

October is National Co-op Month

Distribution cooperatives form the foundation of the rural electric network delivering electricity

to more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.

We celebrate our employees and are proud to be a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative.



Blue Grass Energy line technicians Colton Searcy, left, and Brennon Love prepare to work from a bucket truck. Photo: Tim Webb

CONTACT INFORMATION

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243
Automated payment: (877) 934-9491
Report an outage: (888) 655-4243
bgenergy.com

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Denise Myers, Editor



This institution is an equal opportunity
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Electric co-ops grow for the communities they serve

October is National Co-op Month, and Blue Grass Energy is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to share information that makes us unique. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including Blue Grass Energy, exist only to serve their members. Our priority is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do. That is why we serve on local chambers, economic development authorities and other civic organizations.

Co-ops Grow Together: Co-ops are all about cooperation. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members.

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, providing scholarships or our Washington Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops Grow for You: At your cooperative, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed 86 years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll continue to work making life better, the cooperative way, for our members.

By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams



Beware of energy vampires

A hidden terror could be creeping around your home. These silent menaces never sleep and lurk in every room. They are energy vampires—electronic devices that slowly suck electricity when they are turned off but still plugged in.

The glowing light that remains on when a device is powered off is a tell-tale sign of an unwelcome power sucker. Electronics chargers, computers and devices that turn on instantly via remote control are common culprits.

Individually, these voltage vampires use only small amounts of electricity, but they can collectively account for as much as 10% on the average monthly electric bill, reports the U.S. Department of Energy.

To slay your energy vampires and save money, Blue Grass Energy suggests these tactics:

1. Unplug. When not in use or fully charged, unplug devices such as cellphones, coffee makers, gaming systems and even rechargeable toothbrushes.
2. Use power strips. Shut off power with the flip of a switch when you plug multiple devices into a strip. If you use a smart power strip, it will automatically turn off idle electronics.



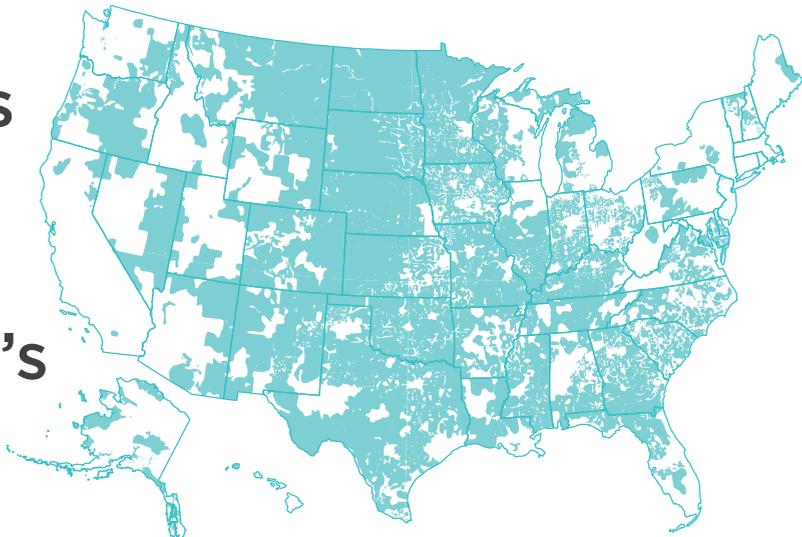
3. Put them to sleep. Activate the sleep mode on your computer or set other electronics into power-saving mode to minimize their electricity consumption after a certain amount of inactivity.
4. Make smart upgrades. Look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing new appliances. They can use half as much energy as other appliances.

Slay the energy vampires in your home and reap energy savings—no wooden stakes or garlic required.

America's Electric Cooperatives

From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America's electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives play a vital role in transforming communities.

Cooperatives power
56%
of the nation's
landmass.



NRECA

Ben Franklin said, "A penny saved is a penny earned." He certainly knew the value of a penny, and we do, too.

Pennies for Purpose is a way to help our neighbors and communities for just pennies each month. This program is funded by Blue Grass Energy members who round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar, and it provides funding to charitable causes across our 23-county service area.

You have the opportunity to round up your electric bill to the next

dollar. For example, a \$64.89 bill would round up to an even \$65. By rounding up, **the average yearly contribution would be \$6.**

If you would like to be a purpose partner with us and help support your local communities, **visit bgenergy.com** and select the Pennies for Purpose button.



Benefits of tree trimming

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to our members.

Areas in our service territory are maintained in order to:

- Keep power lines clear of vegetation.

- Keep crews and members of our community safe.
- Restore power outages more quickly.
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs.

Vegetation management improves service reliability and safety for you.



Dave is paying his electric bill with Blue Grass Energy's BANKDRAFT Service

- The **BANKDRAFT** payment option takes the hassle out of manually paying your bill. It is a stress free way to make your payment on time and avoid late fees.
- Your bank account will be debited on the due date of your bill each month.
- To sign up for **BANKDRAFT**, call **888-546-4243** to request the sign-up form or print the form located on the Billing and Services page of our website and login to your account at bgenergy.com.



Making life better, the cooperative way[®]

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Sign up for **BANKDRAFT** today!