

CLARK ENERGY LINES

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

Now accepting applications for the 2021 Citizen-Scholar Scholarship program

Clark Energy Cooperative is offering sixteen \$1,000 scholarships in a program designed to enhance the education and resulting careers of students in our service area. The scholarships are one-time, non-renewable grants paid directly to the student's chosen college, university or trade school. Funds may be paid to both in- and out-of-state institutions.

Participation requirements:

- 1 Eligible applicants are graduating high school seniors planning to enroll in an accredited college, university or trade school.
- 2 Eligible applicant or applicant's parents/guardians must have a residential or business account with Clark Energy and the account must be registered in one or both names. In the event the applicant's parents or guardians reside in separate households served by different cooperatives that offer scholarship programs, the applicant's address listed on the official transcript will serve as the primary eligible account.
- 3 Funds requested by the student, whether in full or partial payments, must be made within two years or the remainder of funds is forfeited, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- 4 Students applying for Clark EC scholarships must have a



minimum 2.5 GPA and be in good standing. An official transcript must accompany the application.

5 Entries will be judged on the following: essay—45%; school/community involvement—30%; GPA—25%. A panel of judges not employed by Clark EC will review the applications and judge the essays.

6 The applicant cannot be related to an employee, manager or director of Clark EC or Clark Propane Plus.

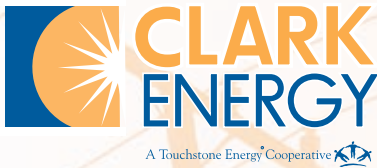
7 Applicants must make a typed response of 500-750 words and discuss "What has been your personal experience with the coronavirus during 2020?" Good grammar and spelling are judged heavily.

8 All materials requested must accompany the application or the scholarship application is disqualified. Clark Energy will not contact the student for any missing material.

9 The application, essay and all materials requested need to be emailed to lhatton@clarkenergy.com before the deadline of Friday, March 26, 2021, by 4 p.m. Email confirmations will be sent when the application is received. Scholarship materials sent by postal mail or dropped off at any Clark Energy office will not be accepted.

For an application, please visit our website at www.clarkenergy.com and click on "Community—Citizen-Scholar Scholarship." You may also contact lhatton@clarkenergy.com and request one be emailed to you.

DISCLAIMER: Citizen Scholar awards will be chosen by the decision of a panel of judges selected by Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc. All decisions of the judges are final. All materials, images, resumes, essays and applications submitted by the applicant become the sole and absolute property of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc. and its affiliated companies. It is the sole decision and discretion of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc. to disqualify any applicant who does not comply with any of the entry and participation rules as set forth in the application process. Incomplete or inappropriate entries will not be considered for awards.



From the President's Desk

Contact Us

CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

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OFFICE HOURS

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**To report an outage, please
call (800) 992-3269.**

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I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

A holiday wish

Each year, the Christmas season offers a reminder of our common humanity. And in 2020, do we ever need it.

Throughout this tumultuous year, all of us at Clark Energy have not only worked to provide safe and reliable electricity, but also to recognize our responsibilities as a member-owned cooperative. We are here for you. We are working with member-owners who are struggling because of COVID-19, and we continue to support community initiatives to help those in crisis.

Clark Energy has made a conscious effort to connect members with resources and useful information. When bad weather hits, our team is dedicated to powering local homes and businesses and responding quickly when Mother Nature damages our lines.

Yes, our state and nation face challenging times, but in this season of hope, a Christmas carol from an even darker era echoes resilience.

In December 1863, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was still reeling from the death of his wife in a fire two years earlier. He then learned their eldest son, Charley, had been critically injured in the Civil War. As he set about nursing Charley back to health, the bloody war persisted. Longfellow's melancholy was deepening. What did he have to celebrate during that awful time?

The poem Longfellow wrote on Christmas Day reveals his despair, then his renewed hope.

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

Longfellow writes how the thundering cannons of war drowned out the



carols which sing "of peace on earth, good-will to men."

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said:
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

In 1872, John Baptiste Calkin set Longfellow's poem to music, a Christmas carol that still resounds.

In that spirit of resilience and hope, we wish you a peaceful and happy holiday season.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

How to wash your face mask

Unless you're wearing disposable, single-use face masks to comply with federal guidelines and local laws, you should be washing yours regularly.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that you wash your cloth mask every time you wear it. Others say it's OK to wear masks a few times between cleanings.

Here are some guidelines for mask-washing:

- Throw your cloth mask into the washing machine with the rest of the week's laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and warm water.
- If you only have one mask and want to wash it every day, hand washing may be more practical. Add some bleach to the water to disinfect the mask. Of course, bleach may fade colorful masks. (Most color-safe bleach



does not kill germs.) Soak the mask for five minutes in a bowl of room-temperature water with a few tablespoons of bleach. Rinse it thoroughly with cool water and immediately pour the water/bleach solution down the drain.

- If your mask has a filter, hand wash it every day or so.
- Dry the mask in your clothes dryer on high heat or air-dry it by laying it flat—in direct sunlight if you can. Don't wear until completely dry.

10 important safety tips for holiday decorating

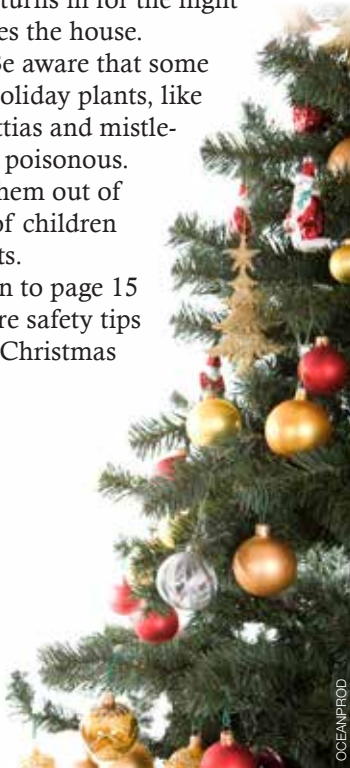
Prevent house fires and emergency room trips this holiday season by following a few common-sense rules for safe decorating.

- 1 Keep your live tree from drying out. Dunk it in water; water it every day, and get it out of your house once it starts drying out.
- 2 Use artificial trees only if they are labeled "fire resistant."
- 3 Keep all trees at least 3 feet away from heat sources, like space heaters, fireplaces and radiators.
- 4 Place small, breakable and sharp ornaments on high tree branches so children can't reach them.
- 5 Check the labels on packages of holiday lights to learn if the strand is for indoor or outdoor use. Don't use indoor lights outside.
- 6 Don't use last year's lights if they have cracked sockets, frayed wires or loose connections.
- 7 Avoid plugging more than three light strands into a single socket.
- 8 Hang lights with plastic fasteners, never with nails, tacks or wires.

9 Turn off indoor and outdoor lights and decorations when the family turns in for the night or leaves the house.

10 Be aware that some holiday plants, like poinsettias and mistletoe are poisonous. Keep them out of reach of children and pets.

Turn to page 15 for more safety tips on cut Christmas trees.



the power of membership

Commitment to Community

As your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we are guided by four core values. One of those is commitment to community. Across the country, local Touchstone Energy co-ops work to improve its members' quality of life by investing time, money and expertise to better local communities. That includes taking a leadership role in economic development projects, educating students about safety and environment, as well as generously donating time, energy and resources to organizations like Special Olympics, Honor Flight and the Ronald McDonald House.



Kentucky's
Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives®

It's the power of human connections.

Your Safety Matters

Prevent home electrical fires

Eight out of 10 fire-related deaths occur at home—the place that embodies comfort and security. That’s why it’s important to take steps to keep everyone safe.

Faulty or deteriorating electrical cords are a top cause of fires at home. Cords that become frayed or cracked can send sparks to flammable surfaces. Check your cords to ensure that they are in good shape, and replace any that are worn.

In addition, make sure you are not overloading circuits. If you’ve been in your home for more than 10 years, have your circuit breaker box inspected by a licensed electrician to tighten loose connections and check for overloaded circuits.

Homes with copper wiring need to be inspected every 20 years, and homes with aluminum wiring should be inspected every five years.

Check all ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets several times each year by pushing the test/reset button to be sure they are working properly.

If breakers are continually tripping or if fuses are blowing frequently, that’s a sign of potential trouble.



The cause could be old wiring unable to handle the load demand of today’s modern appliances. If needed, ask a licensed electrician to install additional circuits for safety.

Use surge protectors and power bars to help prevent overloading an electrical outlet, plugging no more than three cords into the strip.

Clark Energy urges you to lower the risks of electrical fires. Keep your family safe.

It's not too late for heater inspection

So you’re home most of the time—working, teaching your kids and taking care of a house that’s always full. And you were too reluctant to let a service technician into your home this fall to check your heating system.

It’s not too late.

Resist the temptation to put off your annual HVAC maintenance check. The weather is about to turn

its coldest. Make sure your home will stay toasty warm for the holidays and beyond.

Mask up and call a reliable heating and cooling company for an appointment.

Here’s why keeping your home’s heating equipment maintained is important:

- If your system is fairly new and still under warranty, you could void that warranty if you skip regular, professional inspections.
- Small problems with the heating system are cheaper and easier to fix than big ones. The expert who inspects your system every year can spot trouble spots before they become major repair jobs.

- Regular maintenance means fewer repairs. And means few repair bills.
- A well-maintained system will last longer. Manufacturers estimate that a heating system that is never maintained will last only half of its expected life.
- A tuned-up heater runs more efficiently, and that can keep your energy bills lower.

Attention Clark Energy Members

If you have changed your phone number, added a mobile number and/or email address since you established your account with Clark Energy, please contact us at (800) 992-3269 so we may update your personal information. Thank you!

