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Keeping warm on the coldest days

January and February typically are the coldest months of the year. That doesn't mean you have to be cold for two months, especially inside your own home.

Dressing in layers, wearing socks with your slippers and staying active are no-cost, no-tech ways to stay cozy indoors even when all you can see for miles is snow and ice. Other tips for staying warm are:

Block drafts. If your windows are old or made from a single pane of glass, it's time to upgrade. Energy-efficient glass—and windows with double panes—will go a long way toward keeping cold air from blowing into your house. They also could reduce the amount of money you spend on winter energy bills.

Seal leaks. Also great draft-blockers, weather stripping and caulk can plug holes around windows and doors, and wherever the inside of an outdoor wall is penetrated by a cable or phone line.

Turn on the ceiling fan. If you switch the direction that the fan's blades rotate so they slowly spin clockwise, the room could feel warmer. This creates an updraft and pushes warm air back into the room.

NEW AFRICA/ADOBE STOCK

Make the bed. An electric blanket—one with an automatic shut-off and the seal of approval from a safety organization like UL—can keep you cozy at bedtime even when you turn the whole-house thermostat down to save energy overnight.

Programmable thermostat. Make 2022 the year you finally switch to a programmable thermostat that will turn the heat up when the home is occupied and everyone is awake, and down at bedtime and when the family leaves for the day.

Space heater. Use a portable space heater in the room you use most often so you can turn the thermostat down a bit and avoid heating unused spaces

Use a humidifier. Your heating system can dry out indoor air, so consider placing a humidifier in the rooms where your family and pets spend most of their time. Adding humidity can make the air feel a little warmer.

Keep pets warm, too. Sure, your cat or dog was born with a thick, furry coat to help it stay warm all winter, but if you're cold, your pet probably is, too.

Keep your pets inside your comfortably heated home as much as possible during the winter months.

SPOTLIGHT
Lisa Baker, Editor
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Jackson Energy *Working for You*

Happy New Year!

After another year disrupted by the pandemic, we are all ready for a new beginning and a fresh start.

For more than 2,500 years, the new year has been depicted as a baby. In ancient Greece, people would parade an infant in a basket to represent the annual rebirth of Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility. Later, early Christians adapted the tradition with the infant depicted as Baby Jesus.

When the popular magazine *The Saturday Evening Post* adopted the baby meme in the early 20th century, it helped make the image of the New Year's baby a tradition that persists to this day.

Exactly one century ago, J.C. Leyendecker's cover of the 1922 New Year's edition featured an illustration of the New Year's baby "salting the tail" of the dove of peace so it wouldn't get away. After the tumult of World War I, Americans were anxious for solutions to help prevent another world war.

After the complications of the past couple of years, all of us at Jackson Energy join in the hopes and prayers for a brighter 2022. But as the old year passes, we also take stock of the important lessons we have learned.

For 83 years, Jackson Energy has been dedicated to providing the safe and reliable electricity that powers our homes, schools, businesses and churches. Because we are owned by the very people we serve, your co-op from the very beginning has shared in a commitment to community that goes beyond electric service.

DILOK/ADOBE STOCK

As our communities experienced the challenges of 2020 and 2021, we worked through them knowing you were counting on us. And we also work with members who have questions or complications, because we take our role as your co-op to heart.

It's that spirit that encourages us, as we turn the calendar to a new year certain to bring its own share of challenges and questions. For instance, as you hear a lot more about energy sources and new technologies, Jackson Energy embraces our role as your trusted energy advisor.

While Jackson Energy embraces innovation and progress, the standards and values that got us here will never expire. So, as we usher in the new year, we "salt the tail" of the lessons we learned along the way.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Carol Wright
President & CEO

Preparing for winter storms

Kentucky weather can be unpredictable, especially during the winter months. That's why you should prepare for dangerous situations before a storm hits.

It is especially important to develop a plan for prolonged power outages during these harsh months. Heavy snows, freezing rain and ice storms can all create electrical hazards.

Being safe around electricity is something you should focus on year-round. Kentucky winters can bring a whole slew of dangerous hazards, especially where power lines are concerned.

Snow and ice often accumulate on power lines. The added weight may cause lines to snap off the poles or cause the poles to break and that can bring power lines into contact with the ground, trees, homes, vehicles and other objects. If people or pets come in contact with a live power line, they can suffer serious injury or even death.

Due to these dangerous conditions, many residents may be confined to their homes for days at a time. That's why it is important to have a plan in place, especially during these prolonged outages. To better prepare for a power outage, your electric co-op recommends members keep a storm preparedness kit fully stocked with enough supplies for three days. The basic supplies in this kit should include:

- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Emergency blankets
- First-aid kit/medicine
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated or hand-crank radio
- Extra batteries
- Toiletries

Now that your family is prepared for a prolonged outage, what should you do if the lights do go out?

Keep warm air in and cool air out by keeping doors to unused rooms closed. Do not open doors to the outdoors unless necessary.

Food safety is also important when there is a prolonged outage. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible and eat perishable food first. If you know a winter storm is coming, stock up on ice so you can keep things in coolers to keep them from going bad if an outage lasts longer than a day. Once the refrigerator reaches temperatures higher than 40 degrees, foods can become unsafe to eat.

To protect your home's electrical equipment during an outage, turn off and unplug all unnecessary electronics or appliances. This will keep equipment from being damaged by surges or spikes when the power returns.

ALEKSANDAR KOSEVA/ADOBE STOCK

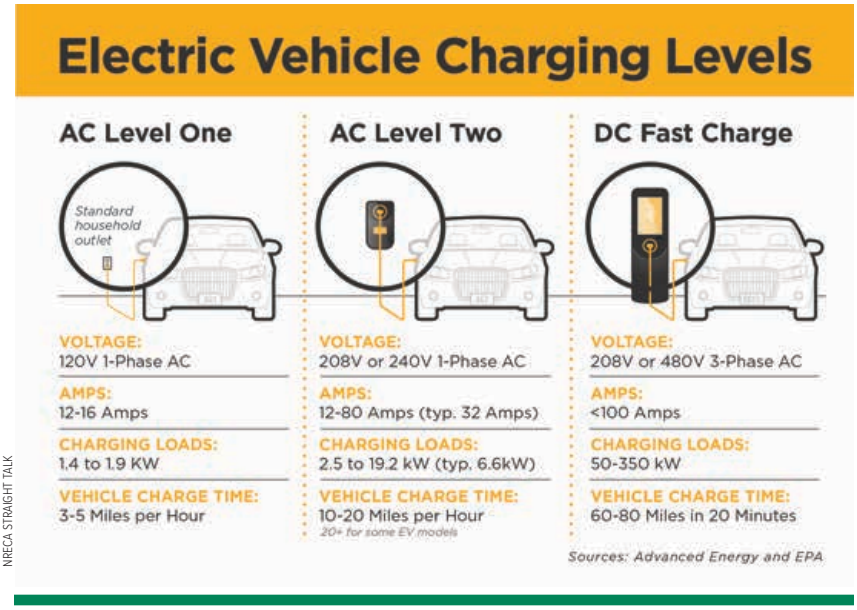
WINTER STORMS

Prepare for prolonged outages, dangers

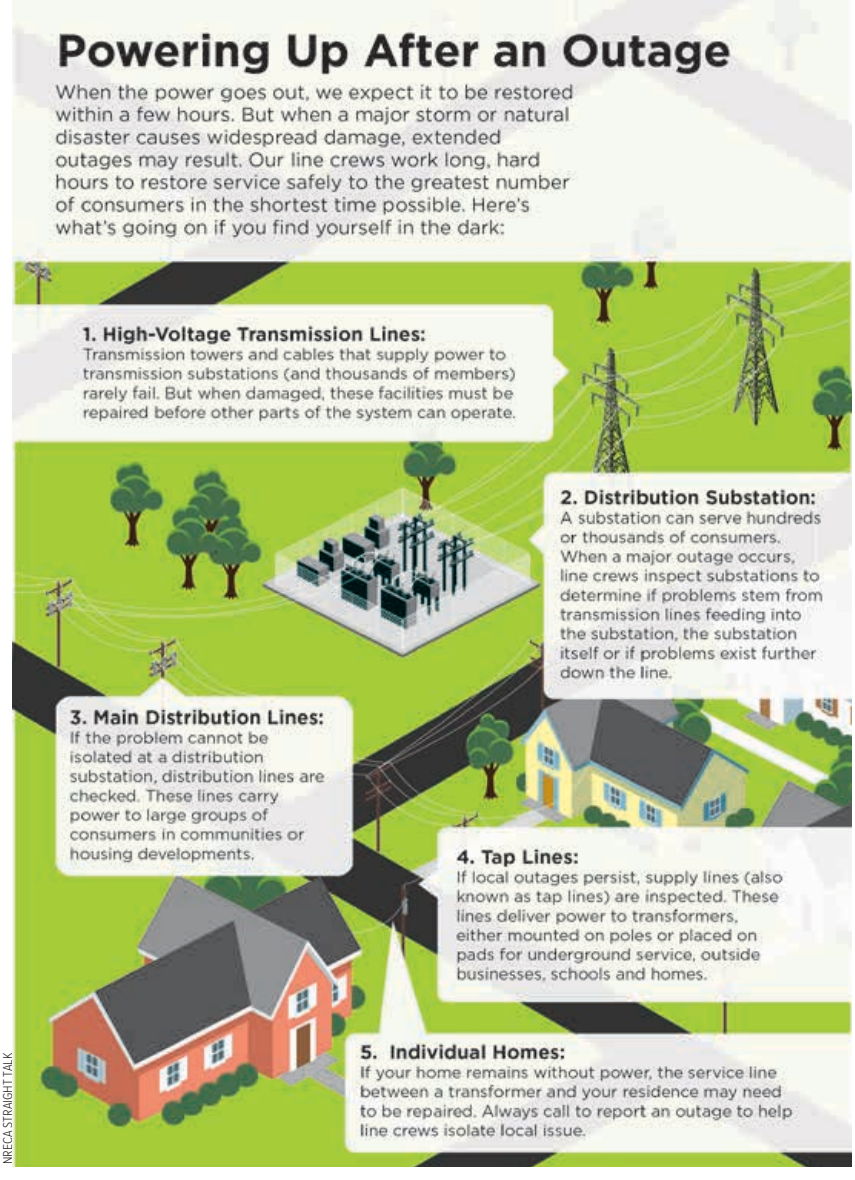
During this time of the year, dangerous conditions could confine families to their homes for days at a time. **Plan and prepare your home for the winter months today!** To better prepare you and your family for a power outage, keep a storm preparedness kit fully stocked.

THE BASIC SUPPLIES IN THIS KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Emergency blankets
- First-aid kit/medicine
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated or hand-crank radio
- Extra batteries
- Toiletries



NRECA STRAIGHT TALK



NRECA STRAIGHT TALK

EV charging

Electric vehicle (EV) owners have multiple options for charging their vehicle at home. There are three common EV charging levels:

Level One is the most basic charging level. If you choose this option, your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a typical 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it will take much longer to charge your EV.

Level Two is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this level of charging often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet, which is used for larger appliances, like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet must be installed by a licensed professional.

DC Fast Charge stations are typically seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge an EV to 80% in under 30 minutes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations throughout Kentucky.

If you're charging an EV at home, please contact Jackson Energy at (800) 262-7480. EV charging creates additional energy demand. The time of day you charge your EV can have an impact on the grid and your monthly energy costs.