

We put our energy here

Fleming-Mason Energy celebrates another year of community commitment

Powering communities is about more than just providing electricity. The work we do right here at home goes beyond power lines and meters to make meaningful connections with the people and places we serve.

We do this through thoughtful corporate giving, volunteering for great causes, and focusing on economic development to bring more and better opportunities to our communities.

Giving back builds stronger, more sustainable communities, which improves the quality of life for every Fleming-Mason Energy member. This goes to the very heart of why your cooperative exists.

As we close the books on 2025, it's gratifying to look back at some of the ways your co-op made meaningful impact in our communities.

EDUCATION:

- **Scholarships.** Twelve local students received a \$1,000 scholarship to achieve their educational goals at colleges and trade schools.
- **Classroom presentations.** Co-op employees presented 12 energy education, electrical safety and

environmental awareness programming at area schools and events.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT:

- **Economic development.** With Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, your co-op played a role in 381 economic development projects with over \$13 billion invested and 20,000 jobs created in the last decade.
- **Renewable energy.** Planning is underway to develop two new solar farms which can collectively meet the power needs of over 15,000 Kentucky homes.

PEOPLE

- **Special Olympics Kentucky.** Fleming-Mason Energy provided financial support and volunteers for the Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games in June.
- **Honor Flight.** We sponsored local veteran Philip Van Kersen of Morehead for Honor Flight, an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to view memorials erected in his honor.

In this season of giving, I thank our members who make it possible for Fleming-Mason Energy to energize



local communities. We'll do it again next year, and every year after that. It's one of our guiding principles, and those do not change.



Brandon Hunt
PRESIDENT & CEO

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.

Contact us:

In Fleming County:
(606) 845-2661

Other Counties:
(800) 464-3144

Hours:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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Energy efficiency

Holiday hack: Prep your fridge now

'Tis the season for gathering around the table with family and friends. Before the eating and drinking and fellowship unfolds, take some simple proactive steps to ensure your refrigerator operates efficiently while handling all the food you'll pack into it this holiday season.

- **Clean the coils.** Dirty condenser coils are one of the biggest causes of energy waste in fridges. Unplug the appliance, then use a vacuum or brush to remove dust and dirt from coils found at the back or bottom of the unit.
- **Check door seals.** Dirty or worn-out rubber door seals (or gaskets) allow cool air to leak out. Check for cracks or gaps by closing the fridge door on a dollar bill. If it slides out easily, consider replacing the seal.
- **Set the right temperature.** The U.S. Department of Energy recommends a temperature of 35-38 degrees in the

main refrigerator and zero degrees in the freezer to ensure food is kept fresh safely and efficiently.

- **Make room.** Promote air circulation and prevent heat buildup by providing 1 to 2 inches of space around the top, back and sides of the fridge exterior.
- **Take stock and purge.** To avoid overstuffing which can block airflow from vents, throw out expired items and consolidate containers to make room for extra holiday foods.
- **Fill carefully.** Keep the fridge about two-thirds to three-quarters full to maintain efficiency and adequate cooling.
- **Let leftovers cool.** Placing hot food in the fridge can raise the unit's interior temperature and force it to work harder. Allow food to reach room temperature before refrigerating.



ANDREY POPOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

12 safety tips for outdoor holiday decorating

Decorating for the holidays is one of the most-followed family traditions. Some folks start as early as October, planning for a long-lit display of holiday cheer.

But remember that climbing ladders and working with electricity can be dangerous if you're not careful.

Follow these tips from Fleming-Mason Energy to keep you, your family and guests safe around decorative displays.

- Use only lights, decorations and extension cords rated and designed for outdoor use.
- Plan your display according to the number and location of available electrical outlets, and avoid overloading them.
- Inspect and discard worn or damaged lights, decorations and extension cords.
- Be mindful of overhead power lines and utility poles. Keep yourself, your ladder and your decorations at least 10 feet away to prevent accidental contact.
- Secure cords to ground, buildings or trees with clips, hooks, zip ties or stakes. Don't use nails, tacks or staples that can damage cords.
- Invest in waterproof cord covers and ensure that all plug connections are away from low-lying areas, to prevent water damage.
- Plug outdoor electric lights into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters to reduce electric shock risk.
- Make sure spotlights used to light up decorations are well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from flammable items.
- Don't block sidewalks, driveways or entrances with decorations, which can create tripping hazards.
- Take down or secure decorations if severe weather is forecasted.
- Turn off all decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Remember all ladder safety precautions when decorating with a ladder, such as three points of contact at all times, not standing on the top or the top rung of the ladder and using a ladder that's the right size for the job.



KENTUCKY'S TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES



HOLIDAY DECORATING

Pet safety tips

Pet-proof your home to deter your cute and curious family members from encountering electrical dangers this holiday season.

Make sure the electric wires for the tree lights are secured to the branches and not loosely looped. If your cat is a curious climber, it could become entangled in loose cords that could burn or strangle it.

Protect the cord running from the tree to the outlet if your pet likes to chew it. Most hardware stores sell flexible electrical safety cables, covers and PVC conduit.

Visit your veterinarian immediately if you suspect your pet has chewed on a power cord and been shocked. Electric shocks are life threatening and are emergencies.

Festive fraud

Beware of holiday scams

The holidays are here, and while you may be merry and bright, scammers are hoping you're not paying attention while online. Don't let your defenses down and allow online fraudsters to gain access to your personal and financial information. Be on the lookout for:

Online shopping scams. Bogus websites and social media campaigns impersonate major brands and offer too-good-to-be-true deals. These ads entice you to pay for products you'll never receive. Always research before buying.

Credit card fraud. Fraudsters steal credit card information via data breaches, skimming and fake websites. Check bank statements and pending charges to ensure all purchases are yours. Check your online

banking often during periods where you're shopping more often, and ask anyone using your account about their purchases to coordinate.

Social media scams. Huge discounts for followers who share a post, close-out sales or unbelievable holiday deals are likely scams. Most of these posts deploy malware designed to obtain personal information.

Delivery scams. Scammers send out phishing emails and texts disguised as UPS, FedEx or U.S. Postal Service notifications about incoming or missed deliveries. Links lead to phony sign-in pages asking for personal information, or to sites that may be infested with malware. If you know you haven't ordered

from a company, or don't have a pending delivery, report the texts or emails as spam or fraudulent and delete them. Always log in to your account through the company website, not through a potentially fake email link.

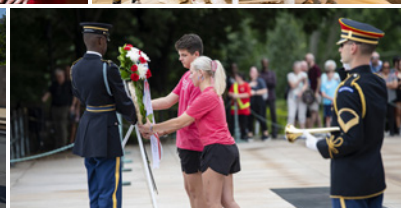
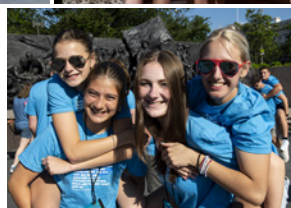
Charity scams. Beware phony charities that take advantage of the holiday giving spirit. Avoid the scammers by giving directly to your favorite local charity.

Fake contests or giveaways. Beware online promotions that award products, cash or an all-expenses-paid vacation in exchange for an "entry form" that requires personal or financial information. If you receive a suspicious text or email, avoid clicking any links, and make sure to mark the message as spam.



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PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

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