

# JACKSON ENERGY



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WORKING FOR YOU

## Bourbon and batteries are transforming Kentucky's economy

**M**omentum is the name of the game in economic development, and Kentucky is on a roll in attracting new businesses and jobs to the region.

In 2022 alone, an 87-county region realized \$2.5 billion in new facility projects and business expansions. Those investments will create an estimated 1,750 jobs.

Jackson Energy is one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives that launched an economic development initiative in 2015 that continues to pay big dividends for local communities. In seven years, more than \$11 billion in new investment and 16,500 new jobs have been created in commonwealth communities served by electric cooperatives.

Two industries—distilled spirits and electric vehicle battery manufacturing—dominated the economic development landscape last year.

Kentucky saw about \$700 million in new distillery investments this past year—examples are a development by Koetter Spirits, which will be on Shelby Energy lines, and the new Kentucky Whiskey House Distillery to be served by Nolin RECC.

In late 2022, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the largest distilled

spirits-related investment on record in Kentucky. Louisville-based Sazerac Co. will invest \$600 million to construct nearly 20 barrel warehouses and expand Robinson Stave and Cumberland Cooperage in London, creating up to 50 full-time jobs.

“Jackson Energy is ready to work more closely with company leaders of Sazerac as they plan to grow their presence in Laurel County,” says Carol Wright, president & CEO of Jackson Energy. “We look forward to supporting and serving the needs of Sazerac-Buffalo Trace in Rowland Acres Industrial Park. As a local business partner with the London-Laurel County Industrial Authority, Jackson Energy recognizes the potential economic growth and job opportunities this industry will bring to our region.”

In addition, Kentucky is also becoming a hub for advanced manufacturing following Ford's announcement about a new battery park in Glendale. Companies that make products to support battery manufacturing see Kentucky as a centralized location for shipping to American auto manufacturers.

When a new company chooses to locate in a Kentucky town or county, the entire region benefits. For instance, distilling industry growth is creating



widespread opportunities for supply chain partners, farmers, communities and tourism.

The impact of these investments is significant for our rural areas. It's transformational. Contributions to local taxes and attractive job opportunities are among the benefits that strengthen communities.

Electric co-op members also gain. When a new industrial member is added to co-op lines, it helps to stabilize the cost of electricity for all members.

Members of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperative's economic development team report increased interest from potential investors. They predict 2023 could be another banner year for bringing new jobs to Kentucky.

**Lisa Baker, Editor**

Published by Jackson Energy

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115 Jackson Energy Lane  
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## Our common bond

These days, there's a lot of talk about the differences that divide us. We've probably all heard more than we care to on that subject.

But what about those things that unite us? Membership in Jackson Energy is a fine example of the powerful benefits that come from having a common bond.

Members of Jackson Energy share more than affordable electricity. We also benefit from long-held cooperative values that chart a positive course for our member-owned company and those it serves. As one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we value:

**Integrity.** Members first. Every day. That's the power of membership. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we deliver electricity to members at the cost of service. This differs from investor-owned utilities, which distribute profits to investors rather than those they serve.

**Accountability.** This electric co-op belongs to you, the members we serve. Decisions made benefit those in our community because co-op business is conducted by a local board of directors elected by the members.

**Innovation.** Jackson Energy uses state-of-the-art technology and offers cutting-edge programs that meet the needs and expectations of our members. We're proud to offer programs such as our SmartHub app, online service requests, live up-to-date outage maps and a virtual energy assessment program—to name just a few.

**Community.** We are committed to improving the quality of life in the communities where our members live, work and play. It's the reason we donate time, energy and resources to charities, schools and community events and take a leadership role in economic development projects. Sponsoring war veterans for the Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C., and taking an active role in supporting the Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games are just two examples of our commitment to community.

These core values guide Jackson Energy like a compass. They set the course for powering our communities and empowering our members. These values are the bond that makes us stronger, and better, together.

By President & CEO  
Carol Wright



# Tap the app for energy savings

**W**ant instant information that can lower your electric bill? Jackson Energy's SmartHub app helps you stay on top of your energy habits before you get your bill.

SmartHub includes robust energy use analytics tools, which allow you to compare energy use over time and against weather data. Tracking your energy use like this lets you see if you're using more energy than usual and empowers you to make adjustments if necessary.

Some ways you can use SmartHub for energy use monitoring:

- Analyze and understand usage trends to find ways to cut back.
- Create and track a monthly budget to avoid unexpected high utility bills.
- Set a point or range in time to compare differences in usage.

In addition to usage tracking, this online and mobile app is also a powerful communication tool. You can manage your account, view and pay your bill, report service issues and outages and receive important notices from the cooperative.

Access SmartHub online at [www.jacksonenergy.com](http://www.jacksonenergy.com) or download the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play (Android).

Need help getting started? Jackson Energy member services representatives are available to help. Just give us a call at (800) 262-7480.



## INTRODUCING SMARTHUB

### On the go and in control.

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to do business with us like never before.

- Manage your account
- Report service issues
- Monitor usage 24/7
- View and pay your bill
- Receive important notices

...all in the palm of your hand and online.

**SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.**

# Hire the pros

**I**t's tempting to ask your handyman or your brother-in-law to fix an electrical problem in your home, but some jobs are better left to the professionals.

Electricity can be dangerous in a home that's improperly wired, has overloaded circuits or has exposed or defective wiring, receptacles and switches.

Even if the job seems simple, it's better to call an experienced, licensed electrician to do it.

Most electricians have many hours of on-the-job training under the supervision of a more experienced electrician and have passed an exam.

So don't leave your electrical work to your handyman, your brother-in-law or yourself. The money you spend hiring a professional will more than pay off in peace of mind and a safe home.



SERGI/ADOBE STOCK

# Operate space heaters with care

Many Kentucky families rely on portable space heaters for wintertime warmth. While space heaters do provide some additional warmth in the cold winter months, because they're both equally inefficient as heat sources and expensive to run, we recommend not using them unless they're a necessary heat source.

Though they can help keep your space toasty, portable heaters can be dangerous if used carelessly. Jackson Energy urges you to follow these safety rules to avoid an electrical fire or other accident.

- DON'T leave it unattended.
- DON'T leave a space heater running while you're out of the room, away from home or sleeping. Unplug it when it's not in use.
- DO use approved models. Purchase only Underwriter Laboratories (UL) or Electrical Testing Lab (ETL) lab-tested and approved heaters.
- DON'T use gas or kerosene indoors. Gas-fueled space heaters not vented to the outside can release harmful gases that can cause illness or even death. Electric space heaters are the safe choice for indoor use because they don't emit carbon monoxide or other pollutants.

- DO plug directly into wall outlets. To avoid overloading circuits, don't plug heaters into power strips, surge protectors or extension cords.
- DO be mindful of placement. Keep heaters at least 3 or 4 feet away from flammable items such as furniture, blankets, clothing, towels, curtains, mattresses and bedding. Don't place them on throw rugs, furniture or counter tops.
- DON'T forget smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Install interconnected alarms—which will all go off at the same time—inside and outside each bedroom on every level of your home, and test them monthly.
- DO keep kids away. Teach your children about the dangers of touching a heater. If they won't remain a safe distance away, remove the space heater.

Generally, it is best to run a space heater when you need to heat just one or two rooms, or if you need temporary heat in a normally unheated area like a garage or shed.

Be mindful of the costs that these little heaters can add to your monthly electric bill. Most space heaters are 1,500 watts. If you're operating one



eight hours a day, and your electric rate is 12 cents per kilowatt-hour, the cost can add up. Here's the math: 1,500 watts equals 1.5 kilowatts (to convert, divide watts by 1,000). Multiply 1.5 kilowatts by 8 hours per day for 30 days to equal 360 kilowatt-hours. Multiply that number by the rate, \$0.12 per kilowatt-hour, and it costs \$43.20 per month to operate the space heater.

## STORM RECOVERY

Downed power lines are a threat to the area around them.

If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. Keep a distance of 50 feet, as the ground around downed power lines may be energized.

Assume all downed power lines are live. If you see someone in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch him/her. **Call 911 for assistance.**

If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line while you're in the vehicle, stay inside the car. If you must exit the vehicle for life-threatening reasons — jump out and away from it, making sure to land with your feet together and touching. Then, shuffle away with your feet touching until you reach a safe distance. Never attempt to get back into a vehicle that is in contact with a power line.

