

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY

f X @ www.intercountyenergy.net

OCTOBER 2023

What we value

You might have noticed the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives logo that appears alongside the Inter-County Energy name. It's a mark we exhibit with pride because of what it says about us.

The word "touchstone" comes from long ago times when merchants tested the authenticity of gold and silver coins by rubbing them on a hard black stone. The color of the streak left on the "touchstone" disclosed the coins' true value.

Today, the more common meaning of touchstone is a reference point from which to evaluate the quality or excellence of something. At Inter-County Energy, it represents these core values that set us apart from other utilities:

- **INTEGRITY:** Members first. Every day. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Inter-County Energy delivers energy at the cost of service. This differs from investor-owned utilities that distribute profits to investors not necessarily to the people they serve.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We belong to you, our owner-members. Decisions are made in your best interest by directors you elect.
- **INNOVATION:** As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we have access to



TIM WEBB

state-of-the-art technology to better serve you. The energy industry is always changing. Our cooperatives are always looking for ways to better serve you, such as using state-of-the-art technology to monitor our power lines and ensure reliable service.

- **COMMUNITY:** Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives work together to improve the quality of life in their communities. Inter-County Energy donates time, energy and resources to local projects and causes, like Honor Flight, Christmas Blessings, Special Olympics and

the Ronald McDonald houses, and takes a leadership role in community development projects. We also have a dedicated team of economic development professionals who work to better our communities through bringing investments and jobs to our co-op area.

Inter-County Energy is one of the 17 co-ops that make up Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. As we celebrate National Co-op Month, we're proud to recognize these values that strengthen our relationship with you.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Five ways to save

Ideas and incentives to reduce your electric bill this winter

1. Button-Up

What: Free professional audit to identify air-loss problems and ways to fix them

Why: Save up to 20% on heating and cooling costs

How: Add insulation; weatherization

Rebate value: Up to \$750*

2. HVAC Duct Sealing

What: Free testing to identify air duct leaks in home heating and cooling system

Why: Improve HVAC efficiency by 30%

How: DIY or hire a contractor to seal leaky air ducts

Rebate value: Up to \$400*

3. Heat Pump Retrofit

What: Replace existing resistance heat source with high-efficiency heat pump

Why: Uses 50% less electricity

How: Purchase and install high-efficiency heat pump per co-op guidelines

Rebate value: Up to \$750*

4. Virtual Energy Assessment

What: Simple online tool for rating the energy efficiency of your home

Why: Pinpoint areas of high use

How: DIY project using the SmartHub application available at intercountyenergy.net.

Cost: Free

5. Together We Save

What: Find ideas and calculators to save energy and money

Why: Lower your home energy bill

How: Visit togetherwesaveky.com

Cost: Free

DIY ENERGY-SAVING IDEAS: www.togetherwesaveky.com

* Remember to contact a Inter-County Energy energy advisor to review rebate guidelines before beginning any eligible energy efficiency project.



ROMAN MILETT/ADOBE STOCK

Inter-County Energy will be closed Monday, Oct. 9, in honor of Columbus Day. Please contact our 24-hour outage line in case of an emergency or outage by calling (866) 224-2235.

SmartHub

Scan the QR code that corresponds to your mobile phone, then download our SmartHub mobile app and signup. Also, our payment phone number has changed. Do you need to make a payment using a debit/credit card or E-check? You can do that by using our new interactive voice response system. Just call 1-888-438-7906 and follow the prompts.



THE PLAY STORE



THE APP STORE

How to avoid a scary electric bill

Halloween is second only to Christmas when it comes to lighting up for the holiday. Last year, 74% of us decorated for Halloween, spending a whopping \$10.6 billion, reports the National Retail Federation.

Planning to light up the holiday? LEDs are the way to go. They're a much-improved version of your old holiday light collections, both inside and out. Here's why:

- **Lower energy consumption.** LEDs consume 80-90% less power than outdated incandescent lights, meaning you'll save on your electric bill.
- **Longer lasting.** LEDs typically last up to 100,000 hours. Considering the 3,000-hour average lifespan for incandescent Halloween lights, you'll save even more by not having to replace your Halloween decorations as often. Any LED lights you buy this year will pay for themselves over the next few holiday seasons.
- **More light strings.** With traditional lights, you can only connect four or five strings of lights together on one outlet, limiting the amount of lights you can safely use in one area. With

LED lights you can safely connect 20-plus light strings together.

- **More color choices.** LED lights come in a wider range of colors, are generally brighter than incandescent light strings, and even come in strings connected to dimmers for different lighting effects.
- **Safer.** LED lights don't produce any

heat, unlike incandescent bulbs. This means they're safe for use within reach of children and pets.

Whether you're turning your yard into a haunted forest or simply adding indoor ambiance, celebrate Halloween with energy-saving LEDs. It's style without the scary electric bill.



JENKINSMAN/DOBE STOCK



Members first

Co-ops have a different bottom line

OUR MISSION

Inter-County Energy accomplishes our daily mission by providing energy and services to our members through a culture of Safety, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

PRESIDENT/CEO

Jerry Carter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice Chairman

Jason E. Todd (Lincoln)

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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.

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY
(859) 236-4561

LEBANON/DISTRICT OFFICE
(270) 692-3761

www.intercountyenergy.net

Email: mail@intercountyenergy.net

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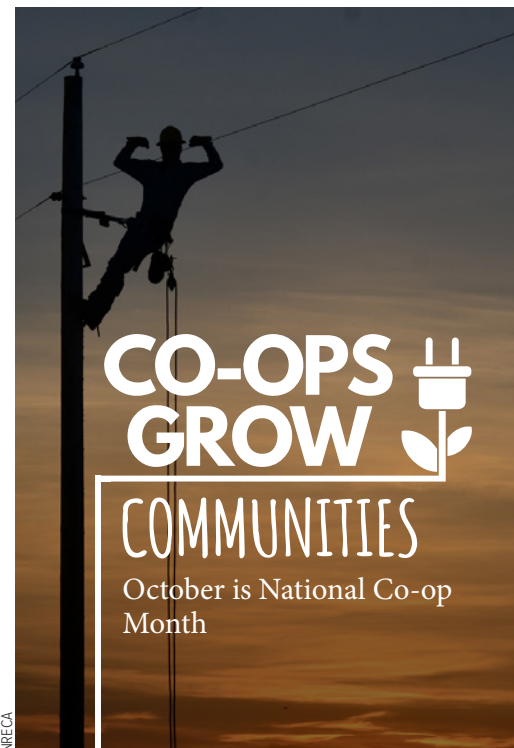
What makes a cooperative unique?

There are lots of ways to answer this question, but here's one I return to often: cooperatives put their members first. It's true now, and it was true in 1844, when a group of 28 workers formed one of the earliest examples of the modern cooperative.

This group of workers—known today as the Rochdale Pioneers—banded together out of necessity. Their working conditions in Rochdale, England, were miserable. Pay had fallen by nearly half over the previous 20 years, and the cost of living had skyrocketed. Worse still, local merchants used unfair measurements to cheat their customers, and they commonly watered down milk, added chalk to flour and mixed gravel with oatmeal to increase their bottom line at the consumer's expense.

The Rochdale Pioneers took matters into their own hands. Each member paid a fee to join a cooperative organization that all members would own and control together. Members shared equally in the cooperative's benefits—which included the opportunity to buy unadulterated food, sold at reasonable prices using honest weights and measures.

The organization was a success, but its most important contributions were guidelines that cooperatives around the world still follow today. These cooperative principles are open and voluntary membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.



When Inter-County Energy was formed in 1937, we had the same mission to put our members first. While Kentucky's urban centers had already been electrified for decades, our rural communities were being neglected by the for-profit utility industry. It was time to take matters into our own hands. Using low-cost federal loans, Inter-County Energy set poles, strung lines and brought power to our consumer-members. We were a new kind of utility company: not-for-profit, member-owned and democratically controlled.

As we observe National Cooperative Month this October, it's worth reflecting on what makes the cooperative business model so powerful. Today, as in 1937, we put our members first—and that makes all the difference.