

# CLARK ENERGY LINES

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.

## Television: Made in the USA

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 96% of the nation's households have at least one television—statistical proof of our love affair with the device dreamed up 100 years ago on an American farm.

By 1920, there had been many experiments with transmitting images and sound through the air. Philo Farnsworth knew little about that research when his family began using battery-powered electricity on their Idaho farm that year.

Exposure to the power of electricity, and plowing fields, inspired 15-year-old Philo's first ideas about electronic television systems a year later. He imagined that a picture could be dissected—much like a plow dissects a field—by a simple camera into a series of lines of electricity. Those lines could be transmitted over the air to a receiver that would change them into a picture.

Philo began experimenting while still in high school and demonstrated various systems for his teachers. After graduating,

he gained the support of investors. At age 21, he publicly demonstrated the first complete electronic TV system.

The invention initially failed to attract the attention of Americans who were enjoying their new radios. Besides, experimental television broadcasts were so weak that images appeared on screen as shadowlike pictures.

Television technology improved in the 1930s, but the device's outlook only changed significantly when RCA licensed Farnsworth's

components. In 1935, the company announced plans to produce affordable electronic television systems for American homes.

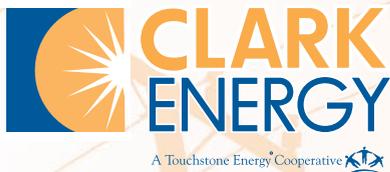
RCA debuted its new TVs at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. On the first day of the fair, RCA-owned NBC televised opening remarks by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As the fair continued, NBC broadcast different types of programs to appeal to a wide audience. The exhibit succeeded in creating a wave of public interest in television technology.

Despite costing two months' wages for the average worker, there were 10,000 TVs in American homes when World War II halted television manufacturing. Both availability and demand rebounded quickly following the war.

From color TV of the 1950s to today's high-definition models, the modern television is the culmination of innovations by many scientists, engineers and inventors. But all can trace their roots to an American farm boy's dream.



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# From the President's Desk

## Contact Us

### CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

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## National Voter Registration Day is September 28

One of the cooperative principles that guides Clark Energy Cooperative is democratic member control. Simply put, every member of our co-op has equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

The membership—that's you—of Clark Energy elects fellow co-op members to serve as directors. These representatives devote their time and energy to make informed and wise decisions about the co-op. Because they are democratically elected, they are accountable to the membership, which ensures that they are looking out for the best interests of members, rather than to special interest groups or any other outside influences.

We are blessed at Clark Energy to be served by a dedicated board who accepts the responsibility to become educated and trained in the complex world of electric service.

Though Clark Energy is nonpartisan, we also support democratic participation in the communities we serve. We are proud to join other electric cooperatives across Kentucky and the country in Co-ops Vote, which highlights key issues and encourages co-op members to vote.

Since 2015, the Co-ops Vote project has helped reverse a downward trend in rural voter turnout. Now, we are working to encourage even more Clark Energy members to register to vote. According to U.S. Census data from 2020, as many as one in four eligible Americans are not registered to vote.

September 28 is National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy. First observed in 2012, it has quickly gained momentum



ever since. Nearly 4.5 million voters have registered to vote on the holiday to date.

You might be relieved to hear that Kentucky does not have any elections this fall. The next time voters head to the polls will be for the primary election in May. The deadline to register online to vote in the 2022 Primary Election is April 18, 2022, at 4 p.m. local time.

To register or to check to make sure your voter registration is up to date, visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

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# Fall checklist: Check for safety, maintenance issues

The blistering summer heat isn't far behind us, but it won't be long until heating season arrives and the house is full of company for the holidays.

Head off any potential problems by scheduling maintenance and safety checks for your home's heating and electrical devices now. Here's where to start:

**Furnace.** A qualified HVAC technician should do a twice-a-year check of your system: once in the fall for heating and again in the spring for air conditioning. Before you need to turn on the heat, make sure your unit is in good working condition. The tech can spot problems before it causes harm to your system or shuts down when your house is full of company.

**Thermostats.** If your home doesn't have a programmable thermostat, you could be paying more to heat and cool your home than you have to. Programmable thermostats automatically turn the heat up or down, depending on

the times of day when your family is home or away.

**Ground fault circuit interrupters.** A licensed electrician can install GFCIs in your bathroom, kitchen and laundry room, and around hot tubs, pools and under windows. All of those areas have the potential to get wet. A GFCI will shut off the electricity to an appliance that does. In addition, it can interrupt a circuit if it's overcharged.

**Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.** If you don't have them near all bedrooms in your home, it's time to install them. Then, check them twice a year to make sure they're still working and that they have fresh batteries.

**Overloaded outlets.** You can overload an electrical circuit by plugging an appliance that uses a heavy amount of electricity—like a range, a dishwasher or a refrigerator—into a circuit that is designed for a smaller load. You can also overload



WEERAPATTOO/ADOBE STOCK

a circuit by using a power strip to plug too many appliances into a single outlet. Ask a licensed electrician to inspect your home for potential circuit overloads. They can cause fires.

## Multitasking with tech affects quality of work

Parents: You were right. It turns out that your teenagers do not learn as well when they distract themselves with texts and TV while trying to do their homework.

A report by the nonprofit research organization Common Sense confirms that productivity suffers when a student switches between tasks. The reason: The brain has to refocus with each switch, so it affects his or her ability to focus.

The report reveals that more than three-quarters of teens listen to music while doing homework; half of them

believe it helps them concentrate. But research says that music with lyrics can hinder a student's reading comprehension and ability to perform complex tasks.



PHENIX/ADOBE STOCK

In addition, 60% of the children often or sometimes text during homework, and half use social media or watch TV while working. Those activities tend to prolong the time it takes for homework to get done, the study says.

Teens who flip between work and tech can develop problems having face-to-face conversations, the report notes.

The authors advise parents to monitor their teenagers' grades; restrict phone use until after homework is finished; and use tech time as a reward for finishing assignments.

## Your Safety Matters

# Use generators properly to keep everyone safe

When properly installed and operated, generators offer a safe and convenient means of powering equipment when electricity is unavailable during a storm outage.

But an improperly installed generator can create dangerous “back feeding” onto the electric grid. When this occurs, the power lines become energized by the generator, placing nearby utility lineworkers who are trying to restore power at risk of electrocution.

There are two typical types of generators: permanent and portable. To operate either type safely, you must keep the generators’ power and the electric grid isolated from each other.

A properly installed permanent generator with a transfer switch will automatically isolate itself from the grid. The transfer switch allows power to be fed from only one source at a time. Clark Energy is glad to advise how to install it properly.

A portable generator is isolated by switching the main breaker off in your home’s service panel prior to starting the generator.

Always read and follow your operator manual and never modify the generator in any way. It’s also important to know how to shut a portable generator off quickly in case of an emergency.



TIM WEBB

Keep your generator in a well-ventilated, dry area away from air intakes and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow. A generator should not be used inside a home or an attached garage because improper ventilation can result in carbon monoxide poisoning.

Never plug the generator directly into an interior outlet. This can cause back feeding on nearby lines and threaten the safety to nearby line crews. Be sure to ground the generator according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Always turn off the power at the main circuit breaker before connecting appliances to the generator.

Use heavy duty electric cords designed for outdoor use to connect appliances and don’t overload the system.

Follow proper refueling practices by first turning a generator off, and always allow the machine to cool before adding gasoline or diesel.

Following the rules keeps Clark Energy lineworkers, your family and everyone safe.

## Outage texting coming soon!

Clark Energy will add outage texting to the suite of mobile technology already available to member-owners. Currently members can access billing information and pay their bill through the mobile app SmartHub as well as view power outages on the outage map at [www.outage.clarkenergy.com](http://www.outage.clarkenergy.com).

The addition of interactive outage texting makes it easier for members to report a power outage, request status updates on reported outages, as well as receive information about planned maintenance or outages in the area. Text messaging can take the place of phone

calls and be easier for the member to report outages. This service offers the ultimate ease of use for members to report and receive updates on outages using simple short text messages on the mobile device that is almost always within arm’s reach.

More information will be in next month’s insert in *Kentucky Living* and on our Facebook page and Twitter. The alerts and text messages are a free service from Clark Energy, but depending on the individual members’ mobile plan some charges per message may apply.