

JACKSON ENERGY



WORKING FOR YOU



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Electric co-ops continue to grow for the communities they serve

October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and Jackson Energy is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

When Jackson Energy was founded in 1938, friends and neighbors banded together to create a new kind of electric utility; one where the voice of every person made a difference. They brought electric power to the countryside when no one else would. And now, 85 years later, Jackson Energy still exists to serve members.

Jackson Energy continues to grow—we currently serve nearly 53,000 members in 15 counties that span more than 5,800 miles of line.

Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways co-ops grow for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities:

Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community focused is essential to everything we do.

Co-ops Grow Together:

Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together.

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders:

Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops Grow for You:

At Jackson Energy, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we



NRECA STRAIGHT TALK

were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you.



Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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WORKING FOR YOU

Co-ops have a different bottom line

What makes a cooperative unique?

There are lots of ways to answer this question, but here's one I return to often: cooperatives put their members first. It's true now, and it was true in 1844, when a group of 28 workers formed one of the earliest examples of the modern cooperative.

This group of workers—known today as the Rochdale Pioneers—banded together out of necessity. Their working conditions in Rochdale, England, were miserable. Pay had fallen by nearly half over the previous 20 years, and the cost of living had skyrocketed. Worse still, local merchants used unfair measurements to cheat their customers, and they commonly watered down milk, added chalk to flour and mixed gravel with oatmeal to increase their bottom line at the consumer's expense.

The Rochdale Pioneers took matters into their own hands. Each member paid a fee to join a cooperative organization that all members would own and control together. Members shared equally in the cooperative's benefits—which included the opportunity to buy unadulterated food, sold at reasonable prices using honest weights and measures.

The organization was a success, but its most important contributions were guidelines that cooperatives around the world still follow today. These cooperative principles are open and voluntary membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

When Jackson Energy was formed in 1938, we had the same mission to put our members first. While Kentucky's urban centers had already been electrified for decades, our rural communities were being neglected by the for-profit utility industry. It was time to take matters into our own hands. Using low-cost federal loans, Jackson Energy set poles, strung lines and brought power to our consumer-members. We were a new kind of utility company: not-for-profit, member-owned and democratically controlled.

As we observe National Cooperative Month this October, it's worth reflecting on what makes the cooperative business model so powerful. Today, as in 1938, we put our members first—and that makes all the difference.

By President & CEO
Carol Wright



Employees help Ronald McDonald houses provide comfort for families

Jackson Energy employees, along with other Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, raised more than \$12,000 this summer for Ronald McDonald houses in Lexington and Louisville.

Throughout July, co-op employees gathered the donations in a Wish List Drive campaign to support both locations, which enable families to be near their hospitalized children.

In addition to the Wish List Drive, employees at Jackson Energy were offered an easier, more convenient way to support the Ronald McDonald House charities. Employees could volunteer to have a monetary amount taken directly from their paychecks year-round. It really added up, totaling more than \$6,200 used to purchase much-needed items.

Supporting nonprofits that serve their communities in extraordinary ways is one of the hallmarks of working for and living in an electric cooperative community.

"Ronald McDonald House Charities offer a wonderful service to families in our area and throughout Kentucky by providing housing for families when children are hospitalized," says Carol Wright, president & CEO. "It is a tremendous comfort for families during a distressing time, and we are proud of our employees for supporting this cause."

Cooperative employees dropped off donations that included snacks, personal care items and other products to help families feel at home while staying at the Ronald McDonald House facilities.

"We are so grateful for Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and their commitment to serving these children and their families when they need it the most," says Nate Graham, executive director of RMHC of the Bluegrass. "Not only is this a great example of a corporate partnership, but a testament to the generosity of the employees. We are thankful for their gift of filling our shelves, our families' stomachs and all of our hearts."



CHELSI MCDONALD

Jackson Energy employees, from front left, Lindsay Russell, Lisa Baker, April Renner and Danielle Stewart; and from back left, Dexter Roark, Logan Martin, Marlon Coffey, Ashley Noe, Colby Nicholson and Glendon Parker deliver donated items to the Ronald McDonald House of the Bluegrass.



LISA BAKER



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Paying it forward

Operation RoundUp is a program that offers Jackson Energy members the opportunity to give back to their community a few cents at a time. The program is solely funded by co-op members who voluntarily choose to round up their electric bill to the next even dollar amount each month.

Grants totaling \$7,250 were recently awarded to the following:

- \$500 to Millstone Community Theatre Guild
- \$600 to Beattyville Main Street Farmer's Market
- \$600 to Hager's Well, Inc.
- \$600 to Owsley County Bitty Golf League
- \$600 to Mount Vernon-Rockcastle County Tourism Commission
- \$500 to Living Stone Outreach, Inc.
- \$700 to Beattyville Main Street-Downtown Beattyville Alliance
- \$600 to Hands and Feet Ministries
- \$600 to Sugar Camp House Adult Day Health Care
- \$600 to Volunteers of America Mid-States
- \$750 to Quail Homemakers for Quail Community
- \$600 to Friendship Christian School

Community organizations can apply for grants and members can sign up for Operation RoundUp at jacksonenergy.com/operation-roundup.

Jackson Energy's Brent Jackson left, presents a \$600 Operation RoundUp check to Walter Mullins with Volunteers of America. Photo: Susan Woods



Spooky energy savings

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency:

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere through your smartphone, which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!

Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts. The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower energy use.

Illuminate your lair with energy efficient lighting.

LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's

time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons.

Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic—the kind that brings real energy savings.



Scholarships

\$2,000 • NO ESSAY

High school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or trade school in the fall of 2024 are invited to apply — NO ESSAY REQUIRED!

**Applications will be accepted
Sept. 1–Nov. 30, 2023**

For a complete set of rules and to APPLY ONLINE, visit our website at www.jacksonenergy.com/jackson-energy-essay-scholarship