



# SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Publication For Members Of Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation



**Plant responsibly to keep your  
power flowing**

# Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 53,593 members of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation, serving Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, and Washington County, plus portions of six surrounding counties, since 1937.

## Headquarters Office:

111 West Brashear Avenue  
Bardstown, KY 40004

## Office Telephones:

Bardstown: (502) 348-3931  
Shepherdsville: (502) 543-3083  
Springfield: (859) 336-5080  
Taylorsville: (502) 477-5133  
Outages: 1-800-221-7465  
[www.srelectric.com](http://www.srelectric.com)

## Board of Directors:

Chairman - Jimmy Longmire  
Vice Chair - A.C. Cahoe  
Treasurer - Gayle Troutman  
Secretary - Linda West  
Director - Darrell Tingle  
Director - Garry Mann

## President & CEO

Tim Sharp

## On Our Cover

Trees are beautiful and something we love and value nearly all the time.

But trees can become the enemy of power lines during storms. For more information on how Salt River Electric trims and clears plant growth, see page 30C.

You'll also find a tree planting guide to help you know where to plant near your home. Photo: Salt River archives



## MEMBER MATTERS

You've got questions, we've got answers.  
Is an electric vehicle right for you or do you just want to understand the technology better?  
Learn more at [www.togetherwesaveky.com](http://www.togetherwesaveky.com).  
You can even use our EV calculator to check out model options.



Kentucky's  
Touchstone Energy  
Cooperatives®

# Spring forward

## Plant responsibly to keep your power flowing

There’s nothing quite as beautiful in nature as trees. Their buds mark the coming of spring. They provide shade and shelter in the summer. In the fall, their brilliant colors paint the landscape.

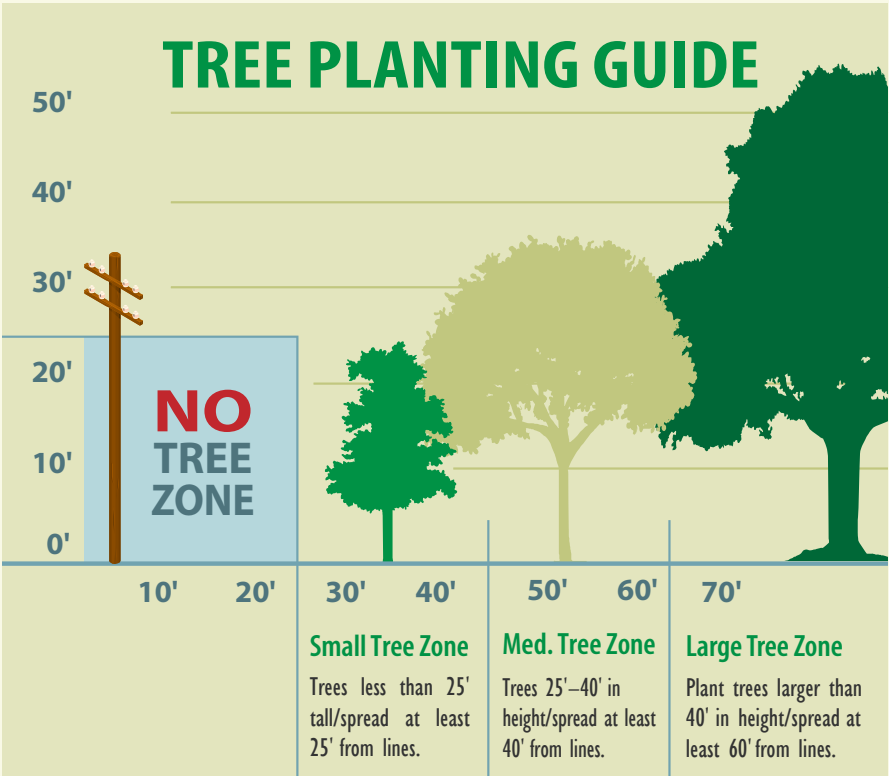
Yes, we love trees, except those growing under or too near Salt River Electric power lines.

When there’s stormy weather in the forecast, those natural beauties can become enemies.

Trees are one of the leading causes of electrical power interruptions. Just a single limb that comes into contact with a power line can blink lights or cause an outage.

Maintaining reliable electric service is a top priority at Salt River Electric. That’s why we regularly trim and clear plant growth that can potentially cause an outage or hinder power line repairs by co-op line technicians.

Your co-op has a 15-foot easement on each side of our power lines (a total of 30 feet). This easement serves as a buffer from encroaching limbs and vegetation that can interfere with electric service for you and



your neighbors. That same area also allows us to access our wires and poles for maintenance and repairs.

We’re doing all we can to manage vegetation and avoid electricity interruptions caused by overgrown vegetation. But we need your help, too.



*We do everything we can to manage vegetation and avoid electricity interruptions caused by overgrown plants. Photo: Meade County RECC*

If your spring plans include planting a tree, shrub or other ornamental plant, remember to first look up and be mindful of the location of power lines. Don’t plant anything in the 30-foot easement zone.

Remember: That tiny sapling you are planting will one day be a fully mature tree. For example, an oak tree can grow 8 feet in just one year if rain is abundant. Use the guide pictured on this page to determine the right planting spot so your prized tree won’t cause power line conflicts when it matures.

Salt River Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power. We’ll do our part with regular tree trimming. And I hope you’ll do your part—for yourself and your neighbors along the line—by planting responsibly.

# A brief history of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation

**Touch\*stone:** a test or criterion for determining quality or genuineness

**En\*er\*gy:** the strength and vitality required for sustained activity; abundant power

These two words—Touchstone Energy—represent the power to bring people together to stand as the gold standard for electric cooperative culture and performance.

Electric co-ops have provided power to small towns and rural areas without fanfare since the 1930s. In 1998, with the threat of national electric deregulation looming large, passionate co-op leaders united for the first time under a national brand, Touchstone Energy.

Co-ops from across the nation promptly rallied together, prominently displaying the brand's logo and slogan of “The Power of Human Connections.” Plus, there was a new, positive energy as employees at Touchstone Energy co-ops worked together to demonstrate the core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Salt River Electric and its sister co-ops in Kentucky were instrumental in the launch of the Touchstone Energy brand across America. We're part of this national network, and Salt River Electric belongs to a regional group called Kentucky's

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives along with 15 other co-ops.

More than 20 years later, Touchstone Energy members are still standing together as the gold standard within the electric industry. Touchstone Energy provides



*Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives educate members on the future of electric vehicles. Photo: Tim Webb*



you with resources like national and local discounts on health care with Co-op Connections (learn more at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)). Because being best in class takes more than just keeping the lights on, Touchstone Energy tools and resources demonstrate our values in the ways co-ops treat member-owners, collaborate and build

communities. Simply put, it's the cooperative difference.

In the upcoming years, Touchstone Energy will continue to support you by offering:

- Renewable energy options (go to [www.cooperativesolar.com](http://www.cooperativesolar.com) and [www.envirowattsky.com](http://www.envirowattsky.com)).
- Business solutions to attract new consumer-members to the area.

- Programs like Honor Flight and electric vehicle education.
- Energy efficiency programs.

As we move into the future, Salt River Electric and Touchstone Energy are committed to serving you with a passion for innovation, a commitment to service excellence and an authentic promise to never underestimate the power of human connections.



*Salt River Electric and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are proud to sponsor Honor Flight to honor our veterans. Photos: Tim Webb*

## Your Safety Matters

# Use ladders safely this spring: look up and stay safe

Falls are one of the leading causes of injuries nationwide, which is why it is so important to

use ladders safely. Misuse of a ladder can put you at risk of permanent injury or death.

Picking the right ladder for the job is the most important step. Choose a ladder that can sustain four times the maximum load and inspect your ladder before each use for defects.

To stay safe make sure you:

- Place your ladder on solid, level ground.
- Contact the local utility before working near overhead lines.
- When using an extension ladder, extend the top 3 feet above the landing. Find a friend to hold the base or tie it off.
- Keep the base free of work materials.
- Always face a ladder when climbing or descending and maintain three-point contact (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand).
- Never stand on the top or at the first rung.
- Set the ladder at the correct angle (one quarter of the vertical length from the wall).
- Stay at least 10 feet from overhead lines.

Remember to never overreach. You might tip sideways or cause the base to kick out. If your belt buckle is outside the side rails, you may be in danger.

Be extra cautious if you need to raise materials or equipment to where you are working. Instead of carrying items up in your hands, use a tool belt or a rope to get what you need up to your work site.

Salt River Electric wants you to be safe. Remember to always look up and locate power lines to avoid contact.



Never stand at the top

Three points of contact

Don't reach past rails

Correct angle

Legs on a level surface

TIM WEBB



## A Message From Your Salt River Cooperative

### Spring into farm safety

#### *Know what to do if electrical contact occurs*

With farmers returning to the field for planting season, Salt River Electric offers reminders about the dangers of power lines.

If you're **inside the machinery** when coming in contact with a downed power line:

- If you can, drive safely away from the downed power line and the source of electricity. Travel at least three tractor lengths, or about 40 feet, before stopping.
- If you can't drive or you are injured, it's best to stay where you are until help arrives.
- If you must get out of the machinery because of a life-threatening reason, don't touch the machinery and the ground at the same time with any part of your body or clothing.
- With the door open, prepare to jump. Stand up, elbows tucked into your stomach and your hands held close to your chest.
- Jump out and away from the machinery, taking care to land with your feet together and touching. Don't stumble.
- Shuffle away with your feet touching each other and the ground. Don't stop until you're at least three tractor lengths away from the machinery.
- Call 911 and ensure that no bystanders come within 40 feet of machinery.
- Once away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment.

If you're **outside the machinery** when you notice a farmer comes in contact with a downed power line:

- Stay at least three tractor lengths away.
- Tell the person on the machinery to stay where he or she is.
- Call 911 and ensure no bystander moves within 40 feet of machinery.



STEFANIT9/ADOBESTOCK

VETREADOBESTOCK

### Salt River Electric offers scholarships to four area students

Four academic scholarships are available to high school seniors in the Salt River service area.

The four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to seniors enrolling in an accredited college, university or trade school.

To enter, candidates must reside in the Salt River Electric service area, or in the primary residence of his or her guardian must be on co-op lines. High school seniors must be enrolled or have plans to enroll in an accredited institution.

Candidates must have a minimum of 2.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale and must be in good standing. In addition, students must complete a typed, 500-word essay chosen from a topic list. The essay will be judged on originality and content with consideration given to spelling and grammar.

Submissions become the property of the co-op.

Entries must be typed and include an application, biography, the essay and notarized proof of grade-point average.

In addition to the essay, applicants will be judged on grades, activities and financial need. The scholarship committee will reside outside the Salt River service territory.

Winners will be announced during the co-op's annual meeting, on Monday, June 7.

Applications can be picked up at any Salt River Electric co-op office. They are also available on our website at [www.srelectric.com](http://www.srelectric.com).

To have an application mailed, contact Diana Edwards at (502) 350-1522, or visit our main office located at 111 W. Brashear Ave., Bardstown.

**Deadline: Entries must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2021.**

# NEED HELP WITH YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?



First-come, first-served assistance now available.

Apply now. Crisis assistance deadline is March 31, 2021, or until funds are depleted.

ANDREPHOTO/ADOBE STOCK  
ANAYOLANT/ADOBE STOCK

## Members now have three ways to report a power outage

Salt River Electric members now have three options when reporting a power outage.

- You can use our **mobile app** on any smart phone or mobile device. Download the app at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

- You can also go to our website at **[www.srelectric.com](http://www.srelectric.com)**

and click on the outage tab. Be sure to set up a username and password in advance so you'll be ready if you lose power.

- You can call our 24-hour outage phone line **(800) 221-7465**.

Outages can be reported 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Our line crews are on the

ready to respond to outages as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When power outages occur, be sure to check your breakers first to be sure nothing has gone wrong inside your home. Have your account information handy when reporting an outage.

## HANG UP ON SCAMMERS!

We may contact you, but we will **NEVER** demand personal or financial information.

Report scams to the Kentucky Attorney General:  
[ag.ky.gov/scams](http://ag.ky.gov/scams) • 1-888-432-9257



**SALT RIVER ELECTRIC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

