



OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

September 2021 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

We are here for you

Why does Owen Electric Cooperative offer buckets and bulbs to encourage its members to attend the Member Appreciation Days and annual meeting?

I get that question from time to time, and several others about co-op practices, especially from those who are not served by an electric cooperative. The whole concept of the cooperative form of business can be difficult for some folks to understand. Simply put, if you receive electric service from Owen Electric, you are a member and an owner of Owen Electric.

That's why our co-op works so hard to publicize and encourage you to attend our Member Appreciation Days and annual meeting each June. It's why we share regular updates with you within *Kentucky Living* magazine, on our website and through social media channels. We embrace the cooperative values that guide every decision we make. Our board of directors is elected by you and is accountable to you. All of our board members receive training to make sure they are ready to represent your interests and prepared to understand the complex world of energy.

As a cooperative, Owen Electric treats every member equally, and each member has one vote. There are many

opinions and critics in the world of electricity, but your voice is the one we want and need to hear.

Our members empower Owen Electric to make necessary and strategic investments in infrastructure and people so that we can continue to fulfill the promises made when we were founded nearly 85 years ago.

We know from the feedback we receive that our members expect Owen Electric to deliver reliable electricity as inexpensively as possible. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we continually strive to be good stewards of our resources, and any margins left over after expenses are allocated back to the members in the form of capital credits. In fact, more than \$32 million of capital credits have been returned back to our members since 1990. This further demonstrates the benefit of the cooperative form of business—that is, the economic participation by the membership.

Members are also paying increased attention to how our energy is generated. While some prioritize the reliability and affordability of coal and natural gas, others want access to renewable energy sources, such as solar power.

With Cooperative Solar, members of Owen Electric have access to affordable



solar power. You can license solar panels at Cooperative Solar Farm One, a 60-acre solar array built for Owen Electric Cooperative and the other East Kentucky Power Cooperative member co-ops. You can harness the energy of the sun without the hassle, maintenance and expense of owning private solar panels.

As your cooperative, we encourage you to reach out to us with any questions about your service, your membership, or any of our energy efficiency or renewable energy programs. As always, Owen Electric puts its members first.

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Solar 101: Points to ponder before purchasing a home solar system

Before making a major investment, there are several things to think about if you're considering installing solar panels.

Owen Electric wants to be your resource for energy information. Our energy expert can help you determine the investment you'll likely make to meet your energy production goals, as well as discuss what is feasible using local weather data, your energy usage and comparisons to similar home solar arrays on our system. Give us a call at (800) 372-7612 ext. 3532 for more information.

You can also check out our booklet, *Solar 101: What you need to know*, by going to www.owenelectric.com/solar-101-what-you-need-know.

If you want to support renewable power, but aren't sure if a home solar array is right for you, consider the renewable energy programs offered by Owen Electric. Our renewable



energy programs are easy and affordable—and from a source you can trust. Learn more about them at www.cooperative-solar.com and www.envirowattsky.com.



7 Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.



Prepare now during September National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a great time to evaluate how prepared your household is for a major power outage. Here are some points to remember:

Who Do I Call?

When you experience a power outage, report it by calling (800) 372-7612. Rest assured that our outage recovery team will work as quickly as possible to restore electrical service to your facility.

Why are non-local utility vehicles working in the area?

In major outages, we call on assistance from other neighboring utilities and contract crews. For this reason, you may see vehicles from other companies in your area helping to restore power.

Can I use a portable generator if I have one?

If you have a portable generator, it should not be connected to any of the utility power lines, or it should be equipped with a properly installed double-throw switch installed by a licensed electrician. Generators that are not isolated or installed properly can feed back onto our lines and may cause serious injury to anyone coming in contact with those wires.

If you plan to use a portable generator, here are some important safety precautions:

- Read all instructions carefully and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- First, never run your generator indoors or in your garage. Generators should only be run in a well-ventilated area. Gasoline-powered generators produce carbon monoxide, and the fumes can be deadly if there is not adequate ventilation.
- Second, plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy duty, properly grounded extension cords.

- Make sure that extension cords are not frayed or worn.
- Limit the electrical load placed on the generator to no more than the recommended wattage.
- Do not connect your power generator directly to your home's main fuse box or circuit panel.
- Use the generator only when necessary.
- Turn the generator off at night while you sleep and when you are away from home.

For the safety of anyone who may be in the proximity of your home, do not attempt to connect your generator to your home wiring.

If you have any doubts about how to properly use a portable electric generator, contact the manufacturer or a licensed electrician for assistance.

What should I do if I see a downed power line?

If you see a downed power line, it is important to stay away from it at all times and contact us immediately. Please do not try to remove anything that might be tangled in power lines, even if you think the line is dead.

What should I do if I have a critical care patient living in my home?

If you or another family member depends on life support, and the loss of electricity affects these life support systems, please

alert us prior to an outage occurring. We will then indicate this situation with your address in our system.

Caregivers of in-home critical care patients should always have an evacuation plan or a plan for how to handle extended outages in the event of a natural disaster or severe storm.

Watch utility service vehicles on the roadways for your safety and theirs.

During an outage we will have crews working on lines in your area. Many of these lines are along main roads and highways. For your safety and the safety of our crews, please drive slowly and be aware of our crew vehicles.

Why did a utility vehicle pass by my home without stopping?

If your power is out, you may see a utility vehicle drive by your house without stopping. There are several reasons why this might be the case. The crew may be en route to a location where immediate attention is required. For example, a live line is down, they may need to inspect equipment along your main line, or they may need to return to base for further supplies. Crews repair damage to the parts of the system that bring power to the most number of members first before handling problems at individual homes. Please know that we are making every effort to restore power to you as quickly as possible.

Don't leave us in the dark!

Update your contact information throughout the month of September and be entered for a chance to win a Honeywell Smart Color Thermostat!

Call us: (800) 372-7612, option 4
or
Update online:
<https://www.owenelectric.com/update-my-information-address>





Owen in the community

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Pendleton County Office

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Butler, KY 41006

www.owenelectric.com

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2021 Grand Prize Winners

Congratulations to Ralph and Peggy Holliday, Independence! They won the Membership Appreciation Days and Annual Meeting Grand Prize of \$1,000 toward a new ENERGY STAR appliance. That's one shiny, new fridge/freezer combo! Photo: Jude Canchola



A Big Day at the Big Dig

We had a great day sponsoring and participating in the Big Dig event at Boone County Fairgrounds. Thanks to all who came out and tried our bucket truck on for size! Photo: Joe Waichulis



Commitment to Community

We love to see our employees taking the time to give back! Recently, from left, Bobby Von Bokern, Rebecca McQueary, Gabrielle Welsh, Orman Glass and Lucas McNally spent a day with Master Provisions in Florence. They helped load 28,261 pounds of clothing and supplies into a container headed to the foundation's international mission partner in Togo, West Africa. Photo: Master Provisions