



Customers, Kenergy tout automated meters

Billy Boyle, a Kenergy member-owner who lives on the outskirts of Owensboro, always tried to read his electric meter on the same day each month. But sometimes, it would slip his mind, and he'd read it a few days later than he wanted.

In early 2008, all that changed for Boyle and nearly 1,100 other customers who participate in a pilot program. Since then, Kenergy has installed close to 1,000 automated



Billy Boyle, a Kenergy member-owner who lives in Owensboro's Bon Harbor subdivision, likes the convenience of his automated meter. Boyle is one of about 1,100 Kenergy customers on a pilot program titled Automated Meter Infrastructure.

meters in a section of Owensboro around the Bon Harbor area. About 100 co-op members in Centertown received them in 2008 as well.

Boyle, the owner of James H. Davis Funeral Home, appreciates being included in the automated-meter pilot program. It simplifies his life, he says. "I don't have to read (the meter) anymore. It seemed like it was difficult to remember to do it."



Kenergy leaders have not made a decision whether to install automated meters throughout the cooperative's system.

"We're continuing to build our business case while finding ways to maximize the technology," said John Newland, Kenergy Vice President of Engineering.

So far, the automated meters have demonstrated many advantages for Kenergy and its member-owners.

In August, Kenergy estimated 12 percent of its customers' bills because member-owners failed to provide readings. With automated electronic meters, Kenergy can read each household's use on a daily basis, which means no contractor would have to be paid to verify the readings on meters annually.

During an outage, these intelligent meters provide two-way communication and help the cooperative know when service is restored. That knowledge improves restoration times by allowing Kenergy to place critical personnel in areas they are needed most.

Kenergy will continue to update you on this pilot program and other innovative technologies.

Kenergy's headquarters and branch offices will close in observance of Columbus Day on Monday, Oct. 12.

Hunters beware of sagging lines

As regional hunters enter the woods this autumn, they should be aware of possible safety hazards - remnants of the January ice storm.

Not all limbs that died as a result of the ice storm fell immediately. Many of them continue to fall. In some cases, they tangle in power lines, causing low-hanging lines.



In addition, the weight of ice on the power lines stretched them, and leaning or damaged

poles may have caused them to sag lower than normal. People do not visit wooded, remote areas - perfect wildlife habitat - as often, so some sagging lines and damaged poles may not have been reported yet.

Another reminder: Hunters should use extreme caution in wooded areas where sagging power lines may not be as visible.

"We don't want anyone to be hurt," said Gerald Ford, Kenergy's Vice President of Operations.

Ford estimates it may take until the end of 2009 to repair all the damage that resulted from the January ice storm. To report damage to poles or lines, call 800-844-4832.

To contact Kenergy call: 1-800-844-4832 or visit us on the web at www.kenergycorp.com

Home office and home electronics

In the U.S., nearly 4.2 million people worked from home in 2000, up from 3.4 million in 1990. Working from home saves energy and time by cutting out the commute, but it may increase your home energy bills a lot unless you use energy-saving office equipment.

ENERGY STAR labeled office equipment is widely available. It provides users with dramatic savings, as much as 90 percent savings for some products. Overall, ENERGY STAR labeled office products use about half the electricity of standard equipment. Along with saving energy directly, this equipment can reduce air-conditioning loads, noise from fans and transformers, and electromagnetic field emissions from monitors.

Shop for ENERGY STAR Products for Offices

- Computers
- Copiers
- Fax Machines
- Monitors
- Multifunction Devices (fax, scanner, copier)
- Printers
- Scanners

Home office tips

- Selecting energy-efficient office equipment—personal computers (PCs), monitors, copiers, printers, and fax machines - and turning off machines when they are not in use can result in enormous energy savings.
- An ENERGY STAR labeled computer uses 70 percent less electricity than computers without this designation. If left inactive, ENERGY STAR labeled desktop computers enter a sleep mode and use 4 watts or less. Spending a large portion of time in low-power mode not only saves energy, but helps equipment run cooler and last longer.
- To maximize savings with a laptop, put the AC adapter on a power strip that can be turned off (or will turn off automatically); the transformer in the AC adapter draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged into the adapter.



Keep your home office efficient with ENERGY STAR
Home offices are increasingly popular. Be sure to use ENERGY STAR office equipment to save electricity.

Common misconceptions sometimes account for the failure to turn off equipment. Many people believe that equipment lasts longer if it is never

turned off. This incorrect perception carries over from the days of older mainframe computers.

- ENERGY STAR labeled computers and monitors save energy only when the power management features are activated, so make sure power management is activated on your computer.



Smart power strips help save wasted energy.

- There is a common misconception that screen savers reduce energy use by monitors; they do not. Automatic switching to sleep mode or manually turning monitors off is always the better energy-saving strategy.

\$ Long-term savings tip

- Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade; they use much less energy than desktop computers.

Home electronics tips

- Look for energy-saving ENERGY STAR labeled home electronics.
- Many appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. These “phantom” loads occur in most appliances that use electricity, such as VCRs, televisions, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances. These phantom loads can be avoided by unplugging the appliance or using a power strip and using the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance.
- Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.
- Studies have shown that using rechargeable batteries for products like cordless phones and PDAs is more cost effective than throwaway batteries. If you must use throwaways, check with your trash removal company about safe disposal options.

Shop for ENERGY STAR Home Electronics

- Cordless Phones
- Televisions
- VCRs and DVD Players
- Combination Units (TV/VCR; TV/DVD)
- Home Audio
- Set-Top Boxes

For more energy saving tips visit our website www.kenegycorp.com

Kenergy hosts Energy Pros building seminar

Homebuilders and member-owners may want to attend a free Kenergy seminar presented by the Energy Pros at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, at the cooperative's Owensboro Operations Building, 3051 Fairview Drive.

The seminar will feature “green buildings,” or high-performance homes and buildings. You will learn the five most important steps about the construction process and how these decisions will affect the efficiency, comfort and indoor air quality of your building.

All Energy Pros curriculum and workshops have been approved by Bob Geswein, a building science expert with Harrison Rural Electric Membership Cooperative. He has been teaching workshops to educate homeowners about energy efficient home building strategies since June 1996.

To learn more, visit www.theenergypros.net or call Scott Heath at Kenergy at 800-844-4832.



Kenergy hosts Customer Appreciation Day

October is Cooperative Month. Kenergy will host Customer Appreciation Day at its headquarters and each of its branch offices during normal business hours on Friday, Oct. 30.

Refreshments will be served, and the co-op will give away two compact fluorescent light bulbs as well as energy-efficiency literature to member-owners who visit Kenergy offices that day.