

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY




www.intercountyenergy.net

MARCH 2022

Spring forward

Plant responsibly to keep your power flowing

There's nothing quite as beautiful in nature as trees. Their buds mark the coming of spring. They provide shade and shelter in the summer. In the fall, their brilliant colors paint the landscape.

Yes, we love trees, except those growing under or too near Inter-County Energy power lines.

When there's stormy weather in the forecast, those natural beauties can become enemies.

Trees are one of the leading causes of electrical power interruptions. Just a single limb that comes into contact with a power line can blink lights or cause an outage.

Maintaining reliable electric service is a top priority at Inter-County Energy. That's why we regularly trim and clear plant growth that can potentially cause an outage or hinder power line repairs by co-op line technicians.

Inter-County Energy has a 15-foot easement on each side of our single-phase power lines (a total of 30 feet). This easement serves as a buffer from encroaching limbs and vegetation that can interfere with electric service for you and your neighbors. That same area also allows us to access our wires and poles for maintenance and repairs.



We're doing all we can to manage vegetation and avoid electricity interruptions caused by overgrown vegetation. But we need your help, too.

If your spring plans include planting a tree, shrub or other ornamental plant, remember to first look up and be mindful of the location of power lines. Don't plant anything in the 30-foot easement zone.

Remember: That tiny sapling you are planting will one day be a fully mature tree. For example, an oak tree

can grow 8 feet in just one year if rain is abundant. Use the guide pictured on this page to determine the right planting spot so your prized tree won't cause power line conflicts when it matures.

Inter-County Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power. We'll do our part with regular tree trimming. And I hope you'll do your part—for yourself and your neighbors along the line—by planting responsibly.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Your Safety Matters

Use ladders safely this spring: Look up and stay safe

Falls are one of the leading causes of injuries nationwide, which is why it is so important to use ladders safely. Misuse of a ladder can put you at risk of permanent injury or death.

Choose a ladder that can sustain four times the maximum intended load and inspect your ladder before each use for defects.

To stay safe make sure you:

- Place your ladder on solid, level ground.
- Contact the the co-op before working near overhead power lines.
- When using an extension ladder, extend the top 3 feet above the landing. Find a friend to hold the base or tie it off.
- Keep the base free of work materials.
- Always face a ladder when climbing or descending and maintain three-point

contact (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand).

- Never stand on the top or on the first rung.
- Set the ladder at the correct angle (one quarter of the vertical length from the wall).
- Stay at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.

Remember to never overreach. You might tip sideways or cause the base to kick out. If your belt buckle is outside the side rails, you may be in danger.

Be extra cautious if you need to raise materials or equipment to where you are working. Instead of carrying items up in your hands, use a tool belt or a rope to get what you need up to your work site.

Inter-County Energy wants you to be safe. Remember to always look up and locate power lines to avoid contact.



SPRING INTO FARM SAFETY

Know what to do if electrical contact occurs

IF YOU'RE INSIDE THE MACHINERY WHEN COMING IN CONTACT WITH A DOWNED POWER LINE:

- **If you can, drive safely away**, until about 40 feet from the downed power line and the source of electricity.
- **If you can't drive or you are injured**, it's best to stay where you are until help arrives.
- **If a life-threatening situation arises**, jump out on both feet without touching machinery and ground at same time. Shuffle with feet together on ground until 40 feet away. Call 911.



Inter-County Energy promotions

Congratulations to Kathy Goodlett and Danny Lynn on their promotions here at Inter-County Energy.

Kathy Goodlett is now our plant accountant. She has been with the co-op for five years where she started as a member accounts representative.

Danny Lynn has been selected to fill the new dispatcher position. Danny brings 15 years of experience to his new position.



Kathy Goodlett



Danny Lynn

PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

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



Levelized Billing

As Easy as 1-2-3!

Inter-County Energy offers Levelized Billing as a way to even out your monthly electric payments (for members with service 12 months or longer at your current location). You will be able to smooth out the high and low seasonal fluctuations in your electric bill. It also assists you in budgeting your monthly electrical expense.

Find out more at www.intercountyenergy.net.
(859) 236-4561 or 1-888-266-7322





Charging forward

Kentucky's move toward electric vehicles gets a boost

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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24-HOUR EMERGENCY/OUTAGE REPORTING (866) 224-2235

For major outage updates and restoration efforts, listen to the following radio stations; WPBK 102.9, WHIR 105.1, WOKH 102.7, WDFB 88.1 or WLSK 100.9.

FOR INFORMATION AND INQUIRIES:

Toll-free: 1-888-266-7322

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

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(859) 236-4561

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Kentuckians are no stranger to horsepower—of the equine persuasion or under the hoods of vehicles made here in the nation's third-largest auto manufacturing state. But Bluegrass State residents now have reason to view horsepower in a new—electric—light.

The \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law last November, includes billions for electric vehicle-related projects. A significant cut of that money is expected to flow into Kentucky.

Between 2022 and 2026, states will divvy up \$7.5 billion in grants to build a nationwide network of 400,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. There is \$69 million to deploy chargers in Kentucky. Lack of public charging stations has been a key hurdle to broad adoption of EVs, especially in rural communities.

The infrastructure bill also brings benefits to Kentucky's auto industry, such as supporting new EV battery manufacturing facilities. The U.S. Department of Energy has \$7 billion

to work with to support the battery supply chain for both EVs and battery-storage technologies.

Federal investment will help some Kentucky manufacturers and global companies with facilities here accelerate production of components for electric vehicles. That dovetails with news that Ford and SK Innovation are building an electric battery manufacturing plant in Hardin County projected to employ 5,000 Kentuckians.

When it comes to adopting EVs, Kentucky has plenty of room to grow. There are currently about 1.7 million private and commercial vehicles registered in the Bluegrass State. Fewer than 3,000 are private electric vehicles, according to 2020 data.

An expanded charging network plus local ties to EV manufacturing may push those numbers higher in Kentucky in coming years.

To learn more about EVs and find out EV charging is right for you, visit togetherwesaveky.com. Check out our video series at <https://togetherwesaveky.com/media>.



TIM WEBB