

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY




www.intercountyenergy.net

APRIL 2022

Small changes can have big impact

Friday, April 22, is Earth Day 2022. Consider making an Earth Day resolution to change at least one energy-related bad habit at home.

Here are some ideas:

If you haven't already, switch your lamps and overhead light fixtures to LED versions. You can even use LED lightbulbs in older fixtures.

Turn off the lights when you leave a room and teach your children to do the same. This is time-tested advice.

Unplug appliances like the TV and your computer when you're not using them. Appliances that are turned off

but still plugged in draw small amounts of electricity.

Take shorter showers. You'll save both water and energy.

Have your large appliances inspected every year. A maintenance check can help a furnace, air conditioning system or water heater last longer and run more efficiently.



ANDREY POPOV/ADOBE STOCK



Earth Day is Friday, April 22

SUNNY STUDIO/ADOBE STOCK

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Lineworkers go above and beyond.

Add electrical devices to spring cleaning list

After an especially cold winter, everyone is ready for spring. Is your house ready, too?

As the weather warms up, add these four items to your springtime to-do list:

1. Make an appointment with a licensed service technician to give your air conditioning system a once-over. Paying for a maintenance check now could prevent a bigger expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day and you have to do an emergency replacement. Regular maintenance also can extend the life of your system.

2. Clean the area around your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Brush dirt and leaves off the unit and

pick up tree limbs that landed on it over the winter. Resist the urge to plant bushes and flowers around the unit; anything that touches it could prevent air from circulating around it. That will make it perform inefficiently.

3. Scrub the winter grime off your home's windows—inside and out. Sparkling-clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.

4. Dust off hard-to-reach ceiling fans. Remove the lint from your dryer hose and vent. Wipe down heating grates and radiators, now that heating season is over. Look around your house for infrequently cleaned electrical devices and remove dust and dirt.



Inter-County Energy will be closed April 15 in observance of Good Friday.

Dryer lint buildup can overheat unit

Even if you clean your dryer's lint trap after every load of laundry, lint that gets stuck in other areas of the appliance can cause problems.

Here are some tips from dryer manufacturers that can help keep laundry day productive and safe:

- If your clothes are still damp at the end of a drying cycle, that could mean your lint screen or exhaust duct is blocked.
- A clogged dryer vent and exhaust duct could overheat and send dirty, moist air back into your home—or even catch on fire. Tip: Give that unit a good cleaning once a year. You might have to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer and from the vent to remove a blockage.
- Take a broom to the area behind your dryer. Lint always finds its way back there and can build up. If you can't move the dryer to get behind it, call a service technician for help.



BENJAMIN CLAPPA/DDBE STOCK

Scan the QR code with your phone and it will take you to information on Inter-County Energy's energy efficiency programs.



BY SPENDING A FEW MINUTES, I'M SAVING A LOT.

Yeah, a few minutes. That's all the time it takes me to change my home's air filter every month and save \$82 a year. Not bad for a few minutes of work, huh?

What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



INTERCOUNTYENERGY.NET
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Trees and hope for the future

Celebrating Arbor Day's 150th anniversary

OUR MISSION

The mission of Inter-County Energy Cooperative is to provide long-term valued electrical energy and services to our members through a culture of safety, accountability, innovation, integrity, and commitment to community.

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“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.”

Though the origin of this saying is unclear, its meaning rings true for Inter-County Energy on many levels.

Our ability to provide safe and reliable electricity at competitive rates is only possible because of the leadership of the people who started this cooperative 84 years ago. As Inter-County Energy powers our communities today, we continue to be led by and belong to the consumer-members we serve, and we continue to benefit from the strategic decisions and sacrifices of decades past.

Meanwhile, to borrow another phrase of unknown origin, “The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day, a celebration that sprouted in Nebraska in 1872 and has since grown into a global push to plant trees to improve the environment and our lives. Arbor Day is celebrated nationally on the last Friday of April, this year on April 29.

Plant with energy savings in mind, as trees can help keep your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Planting deciduous trees on the south, southwest and west sides of your home can cut the heat during summer months, while allowing sunlight through during the fall and winter. Consider planting native species—such as eastern redbud,

serviceberry or red maple—and borrow a page from our forefathers and envision the future. (Search “Top 10 Trees” on KentuckyLiving.com.)

Research how tall your tree will grow when mature and select a prime planting spot away from overhead utility lines. Here are a few general tips:

Plant a small tree, under 25 feet at maturity, a minimum of 25 feet from distribution power lines.

For a tree that matures at 25–40 feet, plant it 40 feet from power lines.

If the tree is expected to grow more than 40 feet high, plant it 60 feet from utility lines.

Do not plant near underground utility services, as tree roots can interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires.

Keeping trees away from utility lines not only keeps you safe, it keeps them safe as well. Trees planted too close to underground lines can suffer root damage. Trees planted too close to overhead lines need regular pruning, damaging the tree and its appearance.

Contact Inter-County Energy to request that your tree be trimmed if it begins growing near power lines; don't risk your safety doing it yourself.

For their shade, their beauty and their essential role in nature, planting a tree is an investment in the future.

As Lucy Larcom wrote in the late 19th century, “He who plants a tree plants a hope.”