

SALT RIVER NEWS

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

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Message from the President

A heartfelt thank you

Local lawmakers support Salt River Electric

In this month's issue of *Kentucky Living*, Salt River Electric is pleased to provide you with the 2025 Kentucky Electric Cooperatives Legislative Guide.

Each year, we work with our fellow co-ops across the state to provide this public service. It's part of our continuous effort to ensure the interests of our local communities and the consumer-members of Salt River are understood not only by the policymakers in Frankfort, but in Washington, D.C., too.

This year's legislative guide includes an update on the Rural Electric Cooperative Caucus, the bipartisan group of Kentucky lawmakers who share a common goal to learn about how electric co-ops work so they can advocate for local co-op priorities.

Here at Salt River, we're extremely fortunate to have several local lawmakers who represent the areas we serve participating in the caucus. Thank you to senators Amanda Bledsoe, Jimmy Higdon, Mike Nemes and Aaron Reed, and representatives Emily Callaway, Jennifer Henson Decker, Peyton Griffie, Thomas Huff, Kim King, Candy D. Massaroni, Michael Pollock and James Tipton.



MARINELA MALCHEVA/DOBE STOCK

If possible, take a moment to send these lawmakers a message to let them know you appreciate their membership in the caucus and their support of our priorities. It's often the case that our elected officials get an earful about what's going wrong. We think they also need to hear from us when something is going right.

The easiest way to send the message is by scanning the QR code on this page. You can also visit RuralPowerKy.com to show your appreciation to your legislator for being a caucus member and supporting the members and employees of Salt River Electric.

This effort is not about a political party or any election. It's simply our way of saying thank you for representing electric co-ops and the important roles they play in our communities.



**SALT RIVER
ELECTRIC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

President and CEO
Tim Sharp





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Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 57,194 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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Notice

Installation of underground service for Individual Residential or Commercial Customers

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 its tariff regarding the installation of underground service facilities for individual residential or commercial customers.

Proposed modification for the installation of underground service facilities for individual residential or commercial customers:

OPTION NUMBER 1.

- I. Customer opens and closes ditch from the meter base to the nearest pole, padmount transformer, splice box, or other point of connection as determined by Cooperative personnel under the guidelines of the Cooperative's current specifications.
- II. The customer shall furnish and have installed a meter base and all conduit from the meter base to the point of connection as determined by the Cooperative's current specifications. In addition, the customer will provide a pull wire inside the conduit system to assist the Cooperative in the installation of the conductor.
- III. The Cooperative will furnish and install the underground service conductor from the meter base to the point of connection with other Cooperative facilities.
- IV. The Cooperative will maintain any underground conductor which is installed under this option except in the occurrence of a dig-in. The Cooperative will repair all dig-ins on a cost-plus basis.
 - For 200-amp service or less—Customer will pay a fee of \$150.00 for the first 150 feet of conductor for any underground installation. For all additional conductor after the first 150 feet, the customer will be charged an additional fee of \$2.07 per foot.
 - For 400-amp service or greater—Customers will pay a fee of \$400 for the first 150 feet of conductor for any underground installation. For all additional conductor after the first 150 feet, the customer will be charged an additional fee of \$3.61 per foot.

All costs associated with the installation of underground service must be paid prior to the scheduling of the work. The maximum distance which the Cooperative will run any underground service drop is limited by the voltage drop allowed by NEC and Kentucky Public Service Commission Standards. The distance will also be limited by the ability for the Cooperative to pull its conductor through the conduit system from the meter base to the point of connection.

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

Salt River Electric's annual scholarship program now open

Yes, we're still in the midst of winter, but it won't be long before diplomas are being handed out and caps are being tossed into the air. That's right, it's the home stretch for our area high school seniors who are planning to graduate this spring. If you're one of those seniors, or know someone who is, make sure you take a look at Salt River Electric's annual scholarship program.

Since 1966, Salt River Electric has made it a point to give back to the graduating seniors throughout our service area, taking to heart the cooperative principles of education and concern for community through our annual scholarship program.

In 2023, Salt River's board of directors raised the number of scholarship winners from each board district, with two students being awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. One scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior who is pursuing a traditional degree, and the other will be awarded to a graduating senior who plans to pursue a vocational or technical pathway.

"When we had a chance to reexamine our program, we realized that not all students are pursuing traditional degrees after high school," President and CEO Tim Sharp explains. "Opening up the scholarship program meant that more students would have the opportunity to receive some financial assistance with their future education."

Last year's scholarship winners included:

Bullitt

Catherine Aubrey—electrical technology, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

Jane Lyons—elementary education, Eastern Kentucky University



Nelson

Chelsey Kisegy—nursing, Lindsey Wilson College

Zachary Samuels—welding, Kentucky Welding Institute

Spencer

Justin Curtsinger—music education, Eastern Kentucky University

Nate Noll—lineman, Jefferson Community and Technical College

Washington

Andrea Cooksey—agricultural economics, University of Kentucky

Thomas Yaste—industrial maintenance, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College—Springfield

Also available is the Larry Hicks Memorial Scholarship. The \$2,000 scholarship, named after Salt River's former president & CEO, is awarded to a current college student from our service area who is actively pursuing a degree in

finance or accounting at an accredited college or university.

Beginning this month, eligible students from around Salt River's service area are encouraged to apply for scholarships. This includes:

1. Graduating high school seniors who are planning to pursue a traditional degree at a college or university;
2. Graduating high school seniors who are planning to pursue a career through a trade or vocational program at an accredited school; or
3. Current college students actively pursuing a degree in accounting or finance at an accredited college or university.

Applications and related materials for both scholarships must be submitted by Friday, April 11, at any of our four offices to the attention of Diana Edwards. For more information about our scholarships, head over to our website, srelectric.com.

Winter Storm Blair

As we mentioned in last month's Salt River News, the true force of winter does not usually show itself in Kentucky until January or February. No sooner than that issue hit your mailbox, winter decided to rear its head and graced us with Winter Storm Blair, which brought snow and over a quarter of an inch of ice to many in our service area. While our crews had prepared for the event, ice accumulation over a quarter of an inch can cause serious damage to a system like ours. And it did, breaking over 30 poles, bringing down hundreds of spans of wires and affecting around 7,200 total members across our service area.

"Ice can cause significant damage, and it's something we take seriously at the cooperative," says Manager of Communications Zach Epperson. "Winter Storm Blair served as a reminder of why."

The conditions made restoration efforts difficult in some of our more remote areas, but crews worked as quickly and safely as possible to get power back to our affected members. Salt River also received mutual aid from Nolin RECC, Owen Electric Cooperative and Shelby Energy. The event lasted from the evening of January 5 to midnight January 9.

Here you'll find just a sampling of the damage, conditions and the repairs our dedicated crews handled in the aftermath of Winter Storm Blair.

Photos: Zach Epperson



BRIAN BARNETT

DREW AKRIDGE



BRIAN BARNETT

STAN CHESNUT



How your energy bill can be impacted

February brings some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your bill each month from Salt River Electric, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. Detailed views on our mobile app can even show when usage may have spiked on days when you used more electricity, such as a particularly chilly day or when relatives were staying with you.

But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

Infrastructure and equipment

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, all Salt River members pay a monthly meter charge. This flat monthly fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations are covered for all members throughout our service territory. To ensure that you get the reliable service you expect and deserve, it's important that we maintain our distribution system, which includes power lines, substations and other essential equipment.

Fuel adjustment clause

Salt River purchases electricity from East Kentucky Power Cooperative at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our members and local communities. The cost of generating and transmitting electricity from our generation partner accounts for a significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to local homes and businesses—and the cost of fuels that are used to generate that

electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with East Kentucky to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

Extreme weather

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times of extreme cold or heat, when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

Energy policy and regulations

Federal energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always-available fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be built and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities.

You have control

While many external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage energy use at home. The most effective way to manage usage starts with your thermostat. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use,

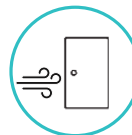
EFFECTIVE WAYS To Lower Home Energy Use

Outside factors, such as fuel and equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.



Thermostat Management

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Dept. of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



Seal Your Home

According to Energy Star, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weather stripping. This is a simple, effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



Maintain Equipment

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.

adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace dirty filters as needed.

Reserve energy-intensive chores for off-peak times, such as early in the morning or later in the evening, to save energy. Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

Salt River Electric is your local energy partner, and we're here to help. Visit srelectric.com/homeenergy to learn about efficiency programs designed to help you save. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with safe, reliable power at an affordable cost.



Give space heaters space

Personal space heaters can be both efficient and comfortable if it's only a small area that needs heating. But for their tiny size, space heaters can cause a lot of damage.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, causing more than 300 deaths.

If you must use a space heater, follow these tips to stay safe (and warm!):

- Only use space heaters that carry the mark of an independent consumer product testing laboratory, like Underwriters Laboratories. Certified models will offer the most current safety features.
- Keep all objects, bedding and people at least 36 inches away from the space heater.
- Never use an extension cord for space heaters.
- If you have a fixed space heater, have it installed or checked by a qualified technician before use.
- Choose a space heater with a thermostat to avoid overheating the room. Newer models will automatically switch off at a predetermined temperature.
- Oversized heaters will only waste energy. Buy the correct size heater for the room or space you are trying to heat.



FREEMAN/DOBE STOCK

Say goodbye to winter energy hogs

As harsh February weather sets in, now is the time to confront your winter energy hogs and show them the door. Look for these common winter culprits throughout your house:

- Drafty doors and windows. An easy fix with a big payback is weather stripping. Caulk or apply weather stripping around all window and door seams, especially those leading to the basement or the attic. Weather strip your attic access door.
- Dirty air filters. Dirty filters make your system work harder to heat the air. Aim to change the filter every three to six months.
- Leaky ducts. A contractor can test your ducts for leakage and repair any problems. Repair visible or accessible leaks with metal tape—not duct tape!
- Chilly water heater. If your water heater is older or not well insulated, wrap it in an insulating jacket.
- Wood fireplace. Traditional fireplaces pull heated air out of the house. When the fireplace is not in use, make sure the damper is completely closed.



ALINA ROSANOVA/DOBE STOCK

More than electricity

Salt River is invested in powering the lives of our members, but we're also extremely invested in making our communities great places to live.

For nearly 88 years, our main priority has been providing our members with reliable, safe and at-cost electricity. But truth be told, electric co-ops are more than just electricity. Our dedication to service goes beyond the power lines because we're connected to the people and the places we serve.

At the heart of our operation is a commitment to the cooperative core principle, "Concern for Community." It drives us to take action, with the goal of improving everyday life across our service area.

As a community servant, your co-op invests in the quality of life here through:

Economic development. We're constantly taking steps to power a stronger, more resilient future for the communities we serve. Partnering with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives we offer state-of-the-art tools and expertise to attract business investments and expansions, and the jobs that go with them.

Donations. Last year, Salt River invested thousands of dollars to support local nonprofit organizations and agencies, all with the goal of making life better for the people and communities we serve.

Sponsorships. We continued to support a number of local school groups, sports teams, community events and dozens of others. Our donations also made it possible for local veterans to participate in Honor Flight, and for area athletes to compete in Special Olympics Kentucky's Summer Games.

Scholarships. We're investing in our communities' future by



annually awarding scholarships that make it possible for students to achieve educational goals at colleges and trade schools.

Safety. Through demonstrations, classroom programming and communications, we promote awareness of electrical safety and emergency preparedness to members of all ages.

Volunteerism. We're also energizing communities through the volunteerism and generosity of our employees.

In a variety of ways, we're doing whatever we can to demonstrate our commitment to empowering our communities. By serving beyond the power lines, we're creating a vibrant place to live and work, and everyone benefits.

Office Closure:



Our offices will be closed Monday, February 17, for Presidents Day.

Salt River Electric Offices

Nelson County

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Bardstown
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(502) 348-3931

Bullitt County

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

Spencer County

127 Settlers Center Road,
Taylorsville
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and 1–4 p.m.
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and 1–4 p.m.
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