

# JACKSON ENERGY



WORKING FOR YOU



jacksonenergy.com

## Keep your cool this summer

**M**emorial Day is right around the corner, and the hot days of summer probably aren't far behind. Extreme temperatures can lead to high energy usage and higher-than-average electric bills for Jackson Energy members.

Don't worry, though. There are plenty of simple steps you can take to keep the temperature—and your budget—within the comfort zone. Take these simple measures to ensure you won't experience an energy burn this summer.

**Tap the app.** Understanding how much power you're using, and when you're using it, is the first step to better managing your summertime consumption. Jackson Energy offers SmartHub app, a free tool for tracking and managing your energy use from any mobile device. Visit the Apple App or Google Play stores to download the app.

**Schedule an HVAC tune-up.** Make an appointment now to have your air conditioning system inspected by a professional who can spot air duct leaks, intake blockages, mechanical failings, electronic failings and more.

**Don't forget the filter.** Cleaning and/or replacing filters once per month can lower cooling equipment energy consumption by 5–15%.

**Keep it clean.** Clear dirt and debris away from the HVAC unit's evaporator



MONIKA WISNIEWSKA/DOBE STOCK

and condenser coils (located outside). Clip foliage so that it remains at least 2 feet from the condenser.

Plant trees or shrubs to shade your air-conditioning unit without blocking the airflow. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10% less electricity than the same unit operating in the sun.

**Optimize thermostat settings.** Keep the thermostat at 72 degrees while you're home and 78 degrees when you're away. Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically adjust the temperature settings and save as much as 10% on cooling bills.

Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and, therefore,

unnecessary expense.

Don't place lamps or TV sets near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

If using a window air conditioner, consider using an interior fan in conjunction with your unit to spread the cooled air more effectively through your home without greatly increasing your power use.

**Get serious about sealing.** Preventing air leaks (don't forget to check the basement and attic) is one of the best ways to keep warm air out and cool air in. Simple caulking and weatherstripping can save up to 30% on cooling costs. For how-to advice, check out [togetherwesaveky.com/energy-tips](http://togetherwesaveky.com/energy-tips).

**Lisa Baker, Editor**

Published by Jackson Energy

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# Move over

## Changing lanes to keep workers safe

Electric lineworkers face many dangers—high voltage, heights and extreme weather conditions. Despite these challenges, one of the most dangerous parts of the job is working alongside busy roadways, often only feet away from passing vehicles.

That's why it's important for all drivers to do their part to ensure safety.

It's been 20 years since Kentucky passed its Move Over law, requiring motorists to move over to the adjacent lane when approaching an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle with flashing lights. If changing lanes is impossible or unsafe, motorists must slow down and use caution. Failure to do so can result in a fine of up to \$500, 30 days in jail, or both.

Safety is a top priority for Jackson Energy. We work to encourage a safety culture both within our co-op's workforce and for our members.

Because the Move Over law has been around for 20 years, some drivers may have forgotten about it. For the record, the Kentucky statute is KRS 189.930(5):

Upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle, when the emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle is giving a signal by displaying alternately flashing yellow, red, red and white, red and blue, or blue lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle shall, while proceeding with due caution:

(a) Yield the right-of-way by moving to a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle, if:

1. The person is driving on a highway having at least four (4) lanes with not fewer than two (2) lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; and

2. If it is possible to make the lane change with due regard to safety and traffic conditions; or

(b) Reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed to road conditions, if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe.

Several years ago, a legal analysis found that public utility vehicles, such as Jackson Energy trucks, fall within the definition of "public safety vehicles" in the Kentucky law, so the "move over" obligation applies.

We all have a role to play in keeping our communities safe. In this case, it's as simple as just moving over.

By President & CEO  
Carol Wright



# Student leaders visit Frankfort



Jackson Energy delegates visited the state Capitol during the Frankfort Youth Tour. From front left: Hannah Barnard, North Laurel; Kinley Jones, Jackson County; Katie Lucas, Owsley County; Callie Bengel, Rockcastle County; and Aleah McIntosh, Lee County. From back left, Jacob Byrd, North Laurel; Andreu Knapp, Jackson County and Jabe Fredrick, Clay County.

High school juniors representing Jackson Energy visited Frankfort in March and learned about state government and the history of our commonwealth through the Frankfort Youth Tour program.

They visited the state Capitol and the Kentucky Capitol Annex, where they heard presentations by Gov. Andy Beshear, Secretary of State Michael Adams, Senate President Robert Stivers and Rep. Samara Heavrin.

## STEM Goes Red

The American Heart Association once again held its STEM Goes Red events in eastern Kentucky and Jackson Energy was proud to be one of the sponsors. The goal of the events was to encourage young women from local high school districts to explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

STEM Goes Red featured breakout sessions throughout the day on topics ranging from heart health to transportation to recycling. Students representing Clay, Rockcastle, Laurel, Estill and surrounding counties had the opportunity to explore hands-on activities, learn from professional leaders in the community and dream big about their futures.

Jackson Energy President and CEO Carol Wright participated in a panel discussion. The students heard first-hand of Wright's personal experiences, accomplishments and the challenges she encountered and overcame in the STEM



PHOTOS: LISA BAKER

field of engineering.

The young women in attendance were encouraged by all to try new adventures, not to be afraid to switch course and not let anything hold them back from following their dreams.



DIZANNAGOGGRAPH

### \$2,000 No-Essay Scholarship Winners:

- Lauryn Smith**  
Clay County High School
- Ramzee Powell**  
Estill County High School
- Austin Hacker**  
Jackson County High School
- Cody Gilbert**  
Lee County High School
- Maggie Moore**  
North Laurel High School
- Patience Duff**  
Owsley County High School
- Amber Horn**  
Rockcastle County High School
- Lyndsey Goodall**  
South Laurel High School
- Isabella Singleton**  
At-Large - Rockcastle County



# Why we clear trees

Even though this past March may have been an exception, May is typically the stormiest month of the year here in Kentucky. When spring's wild winds blow, they can bring down limbs and topple trees—and that can compromise the reliability and safety of your electricity.

Trees falling into power lines due to high wind can knock out power to hundreds of members in a second. Not only do lines come down, but utility poles will snap due to the weight of fallen trees, causing lengthy power outages.

Downed lines are a serious safety hazard. Tragedy can happen if a person touches or steps on an energized line that has been pulled to the ground by a fallen tree. Jackson Energy maintains a right-of-way (ROW) management program to limit the safety and reliability threats related to trees growing too close to power lines. ROW refers to a strip of land—or corridor—underneath or around power lines that the co-op has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping the power flowing to your home.

Jackson Energy invests a portion of its operating budget into cutting back trees and shrubs that grow too close to power lines. Bucket trucks, chainsaws, chippers and mowers are used to ensure vegetation grows at a distance far enough from our lines to prevent disruption to electrical service.

Not all storm-related outages can be prevented, but together we can certainly minimize the damage by keeping the ROW clear.

If you own property in a rural area with power lines crossing it, please contact us before you plant trees, build a barn or new house or erect any structure near the right-of-way corridor.

Also, when you see ROW contract crews clearing trees, remember that their work is helping Jackson Energy provide reliable service.



ERIC GLOVER

**LINEMAN TRAINING CENTER  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
DEADLINE QUICKLY  
APPROACHING**



LISA BAKER

Application must be received at the Jackson Energy Office or submitted online by

**MAY 26, 2023**

For more information and to APPLY ONLINE—visit [jacksonenergy.com/scholarship-programs](http://jacksonenergy.com/scholarship-programs)

NIKHOH TREEVECTOR/SHUTTERSTOCK

