

# INTER-COUNTY ENERGY



www.intercountyenergy.net

OCTOBER 2020

*A cause to celebrate*

## October is National Co-op Month

This has been a tough year to celebrate much of anything. Graduations and birthdays became drive-thru experiences. Events that bring the most people together have been the ones most targeted for cancellation because of social distancing guidelines. Yet, it's more important than ever this October to invite you to celebrate National Co-op Month with Inter-County Energy Cooperative. This year's theme is "Power On"—and that's what we'll continue to do.

Admittedly, National Co-op Month does not command the same attention on a calendar as holidays or anniversaries. You won't see a firework display or a parade to mark this occasion. Instead, the significance of this month can be found in simple accomplishments. We made it through another day together, we have empathy for our neighbors who may be struggling, and—for the employees and directors at Inter-County Energy—our commitment to the consumer-members who rely on us to safely power local homes and businesses is unwavering and consistent.

Technically speaking, this service is powered by electrons that travel through transformers and power lines of Inter-County Energy.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



But the only way this can happen is through the cooperative relationship that defines who we are. Our 20,256 consumer-members empower Inter-County Energy's commitment to community. Through economic development and support of local initiatives, we are dedicated to improving our members' quality of life.

In other words, when we celebrate National Co-op Month, we are not just recognizing the accomplishments of the people who work at the co-op, we are thanking you for feeding the cooperative spirit which powers all of us.

Being a co-op is not a marketing slogan that any utility can place on its letterhead. If you receive service from Inter-County Energy, you are not just a customer, you are a member and a part owner of this not-for-profit, locally owned and operated business. Each member gets a vote to decide which fellow members serve on the board of directors that oversees the management of this co-op.

The same cooperative principles upon which we were founded in 1937 continue to guide us today. Yes, this is a very challenging year, and a fitting time to celebrate National Co-op Month—#PowerOn.



## Cooperative members help their neighbors

The word “cooperative” in the context of “electric cooperative” means that your utility is organized as a cooperative business; that is, it is owned by the consumers who buy its services.

It also means something else. One of any cooperative’s guiding principles is “cooperation among cooperatives,” which means if a nearby

electric cooperative needs help, yours will gladly pitch in.

Likewise, the consumer-owners of the cooperative have a proud history of helping each other during hard times—like these.

During the pandemic, your neighbors have been helping each other out by:

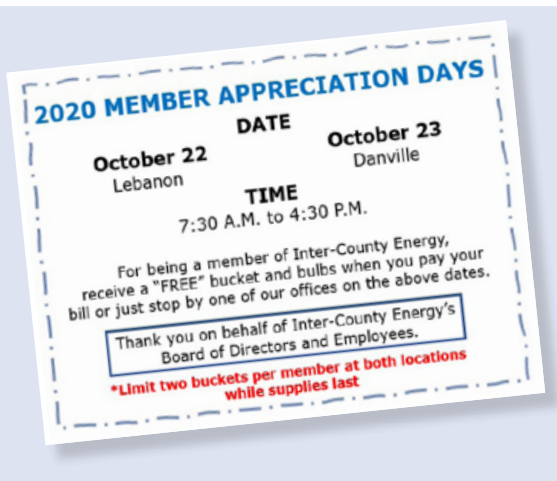
- Checking in on elderly neighbors or those who live alone to ask if they need anything.
- Sewing masks and distributing them to people who can’t find any or can’t afford to buy them.
- Doubling up on grocery shopping so they can pick up food for those who can’t get out—as long as they’re going to the store anyway.
- Lending a shoulder to cry on or a friendly ear to bend for neighbors who are down on their luck or feeling extra stress during the pandemic. It’s a great way to show your cooperative spirit. What else can you do to help your fel-



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low electric cooperative members?

October is National Cooperative Month. Show your cooperative spirit this month by pitching in around your own neighborhood to show that we’re all in this together.



## Make this Halloween an 'Energyween'

The U.S. Department of Energy is calling on trick-or-treaters and their families to take three easy steps to keep your energy bill from haunting you this Halloween:

**1.** If you're decorating your house for Halloween or attending a Zoom costume party, choose an energy theme. You could dress up like a twisty fluorescent lightbulb, for example, or carve windmill, electric plugs or sunshine patterns into your jack-o-lantern. For stencils and ideas, visit [Energy.gov/energyween](http://Energy.gov/energyween).

**2.** Scare away the energy vampires haunting your house. Whenever you leave a device plugged in, it uses energy—even if it's turned off. That includes phone chargers, computers and video game consoles. Unplug the device from the wall when you're finished using it. If you have an extra TV in a room that you rarely use, leave it unplugged until the next time you want to watch it.

**3.** Use power strips. It's even easier to unplug unused appliances if you plug nearby devices into the same

power strip. Then you simply have to pull one plug out of the wall—and plug one back in next time.



SASHIKASIRO

# Get smart about power cords

Here are five tips about power cords that will keep your family safe and your appliances running better.

1. Never bend a power cord. If you are rolling it up to store it, don't crimp the cord. Cords and cables have wires inside. Bending them can break them—which will ruin the cord.
2. Avoid covering a cord with a rug. If you need a long cord or an extension cord to plug in a lamp or other device, your device is too far away from the plug. Move it closer. If you hide a long-distance cord under a rug, it could overheat. Or someone could trip over it.
3. Cords and appliances are supposed to “match” when

it comes to amperage and wattage rating. If you plug a high-wattage appliance into a low-wattage cord, you will overburden the cord. That can cause the cord to overheat and the appliance to malfunction.

4. Don't force a cord's plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit. If the outlet is too big and the plug does not fit snugly, the outlet is likely to overheat and damage the cord and the plug. If the plug is too big, use an adaptor or find a different outlet. Never cut the third prong off a three-prong plug to fit it into a two-prong outlet.



LOST IN THE MIDWEST

5. Inspect power cords often. Even a tiny nick in the cord can result in a shock or even a deadly electrocution. Do not use cords—or appliances with permanent cords—if the cord is damaged in any way—frayed, worn, torn or cut.

## Pre Pay Service A Prepaid Energy Solution

- Enroll by placing an initial minimum of \$100 in your prepay account
- No monthly bill
- View your account balance or make a payment 24/7
  - Pay online at [www.intercountyenergy.net](http://www.intercountyenergy.net)
  - Download our free mobile app on iTunes or Google Play store
  - Call 1-888-266-7322
- Receive an email or text alert when your account balance falls to \$25
- If your contact information changes, you MUST let us know to continue receiving balance alerts

**INTER**  **COUNTY**  
ENERGY COOPERATIVE

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TIM WEBB

**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.

**PRESIDENT/CEO**

Jerry Carter

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chairman**

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**Secretary-Treasurer**

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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

**LEBANON/DISTRICT OFFICE**

(270) 692-3761

**www.intercountyenergy.net**

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*Your Safety Matters*

**Be alert to electric hazards during fall harvest**

Harvests of many kinds are well under way in the many rural communities that Inter-County Energy serves—from corn and soybeans to apples and pumpkins.

The busy fall harvest is the most productive time of the year for farmers, but without proper precautions can be dangerous. With tall equipment harvesting crops, make sure to look up and look out for power lines.

Ensure that equipment always stays at least 10 feet away from power lines by lowering augers, harvesters or other equipment to transport level. Know the height of cultivators or planters in the fold-up position. The equipment may be taller than during field use.

Watch for the guy wires that are attached to utility poles. Striking a guy wire can damage your equip-

ment, weaken a pole or even bring power lines down.

If you are in a tractor cab or vehicle with a line on top and it can be driven, pull out from under the wire. If disabled, remain inside, keep others away and call 911. Never touch the ground and vehicle at the same time.

If you must exit, stand on the vehicle frame and jump as far as possible, landing with both feet together. Then bunny hop or shuffle away as far as possible. If the ground is energized and your feet are apart, you run the risk of electric current traveling up one leg and down another.

This is the time when the year's investment pays off, but only if you take the time to stay safe.

Inter-County Energy cares about your safety while you are working on the farm.