



JOE IMEL

Beginner's guide to the grid

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life. Often described as the most complex machine in the world, the system that delivers your electricity is known as the electric grid.

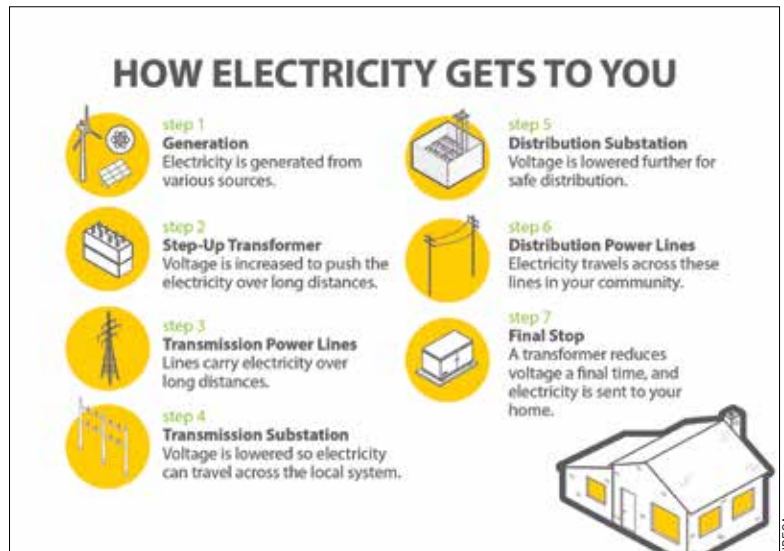
The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that spans the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants. Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Kenergy receives power from our generation and transmission co-op, Big Rivers Electric Corporation. We work closely with Big Rivers to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible.



NRECA

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system:

- High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.
- Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.
- Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.
- After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you—to power your life.





Wesley Carrico—Field Engineering Technician, 5 years of service. Photo: Leslie Barr



Kevin Holland—Manager of Contractors and System Control, 20 years of service. Photo: Kenergy staff



Annette Wilkerson—Accounting Clerk, 20 years of service. Photo: Kenergy staff

Message from the President

Resolutions to keep

Co-ops resolve to serve—every day

Many of us will make New Year's resolutions this month, most of us will break them by March, and a few of us will embark on changes, big or small, that actually stick.

According to a survey by Statista, some of the most common New Year's resolutions in 2023 were to exercise more (52%), eat healthier (50%), lose weight (40%), save more money (39%), spend more time with family/friends (37%) and spend less time on social media (20%).

We've all made resolutions as individuals that have been successful, and others that have been less so. But as a cooperative, Kenergy is proud to look back on a resolution we've always kept—serving you, our members.

In your mailbox this month is just one more example of our commitment to doing our best for you. As a member of Kenergy, you will now receive a monthly subscription to *Kentucky Living* magazine, at no additional cost to you. Published every month since 1948, *Kentucky Living* offers statewide cooperative news and updates, safety tips, beautiful photos and inspiring and informative stories from cooperative communities across Kentucky. And in the middle of your magazine each month, *Kenergy News* offers the latest updates from your cooperative—from community events to outage reporting.

As your electric cooperative, we make the resolution—not just yearly, but daily—to put your needs first. We do this by offering safe, reliable energy at competitive rates, staying engaged as members of our community, advocating for your interests and keeping you up to date on energy issues that impact you. Your new subscription to *Kentucky Living* magazine is just one more example demonstrating our commitment to serve.

Whatever your goals may be this year, all of us at Kenergy wish you the best in your New Year's pursuits—and we resolve this year, as every year, to be your trusted energy advocate. Thanks for allowing us to serve you.



By Tim Lindahl
President & CEO



Turn the thermostat down

Saving energy during the winter doesn't have to mean feeling cold in your own home. Here are five free ways to lower your energy bill while staying comfortable indoors.

- Lower the temperature in your home by just a single degree. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates you can save 3% on your heating bill for every degree you set your thermostat back during the winter—as long as you leave it there.
- Turn off exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathroom as soon as the steam or cooking smells are gone. It takes only one hour for those fans to blow all of the warm air out of your house, so use them only as needed.
- Close the fireplace damper when you're not burning a fire. An open damper is a hole in your house that sucks heated air out and draws cold winter air in.
- Move furniture and rugs away from heating vents so air can circulate freely around the room. That will make your heating system's work a lot easier.
- Open the curtains on south-facing windows on sunny days so the sun's warm rays can radiate into your home. Close the curtains at night to help trap that heat indoors.



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Owensboro: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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Hanson: 9 a.m. – Noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
2620 Brown Badgett Loop

Hawesville: 9 a.m. – Noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
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KEEPING WARM

Heating pad, electric blanket and space heater safety

Temperatures are dropping, and families are pulling out their trusty electric space heaters and blankets. But don't forsake safety as you stay warm.

DO read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully before using any space heater or electric blanket.

DON'T leave a space heater or electric heating blanket unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.

DO inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use.

DON'T use the heater if plugs are frayed, worn or damaged.

DO keep heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.

DON'T use an electric blanket if there are dark, charred or frayed spots.

DO plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.

DON'T use electric blankets while sleeping or as a mattress pad.

DON'T place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.

DON'T fold an electric blanket when it's in use. Folded or tucked blankets could overheat and cause a fire.



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