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Spring clean to save energy dollars

March is spring cleaning time here in Kentucky. Shaking off winter dust and giving your home a thorough scrubbing can do more than tidy a home. It can also put some money in your pocket.

Spring cleaning is an ideal time to find those places in your home where you're wasting energy dollars. Fixes can be simple, adding up to significant savings. You just have to know where to look.

Tackle these chores to refresh your home and save energy, too.

Check windows and doors

While cleaning, look for small cracks or holes. Seal and caulk around frames to ensure heating and cooling from your heat pump, furnace or air conditioner is not wasted. **TIP:** If you have a sliding door, clean the track. Dirt and grit in the track can ruin the door's seal and create gaps where air can escape.

Be a dust buster

Dust buildup prevents electronics and motors from running at top efficiency. Wipe off computers, televisions, electronics and lightbulbs. **TIP:** Replace outdated lightbulbs with LEDs, which use up to 90% less energy.

Don't forget the exhaust fans

Get better performance by cleaning dust



PEOPLEIMAGES.COM/ADOBEE STOCK

and grease from the kitchen stove hood and exhaust fan. Clean bathroom ceiling fan covers and fan blades.

Freshen the fridge

Along with clearing out old food and wiping shelves, vacuum under and behind the refrigerator. Make sure the door seal is clean and tight to prevent air leakage.

Clear the vents

Take a look at any accessible exterior vents for clothes dryer, heating system, water heater, kitchen fan exhaust or bath fan exhaust. Clear them of any dust, webs, leaves and lint.

Replace air filters in HVAC system

If filters are full of dust, dirt and pet hair, air will have a hard time passing through them. Poor airflow makes your unit work harder to do its job.

In addition, clear fallen branches and leaves and other debris that might have fallen on the outdoor unit of your air conditioning system over the winter. For the unit to work properly, air needs to circulate around it.

Climb a ladder (but be careful) and dust ceiling fan blades

When the fan starts running, it can knock accumulated dust into your room, which is bad for air quality and can wind up in your air conditioning vents or filters. **TIP:** Switch ceiling fans to rotate counter-clockwise so that they push cool air down—allowing you to change your thermostat to a higher or lower setting to use less energy.

Small steps like these can make a big difference in your home's energy consumption, helping you save both electricity and money. Find more energy efficiency tips at togetherwesaveky.com.

Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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Stay safe after spring storms

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb—at least, that's how the old saying goes.

In some years it may be true that the end of this month looks a lot different than how it began. Last year, a big March snow followed summer-like temperatures.

March is all about change. And at Jackson Energy, the change of seasons is yet another reminder of severe weather risks.

When springtime storms knock out power due to gusty winds, Jackson Energy's line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. You should also practice safety to protect your family in the immediate aftermath of a spring storm:

- **Step carefully.** Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets, appliances or cords are under water. The water could be energized.
- **Watch the water.** Don't turn power off if you must stand in water to do so—call us at (800) 262-7480 and request that your power be turned off at the meter.
- **Stay home.** Stay off roadways to allow emergency responders and utility crews easy access to damaged areas or injured individuals. If you must travel, never drive through a flooded roadway.
- **Avoid downed lines.** If you are driving and come across a downed power line, stay away and warn others to stay away. Contact emergency personnel or Jackson Energy to address the downed power line. If you do come in contact with a downed power line, do not leave your vehicle. Wait for help to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.
- **Use equipment responsibly.** When cleaning up outdoors after a storm, do not use electrical equipment when it is raining, or the ground is wet. Do not use equipment that has been water damaged.
- **Stay tuned.** Listen to local radio stations, follow Jackson Energy's social media platforms and check out our website for updated information.

We know all too well in Kentucky that natural disasters can strike regardless of the month. That's why safety remains the top priority at Jackson Energy, and we aim to extend our safety culture to our entire co-op family, from our line technicians to our members at the end of the line.

By President & CEO
Carol Wright



Larkey appointed to Board of Directors

Jackson Energy members living in Laurel County District 9 have a new representative serving them on the board. William Larkey was recently selected by the Jackson Energy Board of Directors to fill the remaining term of former director Keith Binder.

Born and raised in Laurel County, Larkey is a graduate of Laurel County High School. Majoring in business administration and management, Larkey graduated from Sue Bennett College in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Upon graduation, he pursued a career in the business-related industry and remained in Laurel County. Larkey and his wife, Heather, have four children, Landon, Adison, Brennon and Jaxton.

Larkey has served on the boards of Kentucky Home Builders Association as well as the Southeast Kentucky Home Builders Association.

In giving back to his community, Larkey has coached baseball for the last 17 years at North Laurel Little League and has served as PTO president at East Bernstadt School. Being a coach, mentor and advocate for our youth plays an important role in his life.

Larkey and his family are active members of Faith Assembly of God Church. He is the director of log procurement for Cumberland Cooperage/Robinson Stave in East Bernstadt.

“As a lifelong resident of Laurel County, it is an honor to be in this position where I will strive to make a positive impact for the cooperative and the southeast Kentucky region,” Larkey says. “I want the best for my family and my community, and given this opportunity, I will work diligently in serving the members of Laurel County.”



Laurel County co-op member William Larkey was appointed by the Jackson Energy Board to fill the remaining term of District 9 previously held by Keith Binder. Photo: Tim Webb

STAY ALERT DURING SPRING PLANTING

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Spring has sprung in the Bluegrass state. It's planting season for many of the state's farmers.

- To prevent electrocution, make sure farm equipment safely clears overhead power lines. This tall equipment can easily become entangled in power lines. A good rule of thumb, try to maintain a 20-foot distance from power lines in all directions.
- Contact 911 immediately if your equipment comes into contact with a guy wire or pole.
- Water, dust and farming often go hand in hand. Install waterproof and dustproof electrical boxes and outlets at the farm.



JJ GOUIN/ADOBE STOCK

Electric vehicles FAQs

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles from Jackson Energy members, so we thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions.

Q: Why is Jackson Energy communicating about electric vehicles?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and Jackson Energy is providing information about EV charging requirements so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q: Why does Jackson Energy have an EV?

A: We purchased our first EV in 2017 for research and development purposes. Our EV and charging stations help us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them. We have a Chevrolet Volt in our fleet to help raise awareness and promote an understanding of EV technologies. We also provide educational tools about EVs on our website and bring our EV to community events so folks have an opportunity to ask questions and form their own opinions.

Q: Why is Jackson Energy involved in EV infrastructure issues?

A: All electric utilities are planning now to ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs—without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses. As your local energy provider, Jackson Energy is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the electric vehicle future.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit



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which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

A: If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

Q: What kind of incentives are available for EVs?

A: There are a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available

for EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program.

Q: Should I let my co-op know if I purchase an EV?

A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more Jackson Energy members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. We suggest you do your research, identify your driving needs and consider the following:

- Vehicle range: 100 vs. 300 miles
- Price of the vehicle, less any applicable incentives
- Passenger room and cargo space
- Maintenance and warranties
- Comparing hybrids versus all-electric vehicles
- Charging options

Be sure to test drive the EV to make sure it is to your liking, and if you still have questions, we're here to help.