FLEMING-MASON ENERGY
cooperative news
AUGUST 2025

Back to school

An electric co-op quiz

It's back-to-school time across Kentucky. For our youngest students, the first weeks of August might be a flurry of buying supplies, filling backpacks and looking forward to the year ahead. Others might be heading off to college, beginning a new certification program or working on an advanced degree. Some of us haven't been in school for quite some time—but the back-to-school rush is still an invitation to celebrate lifelong learning.

In that spirit, I want to offer you an electric cooperative quiz. There are no grades and no homework—just a quick refresher on what sets electric cooperatives apart.

Q: What is an electric cooperative?
A: Electric cooperatives are utilities that are built by and belong to the communities they serve. They are also not-for-profit, which means they don't send money to outside shareholders. Like all co-ops, Fleming-Mason Energy exists to provide safe, reliable energy at the cost of service and to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Q: How are electric cooperatives different from other utilities?
A: Electric co-ops are guided by seven cooperative principles, including "Democratic Member Control" and "Concern for Community." We are governed by the members we serve, which means decisions are made locally, by people who live and work in the communities we power.

Q: Who does my cooperative serve?
A: Fleming-Mason Energy serves over 25,000 members in eight counties–Fleming, Mason, Lewis, Bath, Bracken, Nicholas, Rowan and Robertson. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which maximize profits for shareholders, our purpose is to serve our local communities. We were built by our members, and we're proud to work for you.

Q: Who owns my cooperative?
A: You do! You're not just a customer of Fleming-Mason Energy—you're a part-owner as well. As a consumer-member, you can vote in elections to choose the board members who guide co-op decisions, or you can run for a board seat yourself. You can also stay informed about co-op business as we communicate regularly through our website, social media and *Kentucky Living*.

Learning doesn't stop when we leave the classroom. This back-to-school season, I encourage you to stay curious and to be engaged. The more you know about Fleming-Mason Energy and the work we do, the better equipped you are to participate, ask questions and shape the future of the communities we serve.


ARROWSMITH2/SHUTTERSTOCK

At your service, 24/7

Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.

Brandon Hunt
PRESIDENT & CEO

Fleming-Mason Energy

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Contact us:
In Fleming County:
(606) 845-2661

Other Counties:
(800) 464-3144

Hours:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Water-efficient fixtures save water and energy

Have you been resisting your plumber's advice to switch to low-flow water fixtures? It might be time to get on board because newer plumbing components offer the dual benefit of water conservation and power bill savings.

Low-flow fixtures aren't new—they've been around since the 1990s as a water conservation tool—but they've improved with age. Now, smart toilets, touchless faucets and app-controlled showerheads are leading trends in plumbing.

Here's why switching to these innovative fixtures could be the way to go:

- **Reduced water waste.** The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that switching to low-flow faucets can save an average family 700 gallons of water per year. Additionally, low-flow showerheads can save 2,700 gallons annually.
- **Energy savings.** It takes a lot of energy to deliver and treat the water used every day for bathing, shaving, cooking and cleaning. Example: Letting a faucet run for five minutes consumes about as much energy as a 60-watt lightbulb used for 14 hours, EPA research suggests.
- **Lower utility bills.** Having low-flow fixtures that use less electricity and less water decreases utility expenses. That leaves more money to cover other household expenses.
- **Short payback period.** The payback period for low-flow showerheads and faucets is typically short, often within a year or less, due to the significant water and energy savings they provide.

Water-efficient plumbing fixtures provide a practical solution for using significantly less water without sacrificing performance with the added benefit of reducing energy use.

LUCIAN MILASAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Energy efficiency

Beat the heat

The hot and muggy dog days of summer have arrived in Kentucky. To prevent your air conditioning from working overtime and raising the power bill, limit your home's heat generators, suggests Fleming-Mason Energy's Lori Ulrich, marketing and public relations manager.

"Appliances like ovens, dryers and dishwashers produce significant heat while operating," Ulrich says. "Running these appliances during the hottest times of the day makes it more difficult for your air conditioning system to keep indoor air cool."

Take these proactive steps to curb the heat generators in your home:

- **Use the stove less.** Rely more on the microwave, serve a salad or cold sandwich or cook outdoors. If you must use the oven, limit or skip pre-heating. Don't open the oven door to monitor cooking progress.
- **Cook strategically.** Cook during the coolest times of the day, usually the morning or evening. Prepare larger portions, then enjoy a meal of leftovers.
- **Do the laundry in the evening.** Wash and dry clothes after dinner. Make sure you're only washing full loads and using cold water for washing. When possible, hang clothes to air dry.
- **Do the dishes later.** Set the dishwasher to operate during overnight hours, if possible. Wash only when there's a full load of dishes.
- **Turn off the TV.** Televisions are among the worst heat generators. If you're not watching, don't leave a TV on for "noise."
- **Minimize hair care.** Hairdryers and heat-styling tools add more heat to a home than you might think. Limit the time you use these tools.

In addition to running heat-generating appliances at night when temperatures are cooler, remember to operate them at different times. Also, keep in mind that newer, energy-efficient appliances give off less heat than older models.

TIM WEBB

COMMON REASONS

for power outages

Power outages are never convenient for anyone, but they do occur.

Though it's often obvious why there might be an outage—usually because of the weather—sometimes we might be left in the dark, literally and figuratively, while the power's out.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON REASONS:

- **Weather**: Ice, snow, wind, and lightning can damage poles, lines and other equipment, leading to widespread outages.
- **Trees**: Storms can cause limbs or whole trees to fall onto lines, disrupting power.
- **Accidents**: Car crashes involving utility poles can break lines and cut power.
- **Animals**: Birds and small animals climbing on equipment can cause shorts.
- **Planned outages**: Power may be temporarily shut off for scheduled maintenance or system upgrades, with advance notice when possible.

FIREWINGS/ADOBE STOCK

Value of electricity

People living in the late 19th century would hardly know what to do if they could see the world in 2025. The entirety of the way we live has changed so drastically in the last 150 years it would be unrecognizable to anyone living before December 1879. That was the time period when Thomas Edison produced his first "incandescent" lamps.

A precursor to today's modern LED lightbulb, Edison's first successful electric lamp, and later his first electric generation station, Pearl Street Generation Station (1882), would usher in a lifestyle that was truly unimaginable as recently as the 1870s.

Today, almost all of us wake up in a home that is at a comfortable temperature, connected to a nationwide power grid. Most of us have the entirety of the world's information available at our fingertips via devices that also play music, serve as alarm clocks, and allow us to talk to anyone in the world at any time. It's all powered by electricity.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, total U.S. electricity consumption was 4.07 trillion kilowatt hours in 2022. That's 14 times more electric than was used in 1950. We not only depend on electricity for everything; it would be hard to imagine a life without it.

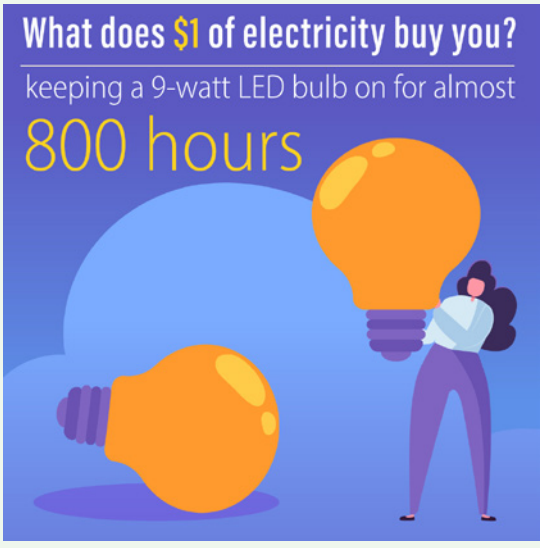
Think about what your kitchen or living room would look like without electricity. No oven, refrigerator, freezer, icemaker, toaster oven, microwave, lights or air conditioning. No television or modern arts like film and TV shows. No recorded music. No ceiling fans. No LED lighting. Entertainment might be reading a book via candlelight and a fire for warmth.

Electricity remains an undeniable bargain. It is one of life's great conveniences, and in modern times, is a necessity. It has made our lives easier and more enjoyable, too.

Like everything else, the cost for electricity has gone up over time due to a number of factors.

But consider the cost of a gallon of gas 30 years ago compared to today's price. How about a pound of coffee or a loaf of bread? The cost of electricity is somewhat higher than it was 30 years ago. While this doesn't take the sting out of rising costs, electricity has typically increased at a rate lower than that of normal inflation.

Whenever you plug in an electrical device, flip on the TV or get a cold drink from the fridge, electricity remains a good value for the lifestyle we all enjoy.



EKPC

Here are some common household electronics and how much it typically costs to operate them:

- Refrigerator: 22¢ for 24 hours
- Ceiling fan: 10¢ for 24 hours
- Microwave: 2¢ for 5 minutes
- Phone charger: 50¢ for 1 year
- Dishwasher: 4¢ for 1 hour
- 40-inch HD TV: 4¢ for 2 hours

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration