

# JACKSON ENERGY



WORKING FOR YOU



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## How extreme summer temps impact reliability

When outdoor temperatures soar, our electricity use increases. That's because our air conditioners are running longer and more often to counteract sweltering outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

In summer months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if a prolonged heat wave occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call on consumers to actively reduce their energy use or initiate rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid. Jackson Energy will always keep you informed about situations like this.

We work proactively with our generation and transmission cooperative to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the air conditioner running for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to re-

lieve pressure on the grid during times of extreme summer heat:

- Select the highest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it up several degrees whenever possible. Your cooling system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.  
**Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your cooling system to work harder than necessary.
- Run major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is lower.  
**Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- Use ceiling fans to make yourself feel a few degrees cooler. Remember, ceiling fans cool people (not rooms), so turn them off in unoccupied rooms.  
**Pro tip:** During summer months, set ceiling fan blades to rotate counter-clockwise, which pushes cool air down for a windchill effect.
- Close blinds, curtains and shades during the hottest part of the day to prevent heat gain from sunlight.  
**Pro tip:** Consider blackout curtains with thermal backing or reflective lining to block heat and light.

### 5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.



- Use smaller appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens, to cook meals.  
**Pro tip:** Studies have shown that air fryers use about half the amount of electricity than a full-sized oven. Air fryers are smaller and use focused heat, which results in faster cooking times, less heat output and lower energy use.

As we face the challenges posed by summer temperatures, understanding the impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme heat, you can help save money on your electric bills and contribute to the resilience of the grid, keeping our community cool and connected.

**Lisa Baker, Editor**

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## Key ingredients

*What makes Jackson Energy unique?*

This special food issue of *Kentucky Living* is a reminder of how meals bring us together. Home cooks and restaurant chefs alike will tell you that great food starts with great ingredients. The simplest recipe will shine with fresh vegetables from your garden. On the other hand, the fanciest kitchen gadgets can't make up for lackluster produce.

Ingredients matter—and that's just as true in the electric cooperative world as it is in the kitchen. Jackson Energy has spent the better part of a century bringing you safe, reliable power at the cost of service. But it's not our poles and power lines that make us unique. Our not-so-secret recipe is based on three ingredients that set us apart from other kinds of utilities.

**Member-owned:** Your cooperative was built by the communities we serve. We were created in 1938 to bring electricity to this area, and that mission continues to this day. We don't work for outside interests, and we don't send profits to distant shareholders. As a not-for-profit organization, Jackson Energy provides power at the cost of service—and we are owned by you, the people we serve.

**Locally controlled:** Because you are both a consumer of the electricity we provide and a part owner of Jackson Energy, you have a say in the election of the directors who guide the co-op's decisions. We encourage you to learn more about how we are governed by reading our bylaws at [jacksonenergy.com](http://jacksonenergy.com), vote during election years and interact with us during our annual meeting and member appreciation days—planned this year for September 16, 17 and 18. More detailed information will be shared once we get closer to the dates.

**Engaged in our community:** We don't just provide the electricity that powers your life. We are also committed to improving the quality of life in our communities, because we live here, too. Jackson Energy sponsors community initiatives, offers electrical efficiency and safety resources, supports education and more. Co-op employees coach local sports teams and volunteer with local organizations. For all of us at Jackson Energy, giving back to the community is the obvious thing to do—because we're your neighbors.

The ingredients of the co-op model may be simple, but when it comes to building trust, delivering value and staying connected to the communities we serve, they make all the difference.

By President & CEO  
Carol Wright



# Bus to Business field trip

The Bus to Business Program, a statewide initiative, was designed to provide high school seniors with real-world exposure to local industries while helping them explore career opportunities and better understand the workforce in their local community.

Nearly 60 students from North and South Laurel high schools took a field trip around Laurel County visiting local businesses to learn firsthand about different career paths.

While visiting the cooperative, the students were able to engage

with several employees representing different departments from accounting to transportation, engineering to member services and drone technology to first class line technicians.

The students were able to hear directly from the employees within our cooperative regarding potential career opportunities at Jackson Energy from entry level positions to professional roles. They were able to engage in work-based activities, discuss educational backgrounds and learn about our industry and culture. Plus, they got to see Jackson Energy behind the scenes.



PHOTOS: LISA BAKER

# Keep energy bills in check while kids are at home this summer

When school's out, your home's energy use might go up—more lights on, more electronics running and the air conditioner working harder. Here's how to keep your energy use from skyrocketing while the kids are home for summer:

- **Set rules for electronics use.** Limit screen time for TVs, gaming consoles and computers. Encourage outdoor activities or reading instead of leaving devices running all day.
- **Adjust the thermostat.** Set your air conditioner a few degrees higher and turn on ceiling fans when the kids are home. Closing blinds and curtains during the hottest part of the day can

also keep the house cooler without extra air conditioner use.

- **Unplug devices when not in use.** Chargers, gaming consoles and small appliances draw power even when turned off. Plug them into a power strip and switch it off when not needed.
- **Use energy-efficient lighting.** If the kids leave lights on in every room, swap old bulbs for LEDs, which use less energy and last longer.
- **Plan meals wisely.** Avoid using the oven during the hottest hours. Opt



TANAKORN/ADOBE STOCK

for air fryers, microwaves or outdoor grills to reduce heat inside the home.

## Keep utility poles clear

Yard sale signs, no trespassing signs, basketball hoops, satellite dishes—even member-owned lights—all pose a dangerous risk to utility workers. Not only is it dangerous—but it is also life threatening.

These items, along with the nails, staples and tacks used to hang them, can cause snags and tears in the utility workers' safety boots and rubber protective gear, which is the first line of protection from electrical shock in the event of an accident. They can also injure workers despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough edges.

In addition, anyone posting items on utility poles is also at risk of exposure to thousands of volts of electricity pulsing overhead. For your safety, always stay at least 20 feet away from utility poles.

Utility workers' jobs are dangerous enough—please do your part to help them stay safe by not attaching anything on utility poles.

Due to safety concerns, Jackson Energy has the responsibility and the right to remove any item from our utility poles and Jackson Energy is not held liable for any damages that may be caused to such item.

## Welcome cyclists



JAMIE STRONG

Jackson Energy employees and family volunteered to help welcome more than 500 cyclists during the 17th Redbud Ride.

Cyclists came from all over Kentucky and surrounding states to take in the beautiful scenery along four routes ranging from 24 to 100 miles through Laurel, Jackson and Rockcastle counties.



WILLIE SAWYER

At top, Jackson Energy employees Brittany Montgomery, left, Jessica Grimes, Heather Kirby and Lindsay Russell welcome cyclists to a snack break along state route 89 at the Jackson-Rockcastle county line. Above, Angie Hisle, Ashley Mullins and her children Asher and Myriah Mullins, Taylor Moore and Cindy Wilson were set up along the Greenmount route in Laurel County.



SEANADOBIE STOCK

## Save on summer adventures

Summer is the perfect time for travel and fun. If you are planning a summer vacation—before you make reservations or buy tickets, check for discounts on travel and entertainment available to Jackson Energy members who use the Co-op Connections app.

App users can save on hotels, car rentals, vacation rentals, flights and cruises. This summer's deals also include discounted tickets for theme parks like Kings Island and Dollywood as well as Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, SeaWorld, Legoland and Six Flags.

Members can also use the app to take the savings with you on summer adventures. By simply adjusting the zip code, you can find deals on dining, shopping and local entertainment options wherever you travel in the U.S.

If a staycation is in your plans, don't forget to use the app for 25% off on tickets to see summer blockbuster movies. You'll also find deals for professional sporting events and concerts.



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Visit [connections.coop](https://connections.coop) to discover a wide range of summer savings opportunities, or download the app in your app store by searching "Co-op Connections."