

SAFEGUARDING OUR CYBERSYSTEM

NEWS OF INTERNET hackers stealing information has become all too common place in our digital world.

Not only does Jackson Energy make electric safety the top priority, your electric co-op also makes sure your electric system is safe from hackers and cyberbullies.

Over the past several years, the threat of cyberattack has become more of a possibility due to the proliferation of smart devices being used to communicate on the electric grid. I'm proud to say that other electric co-ops across the nation are utilizing a set of cybersecurity policy templates developed in 2015 by Kentucky's electric cooperative information technology (IT) professionals who were members of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives IT Association's Cybersecurity Subcommittee. Two Jackson Energy employees served on the committee, Roger Truett and John Clevenger.

The templates were developed in a way that individual electric co-ops can create, maintain, and verify its own cybersecurity program based on that co-op's specific needs and resources.

Not only does the cybersecurity toolkit help us develop policies and procedures to keep our electric system safe, it also helps us implement programs to avoid identity theft of our members' information. The cybersecurity work group identified three major drivers used to produce the templates: protecting member data, reliability of our system, and productivity.

We compare the possibility of high-risk cyberattacks to bad weather that can also wreak havoc on our electric system. While we can't control the weather, we do have systems in place that help us prevent cyberattacks, which keeps your co-op safe and your information safe.