

June 2021



## More Ways to Help the Environment



Thank you for being a member of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, and for participating in the envirowatts program. We appreciate your efforts in helping your local co-op invest in renewable energy sources. There are plenty of ways you can live "green" beyond participating in envirowatts. From simple, easy things to more committed approaches, here are some helpful tips for earth-friendly living.

### Start with Energy Efficiency

By saving energy, you not only save money, but you help the environment.

- Switch to CFLs or LEDs lights, they use 75 percent less energy.
- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR certified appliances.
- Set your water heater temperature to no higher than 120 degrees.
- Add insulation and weatherize your home.
- Wash clothes in cold water and only do full loads.
- Clean your refrigerator coils annually.
- Seal leaks in your duct system.
- Close shades and drapes at night to keep heat in during the winter, and open them during the day to catch free solar heat.
- Caulk outside your home, around all penetrations including telephone, electrical, cable, gas, water spigots, dryer vents, etc.
- As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative member, you can perform a free, online energy audit to find out more about your home's energy use. Visit your co-op's website for information.

Your decision to be a part of envirowatts to incorporate renewable energy into your life demonstrates your commitment to an environmentally friendly lifestyle. You've joined another 800 Kentuckians in this endeavor to create a community of envirowatts supporters.

Whether you've chosen to support solar, wind, biomass and/or hydro with your monthly contribution, you've played an essential role in keeping Kentucky's renewable efforts alive.

The envirowatts program began in 2003 with power plants that produce biomass energy from landfill gas. Each plant converts methane that is produced from decaying trash into electricity. These plants still provide the biomass

portion of the program, and have been applauded for being both environmentally responsible and cost efficient. In 2014, new options were added to envirowatts – solar, wind and hydro.

For just \$2.75 per portion, per month, co-op members across the state are participating just like you. We value your decision and will send you updates through this e-newsletter periodically.

Learn more about how the program works at [Green Benefits - envirowatts](#).

[envirowattsky.com](http://envirowattsky.com)



## **Inter-County Energy to supply 100% renewable energy to one of the largest carbon-neutral distilleries in North America**

Inter-County Energy Cooperative, one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, will supply 100-percent renewable energy to Diageo's new \$130 million distillery under construction in Lebanon, Ky., helping to make it one of the largest carbon-neutral distilleries in North America.

That is part of an agreement between the Danville-based electric cooperative and Diageo, a global beverage leader whose brands include Bulleit Bourbon.

The Danville-based electric cooperative will supply energy from a Kentucky solar farm, as well as other renewable energy resources to power the distillery, said Jerry Carter, President and CEO of Inter-County Energy.

"We want to extend a warm welcome as Diageo makes this valuable investment in Lebanon-Marion County," said Jerry Carter, President and CEO of Inter-County Energy, which will provide electric service to the Lebanon distillery. "Inter-County Energy is proud to work in partnership with Diageo and East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) to understand the energy needs of this facility and to develop innovative ways to meet the sustainability goals of one of the largest renewable energy consumers in Kentucky."

The arrangement will help Diageo toward its goal of sourcing 100 percent of electricity companywide from renewable sources by 2030.

Diageo's new facility in Marion County, Ky., will include a 72,000 square-foot distillery and dry house, along with 12 barrel warehouses on 144 acres. It is expected to be fully operational in 2021. The distillery will feature electrode boilers to eliminate direct greenhouse gas emissions.

EKPC also will enter into power purchase agreements for additional renewable energy to supply to the distillery.

"We are pleased to welcome Diageo and to help supply their energy needs," said Anthony "Tony" Campbell, President and CEO of EKPC. "With renewable resources, conventional power plants, and access to energy markets,

Inter-County Energy and EKPC have a diverse supply mix to meet the needs of Diageo and all of our co-op members in a reliable, affordable and sustainable manner.



## What's Cooperative Solar?

Looking for another way to purchase renewable energy? Check out our [Cooperative Solar](#) program.

Co-op members can license solar panels at Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' not-for-profit 60-acre solar farm. You can tap into renewable solar energy for your home or business without the headaches of installing and maintaining solar panels themselves.

Many co-op members are interested in going solar but they face obstacles, such as:

- Covering their roof with solar panels.
- Maintaining the equipment themselves.
- Their home's roof is shaded by trees or is not aligned for optimum sun exposure.
- They rent their dwelling.
- Deed restrictions prevent installation of panels.

Cooperative Solar is renewable energy that is easy and affordable. Your electric cooperatives install and maintain solar panels on our property; and, with a one-time payment, coop members get credit on their monthly power bill for the energy produced by their share of the panels over the next 25 years.

For a one-time payment of \$460 per panel, participating members will receive a 25-year license to one of the panels. That means they will get credit on their monthly power bill for their proportional share of the energy generated by the solar farm, as well as the market value of their panel's capacity. And they can monitor panel performance online.

Cooperative Solar participants are joining a community of co-op members who are committed to the environment and the future.

Many businesses have sustainability goals that can be met through Cooperative Solar, which offers participants the option of retiring or monetizing the solar energy renewable credits associated with their share of the farm.

This is an easy, cost-effective way to enjoy the benefits of renewable solar energy and also manage energy costs.

Cooperative Solar Farm One is one of the biggest solar installations in Kentucky. Your cooperatives are leading the way in bringing renewable energy to our members and embracing the technologies of the future. Learn more and submit an application at [www.cooperativesolar.com](http://www.cooperativesolar.com).

Cooperative Solar

*Want to do more?*



## The right choice for you

We know many Kentuckians are looking for ways to support renewable energy efforts. Again, we thank you for your support. Feel free to share this e-newsletter and talk about your participation with friends and family. You can also learn about ways to improve your home's energy efficiency by visiting [www.togetherwesaveky.com](http://www.togetherwesaveky.com). There's even an electric vehicle calculator to help you understand the benefits of switching to an EV.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [info@envirowattsky.com](mailto:info@envirowattsky.com).

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