



Winterize your home before the bitter chill

Are your home and its electrical service ready for winter? The best time to find out is long before the season's first approaching winter storm.

Taking a little time to prepare your home for colder weather has many benefits. You'll be more comfortable when those icy winds blow. And, even more importantly, you'll have the confidence that your house will keep you safe on the chilliest nights.

Kenergy recommends several simple steps to winterize your home:

- Winterize electrical outlets on outside walls with insulating covers by carefully selecting outlet kits made to fit. Turn off power to each outlet and check for loose wires or connections that could cause shocks or electrocution. If an outlet wiggles or seems to have loose wires, have a qualified electrician repair it.
- Check space heater cords for signs of wear or overheating and make sure the plug fits securely in the outlet.
- Never run cords under carpeting or rugs. Cords can be damaged when people step on them, and they are a trip hazard. They can also overheat and lead to a fire.
- Make sure trees are properly trimmed and away from your electrical wires. Tree branches can fall



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and snap your power lines during a winter storm. NEVER approach a downed power line; it could still be energized.

- Check your furnace or heat pump before you need it. A service technician can conduct a thorough cleaning and check. Make sure filters are clean.
- If you notice odd sounds or smells coming from your furnace or heat pump, turn it off and call a service technician. Mechanical problems can lead to fires. Furnaces that use combustion can also release gases, such as carbon monoxide.

- Have working flashlights or battery-powered lamps with fresh batteries on hand in case of a power outage.

Now is sweater weather. When you feel chilly indoors, putting on a sweater or sweatshirt instead of turning up the thermostat a couple of degrees can add up to substantial savings. Each time you turn the thermostat up a degree, you can add as much as 2-3% to your heating costs, and you put more wear and tear on your heat pump or furnace.

Employee Spotlight



Line Technician David Clark—5 years of service

Message from the President

We're grateful for our members



JOSHUA RESNICK/ADOBE STOCK

Of all the dates on the calendar, Thanksgiving Day is a favorite for many—and it's a holiday that truly captures what Kenergy hopes to be for you and for your family.

At the heart of our operation is our commitment to community. Kenergy is more than a power provider. We are also your neighbors, gathering our families around our holiday tables just as you do the same.

It's a tradition for many families to share around the Thanksgiving table what each person is thankful for on this holiday. All of us at Kenergy are thankful for you. Like members of a family, it's you, our members, who define us and motivate us. We find our purpose in serving you. While providing safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for our members and our communities is at the core of what we do.

I am thankful that Kenergy's members are engaged with us. I'm grateful for the board members who represent you as we work together to further and protect your interests. I am thankful that we are blessed with a dedicated and professional staff whose care for the co-op is again rooted in the fact that they are your neighbors.

Finally, my job is to make sure that we are paying attention to every aspect of our cooperative. On this Thanksgiving, I encourage you to pay attention and take care of those in our community and those in your family who might otherwise be overlooked amid the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Whether it is a phone call to a far-away relative or a dinner plate for the elderly neighbor next door, the smallest act of kindness can make the biggest difference.

I hope you and your loved ones enjoy this holiday. From all of us here at Kenergy, happy Thanksgiving!

By Tim Lindahl
President & CEO



Reliability matters

By Don Gulley
Big Rivers President and CEO



More than 60 years ago, a group of western Kentucky electric cooperatives decided to take control of their future rather than rely on investor-owned utilities. The task? Build their own safe, reliable and affordable energy source and the transmission needed to deliver power to where it needed to go. By forming Big Rivers Electric Corporation, members would own, generate and transmit power in their figurative backyards.

Today, Big Rivers Electric operates four power-generating units at two locations in western Kentucky that provide critical electricity to the three member-owners—Jackson Purchase Energy Cooperative, Kenergy and Meade County RECC. While we remain focused on protecting your electricity supply, increasing demands on the power grid and shifts in national energy policies have put the reliability of our region at risk.

I joined Big Rivers as CEO at the start of this year, following a decade leading an Illinois generation and transmission cooperative and more than 35 years of experience in different utility business models. Without a doubt, the cooperative business model is by far the best—locally owned and locally controlled.

I've also found that Kentucky's energy policies are much more supportive of baseload generation and fossil fuel resources. However, the flow of electricity doesn't stop at the state border. The modern power grid connects Big Rivers to the entire central United States, and federal regulations affect power plants nationwide. With coal plant closures around us, power will go to where it is needed. The greatest threats to future energy reliability

are public policy and environmental regulations that fluctuate and flip-flop with each new administration in Washington. It is challenging to make 30-year decisions when regulatory mandates and rules change frequently.

Big Rivers' power plants—one large coal-fired unit in Ohio County and three gas-fired units in Webster County—provide crucial and cost-efficient energy for our members that flows through the larger power grid. We've embraced a proactive "all of the above" generation strategy and created a power portfolio that combines hydropower and solar energy with our coal and gas resources. This forward-thinking approach has allowed us to make significant progress in meeting every environmental regulation we have faced while also exceeding carbon reduction goals established under the Obama Administration. That is, until now.

The United States EPA is demanding utilities make unachievable and expensive updates to the remaining coal-fired power plants and install carbon-capture technology that does not yet exist—all by 2032. The alternatives are to close your coal plant, or to co-fire with natural gas, which does not make economic sense. This country has rapidly closed coal-fired power plants, leaving the grid with energy shortages. Texas suffered widespread outages in February 2021, and more recently, Kentucky experienced rolling outages during Christmas 2022.

When summer days approach 100 degrees and winter nights plummet below zero, our region relies on "always available" plants that can power up or down to serve the grid in real time.

Each year, the central U.S. faces a growing number of alerts

Continued on 26D

Sebree Station



STEPHANIE MCCOMBS

Wilson Station



CHARLES MAHLINGER



CONTACT INFORMATION

Toll Free: For information or to report an outage
(800) 844-4832

Henderson: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
6402 Old Corydon Road

Owensboro: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
3111 Fairview Drive

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.
315 Hawes Blvd

Marion: 9 a.m. – Noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
3000 Mott City Road

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and warnings that the grid is in danger of not having enough power for everyone. We make and deliver your electricity as you use it, and technology to store energy on a large scale is still in development. When power demand spikes during extreme weather, our traditional power plants make the 24/7 electricity needed to avoid outages. As the number of fossil-fuel plants quickly dwindles, federal agencies responsible for the nation's reliability have changed their concerns. It is no longer a matter of if power disruptions will occur but when outages will impact you.

To address these challenges, Big Rivers is exploring all options to ensure we make the best long-term financial and operational decisions for you, our owners. We work closely with our Kentucky Electric Cooperatives

statewide organization and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to develop strategies safeguarding our region's power supply. We make efforts to educate our lawmakers on future regulations and grid instability. If necessary, we will unite to take the fight for reliable energy to the Supreme Court.

We recognize that every energy source is essential, and we are constantly assessing plans for future generation options. Our coal plant still provides the valuable advantage of a 90-day fuel supply that is on the ground and untouched by gas shortages. Green energy and battery technology will continue to develop and may eventually support the grid more effectively. We will analyze and adapt while staying true to our core values from 1961.

Kenergy offices will be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Have a great holiday celebrating with family and friends!



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