

SALT RIVER NEWS

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

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Message from the President

Back to school

An electric co-op quiz

It's back-to-school time across Kentucky. For our youngest students, the first weeks of August might be a flurry of buying supplies, filling backpacks and looking forward to the year ahead. Others might be heading off to college, beginning a new certification program or working on an advanced degree.

Learning is for everyone, even our members! Whether you've been with Salt River Electric eight years or 80 years, we feel it's important that our members continue learn about cooperative and the value they bring to our communities and lives. So let's go through a quick electric cooperative refresher quiz.

Q: What is an electric cooperative?

A: Electric cooperatives are utilities that are built by and belong to the communities they serve. They are also not-for-profit, which means they don't send money to outside shareholders. Like all co-ops, Salt River exists to provide safe, reliable energy at the cost of service and to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Q: How are electric cooperatives different from other utilities?

A: Electric co-ops are guided by seven cooperative principles, including



"Democratic Member Control" and "Concern for Community." We are governed by our members, which means decisions are made locally, by people who live and work in the communities we power.

Q: Who does my cooperative serve?

A: Salt River Electric provides electricity to over 57,000 members in all or parts of 10 counties—Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, Washington, as well as parts of Marion, Mercer, Anderson, Jefferson, LaRue and Shelby. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which maximize profits for shareholders, our purpose is to serve our local communities. We were built by our members, and we're proud to work for you.

Q: Who owns my cooperative?

A: Might feel like a trick question, but you do! You're not a "customer" of Salt River Electric; you're a part-owner. As a consumer-member, you can vote in elections to choose the board members

who guide co-op decisions, or you can run for a board seat yourself. You can also stay informed about co-op business as we communicate regularly through our website, social media and *Kentucky Living*. And you can always call in with a question or concern and talk with a real person who wants to help.

Learning doesn't stop when we leave the classroom. This back-to-school season, I encourage you to stay curious and to be engaged. The more you know about Salt River Electric and the work we do, the better equipped you are to participate, ask questions and shape the future of the communities we serve.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

President and CEO
Tim Sharp





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Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 57,485 members of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation, serving Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, and Washington County, plus portions of six surrounding counties, since 1937.

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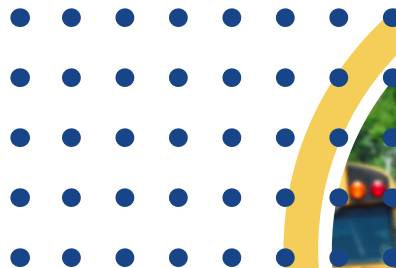
August is

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY MONTH

Drive safe!

Red flashing lights mean stop and wait. Stay stopped until the lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn and the bus begins moving.

Slow down and be alert in residential areas and near schools. Be especially watchful of kids in rural areas without sidewalks.



The trip of a lifetime

Kentucky electric co-op students experience D.C.

Photos: Tim Webb

When you look at the cover of this month's *Kentucky Living* magazine, do you recognize any of the three students featured? These now-high school seniors served as Salt River Electric's Washington Youth Tour delegates this past summer, traveling with about 60 other students from around the state on a trip to Washington, D.C., in June. The Washington Youth Tour, a staple of the cooperative community for over 60 years, gives students a front-row seat to government, allowing them a chance to meet with elected leaders, learn about our nation's history and learn a thing or two about electric co-ops like ours.

Kentucky's youth tour delegation spent a whirlwind week in D.C., getting to tour Monticello, Smithsonian museums, the White House, the U.S. Holocaust Museum and Arlington National Cemetery. They also met with elected leaders like Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul. Students met other co-op students from around the country and took part in NRECA's Youth Night event, hearing from NRECA leadership about the world of electric co-ops and how our students can help make an impact in their communities.

A jam-packed schedule, yes. But an experience that our students will carry with them into their classrooms this school year.

"For future youth tour participants... I would say that this trip was one of the greatest trips that I have ever been on," says delegate Noah Downey, a senior at Bethlehem High School. "Meeting amazing new friends, participating in awesome activities only made me even more excited for my future."

"I think any current junior should apply for this program," delegate Makayla Meyer, a senior at Bullitt East High School, says. "This trip offers a unique perspective. Be prepared to



Bullitt East student Makayla Meyer prepares to ask Senator Rand Paul a question during the group's trip to the U.S. Capitol.



Bethlehem High School student Noah Downey tests out one of the many interactive exhibits at the Planet Word Museum.



Bardstown High School student Ella Sharp, right, poses with a group of friends during their tour of the White House.

make new friends and connections and to put yourself out there. You'll have an amazing experience."

Salt River Electric is proud to offer educational programs to students of all ages. From in-school safety demonstrations to career day events, high school scholarships and even youth tour, the co-op is dedicated to providing opportunities to our local students, part of our commitment of further education and giving back to our communities.

Do you think a trip to Washington, D.C., sounds fun? If you're a high school junior or you know of one, make sure to stay tuned to our social media pages and *Kentucky Living* magazine for more information on how you, too, can participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Why we honor those who served

The homecoming celebration of an Honor Flight is the last thing that veterans from Salt River Electric do when they go on an Honor Flight. And it's the best part.

It's a scene straight out of a movie. Hundreds of friends, family and neighbors gather at the airport to greet the soldiers who are returning from an entire day of seeing all the memorials dedicated to honoring those who serve in our nation's capital.

It will bring a tear to your eye, and it often does for the veterans, too.

This reception is one of the reasons that Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives has been sponsoring an Honor Flight for more than a dozen years now.

Honor Flights were originally intended for World War II veterans to have the opportunity see Washington, D.C.'s many memorials, specifically the World War II memorial that's on the National Mall.

Sadly, nearly all of our World War II veterans are gone. However, there are thousands of Vietnam and Korea era veterans still with us, and we're blessed to be able to honor them on our Honor Flights, too.

The reception the returning Vietnam era veterans received in the 1960s and 1970s was much different than an Honor Flight's welcome home celebration. Many of those veterans now tell us the welcome home ceremony is something they'll never forget because this time, they're being celebrated for their service.

"Nothing will shadow the return back to Blue Grass Airport. That was shocking," Carl Ray Schuler, one of Salt River's 2024 participants, recalls. "The crowd was just more than we expected. There were so many children there, and it was so heartwarming to see seven people deep on each side welcoming you home. It's been 55 years, but it felt really, really heartwarming."



TIM WEBB

Celebrating the service of these veterans is why we sponsor an Honor Flight every year. Honor Flight is a deeply moving experience for so many of them. Many of our Vietnam veterans have never seen the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known commonly as the Wall, in person. Visiting the Wall can be a deeply emotional time for these vets. Many find the names of old friends, loved ones, or platoon mates who were lost in battles our veterans fought in.

It's a powerful moment to see them touch the Wall, reaching out to someone lost so long ago.

Honor Flight is one of the ways we give back to our community. Anywhere you look in our co-op, you'll find a number of veterans who deserve all the recognition we can give them for their service. We're honored to honor them.

If you want to be part of this, join us for this year's welcome home celebration at the Blue Grass Airport on Aug. 23 by 7 p.m.

2025 scholarship recipients

Photos: Zach Epperson

With the arrival of August comes a wave of students and teachers heading back to the classroom. For some of our area students, they'll be heading to a college campus or vocational institute, working hard to advance their education or working to attain a valuable skill set. Regardless of what they'll be doing, Salt River Electric is still celebrating members of the class of 2025, especially those students who were named recipients in the Salt River Electric Scholarship Program!

During our annual meeting in early June, Salt River President/CEO Tim Sharp officially announced these recipients, once again touting the scholarship program as just one of the ways the co-op is committed to the education of our area students, no matter what age.

Now, as some head back to school, we'd like to recognize these local students and their future plans in the pages of *Salt River News*.

Also presented this year was the Larry Hicks Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a local college student currently pursuing a degree in accounting or finance. This year's Larry Hicks Memorial Scholarship recipient is Alexander Aberli from Fisherville who is currently a student at the University of Louisville.



Alexander Aberli

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

Though the program has gone through a number of changes over the years, it underwent perhaps its biggest in 2023, when Salt River's board of directors raised the number of scholarship winners from each board district, with two students from each district being awarded a \$1,000 scholarship: one for a student pursuing a traditional degree and the other for a student pursuing a trade or vocational pathway.

Salt River Electric celebrates the successes of these students, and everyone from the graduating class of 2025. Scholarships for 2026 seniors will become available in February.

Until then, hit the books and prepare for another great school year!

Bullitt



Grace Willis: Criminal Justice, Eastern Kentucky University



Paige Stafford: Cosmetology, Paul Mitchell

Nelson



Colden Reiter: Mathematics, University of Louisville



Brad Burba: Industrial Maintenance, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

Spencer



Ava Klaus: Chemical Engineering, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology



Katherine Williams: Human Nutrition, University of Kentucky

Washington



Jesse McClain: Architecture, University of Kentucky



Bailey Couch: Construction, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

The value of electricity

People living in the late 19th century would hardly know what to do if they could see the world in 2025. The entirety of the way we live has changed so drastically in the last 150 years it would be unrecognizable to anyone living before December 1879. That was the time period when Thomas Edison produced his first “incandescent” lamps.

A precursor to today’s modern LED lightbulb, Edison’s first successful electric lamp, and later his first electric generation station, Pearl Street Generation Station (1882), would usher in a lifestyle that was truly unimaginable as recently as the 1870s.

Today, almost all of us wake up in a home that is at a comfortable temperature, connected to a nationwide power grid. Most of us have the entirety of the world’s information available at our fingertips via devices that also play music, serve as alarm clocks, and allow us to talk to anyone in the world at any time. It’s all powered by electricity.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, total U.S. electricity consumption was 4.07 trillion kilowatt hours in 2022. That’s 14 times more electric than was used in 1950. We not only depend on electricity for everything; it would be hard to imagine a life without it.

Think about what your kitchen or living room would look like without electricity. No oven, refrigerator, freezer, icemaker, toaster oven, microwave, lights or air conditioning. No television or modern arts like film and TV shows. No recorded music. No ceiling fans. No LED lighting. Entertainment might be reading a book via candlelight and a fire for warmth.

Electricity remains an undeniable bargain. It is one of life’s great conveniences, and in modern times, is a necessity. It has made our lives easier and more enjoyable, too.



Like everything else, the cost for electricity has gone up over time due to a number of factors.

But consider the cost of a gallon of gas 30 years ago compared to today’s price. How about a pound of coffee or a loaf of bread? The cost of electricity is somewhat higher than it was 30 years ago. While this doesn’t take the sting out of rising costs, electricity has typically increased at a rate lower than that of normal inflation.

Whenever you plug in an electrical device, flip on the TV or get a cold drink from the fridge, electricity remains a good value for the lifestyle we all enjoy.

Here are some common household electronics and how much it typically costs to operate them:

- Refrigerator: 22¢ for 24 hours
- Ceiling fan: 10¢ for 24 hours



- Microwave: 2¢ for 5 minutes
- Phone charger: 50¢ for 1 year
- Dishwasher: 4¢ for 1 hour
- 40-inch HD TV: 4¢ for 2 hours

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration

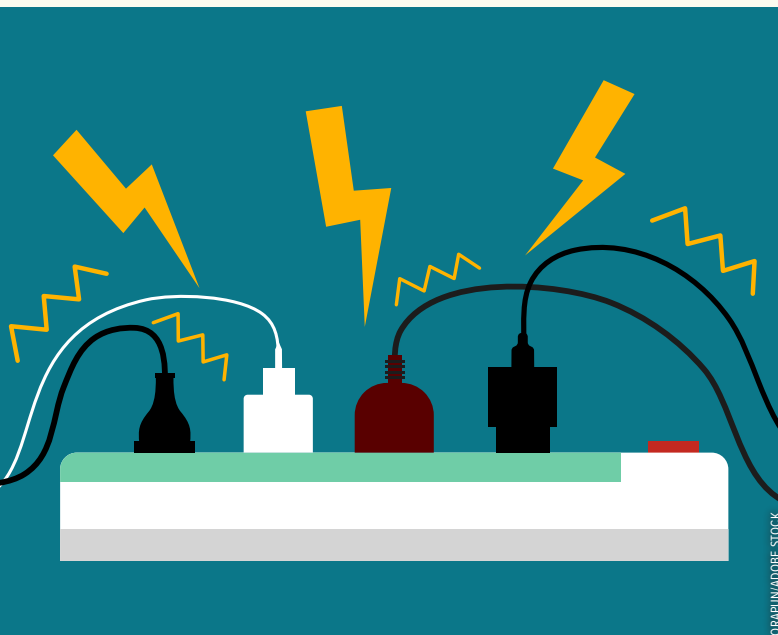
Don't overload power strips

Power strips are a common way to manage multiple electronics in one area, but they can quickly become overloaded. Overloading a power strip can cause it to overheat, leading to potential fire hazards and higher energy use.

Here's how to use power strips safely.

- Don't daisy-chain multiple power strips together. Each strip is rated for a specific load. Stacking them can exceed that capacity and create a safety risk.
- Check the power strip's wattage and make sure the total wattage of devices plugged into it does not exceed the recommended amount.
- Unplug unused devices from the power strip to reduce unnecessary energy draw, especially during the summer when electronics are in frequent use.
- Look for power strips with built-in surge protection to help protect sensitive electronics from power surges caused by storms or electrical issues.
- Use smart power strips that automatically cut power to devices such as computers, printers and TVs when they're not in use.
- Turn off the power strip when not in use, especially for high-energy devices like space heaters, microwaves or air conditioners.

Using power strips correctly not only prevents potential hazards but also saves energy, helping lower your electricity bills over time.



Beat the heat

The hot and muggy dog days of summer have arrived in Kentucky. To prevent your air conditioning from working overtime and raising the power bill, limit your home's heat generators.

Take these proactive steps to curb the heat generators in your home:

Use the stove less. Rely more on the microwave, serve a salad or cold sandwich or cook outdoors. If you must use the oven, limit or skip pre-heating. Don't open the oven door to monitor cooking progress.

Cook strategically. Cook during the coolest times of the day, usually the morning or evening. Prepare larger portions, then enjoy a meal of leftovers.

Do the laundry in the evening. Wash and dry clothes after dinner. Make sure you're only washing full loads and using cold water for washing. When possible, hang clothes to air dry.

Do the dishes later. Set the dishwasher to operate during overnight hours, if possible. Wash only when there's a full load of dishes.

Turn off the TV. Televisions are among the worst heat generators. If you're not watching, don't leave a TV on for "noise."

Minimize hair care. Hairdryers and heat-styling tools add more heat to a home than you might think. Limit the time you use these tools.

In addition to running heat-generating appliances at night when temperatures are cooler, remember to operate them at different times. Also, keep in mind that newer, energy-efficient appliances give off less heat than older models.

Who owns what?

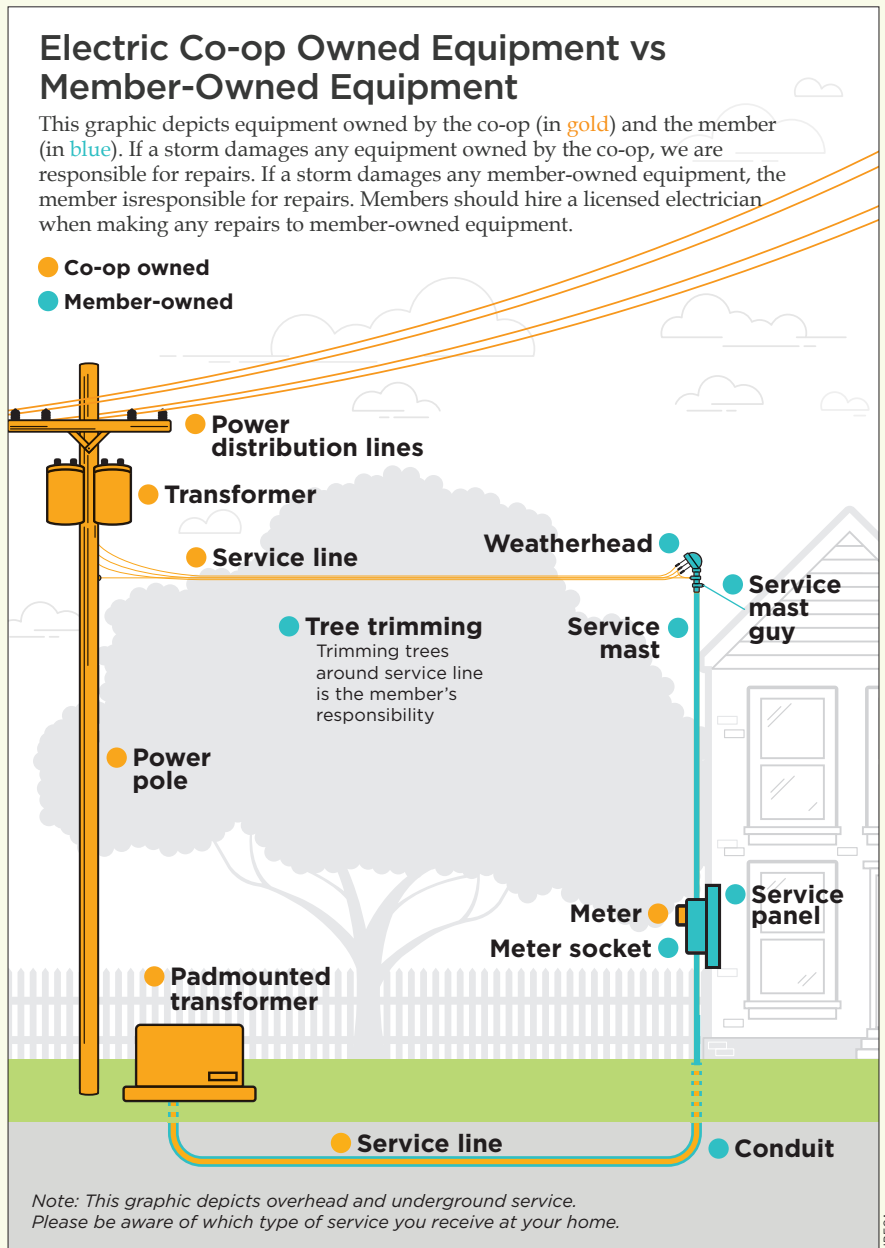
Education is a big deal during the month of August as we welcome our students and teachers back to the classrooms. But as our CEO Tim Sharp explains in his column this month, Salt River Electric is dedicated to the education of our local student, as well as our employees and members.

Take your home's electrical system, for example. If a storm damages parts of it, do you know which parts are your responsibility to repair? Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Salt River is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and padmounted transformers, while members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business. If your home has underground service, you're responsible for the electrical conduit that holds our service wire that runs to your structure and the service panel. For those with overhead service, members are also responsible for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before Salt River can restore power to your home or business. Always call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

We know that our members take great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to our area's natural beauty; however, regular tree trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize



damage from severe weather. While Salt River Electric regularly trims trees around distribution lines throughout our service territory, any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line are the homeowner's responsibility. In these cases, contact the cooperative so that we can assist in making the area

safe before your licensed, professional tree service arrives.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.