

Plugging in to electric vehicles

There was a time when most of us regarded the idea of driving an electric car to be about as likely as traveling in George Jetson's flying saucer. But no more.

The era of the electric vehicle (EV) has arrived.

Dropping prices, improved technology and longer driving ranges are just a few of the reasons Fleming-Mason Energy members and others are taking a closer look at EVs.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Preparing for an electrifying future

Kentucky already is a driving force in American car manufacturing with more than 85,000 citizens employed in the automotive industry in the state.

With car manufacturers dramatically expanding available models of electric vehicles (EVs), electric co-ops are preparing now for the electrifying future ahead.

There are already 77 public charging stations in the Commonwealth*, with even more planned soon.

Currently, Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are learning all we can about the tremendous environmental and savings benefits that EVs offer. We plan to inform and educate members about the changes that are coming, and the ways electricity can help us live cleaner and greener lives.

* www.afdc.energy.gov/states/ky

In addition to the superior environmental benefits most know about, here are some important points to ponder if you're considering an EV:

There are several types. A plug-in hybrid runs on a battery supplemented by a gas engine, and the battery charges by plugging into an electric power source. The all-electric vehicle only uses a rechargeable battery as its power source.

They offer significant savings. Most consumers are drawn to the EV because of its lower fuel cost. Compared to a similar gas-powered model, the typical all-electric vehicle saves about 75 percent on annual fuel costs, research indicates. At current gas prices, that is typically a savings of about \$1,200 each year.

All-electric cars also offer lower maintenance costs since they require no oil changes.

You have many choices. EVs are available in almost all vehicle categories. Some are the top-rated vehicle in their automotive class, according to *Consumer Reports*. Prices start as low as \$20,000 on popular models. Some new electrics qualify for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500.

Whether it's a vehicle powered by electricity or gasoline, we all like to check out what's under the hood before buying. Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have purchased a Chevy Bolt and Chevy Volt, to learn more about EVs.

At your service, 24/7

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



Joni Hazelrigg
PRESIDENT & CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Contact us:

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Other Counties:
(800) 464.3144

Hours:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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Help Us Commemorate Our "Oak" Anniversary!

In celebration of our 80th anniversary, Fleming-Mason Energy will give away tree seedlings to our members at our Flemingsburg office beginning Monday, March 12.

Members may pick up one free seedling. We will have Eastern redbud, gray dogwood, pin oak and chestnut oak available to choose from.

With each free seedling, Fleming-Mason will give out information on responsible tree planting practices. Before planting we support the Call Before You Dig (811) initiative. It is also important to consider the full growth potential of any tree when planting. A tree planted in a poor location could affect overhead utility lines and right-of-way.

Stop by during office hours, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Giveaways will take place on a first-come, first-serve basis until the supply is gone!

AMENIC181

Save the Date!

Fleming-Mason Energy's 80th Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 21!

Watch for complete details in a future *Kentucky Living*.



Be prepared for stormy weather



In late June 2017, Rowan County received more than 3 inches of rain in a matter of hours. The storm put the American Red Cross's Touchstone Energy emergency vehicle and trailer into action.

While there were no reported injuries, there were rescues. The storm flooded the Rudy Fest at the Carter County Fairgrounds, surrounding campers with water. The storm also

flooded parts of Olive Hill.

In these and other weather emergencies in recent years, people were in harm's way, and the Red Cross used the vehicle and trailer sponsored by Fleming-Mason

Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to help.

Fleming-Mason Energy believes strongly in assisting people when they face disasters. That's why Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are proud to sponsor this vehicle, which can be loaded with cots, blankets and other emergency equipment to help families affected by disasters.

This spring, you can be prepared if disaster should strike by taking the following simple steps:

- Monitor weather news so you can take shelter if there is a tornado watch or warning
- Keep a battery operated radio and/or a weather radio available
- Have plenty of bottled water: enough for three days for each person in the house
- Check that you have a well-stocked first-aid kit in case there are cuts, scrapes and injuries
- Keep flashlights with extra batteries handy
- Have an alternate power source available (such as a generator)

Fleming-Mason Energy is concerned for your safety during storms. This spring, be prepared and be safe.



Spring is in the air

It seems like it was just Christmas, but spring is right around the corner.

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, it's a good time for a few chores that could save energy—and money—throughout the spring and summer.

1. Tune-up your air conditioner.

Air-conditioning weather is still a couple of months away, but if you put off having your equipment serviced until it's hot outside, you run the risk of an A/C breakdown on a sweltering summer day. A qualified HVAC tech can replace your central air conditioning system's filters, make sure it has enough refrigerant and clean its evaporator coils. A pro also can spot problems-in-the-making and recommend repairs, so they don't put your unit out of commission.

2. Open the windows. Natural ventilation costs nothing. On warm spring days, invite spring breezes and sunshine in. It's a great way to air out the house as you begin your annual spring cleaning.

3. Turn off the heat. And delay your use of the air conditioner. Unless April and May are especially warm



RONSTIK

this year, enjoy the open windows for as long as you can.

4. Seal cracks in the drywall on the indoor side of your exterior walls.

You'll find them around electrical outlets, cable lines, windows and doors. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 30 percent on your energy bills by sealing air leaks around your house.

5. Service your large appliances.

The refrigerator is one of your home's biggest users of energy. Keep it clean on the inside and out—including the coils, which are located on the back of it or along the bottom, as they collect dust and sap the unit's efficiency. Also, clean the lint out of your dryer's vent pipe, which can catch on fire.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 11

Don't forget to *spring* forward!
Set your clocks ahead one hour.

