

# SALT RIVER NEWS

A monthly publication for the members of Salt River Electric | JANUARY 2025

[www.srelectric.com](http://www.srelectric.com)



*Message from the President*

## Time well spent

### Paying attention to what matters

As Salt River's president and CEO, I spend a lot of time thinking about our mission and values, and the best way to allocate our resources to meet our goals. As we welcome the start of another year, time itself is on a lot of our minds—understanding where it goes, and how to use it better.

One thing I've learned during my career is that time is a resource—and perhaps the most limited one we have. The way we talk about time makes this clear. We “spend” time, and we “pay” attention; sometimes we “waste” time or “lose” focus. And for each of us, there are moments of inconsistency when it comes to our goals and what we are actually doing with our time.

A key part of the cooperative business model is that we're encouraged to pay attention to what matters. Here at Salt River Electric, we're smaller than many investor-owned utilities, and we're also less dense, with just under 13 consumer-members per mile. For us, our close connection with our communities is a source of strength. After all, many of us live in the same communities as our members, so we understand



MARINELA WALCHEVA/DOBE STOCK

what matters. And because we're your neighbors, you can count on us to give you the time and attention you deserve. It's rare to find personal touches in customer service these days—another reason why electric co-ops are unique.

Our personal lives demand the same thoughtful care and planning that we devote to our work. Time moves faster than we think, and of all the things we save, spend or squander, time is the most precious.

Heading into the new year, all of us at Salt River are proud to be your trusted energy partner. We are fortunate to be guided by clear objectives: providing safe, reliable electricity at cost and improving quality of life in

our communities. We carefully allocate our time and other resources to serve those goals.

In 2025, I challenge each of us—myself included—to become more effective CEOs of our personal lives. What truly matters to us, and how do we actually spend our time? More importantly, when we find a mismatch between the two, what are we going to do about it?

We have a whole new year in front of us. Let's make it count.



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*President and CEO  
Tim Sharp*





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## Announcements

### Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 57,115 members of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation, serving Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, and Washington County, plus portions of six surrounding counties, since 1937.

**Zachary Epperson**, Editor

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**1-800-221-7465**

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## Notice—Outdoor and Commercial Lighting Modification

Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:011, Section 8, Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation (“Salt River”) gives notice to its members that it has requested that the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) allow it to modify the tariff narrative contained within the cooperative’s Outdoor Lighting Schedule - OL.

### Proposed Outdoor and Commercial Lighting Schedule Modifications

Due to supplies no longer being available for current outdoor and commercial lighting offering, the cooperative is proposing a change to LED lights only. Additionally, the cooperative proposes to delete the Commercial Lighting Schedule - CL.

The modified tariff will be submitted to the Commission on February 3. If approved by the Commission, the new tariff will become effective March 3.

A person may examine Salt River’s tariff filing, and any related documents, at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. A person may also view the tariff filing and related documents at Salt River’s main office located at 111 West Brashear Ave., Bardstown, KY 40004.

Comments regarding the tariff filing may be submitted to the Commission through its website at <http://psc.ky.gov>, or by mail to the Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602. Also at this mailing address, a person may submit to the Commission a timely written request for intervention establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication, the Commission may take final action on the tariff filing.

### Office Closure:



Our offices will be closed  
January 1 for New Year’s Day.

BRAD PICTADORE STOCK

# Who Powers You highlights community servants

When you hear us talking about community here at Salt River Electric, it's a reminder that your membership in this cooperative means you are part of a community, and not just an anonymous customer. That relationship ties directly to one of our core values of commitment to community.

Our cooperative is constantly working to improve the lives of our members through good stewardship, economic development and supporting causes like Ronald McDonald Houses, Kentucky Special Olympics and Honor Flight. But we're not the only ones who are committed to our communities and our members. There are so many people within our cooperative who go above and beyond to help their neighbors.

In recent years, another annual event we've enjoyed is our Who Powers You contest, which gives us the opportunity to highlight and reward members from all across the territory of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. It gives us a chance to recognize someone locally who makes our home a better place to live.

These people are often the unsung heroes or the backbones of their communities, and they're always willing to help.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' 2024 Who Powers You contest was open for nominations in October, and our winners were chosen and announced in November. This year, organizers received more than 20 nominations, including one from right here at Salt River Electric!

Salt River member Sandy Cambron was highlighted by someone in the community to be the cooperative's nominee for the Who Powers You contest. Sandy and her husband Wayne oversee Pearl's Memory Babies, a Bullitt County organization that delivers baby dolls and stuffed animals to those stricken with



**Billy Hayes is the 2024 winner of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Who Powers You contest. Hayes owns the Frisch's restaurant in Somerset. For the last two years, Hayes and a large group of volunteers have prepared and delivered more than 3,000 meals and toys for children to those in need on Thanksgiving and Christmas, with plans to continue the generosity into the future. Photo: Tim Webb**

memory disorder such as dementia and Alzheimer's.

"Sandy is selfless," the nominator says. "She loves big and gives freely of her heart, her time, and her resources to make sure she is doing everything possible to spread love to those living with dementia and Alzheimer's." We're so proud of the work nominees do to improve all of our lives and to make our community better.

South Kentucky RECC's Billy Hayes was this year's first-place winner. Clark Energy's Victoria Spencer was the second-place winner, and Steve Kistler from Farmers RECC was our third-place winner.

In the past, Who Powers You winners have been people who operated a women's group and helped the less fortunate, food bank operators, resource providers to the less fortunate, people who interviewed veterans and told their stories, and so many more. They've all been inspiring in their own special way.

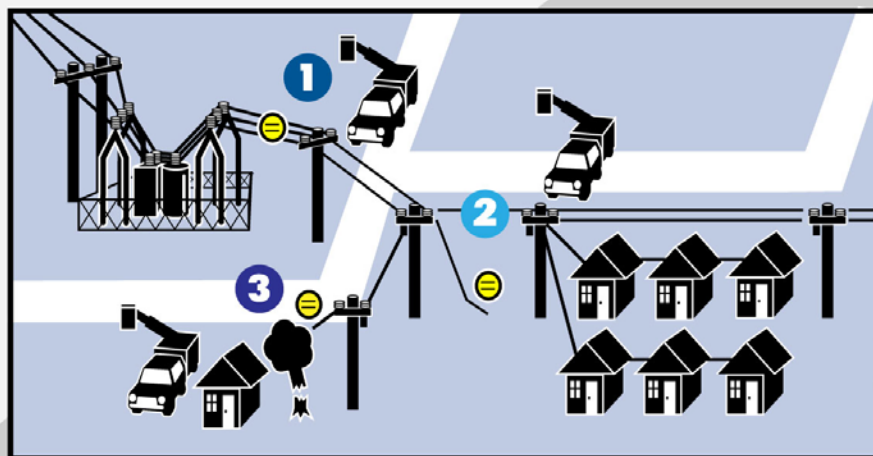
As we begin 2025, we hope you'll take some inspiration from these winners and give back to your community in your own way. Maybe you'll be one of our winners in 2025. But even if you don't get a prize for your contribution, you're still a winner for making our communities a better place.



# Restoring power during winter weather events

Outages are an unfortunate reality that electric cooperatives have to deal with from time to time. That's especially true for the winter months of the year, when hazardous weather and conditions can cause the lights to go out. Here at Salt River Electric, it's our goal to keep the lights on for our members. But when Mother Nature has other plans, we feel it's important for our members to know the steps we take with our restoration plan, as well as the effort and time it takes to restore power to their homes and businesses.

First things first, though, our crews need to know where an outage is. While many pieces of our grid infrastructure can alert us to an outage, it's never a bad idea to report it yourself. The quickest and easiest way to report an outage is by using our mobile app, SR Electric. You can find it and download it for free from the Google Play store or Apple App store. Once you submit an outage through



- 1** The main distribution line from the substation must be fixed before anyone can have power.
- 2** Next, repair crews fix the lines bringing power to the greatest number of people in the community.
- 3** After larger pockets of members are back on line, crews fix service lines to individual homes.



TIM WEBB

our app, it takes approximately 10-15 seconds to appear in our dispatch center. If the weather is causing widespread outage events, you could end up waiting on hold for a while to speak with a customer service representative during business hours. That's what makes outage reporting through the app that much better.

As soon as we identify an outage, crews will be dispatched to start repairs as long as it is safe to do so. Safety is a top priority at Salt River, and we want to make sure our linemen do their job quickly but safely.

Crews will begin their restoration process with the main distribution lines that come from the substations, focusing their efforts then on the lines that serve the greatest number of homes and businesses. That means if you live in a remote, hard-to-reach area, prepare for the

possibility of a prolonged outage if the problem is just down the road from you.

After those repairs are made, crews will begin to work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

A common question we get during power restoration: why is power back on at my neighbor's house but not mine? If your home doesn't have service restored at the same time as your neighbor's, there are a couple of possible reasons: there may be damage to the service wires that connect your home to our grid. Also, even though your neighbor is next door, their power may come from a different substation, transformer or line than yours.

# Understanding the benefits and potential pitfalls of emergency heat

For Kentucky residents, the true force of winter often doesn't reveal itself until January and February. These are the months that bring us biting winds, freezing temperatures and frosty conditions. These conditions are the ultimate test for our home heating systems. Those of you who use heat pumps have probably seen a social media post or two advising homeowners to switch their systems to "emergency heat" to prevent winter damage. However, these posts usually lack context, leading to misconceptions and, in some cases, higher energy bills.

## What is emergency heat?

Emergency heat is a specific feature found in heat pump systems. When activated, the heat pump's compressor shuts off, and the system engages electric heating strips instead. Essentially, your entire home is heated much like it would be by an oversized space heater. While this might sound like a safeguard against extreme cold, it's important to understand both the benefits and drawbacks of using emergency heat.

If you've followed our previous energy efficiency columns, you'll know that space heaters are among the least efficient ways to heat a room, as they consume significant amounts of electricity. Emergency heat essentially turns your entire heating system into a giant space heater. This can lead to excessive energy usage if used improperly.

Heat pumps are designed to be efficient, even in colder temperatures. These units are equipped with defrost features that keep them running smoothly, even during icy weather. This helps manage ice and snow accumulation on the outdoor unit, without any help from you. As a result, switching to emergency heat during typical winter weather is usually unnecessary and costly.



SEBASTIAN STUDIO/ADOBE STOCK

## When should you use emergency heat?

As the name suggests, emergency heat is designed for emergency situations. For example, if your heat pump's outdoor unit is showing significant ice or snow accumulation, switching to emergency heat can help avoid potential damage. This bypasses the heat pump's outdoor unit, allowing your system to continue heating your home without potentially compromising your unit.

However, this feature is not meant for extended use or use in mild conditions. Running on emergency heat when it's not needed could potentially strain your system, leading to unnecessary wear and tear. This could mean that when a real emergency takes place, the feature might not function as efficiently or could even fail.

## The costly mistake of misuse

A common issue we seem to encounter each winter is homeowners forgetting to switch off emergency heat after a cold snap. This can result in significantly higher electric usage, as the heating strips draw substantial power to maintain your home's temperature.

A quick drop in temperature doesn't necessarily warrant switching to emergency heat—modern heat pumps are designed to handle most winter conditions without this assistance.

Sure, emergency heat can be a valuable tool, but you should be cautious and understand it before using it. The next time you see a post advising everyone to switch their units to emergency heat, take a moment and consider the facts.



# EKPC announces new generation investments

East Kentucky Power Cooperative, the wholesale power provider for Salt River Electric and more than a dozen other co-op, announced plans recently that will transform its power generation capabilities for decades to come.

Over the next several years, EKPC plans to construct nearly 1,000 megawatts of new power plant capacity fueled by natural gas, as well as to co-fire five of its six coal-fueled units at Spurlock and Cooper stations. The cooperative also has plans to add more than 750 megawatts of renewable energy and a host of transmission upgrades.

“EKPC is blazing a bold path to ensure reliable, cost-competitive and sustainable electricity for rural Kentucky in coming decades,” says Anthony “Tony” Campbell, president and CEO of EKPC, which provides electricity to 16 electric cooperatives that serve 1.1 million Kentucky residents in 89 counties.



At a press conference held at Cooper Station in Pulaski County last November, East Kentucky Power Cooperative announced plans to increase investment in additional generation for its 16 owner-member co-ops. Photo: C2 Communications

## New gas-fueled generation

EKPC plans to add a new 745-megawatt natural gas combined cycle unit at Cooper Station in Pulaski County, effectively tripling the plant's capacity to provide power and meet future energy demands. The new unit is expected to come online in 2030. Combined cycle units are the most cost-effective and energy efficient natural gas-powered generators available today.

In Casey County, EKPC plans to build a 214-megawatt natural gas power plant, featuring 12 quick-start units with flexibility to support renewables and provide capacity during periods of high electricity demand such as extreme temperatures.

## Co-firing coal units

A new greenhouse gas rule finalized in April by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency threatened closure for EKPC's two coal-fueled plants by 2031. But EKPC's plans to convert five

of its six existing coal-fueled units at Cooper Station and at Spurlock Station in Mason County will enable them to use both coal and natural gas as fuel. With these converted facilities, EKPC will ensure continued compliance with the EPA's greenhouse gas rule and protect its most dependable electric-generating resources.

In addition, EKPC recently announced plans to add 757 megawatts of new renewable resources, including solar facilities in Fayette and Marion counties.

“Over the next few years, EKPC will take steps to meet Kentucky's energy needs for decades to come,” says Don Mosier, chief operating officer and executive vice president at EKPC.

With the additions to its power plant fleet, EKPC remains on track to meet its target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions 35% by 2035.

The planned projects must be approved by the Kentucky Public Service Commission.



Don Mosier, chief operating officer and executive vice president at East Kentucky Power Cooperative, details the cooperative's proposed new generation investments. Photo: C2 Communications



# Be prepared for winter driving

Wintertime arrives in full force this month, making travel hazardous at times. A well-stocked vehicle emergency kit and knowing a few hacks can help you stay safe on Kentucky roads when snow and ice are in the forecast.

## Safety checklist

Make sure your vehicle has weather-appropriate tires with good tread and fill your car with gas before driving in winter conditions. Never head out without a fully charged cell-phone, too.

The National Weather Service suggests storing these tools and supplies in your trunk:

- Cellphone charger
- Flashlight and extra batteries (or a hand-crank flashlight)
- Extra clothing (hat, gloves, hand warmers, boots)
- Blanket/sleeping bag
- Ice scraper with brush
- Compact shovel
- Booster cables
- First-aid kit
- Road flares/reflective warning triangles
- Sand/kitty litter (for traction)



# Invest in energy savings for the new year

If your New Year's resolution is to use energy more responsibly, you might want to invest in a few devices that will help you keep on track.

1. Smart power strips. A smart power strip can detect when the electronic equipment you plug into it is in standby mode and shut the power off. That's different from standard power strips, which you have to switch off manually when they're not in use.
2. Programmable thermostat. You'll save energy by programming your heat or air conditioning to hold back during times of the day when nobody is home, or at bedtime, and to crank back up just before your alarm goes off or you're scheduled to return from work.
3. Dimmer switches. A dimmer switch will allow you to lower the brightness of the lights, set a relaxing mood for the room and—a bonus—save energy. Take note, however, that not all dimmers work with all kinds of light bulbs. Choose one that “matches” your LED, incandescent or CFL light bulbs for best results.
4. Ceiling fans. During the winter, set the blades so they spin clockwise and use the fans at the lowest speed. The fan will move warm air from the ceiling throughout the room, which will make it feel cozier. Note, however, that a ceiling fan doesn't warm a room; it makes the people in it feel more comfortable.
5. Insulate your water heater. If your water heater is warm to the touch, it could mean it is losing heat to the air instead of directing it all to the water. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that wrapping your heater with an insulation blanket—a good one costs less than \$50—could reduce that standby heat loss by up to 45%. A caution, however: Some local codes do not allow insulation blankets, especially if they cover the water heater's operating instructions or safety precautions, or if they block air passages, safety valves or controls. Check local codes and ordinances before installing one.



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SAKLAKOVA/ADOBE STOCK



# Go into 2025 with confidence: Help save on home repairs and reduce unexpected costs

HomeServe makes it simple and affordable for Salt River Electric members

These days, everyone is looking for ways to reduce hassles and increase savings. As a homeowner, you may be seeking ways to reduce the high cost and hassle of unexpected repairs.

Thanks to the partnership between Salt River Electric and the home repair experts at HomeServe, Salt River members now have a cost-effective solution to help avoid the potential stress and financial burden of handling home system breakdowns.

Salt River Electric has partnered with HomeServe, an independent company offering protection plans for systems in your home, including exterior and interior electric. Many homeowners may not realize that these repairs fall under their responsibility. Fixing them can be costly and difficult to manage.

With HomeServe, you can worry less about the expense or stress of a breakdown. If something goes wrong that's covered on your plan, simply call HomeServe. They'll send a trusted,

licensed, local contractor to take care of the repair, covering the bill for covered services up to the benefit limit. It's a simple way to help protect your budget from high repair costs and avoid the hassle of managing the repair on your own.

Learn more about these valuable programs at [HomeServe.com/SaltRiver](https://HomeServe.com/SaltRiver) or contact HomeServe directly at (833) 334-1874.

Help safeguard what makes your house a home!



HOMESERVE

## Salt River Electric Offices

### Nelson County

111 West Brashear Ave,  
Bardstown  
M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
(502) 348-3931

### Bullitt County

6260 Hwy 44 E,  
Shepherdsville  
M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
(502) 543-3083

### Spencer County

127 Settlers Center Road,  
Taylorsville  
M–F, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
and 1–4 p.m.  
(502) 477-5133

### Washington County

805 Bardstown Road,  
Springfield  
M–F, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
and 1–4 p.m.  
(859) 336-5080