

## Unlock comfort and savings

By Abby Berry

Consider adding home weatherization to your summer to-do list.

We typically think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or a drafty exterior door. But weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to energystar.gov, a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home—that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY and can be completed in a day.

The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors.

If you have older windows, odds are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight.

If you suspect you have leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength



and properties, but you'll likely need a half-cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a popular choice and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.

### INSTALL WEATHER STRIPPING

Another effective but simple weatherization project is installing weather stripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weather stripping options are V-channel, felt and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install, but will need to be replaced every couple years, depending on wear and tear. Weather stripping

should be installed around the top and sides of the door.

If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weather stripping. Door sweeps are available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options.

Weather stripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double hung or sliding window, or around the window sash.

If you're unsure how to install weather stripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites like energy.gov for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow,

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY BLUE GRASS ENERGY  
AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

Denise Myers, Editor



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Call before you dig.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# What we value

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we are a local, active member of the communities in our service area. We are committed to serving our residential, commercial and industrial members with the same values we have always had, going back to 1937.

Values like integrity. Members come first, every day. That's the power of membership. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Blue Grass Energy delivers energy to our members at the cost of service. This differs from investor-owned utilities, which distribute profits to investors across the nation or even the world—not necessarily to those they serve.

Another is accountability. Blue Grass Energy belongs to you—the members we serve. Decisions made benefit those in our community because co-op business is conducted through a local board of directors.

We value innovation. We recognize that, like any business or industry, technology changes to make daily tasks more efficient. Our commitment to you is to always seek out new innovations and technology to improve the quality of service you receive while continuing to operate your cooperative efficiently and effectively.

We understand the value of our community. We're committed to making life better, the cooperative way, in the communities we serve. True to the cooperative spirit, Blue Grass Energy donates time, energy and resources to charities, schools and community events and takes a leadership role in community development projects.

In all that we do, Blue Grass Energy puts members first and always has a local, member-driven, community-focused vision. This is what we value. This is the cooperative difference.

By President/CEO  
Michael I. Williams



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which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

The best way to identify air leaks in your home is a blower door test, which can be conducted by one of our energy experts. A blower door test helps determine how airtight your home is and identify air leaks. Our free home evaluation is a benefit of your co-op membership, so we encourage you to take advantage of this helpful service.

In addition to saving energy, air sealing can help you avoid moisture control issues, improve indoor air quality and extend the life of your heating and cooling system. Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs. For more information, visit [bgenergy.com](http://bgenergy.com) or email our energy experts at [energyadvisor@bgenergy.com](mailto:energyadvisor@bgenergy.com).

# Soak up summer savings with Co-op Connections

Summer is the perfect time for travel and fun. The Co-op Connections Program gives Blue Grass Energy members access to hundreds of discounts wherever you choose to play or stay.

Planning a big vacation this year? Use your Co-op Connections for savings on hotels, cruises, vacation rentals, airfare, tours and car rentals. You'll also find discounts on tour packages to destinations in Europe and the Caribbean.

Co-op Connections members also receive exclusive discounts at amusement parks like Kings Island, Walt Disney World and Six Flags. If you're driving to your vacation destination, be sure to note the roadside assistance offer available to Connections members.

For weekend fun, Blue Grass Energy members can buy discount tickets for Cincinnati Reds games or Kentucky Down Under Adventure Zoo. You can also snag discount movie tickets to see



the latest summer blockbuster.

Put the power of Co-op Connections to work for you and save all summer. For easy access to discounts, download the Co-op Connections app from the Apple App or Google Play stores. It's just another benefit of being a member of your co-op. To find a full list of discounts and instructions to get your card, visit [connections.coop](http://connections.coop).

## STAY ALERT

### Around water and electricity

During the spring and summer, farmers often must use irrigation equipment to supplement rainfall, but water and electricity don't mix. It's essential to use safe work practices:

- **Properly select and install equipment.** The system should be wired to the standards of the National Electrical Code: It must have disconnect switches; it must use equipment and enclosures suitable for conditions; it must protect wires from physical damage or use jacketed irrigation cable; and it must have circuit and equipment grounding.
- **Do routine maintenance checks.** Proactively look for faulty equipment and proper wiring installation.
- **Use safe work practices.** Turn off the power before working on an irrigation system. Be aware of overhead power lines when working with irrigation pipes, when standing on systems and when spraying water near power lines. Avoid wearing loose clothing and tie back long hair when near rotating equipment.



PATRICK JENNINGS/ADOBE STOCK

## HOW TO HELP RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

### 1. SERVE IN OUR FAMILY ROOM

Volunteers in our Family Room serve inside UK Children’s Hospital to provide a warm and comforting environment for families. Service includes stocking snacks, brewing fresh coffee and greeting guests.

### 2. DINNER GROUPS

Every night, dinner is provided for free to our guests made by the hands of wonderful volunteer groups. Groups from schools, businesses, churches, families and other communities are all welcome.

### 3. HOUSE TO HOME BAGS

Every time a guest leaves, they are provided a complimentary House to Home bag with everyday products. You can volunteer to provide the products and/or stuff the bags.

### 4. WISH LIST DRIVES

Wish List items support all areas of care for families staying in our House. Join together with your community to collect needed items for families staying at RMHC of the Bluegrass.

### 5. EVENTS

RMHC of the Bluegrass hosts many events during the year and we would love your help at them! Visit [rmhclexington.org](http://rmhclexington.org) to see all of the 2024 events.



TIM WEBB

## Levelized billing

By signing up for levelized billing, you can prevent drastic changes in the amount of your bill. Levelized billing makes it easier because you receive a bill of approximately the same amount each month.

A levelized bill averages the previous 12 monthly bills along with the current month’s usage. Because it is a “rolling average,” the need to annually settle up balances is eliminated. Reconciliation of your account will be necessary only if you

move or decide to stop participating in the program.

To enroll, you must have been at your current address for at least one year and your account must have a zero balance.

### TO ENROLL

**Please fill out the form below and send in with your bill, or go to [bgenergy.com/levelized-billing](http://bgenergy.com/levelized-billing).**

*Offering flexible payment options is just one of the many ways we are making life better, the cooperative way.*

Please fill out your information below and check the box. Detach and return this with your bill:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Blue Grass Energy account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Levelized billing