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## Wrapping up 2021

**T**he holidays are the traditional season of giving, and nowhere is this more apparent than here in Jackson Energy's service area. On a near daily basis, we witness individual and collective expressions of generosity and caring that make us proud to call this area our home.

We hope you recognize the same spirit of giving in your cooperative. Showing "concern for the community" is an operating principle we honor all year long while delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We also express our dedication through special programs and initiatives meant to improve the quality of life for our members.

We'd like to wrap up 2021 by highlighting just a few of the ways we worked to better serve you.

- Our dedicated team of lineworkers maintained the co-op's 5,762 miles of line, while other co-op employees worked behind the scenes, to ensure the reliable delivery of electricity to members' homes and businesses.
- Aid from fellow electric cooperatives from Kentucky and other states helped us restore service after a February ice storm caused widespread damage to our system.
- Flexibility allowed us to safely hold our annual business member meeting, an essential component of a member-owned and controlled cooperative. This year's drive-thru Member Appreciation Day attracted over 2,000 registrants.
- Programs such as Cooperative Solar gave members a renewable energy option.
- Employees collected pantry items, cleaning supplies and toys for the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington.
- \$16,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving high school students in the co-op's service area, allowing them to continue their education after high school graduation.
- Again Jackson Energy awarded a full scholarship to the Lineman Training Center at Somerset Community College valued at \$4,200
- Continued sponsorship of Kentucky's Special Olympics Summer Games, which attracted more than 1,000 special athletes and 500 volunteers.

When you gather with family and friends this holiday season, remember to reflect on the wonderful gifts that don't come packaged in pretty paper and bows.

We hope you'll count your membership in Jackson Energy among them. May your holiday be wrapped in an abundance of warmth and good cheer.



## SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor

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Jackson Energy

*Working for You*

# Season's Greetings

I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Jackson Energy, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members because we live here, too.

While we will continue to donate to many of our community-led programs this time of year to assist with their food and toy drives, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of SmartHub, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through your smartphone, mobile devices and computer.

Another service we offer is our Prepay program, which is intended to help budget your monthly energy costs. Jackson Energy members can pay for electricity before it's used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. During the time period paid for, you'll receive regular feedback on your balance.

By simply volunteering to "round up" your energy bills to the next whole dollar amount for Operation RoundUP, you can help others right here in our community. Through members' generous donations over the last 18 years,

we've been able to give over \$450,000 back to our communities. If you'd like to participate in our Operation RoundUP program, please contact our office.

In addition to helping members save today, we're focusing on the future. We invested in an electric vehicle (EV) and EV charging stations at three local hotels to promote greater understanding of electric vehicles and promote their use, especially given the focus on electrification of the transportation sector.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. Jackson Energy has logged hundreds of volunteer hours supporting schools, youth clubs and programs along with providing more than \$16,000 in scholarships for local students each year. Through our Youth Tour program, we send high school juniors and seniors to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action.

At the heart of all of these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at Jackson Energy, I know the future will be bright, because of you.



Carol Wright  
President & CEO

# A winter song

**A**t 10:59 a.m. Eastern Time on December 21, the Northern Hemisphere (where we live) will lean farther away from the sun than on any other day of the year.

It's the annual winter solstice. Because of the tilt of the Earth's axis, the sun on this day appears lowest in the sky, taking the shortest route across the southern sky and providing us the fewest hours of sunlight and warmth than on any other day of the year.

This shortest day of the year marks the beginning of winter. Yet while it is technically the darkest day of the year, this season in many ways is also the brightest. Christmas, holiday lights and family gatherings illuminate our hearts and our homes.

All of us at Jackson Energy are dedicated to providing you the safe and reliable electricity which powers our homes, schools, businesses and churches. Though that's true throughout the year, this holiday season provides beautiful reminders of both the power of and need for light and warmth, especially on long winter nights.

We don't take for granted the trust you place in us to provide that light, heat and energy.



DOUG DEARINGER

Because Jackson Energy is owned by the people we serve, and those who work for this co-op are also members of the co-op and this community, we take a special pride in knowing that we are powering the oven baking your ham or turkey, the heating of your home and even your church's pipe organ trumpeting *Joy to the World*.

We also are here for those who might be struggling, and we encourage anyone who might be having trouble making ends meet to contact Jackson Energy to see

what options are available.

And for anyone struggling with later dawns and early dusks, the poet Oliver Herford (1863–1935) offers this reminder:

*I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December.  
A magical thing  
And sweet to remember.*

*"We are nearer to Spring  
Than we were in September,"  
I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December.*

MERRY  
*Christmas*  
—&—  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

FLOYDINE/ADOBESTOCK

*In celebration of Christmas and New Year, Jackson Energy will be closed on the following dates:  
December 23–24 and December 31.*



# Save energy—even with a full house

**E**ven with a house full of company and decorations lighting up the season, you might be able to save energy when compared to Christmases past.

Here are five small changes you can make to keep your energy use under control during the December holidays:

1. Switch to LED lights for the tree and the outside of the house. Even if your old fluorescent lights are still in pretty good shape, it might be worth it to replace them with strands of LED lights that use less energy, emit less heat and will last for years longer.

2. Put your outdoor lights on timers. There's no need to keep the lights on all night. Program timers to turn the lights on once

the sun goes down and to turn them off at bedtime.

3. Don't just turn the holiday lights off; unplug them. When electric devices are plugged into the wall, they still consume small amounts of electricity, even when you turn them off. Consider investing in power strips and plug several strands into each one. That way, you don't have to unplug so many devices—you just have to unplug the power strips.

4. Mix non-electric decorations with those you have to plug in. Hang wreaths and garland. Display battery-operated candles in your windows. If you don't have to plug it in, it won't use any energy.

5. Put your crockpot and microwave to work. Your oven will



be full for days as Christmas approaches. Consider slow-cooking some of your meals in a crockpot or speed-cooking side dishes in the microwave. Both use less energy than your regular oven.

## 'Tis extension cord season: Use them properly

**T**is the season to unpack the extension cords and plug way too many devices into them.

Here are 10 tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation for using extension cords properly:

1. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. They're not designed for that kind of electrical load.

2. Choose an extension cord designed for outdoor use if you plan to use it outside.

3. Inspect your cords for damage, like cracks and loose wires. If they're not in good shape, replace them.

4. Avoid hiding an extension cord under a rug. The cord could overheat and catch the rug on fire.

5. Buy cords only if they are approved by UL or another independent testing laboratory.

6. Keep cords away from water and snow.

7. Instead of nailing or stapling the cords when you use them to power strands of holiday lights on your gutters or walls, use plastic hangers that won't puncture the cords.

8. Don't cut the third prong off of a three-prong plug to force it into a two-prong outlet. Instead, buy an adapter.

9. Avoid overloading a multiple-slot extension cord with too many devices. That cord has to plug into an outlet that can overheat if you overload it.

10. Put your extension cords away with your holiday decorations. They are designed for temporary, not permanent use.

