

JACKSON ENERGY



WORKING FOR YOU



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Don't wait—be prepared before the storm

Worst-case scenario: A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Preparedness actions and items

Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other



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medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

Fully charge all cellphones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely. Also, ensure that it is installed properly to prevent dangerous backfeed on power lines.

During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help prevent overloading the circuits during power

restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through areas where power lines could be submerged in water or snow. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs—including on your property.

Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and install Jackson Energy's SmartHub app on your phone to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.



Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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Resolutions to keep

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, Jackson Energy is proud to look back on an 85-year track record of successful resolve.

As your electric cooperative, we make the resolution—not just yearly, but daily—to put your needs first as a member. We do this by offering safe, reliable energy at competitive rates, staying engaged as members of our community, advocating for your interests as a member and keeping you up to date on energy issues that impact you.

Each month, *Kentucky Living* magazine offers just one example of our resolve to serve you better. Inside your magazine, you find 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, Jackson Energy offers up-to-date news about your cooperative, from community events to right-of-way management to outage reporting.

As winter weather challenges all of us, we're also here to help you manage your electric bills. From simple ways to save, like unplugging unused devices, to weatherizing your home with caulk and weather stripping, there are steps everyone can take to combat the impacts of severe weather. And if you or someone you know is having trouble paying a bill, give our office a call. We're here for you.

Whatever your goals may be this year, all of us at Jackson Energy 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 President & CEO
Carol Wright



Beginner's guide to the electric grid

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life.

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

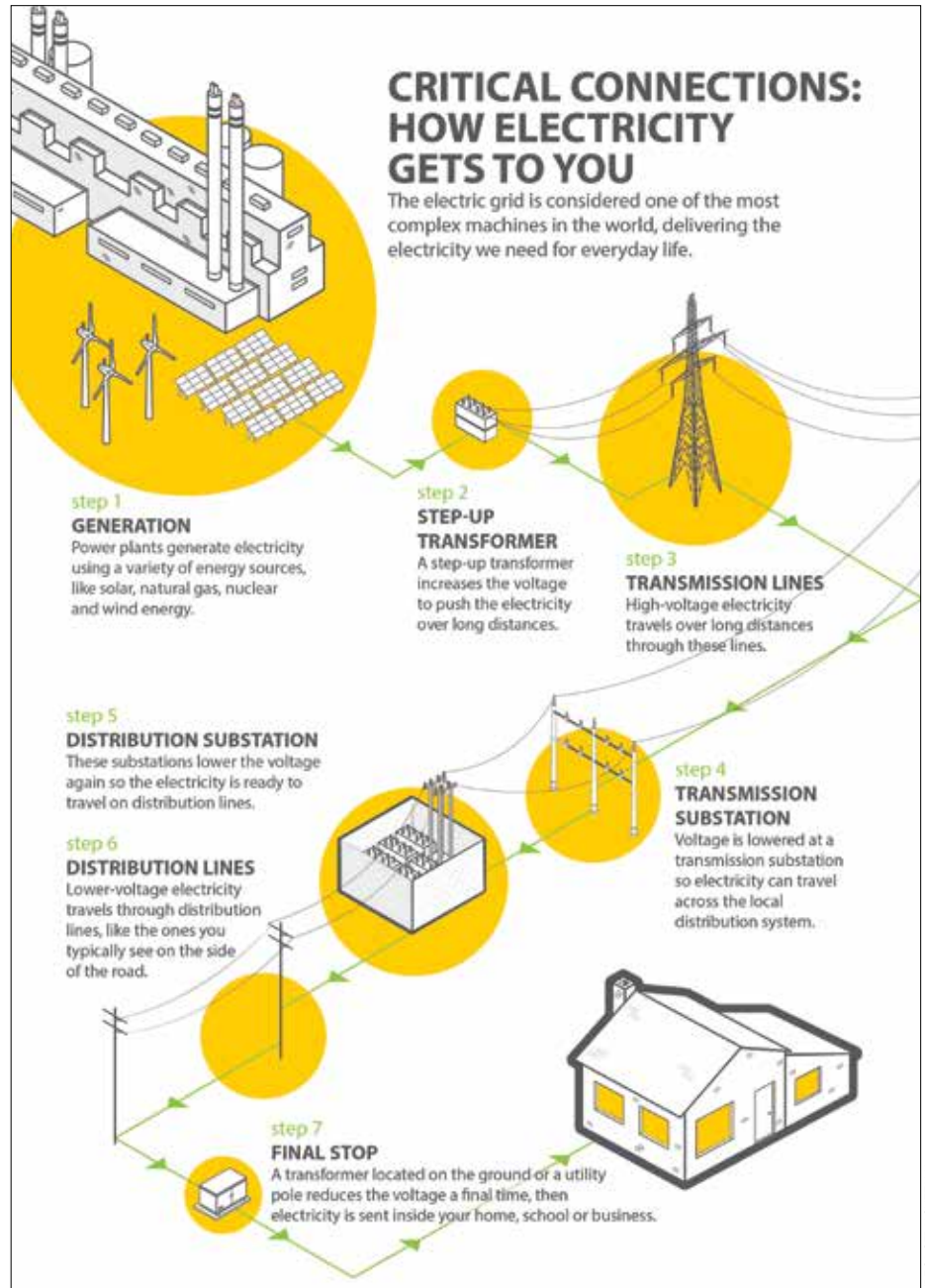
The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

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.

Jackson Energy receives power from

our generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, East Kentucky Power Cooperative. We work closely with EKPC to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants

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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 grey metal cans 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 everyday life.

From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine—and one of our nation's greatest achievements.

Don't ignore the signs of electrical overload

Are you familiar with this common occurrence? You're watching TV in the den on a cold January day, then suddenly find yourself in the dark and the cold—all because someone started the microwave in the kitchen.

The problem? It could be an overloaded circuit. A circuit overload occurs when appliances, TVs and other electronics like a toaster oven, for instance, draw more electricity than one circuit can handle. In other words, you asked your electrical system to do more than it's designed to do. It's a problem particularly common in older homes with outdated wiring.

"Overloaded electrical circuits can cause not only inconvenient power outages, but may also lead to personal injury and electrical fires," says Thomas Nichols, Jackson Energy's safety director.

Watch for these warning signs that indicate your electrical system is overloaded:

- Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily.



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- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often.
- Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored.
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is heard from outlets.

If you detect any of these symptoms disconnect power to the circuit and promptly schedule a home electrical inspection to correct them. The time and investment in performing a few home repairs and upgrades are small compared with the protection and safety they can provide.



PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

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