a rug. If you need a long cord or an extension cord to plug in a lamp or other device, your device is too far away from the plug. Move it closer. If you hide a long-distance cord under a rug, it could overheat. Or someone could trip over it.

3. Cords and appliances are supposed to "match" when it comes to amperage and wattage rating. If you plug a high-wattage appliance into a low-wattage cord, you will likely

overburden the cord.

That can cause the cord to overheat and the appliance to malfunction.

4. Don't force a cord's plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit. If the outlet is too big and the plug does not fit snugly, the outlet is likely to overheat and damage the cord and the plug. If the plug is too big, use an adapter or find a different outlet. Never cut the third prong off a three-prong plug to fit it into a two-prong outlet.

5. Inspect power cords often. Even a tiny nick in the cord can result in a shock or even a deadly electrocution. Do not use cords—or



appliances with permanent cords—if the cord is damaged in any way—frayed, worn, torn or cut.