

## October is National Co-op Month

### BLUE GRASS ENERGY'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

October is National Co-op Month. It's a good time to remember that Blue Grass Energy is guided by seven principles. These principles show why the cooperative model is a great way to do business and highlights what makes us different.

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people who are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by the members it serves. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous organizations governed by their members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for members of all ages.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives effectively serve members and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.
- 7. Concern for Community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the development of our communities.



Community born.  
Community led.  
Focused on YOU.

That is  
The Co-operative Difference!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

## HEADQUARTERS

P.O. Box 990  
1201 Lexington Road  
**Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990**

## LOCAL OFFICES

327 Sea Biscuit Way  
**Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730**

1200 Versailles Road  
**Lawrenceburg, KY 40342-0150**

2099 Berea Road  
**Richmond, KY 40476-0276**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dennis Moneyhon** | Chair | Foster

**Gary Keller** | Vice Chair | Harrodsburg

**Jane Smith** | Secretary-Treasurer | Waddy

**Richard Cobb IV** | Richmond

**Doug Fritz** | Paint Lick

**Jody Hughes** | Lawrenceburg

**Paul Tucker** | Sadieville

**Lu Young** | Nicholasville

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.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Competitive energy rates

You may not realize it, but you purchase your energy at cost. And on top of that, the rates you pay are some of the lowest in the country. Not only are we competitive with other states, we are also competitive with local utilities.

The extremely competitive rates we offer to our members didn't happen overnight. It is the direct result of being a member-focused cooperative. Last month, I talked about what that meant. It's about having you at the center of our decisions.

Controlling our expenses is the foundation of our competitive rates. One of the things that has had a significant impact is our two consolidations. We are now a cooperative that once was three smaller, individual co-ops. Joining our areas, employees and resources has allowed us to take advantage of economies of scale to reduce expenses considerably over the years. We have also taken advantage of current economic factors that have allowed us to restructure debt.

These examples are just two of the many ways we put our members first. While these examples are not something we do every day, there are many daily decisions we make. And for each one, we always ask, "Is this best for our membership?"

Our competitive rates are part of the value of being a member of Blue Grass Energy. On behalf of all our employees, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you while making life better, the cooperative way.

By President/CEO  
Michael I. Williams



# Vegetation management: Clearing the way



AARON DUNCAN

## HOW WIDE ARE THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY?

For a single-phase line, it is 20 feet—10 feet on each side of the line. For a three-phase line, it is 30 feet—15 feet on each side of the line.

## CLEARING THE WAY FOR SAFETY

Have you ever noticed the bucket trucks or machines clearing brush by the power lines? They do the important job of helping keep the lights on long before a storm rolls in. In the battle against power outages, vegetation management is one of Blue Grass Energy's most effective weapons.

## WHAT IS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT?

Our vegetation management program is the process we use to clear trees/vegetation using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers to keep our rights-of-way clear and accessible in all weather conditions.

## WHAT ARE RIGHTS-OF-WAY?

A right-of-way is a corridor or pathway of land that BGEnergy's electric lines follow.

These rights-of-way provide BGEnergy an operational safety zone between the wires and trees, buildings or other objects. When they are kept clear, they also provide safe access for line crews to maintain, repair or improve the lines and poles. BGEnergy uses a vegetation management program to keep the rights-of-way clear of incompatible vegetation.

## WHY DO WE CLEAR RIGHTS-OF-WAY?

1. To provide for public safety and the safety of our workers
2. To maintain reliability
3. To quickly diagnose and shorten outages

## WHO DOES THE CLEARING?

We have agreements with various contractors who are qualified and insured to do this work.

## PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

The partnership of Cooperative Extension and Blue Grass Energy has been a great asset to local communities. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Blue Grass Energy on multiple projects over the last 25 years. Whether it is teaching electrical safety or discussing cooperatives, Blue Grass Energy is always willing to provide assistance to educate youth and adults in the community. I truly value this partnership and look forward to continuing and growing programs for the citizens of our community.

**Dana R. Anderson**  
Mercer County Cooperative Extension Agent



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



**OUR 2021 CHARITY PARTNER**

# PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION

Genetic testing can be a powerful tool to uncover biological pathways that cause Parkinson's disease (PD), and this understanding can lead to improved treatments and care for all people with Parkinson's. Understanding genetic differences across people with Parkinson's can help identify clues about how and why a person's experience with the disease differs from others. Genetic testing can also help people with PD and their clinicians identify whether they may qualify for enrollment in certain clinical trials.

Currently, genetic tests for PD are often not affordable and not covered by health insurance. Importantly, many genetic tests do not offer genetic counseling, which can help interpret test results. Therefore, most people with PD and their clinicians do not know if they carry genetic changes in important Parkinson's-related genes. Through PD GENERation, the Parkinson's Foundation aims to address this unmet need.

## HOW DOES PD GENERATION WORK?

First, visit [Parkinson.org/PDGENERation](https://www.parkinson.org/PDGENERation) to complete a questionnaire to confirm your eligibility. If eligible, you will complete a phone screening and then schedule your at-home virtual genetic testing appointment. Or, you may choose to complete your assessment in person at a clinic that offers PD GENERation.

If you choose to complete the study at home, your genetic testing kit will be mailed to you, which you and your provider will use to collect your genetic sample during your genetic testing appointment. During the appointment you will schedule a follow-up with a genetic counselor to review your test results.

Next, return your cheek swab samples for analysis using the pre-paid shipping label. Within six weeks, you will receive your test results through the genetic counseling appointment. Finally, you will be asked to complete an online survey about your experience.

For more information, email [Genetics@Parkinson.org](mailto:Genetics@Parkinson.org) or call the Helpline at 1-800-4PD-INFO (473-4636) to speak with a specialist in English or Spanish. Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.



## Join the PD GENERation today and help us change the course of Parkinson's!

*PD GENERation: Mapping the Future of Parkinson's Disease* is a Parkinson's Foundation initiative that offers genetic testing and genetic counseling at no cost for people with Parkinson's disease (PD). When you participate, you will have the opportunity to:

