

Blue Grass Living

The official newsletter of
Blue Grass Energy
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Making life better, the cooperative way®



NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 10, 2017

Linemen power our lives.

#ThankALineman

Blue Grass Energy offices will be closed April 14 for the holiday.

Message from the President

Ownership has its benefits

Ownership. When you are taking stock of what you own, do you count Blue Grass Energy among your assets?

Because you receive power from an electric cooperative, you are a member and an owner of a not-for-profit business.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Blue Grass Energy is owned by the people it serves – its members.

Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Yes, we think about expenses, overhead, and other aspects of daily business, but when we have excess margins, we allocate them back to you as capital credits. Returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters.

These surplus revenues are called “margins” and are assigned to your

“capital credit” account annually. Capital credit accounts are based on how much business you did with the cooperative that particular year. Your capital credit account represents your member ownership, or equity, in the cooperative. The money itself is reinvested in the cooperative until it is returned to you in the form of capital credits.

Unlike investor-owned utilities that operate on a for-profit basis to make a return on investment to their shareholders, cooperatives charge just enough to cover expenses and a slight



Michael I. Williams
President & CEO

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Do you have questions about Cooperative Solar?

Blue Grass Energy is leading the way on renewable energy and embracing technologies of the future.

Q. What is Cooperative Solar?

A. Cooperative Solar will be a community solar farm owned by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. It will be built by fall 2017, and will provide renewable energy without the headaches of installing and maintaining solar panels at private homes and businesses.

Q. Where will the farm be built?

A. Approximately 9 miles east of Lexington and 2 miles west of Winchester, adjacent to Interstate 64 and U.S. 60. You will be able to see it from the Interstate.

Q. How large will Cooperative Solar be?

A. Cooperative Solar will have more than 32,000 photovoltaic panels covering 60 acres, making the installation one of Kentucky's largest solar farms. Construction will begin this spring.

Q. How can members participate?

A. For a one-time payment of \$460 per panel, participating members will receive a 25-year license for one of the panels. That means they will get credit on their monthly power bill for the value of the energy generated by their share of the solar farm. And panel performance can be monitored online.

To download information and get ongoing news, go to www.cooperativesolar.com. By joining, our members can show their commitment to the environment.

Q. When can members participate?

A. The Kentucky Public Service Commission approved the tariff on March 2, 2017. Members were able to license solar panels beginning March 3, 2017.

Q. Why do businesses want to participate?

A. Many businesses have sustainability goals that can be met through Cooperative Solar.

Q. What are additional advantages for joining?

A. In addition to getting bill credits, participating members will also get:

- Renewable power at an affordable cost.
- No worries about maintenance or hassles from bolting panels to their roof.

Q. Are there other reasons members might want to participate?

A. Many co-op members are interested because:

- They rent or face deed restrictions that prevent the private installation of panels.
- Their roof is shaded by trees or does not get good exposure to the sun.



Cooperative Solar



Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact Blue Grass Energy or visit www.ArborDay.org.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

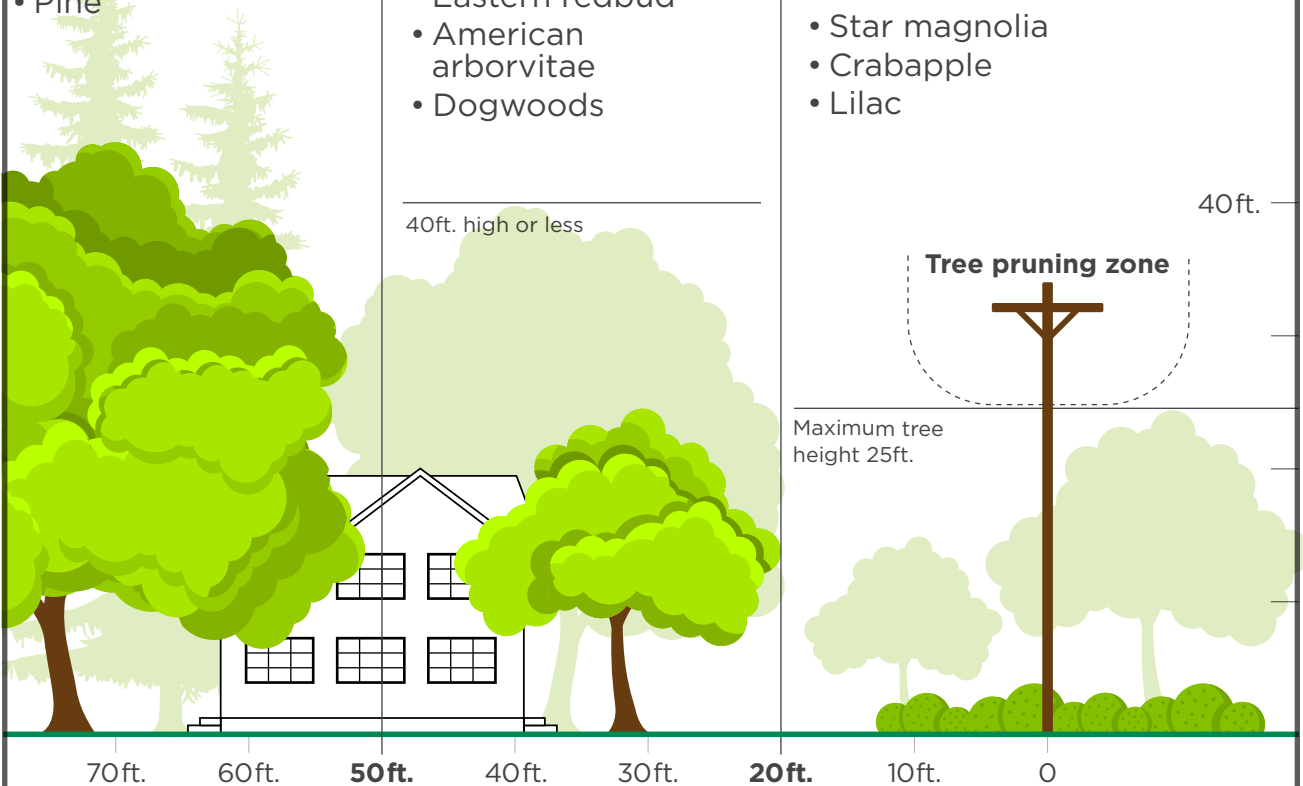
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

How to reach us

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243

Automated payment: (877) 934-9491

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Published monthly by Blue Grass Energy
as a service to our members.

Rachel Settles, Editor



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on April 18, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, at the offices of the Kentucky Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, to examine the application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Blue Grass Energy Cooperative Corporation for the period November 1, 2014, through October 31, 2016. Individuals interested in attending this hearing shall notify the Public Service Commission in writing of their intent to attend no later than April 14, 2017. If no notices of intent to attend are received by that date, this hearing will be cancelled and the matter shall be considered submitted for decision based on the evidence in the record. Written notice of intent to attend this hearing should be sent to: Executive Director, Kentucky Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

President's message (continued)

margin. Margins provide Blue Grass Energy with dollars to ensure the co-op's financial strength and the ability to meet financial obligations to our lenders. These margins are reinvested in the co-op in the form of capital improvements so that we are better able to serve you, and they are used to reduce the need for borrowing 100 percent for improvements.

So the next time you take stock of your ownership, don't forget to include Blue Grass Energy on the list. The value of your cooperative membership and capital credits are just a few of the ways we are making life better, the cooperative way.

Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with Make-A-Wish. We are excited about the opportunity of making wishes come true for some of our youngest members.

Visit
oki.wish.org
for more
information about
how you can make
a
difference on
Make-A-Wish Day.

Join Us for
MAKE-A-WISH® DAY
at
**KENTUCKY KINGDOM
AND
HURRICANE BAY**
May 20, 2017
featuring
**walk
FOR
wishes®**

Registration begins: 9am
Walk begins: 10am

Emily, 11
cystic fibrosis

I wish to go to Walt
Disney World® Resort

MAKE A WISH
Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana