

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY




www.intercountyenergy.net

MARCH 2021

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.

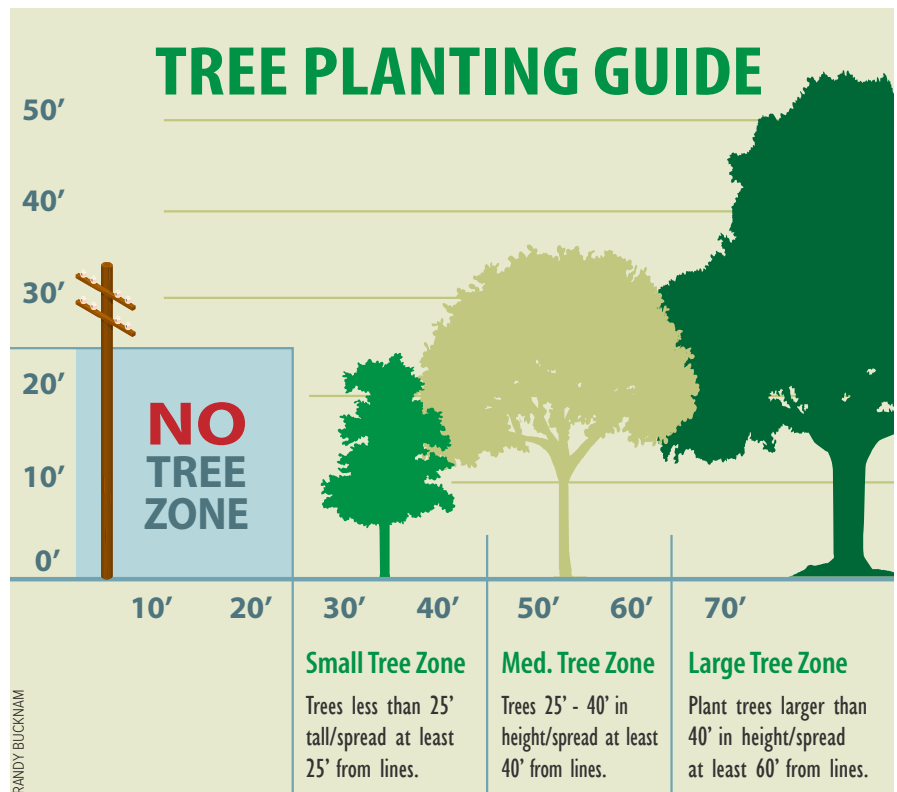
Yes, we love trees ... except those growing under or too near Inter-County Energy power lines.

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, 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.

Picking the right ladder for the job is the most important step. Choose a ladder that can sustain four times the maximum 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 local utility before working near overhead 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 3-point contact (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand).

- Never stand on the top or at 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 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**, 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 and away from the machinery on both feet without touching the machinery and ground at the same time with any part of your body or clothing. Shuffle with feet together on ground until about 40 feet away. Call 911.





Spring Forward

Don't forget to spring forward on Sunday, March 14.

Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



MEMBER MATTERS

You've got questions, we've got answers. Is an electric vehicle right for you or do you just want to understand the technology better? Learn more at www.togetherwesaveky.com.

You can even use our EV calculator to check out model options.



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



INTER COUNTY
ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 





Pan-iversary marks spring's rebirth

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

DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY
(859) 236-4561

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This month marks a “pan-iversary”—one year since the coronavirus pandemic up-ended our lives. Now, as the deployment of vaccines provides hope that life can return to normal this year, the annual promise of spring takes on special meaning as crocus and daffodils poke their heads out.

Throughout the pandemic, Inter-County Energy has diligently worked to serve you safe and reliable electricity, and we are hopeful that we will soon be able to resume normal operations and engagement with our valued consumer-members.

Meanwhile, the change of seasons is also accompanied by several safety considerations. March can come in like a lion; tree limbs can break and street signs take flight with high wind gusts. Now is a good time to inspect your property for dead trees or overhanging branches near structures, and loose roofing materials. Please contact Inter-County Energy if you notice any tree limbs in contact with power lines, and do not attempt to clear them yourself.

As the weather turns warmer, it also inspires an increase in outdoor work, both on the job and at home. Awareness of electrical safety can help ensure these activities do not result in injuries and deaths.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (www.ESFI.org) provides several important reminders:

- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.



- Ladders—even those made of wood—that come into contact with a power line can prove fatal. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid damp conditions—including wet grass—when using electricity.

Safety remains the top priority at Inter-County Energy, and our safety culture is crucial to ensuring that our entire co-op family, from our line technicians to the consumer-members at the end of the line are safe and sound. You can find more safety tips on page 41 of this issue of *Kentucky Living*.

Please contact Inter-County Energy if you are interested in a member of our team bringing that safety message to your service organization, church group or school.

So, on this pan-iversary, we look forward to a safe, healthy and prosperous 2021. Know that all of us at Inter-County Energy are committed to serving you.