

# SALT RIVER NEWS

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



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



## Message from the President

### Preparation is key

What does April mean for you?

Maybe you're a fantastic gardener, and your green thumb is hard at work preparing your garden or landscaping for the month ahead. Or maybe you have something else spring-related on your agenda.

Here at Salt River Electric, the spring months usually revolve around something in particular: severe weather. While it's never a guarantee that severe weather will strike our area, I certainly don't want us to take any chances. That's why our crews and personnel take severe weather preparation seriously, from taking stock of essential materials to reviewing outage restoration plans and communications.

Severe weather preparation isn't just for an electric co-op, though. Members just like you and me need to take steps to prepare ourselves, our families and our homes for the possibility of severe weather. How? It's a lot easier than you might think.

- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable



food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.

- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from the home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Fill your car with gas.

importance of having a backup plan, or even a backup plan to your backup plan. Talk with your medical provider about preparing for severe weather and potential outages. That may include getting batteries for your oxygen concentrator, or preparing to move to another location if the need for electricity is critical. Only you and your provider know what will be your best option.

We all think we have a plan, until the worst happens. Take some time this month to sit down and prepare. I know we'll be doing the same.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

For our members who rely on uninterrupted electricity for their oxygen or other medical devices: have a plan in place. I cannot stress enough the

President and CEO  
Tim Sharp





**SALT RIVER  
ELECTRIC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 57,260 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

### Headquarters

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

**To report outages call:**  
**1-800-221-7465**

### Board of Directors

Linda West, **Chair**

David Stevens, **Vice Chair**

Darrell Tingle, **Treasurer**

Wm. George Maddox, **Secretary**

John Hutchins, **Director**

Joe Osbourne, **Director**

Tim Sharp, **President & CEO**

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

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**Follow us on social media:**



Salt River Electric



@SaltRiverCoop

**Download the SRElectric app:**



## Announcements

# Salt River Electric's annual scholarship application deadline is **FRIDAY, APRIL 11**



• **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS** •  
**APPLY TODAY!**

BELOZERSKY/ADOBE STOCK

### Office Closure:



Our offices will be closed  
Friday, April 18, for Good Friday.

BRAD PICT/ADOBE STOCK

# Celebrating our lineworkers

## Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 14

Have you ever taken something—or someone—for granted? It's human nature not to notice what we have until we feel the sudden inconvenience of doing without. This is why so many of us were told, growing up, to "count our blessings."

We try to count our blessings daily here at Salt River Electric, and this month, we want to call out one dedicated group of people in particular—our lineworkers. On April 14, electric cooperatives across the nation recognize Lineworker Appreciation Day, highlighting the men and women who help keep the lights on in homes across America.

Think back over the last 12 months. We've seen flooding, tornadoes, ice and

snow. No matter the emergency, we rely on our dedicated lineworkers to brave the elements, enduring grueling hours and difficult conditions to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Because of the challenging weather and terrain lineworkers often face, it's easy to focus on the physical demands of the job. For all the physical strength required, however, lineworkers' mental strength and focus are equally crucial. Working with dangerous high-voltage lines requires extraordinary attention to detail and safety every day.

That's why Salt River insists on thorough and constant safety training, and a careful adherence to professional standards.

Before our lineworkers begin any job assignment, we first assess the staffing and equipment needs. A mandatory job briefing discusses the objective, location of the worksite, potential hazards, nearest emergency help and coordination of other entities as required.

These practices reflect the professionalism of our line crews. On April 14, please join us in expressing gratitude to these dedicated members of our community, and to the retired lineworkers who helped build the safe and reliable electrical system we enjoy today.

Use #ThankaLineworker in your social media posts to show support for our Salt River lineworkers who help power our homes and businesses every day.



ZACH EPPERSON



# Trouble on the line ... somewhere

New model shows how co-op troubleshoots and isolates outages

Picture it: you're sitting at home catching up on your favorite show when the power goes out. Sure, it can be inconvenient, but outages do happen from time to time. But as you look out your window to your neighbor across the street, you can't help but notice that they still have power. What gives?



ZACH EPPERSON

Outages can take place in any condition, at any time. As you sit at home and wait for the lights to come back on, have you ever thought about the work that not only goes in to restoring power, but in *finding* the issue in the first place?

Though technology and equipment have made it somewhat easier, troubleshooting an outage can still be a complex process. That's the reason we've created an educational outage model: to help our members and the general public better understand the process of finding the trouble and restoring power.

But before we get into troubleshooting, it's important to first understand how electricity gets to you and other members.

## From turbine to light switch

The process of electricity starts at the power plant, where giant turbines spin to create electricity. For Salt River, our power comes from any one of East Kentucky Power Cooperative's 10 power generation plants across the state. Once the power has been generated, it's sent out over high-voltage transmission lines that crisscross the commonwealth, sometimes running for hundreds of miles. Eventually, those transmission lines end up at a

distribution substation— you know, those large, castle-looking structures often seen on the side of the road? That's where the voltage is decreased before it's sent out onto distribution lines, which run alongside highways, up and down hills, and are recognizable to just about anyone. Finally, electricity makes its way into our homes, businesses and communities through tap lines, which branch off from the main distribution lines. Tap lines run to individual transformers, which in turn bring the power to you.

A lot of steps just to deliver electricity, right? So when the power goes out, the co-op has to consider that entire system, and where the trouble might be. Like we said, it can be tedious, but there are some general steps our crews take to figure out where the problem is.

## Section by section

When an outage takes place, crews and personnel sectionalize each part of the power delivery system to try and determine the segment that might be causing the outage.

First, they'll make sure that the outage isn't related to transmission. Losing transmission to a substation can happen occasionally, and will affect every member that is powered by the

affected substation until fixed by transmission crews. After that, they'll look at the substation. A damaged substation can affect hundreds of members at one time until repairs are made.

No trouble at the substation? Crews will then do inspections of the main distribution line and its circuits, looking for any potential issues such as damaged poles, downed lines or broken cross arms. If the distribution line is all clear, they'll then shift their focus to tap lines, looking for issues that could affect service to your transformer.

Back to our example at the beginning: what you didn't know was that you and your neighbor don't share the same electric lines. Though you sit across the street from each other and are served by the same substation, your home is provided power from separate circuits coming from that substation. But your co-op did know that!

With the help of some technology and manpower in the field, crews are able to find the trouble, make repairs and restore power to our lives in a relatively short time.

Want to know more? Check out our Facebook and YouTube channels this month to learn more about our outage model, and how crews work to find and restore power.

# Remodeling? Build in energy efficiency

Everyone has a different idea of “spring cleaning.” That means cleaning the gutters for some and preparing new landscaping for others. Spring can also be a great time for a refresh of your home. From lighting to appliances to building materials, the choices you make can help improve the comfort and efficiency of your home, and remake your energy bill in the process.

## Kitchen

Adding new appliances? Look for Energy Star-qualified refrigerators and dishwashers; they use less energy than standard models. Install high-efficiency, LED fixtures and lamps for under-cabinet and ceiling lighting. LEDs use 75% less energy than conventional lamps and last a lot longer.

## Bathrooms

Consider installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to conserve water and reduce your water heating costs. While you're at it, seal air leaks and install the appropriate insulation in the walls behind tubs and showers. Finally, control moisture and save energy by installing Energy Star-qualified ventilation fans.

## Basement

By finishing your basement, you can add living space without adding to your energy budget. Insulate basement walls and crawl spaces based



on recommended levels. Seal air leaks around plumbing and wiring holes on outside walls. Replace older, single-pane windows with glass block or Energy Star-certified high-performance windows. It's also a great opportunity to replace your old clothes washer and dryer with new Energy Star models.

## Room additions

A bigger home doesn't necessarily mean bigger energy bills. Make sure all new windows and doors are Energy Star-certified. Heating and cooling for

an expanded home is also a factor. If you need to upgrade, choose Energy Star-certified systems. Ductless mini-split heat pumps can also provide high-efficiency heating and cooling for your addition.

## Home energy audit

If you're not planning a major renovation, you can still improve the efficiency of your home. Hire a qualified energy auditor to assess your home. You'll receive a customized list of energy-saving recommendations that will improve comfort and efficiency all year long.

## Check for efficiency incentives

As you start to lay out your spring remodel and efficiency plans, it's a good idea to consider available incentives and rebates that might be available. For those looking to install smart thermostats or replace older heating methods such as ceiling cable, baseboard or electric furnace heating with a heat pump, contact Salt River to learn about potential rebates and savings.





# Energizing our communities



BANNAFARSA/ADOBE STOCK

The numbers are in, and the news is excellent. Economic development efforts by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including Salt River, succeeded in landing game-changing business investments and more new jobs in 2024. These recent developments are further energizing our local communities, bringing the promise of new jobs, better incomes and a better quality of life.

Rodney Hitch, director of economic development, said the year's work resulted in attracting nine new companies and five expansions within Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' territories. Those investments total nearly \$1.5 billion dollars and add about 2,400 new jobs.

## Battery booster

The year's biggest economic news: a \$712 million battery manufacturing

facility is locating in Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' territory. The company makes utility-scale batteries that store renewable energy for future use. This latest development adds to Kentucky's reputation as the nation's battery-making capital and a key role player in American technology.

We're excited about the trickle-down effect of this new investment. Adding to the 1,600 jobs it directly creates, the project delivers even more jobs since its supply chain vendors will also locate in the region.

## All eyes on Kentucky

Recent recognitions indicate there's more good news to come. Site selectors—those who choose where companies will invest in new facilities—are heaping lots of love on Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' economic development team. For the third consecutive

year, Site Selection Magazine named the cooperatives a Top Utility in Economic Development. Only 20 utilities nationwide make this prestigious list of teams who excel in bringing economic development opportunities to their service territories.

Adding to the honors, two industrial sites in our service territories are among only six named the nation's best by the Site Selectors Guild. That moves us to the top of the list when companies begin shopping for new places to call home.

Last year marked a decade of work completed by our economic development team. Their efforts have yielded 387 total projects representing investments of nearly \$14 billion and more than 20,500 jobs. Thanks to this dedicated group for their exceptional work to economically energize our communities.



# Stay alert, slow down and move over

## Obey driving law to save lives

While high voltage, heights and dangerous weather are some of the greatest threats our lineworkers face, Salt River's crews can face serious hazards due to distracted drivers. That's why it's important for our members—and all drivers—to adhere to Kentucky's "Slow Down, Move Over" law when out on the roads.

The commonwealth law requires drivers to maintain a safe distance between moving vehicles and stationary vehicles on roadsides. This protects roadside workers doing their jobs, including law enforcement and first responders, as well as public utility, road maintenance, tow drivers and state, county, or municipal service providers. As of July 2024, an expanded law also requires drivers to move over for all vehicles, including disabled ones.

The "move over" law encourages drivers to be more aware of their surroundings while providing co-op employees with a little extra peace of mind, says Drew Akridge, Salt River's training and safety coordinator. When behind the wheel, co-op members can do their part by:

- Remaining alert, avoiding distractions and focusing on the task of driving.
- Keeping an eye out for situations where emergency, service or disabled vehicles are stopped on the side of the road.
- Slowing down when you see these situations. When safe to do so, move over a lane and away from the incident until past it.
- Never driving impaired or distracted.
- Staying at or below the speed limit. Don't drive too fast for conditions.
- Being especially cautious when visibility is diminished by darkness or weather conditions.

"Our crews already perform dangerous work to keep the lights on every day," Akridge says. "We work to ensure their work environments are as safe as possible, but we need the help of every co-op member to protect our lineworkers so they return home safely every night."

# Get your house ready for spring

It won't be too long until you can open the windows and start enjoying fresh air and warm weather. Is your house ready?

Here are five items to add to your springtime to-do list that might help your home feel more comfortable and cared for before it gets hot:

1. Call a qualified service technician to inspect and maintain your air conditioning system. Paying \$100 or so now could prevent a huge expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry. Maintenance goes a long way toward preventing emergencies and can prolong the life of your equipment.
2. While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all of the bushes and pull all of the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it and pick up trash that found its way there as it sat unused all winter. Anything that touches the unit and prevents air from circulating around it will make it perform inefficiently.
3. While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they will filter the sunrays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your air conditioner work harder. Just make sure to follow guidelines on planting near overhead power lines.
4. Speaking of windows, if your house still has single-pane versions, this is a good time to replace them with double-pane models. Single-pane windows are energy inefficient and can drive your air conditioning bills through the roof. You could save several hundred dollars on cooling and heating bills every year if you replace your drafty, old windows.
5. Clean your windows, inside and out. Newer models are simple to clean because you can tilt them toward the inside of the house so you can reach both sides. Clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.





# Salt River celebrates the retirement of Bob Fouts

Taking care of our members is one of our biggest priorities here at Salt River Electric. That can mean a lot of things, such as working to keep costs low, being a trusted source of energy information and volunteering in the communities we know and love.

Though it might not seem an obvious choice at first, being involved in economic development is sometimes just as important to the cooperative's goals. Over the past few decades, Salt River has been involved with a number of economic development boards, organizations and individuals. But there's one person in particular who has worked alongside the co-op and dedicated time working for the cooperative's interests.

In December, the co-op and plenty of other well-wishers congratulated Bob Fouts on his retirement from the Bullitt County Economic Development Authority. Fouts, who served as the organization's executive director on two occasions, announced last year that he was retiring from the organization—this time permanently.

"It is rare that one gets to work alongside someone who has volumes upon volumes of information and experience in their career field," explains BCEDA Secretary/Treasurer Mark Stout. "Bob, whether working on a project with a 40,000-square-foot building with four people, or on a project with

a 900,000-square-foot building with 800 employees, treated all the same. Bob always attacked each project with the same vigor and determination to win that project for the people of Bullitt County. Generations will be grateful for the success the BCEDA has enjoyed, and Bob was a great part of that success."

Fouts became an economic development consultant with Salt River after retiring from BCEDA in 2012. He worked with then-President/CEO Larry Hicks, current President/CEO Tim Sharp and Economic Development Advisor Nicky Rapier on a number of co-op projects.

"He's been a very good mentor to me," Rapier says. "He's taught me a lot about economic development. [Bob] is the one that taught me, Larry and Tim [that] you've got to have a team. You don't get much done by yourself. If you can get a lot of people to help you, you can get a whole lot of overlapping success."

Fouts' tireless work alongside others helped bring major investments to Bullitt County and surrounding areas, including distribution locations for



SALT RIVER ARCHIVES

Gordon Food Service, Sabert, UPS, Amazon and many more. The work of recent years will no doubt bring about more growth and success for the community in the years to come.

"You normally don't think of Bullitt County this way," Fouts told us in an April 2010 article, "but we [Bullitt County] have grown into a thriving distribution hub."

Thanks to people like Bob Fouts, those words continue to ring true today.

## 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