

Empowering change: Blue Grass Energy's Pennies for Purpose program

Blue Grass Energy is providing more than just power—it's fostering a culture of giving back through its innovative initiative, Pennies for Purpose. This member-funded program is supporting local charities, demonstrating how small contributions can make a big impact in the lives of those in need.

With a commitment to not just powering homes but also to fulfilling its purpose of making life better, the cooperative way, Blue Grass Energy launched Pennies for Purpose with a simple idea: to harness the collective strength of spare change for significant giving. The premise is straightforward—members of the cooperative voluntarily round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar, with the additional pennies pooled together to fund impactful community projects.

Since its inception, Pennies for

Purpose has evolved into a catalyst for good. The program's success hinges on the people they serve; each participating member may only contribute a few cents per month, but collectively, these pennies accumulate into a substantial amount. Whether it's supporting local food pantries, aiding families in crisis or

supporting veterans initiatives, the program has become a contributor to diverse initiatives that enrich the communities we serve.

What sets Pennies for Purpose apart is its emphasis on community engagement. Blue Grass Energy actively involves its members in the decision-making process, allowing them to vote on

the projects to receive funding. This democratic approach not only fosters a sense of ownership among members but also ensures that the program aligns closely with the specific needs and aspirations of our communities.

Moreover, Pennies for Purpose stands as a testament to the cooperative's



President & CEO Mike Williams presented the PFP donation to representatives of V.E.T.S., who accepted on behalf of Wreaths Across America. Photo: Denise Myers

2023 RECIPIENTS:

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA—\$1,000

Wreaths Across America is an annual December event that honors and remembers fallen veterans by laying wreaths on their gravesites at more than 2,500 cemeteries in the U.S. The donation was used to place wreaths at Camp Nelson National Cemetery.

CYNTHIANA-HARRISON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY—\$1,500

The pantry provides food assistance to residents of Harrison County. The donation was used to purchase food items to stock the pantry.

SEVEN STARS RELIEF INC.—\$1,000

Seven Stars Relief Inc.'s mission is to provide for individuals and families who are in need of essential living necessities in Madison and Garrard counties. The donation was used to help purchase food, essential household and hygiene items, along with holiday blessing boxes.

LAWRENCEBURG ROTARY CLUB—\$1,100

The Lawrenceburg Rotary championed a scholarship drive for local BCTC students in Anderson County. The donation was used to help fund the endowment to support students for years to come.

CYNTHIANA LIONS CLUB—\$2,000

The Cynthiana Lions Club conducts annual vision screenings in area schools and their local community. The donation was used to help continue the valuable screenings for those in need.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

HEADQUARTERS

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Richmond, KY 40476-0276

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Denise Myers, Editor



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reliable power for today—and tomorrow

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the president/CEO of Blue Grass Energy, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going.

Our team at Blue Grass Energy is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community while keeping rates as low as possible.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our 23-county service area. You may not realize it, but Blue Grass Energy doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

East Kentucky Power Cooperative is increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, adding diversity to their energy mix. A diverse energy mix is important to ensure reliable power is available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to a reliable power supply, Blue Grass Energy is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and members. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the location of the outage. AMI helps us analyze our system with data, and ultimately improves power quality and reliability for our entire community.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Blue Grass Energy will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams



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unwavering dedication to corporate social responsibility. Beyond providing reliable electricity, Blue Grass Energy remains steadfast in its commitment to improving the lives of those we serve, embodying the principle that businesses can and should be instrumental in uplifting the communities they operate within.

In a world where profound change



Williams presents a check to Aundrea Damrell with Seven Stars Relief at our local Richmond office. Photo: Denise Myers

often seems daunting, Pennies for Purpose serves as an example that even the smallest contributions, when united, can create a ripple effect of positive impact. Pennies for Purpose not only demonstrates the immense power of col-

lective action but also inspires a shared sense of purpose among members.

To enroll your account in the PFP program, visit bgenergy.com or call (888) 546-4243.



Accepting the donation for BCTC's scholarship fund are members of the Lawrenceburg Rotary. Photo: Denise Myers

KEEPING WARM

Heating pad, electric blanket and space heater safety

Temperatures are dropping, and families are pulling out their trusty electric space heaters and blankets. But don't forsake safety as you stay warm.

DO read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully before using any space heater or electric blanket.

DON'T leave a space heater or electric heating blanket unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.

DO inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use.

DON'T use the heater if plugs are frayed, worn or damaged.

DO keep heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.

DON'T use an electric blanket if there are dark, charred or frayed spots.

DO plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.

DON'T use electric blankets while sleeping or as a mattress pad.

DON'T place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.

DON'T fold an electric blanket when it's in use. Folded or tucked blankets could overheat and cause a fire.

But be mindful how long they operate. A typical space heater is 1,500 watts. If that size heater runs four hours a day for 30 days of a billing cycle, it will add about \$18 to your bill.



NEW AFRICA/DDBE/ST/CK

SAVE THE DATE

BLUE GRASS ENERGY'S ANNUAL MEETING

Richmond and Cynthiana
Wednesday, June 4, 2024

Lawrenceburg and Nicholasville
Thursday, June 5, 2024

National Cut Your Energy Cost Day is Jan. 10

Take these easy steps to work toward saving money on your Blue Grass Energy power bill:

TRACK YOUR ENERGY USE

As a Blue Grass Energy member, you have access to detailed data about your energy use. Use our mobile app to see how much electricity you use. You can also overlay climate data, like high and low temperatures, on power use graphs to see how the weather affects your electric bill.

COMPLETE A VIRTUAL ENERGY ASSESSMENT

Use this free tool to determine the efficiency of your home and receive recommendations for improving your energy efficiency. To access the virtual energy assessment visit bgenergy.com.

FIND NEW WAYS TO SAVE

Visit TogetherWeSaveKY.com to find easy-to-follow instructions for thermostat management and DIY projects, such as stopping ceiling air leaks, that will help you save on energy costs and increase comfort.

SIGN UP FOR LEVELIZED BUDGET BILLING

This program removes the month-to-month fluctuations in your power bill caused by weather, changing energy use and other factors. The amount won't be exactly the same each month, but it won't have extreme variances. Contact us at (888) 546-4243 to sign up or visit your member portal at bgenergy.com



STEP UP AND LEAD

★
2024 YOUTH TOUR
WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 17-22



- MEET ELECTED LEADERS
- EXPLORE CO-OP ENERGY ISSUES
- MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE
- INCLUDES ALL-EXPENSES-PAID DAY TRIP TO FRANKFORT AND WEEKLONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (application required)



PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

High school juniors apply by January 31!

Learn more at bgenergy.com, under "Our Community" tab.

Blue Grass Energy
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
Making life better, the cooperative way[®]