

CLARK ENERGY LINES

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

Touchstone Energy at-a-glance

A brief history of the Clark Energy brand

Touch*stone: a test or criterion for determining quality or genuineness.

En*er*gy: the strength and vitality required for sustained activity; abundant power.

These two words—Touchstone Energy—represent the power to bring people together to stand as the gold standard for electric cooperative culture and performance.

Electric co-ops have provided power to small towns and rural areas without fanfare since the 1930s. In 1998, with the threat of national electric deregulation looming large, passionate co-op leaders united for the first time under a national brand, Touchstone Energy.

Co-ops from across the nation promptly rallied together, prominently displaying the brand's logo and slogan of "The Power of Human Connections." Plus, there was a new, positive energy as employees at Touchstone Energy co-ops worked together to demonstrate the core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Clark Energy and its sister co-ops in Kentucky were instrumental in the launch of the national Touchstone Energy brand. We're part of the regional group called Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives along with 15 other co-ops.

More than 20 years later, Touchstone Energy members are still standing together as the gold standard within the electric industry. Touchstone Energy provides resources like national and local discounts on health care with Co-op Connections (learn more at www.connections.coop).

Because being best in class takes more than just keeping the lights on, Touchstone Energy tools and resources demonstrate our values in the ways co-ops treat member-owners, collaborate and build communities. Simply put, it's the cooperative difference.

In the upcoming years, Touchstone Energy will continue to support you by offering:

- Renewable energy options (go to www.cooperativesolar.com and www.envirowattsky.com).
- Energy efficiency programs (go to www.clarkenergy.com).
- Business solutions to attract new customers.
- Programs like Honor Flight, at left, and the Co-op Connections card.

As we move into the future together, Clark Energy and Touchstone Energy are committed to serving you with a passion for innovation, a commitment to service excellence and an authentic promise to never underestimate the power of human connections.



TIM WEBB

Contact Us

CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

2640 Iron Works Road,
Winchester 40391

28 Bible Camp Lane,
Frenchburg 40322

170 Halls Lane, Stanton 40380

www.clarkenergy.com

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
Monday - Friday

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

Winchester - (859) 744-4251
Frenchburg - (606) 768-2383
Stanton - (606) 663-4330
Toll Free - (800) 992-3269
Emergency - (800) 992-3269
Fax - (859) 744-4218

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

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JUPITERIMAGES

Spring forward

Plant responsibly to keep your power flowing

There's nothing quite as beautiful in nature as trees. Their buds mark the coming of spring. They provide shade and shelter in the summer. In the fall, their brilliant colors paint the landscape.

Yes, I love trees, except for those growing under or too near Clark Energy power lines.

When there's stormy weather in the forecast, those natural beauties can become enemies.

Trees are one of the leading causes of power interruptions. A single limb that comes into contact with a power line can blink lights or cause an outage.

Maintaining reliable electric service is a top priority at Clark Energy. That's why we regularly trim and clear plant growth that can potentially cause an outage or hinder power line repairs by co-op line technicians.

Your co-op has a 20-foot easement on each side of our power lines (a total of 40 feet) for single phase and a 24-foot easement on each side (48 feet total) on multi-phase construction.

This easement serves as a buffer from encroaching limbs and vegetation that can interfere with electric service for you and your neighbors. That same area also allows us to access our wires and poles for maintenance and repairs.

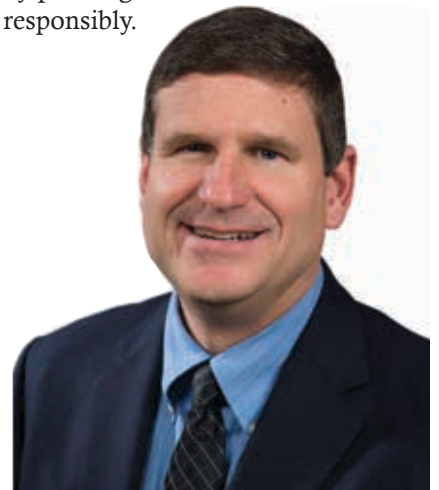
We're doing all we can to manage vegetation and avoid electricity interruptions caused by overgrown vegetation. But we need your help, too.

If your spring plans include planting a tree, shrub or other ornamental plant, remember to first look up and be mindful of the location of power lines. Don't plant anything in the 30-foot easement zone.



Remember: That tiny sapling you are planting will one day be a fully mature tree. For example, an oak tree can grow 8 feet in just one year if rain is abundant. Use the guide pictured on this page to determine the right planting spot so your prized tree won't cause power line conflicts when it matures.

Clark Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power. We'll do our part with regular tree trimming. And I hope you'll do your part—for yourself and your neighbors along the line—by planting responsibly.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

Pandemic calls for extra spring cleaning

After a long winter of quarantining, homeschooling and teleworking while everyone was at home full time, it's time for the mother of all spring cleanings.

More people at home more of the time equals more dirt, grime, dust, fingerprints and stains.

While you're scrubbing the pandemic out of your house, keep energy efficiency in mind. Here are six items to clean that could help your appliances, lighting and air conditioning system operate more efficiently—and save you money on energy bills.

1 Flip the switch. Ceiling fan blades should rotate counterclockwise during warm weather to push cool air down and make rooms feel more comfortable. And they should be dust-free; climb a ladder and clean the blades and top and bottom so they don't knock dirt into the air as they spin.

2 Clean air conditioner vents. They're a catch-all for lint, pet hair, dust and dirt, which can block the air that's trying to flow in and out of them.

3 Caulk around windows, doors and any electrical and cable outlets on the inside of outside walls. Cool air can escape through those tiny openings in the summer and

find its way into the house during the winter.

4 Wash your windows. Even a thin film of dust and dirt on the inside or outside of glass panes can block sunlight from warming a room in the spring.

5 Call a service pro. Your cooling system needs attention from an HVAC tech once every spring to prevent a breakdown once the weather gets hot.

6 Dust electronics. Computers, printers, lightbulbs, appliances—anything that you plug in or sit still enough to collect a lot of dust. Dust can prevent them from operating efficiently.



NEIRF/ADOBE STOCK

Let the sunshine in

One of the easiest ways to warm up your home during the late winter and early spring: Open the window drapes.

Energy savings aren't the only benefit of adding natural daylight to your rooms. Daylight is a natural stimulant that makes people feel better.

Here are five ways the sun can help you save energy on heating bills:

- Open the curtains or blinds during the day and close them once the sun goes down. The heat from the sun's rays could warm up the room enough to remain comfortable even if you lower the thermostat. South-facing windows are the best for letting sunlight in during the winter. A side benefit: You won't have to turn any lamps on in sunlit rooms.

- Clean your windows. Nobody likes that chore, but dirty windows can block natural light from finding its way into the home. Wipe down the indoor glass panes once a month year-round and the outdoor panes once a year.

- Install a skylight in an otherwise shaded room. The rooftop windows aren't cheap, but they let sun into the room and give you a view of the sky.

- Replace any single-pane windows with energy-efficient, double-pane models. They not only let in the light; they keep your home's heated air from leaking outside.

- As spring arrives and the weather starts warming up, an abundance of natural light in your rooms could allow you to turn the thermostat off a bit sooner.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

March 26 at 4 p.m. is the deadline for service area high school seniors to submit their applications and materials for the 2021 Citizen-Scholar Scholarship program. Items must be submitted by email to lhatton@clarkenergy.com. No mailed or delivered applications will be accepted. For more details, go to www.clarkenergy.com, My Community, 2021 Citizen-Scholars Scholarship Program or contact Lois Hatton at (859) 901-9226 or (800) 992-3269, option 7.

Your Safety Matters

Use ladders safely this spring: Look up and stay safe

Falls are one of the leading causes of injuries nationwide, which is why it is so important to use ladders safely. Misuse of a ladder can put you at risk of permanent injury or death.

Picking the right ladder for the job is the most important step. Choose a ladder that can sustain four times the maximum load and inspect your ladder before each use for defects.

To stay safe make sure you:

- Place your ladder on solid, level ground.
- Contact the local utility before working near overhead lines.
- When using an extension ladder, extend the top 3 feet above the landing. Find a friend to hold the base or tie it off.
- Keep the base free of work materials.
- Always face a ladder when climbing or descending and maintain three-point contact (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand).
- Never stand on the top or at the first rung.
- Set the ladder at the correct angle (one quarter of the vertical length from the wall).
- Stay at least 10 feet from overhead lines.

Remember to never overreach. You might tip sideways or cause the base to kick out. If your belt buckle is outside the side rails, you may be in danger.

Be extra cautious if you need to raise materials or equipment to where you are working. Instead of carrying items up in your hands, use a tool belt or a rope to get what you need up to your work site.

Clark Energy wants you to be safe. Remember to always look up and locate power lines to avoid contact.



Support local farmers

You and the farmers in your community each have something the other one needs during this pandemic. Families are cooking at home more often, so they need fresh produce and meat. And farmers—and anyone who is trying to stay in business while everyone is limiting trips to the store—need your support to keep their heads above water.

To stay safe while visiting a local farmers market, keep a few commonsense precautions in mind:

- Do some research before you go to any farmers market. Call around and ask the organizers what measures they are taking to keep their customers and vendors safe. Are they enforcing social distancing? Requiring masks for entry?
- Shop at open-air markets rather than at an enclosed one.
- Avoid the rush. Schedule your visit during off-peak hours, like first thing in the morning. If you arrive and find that the market is overly crowded, abandon the trip.
- Shop alone so you don't contribute to overcrowding. If you do bring a friend or family member, split up so each of you covers half of the booths.
- Don't touch anything you don't intend to buy.
- Do not taste any free samples.
- Wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from the people around you.
- Look for pre-bagged items, which have been handled by fewer people than loose produce.
- Sanitize your hands as soon as you're finished shopping.
- Thoroughly wash the produce you buy as soon as you get home.