

## EARTH DAY 2018

# Celebrate the earth through our renewable energy programs

As spring weather brings new leaves from trees, greens the grass and paints the landscape brilliant colors, I am reminded how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful place.

And it makes me proud that Fleming-Mason Energy cares for our Kentucky home by providing clean, renewable energy that is delivered more reliably and affordably than ever before.

This year the renewable programs from Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have reached new heights because of Cooperative Solar Farm One. Located in Clark County, this 60-acre solar farm is one of the state's largest sun-to-electricity projects, featuring more than 32,000 panels. It produces enough electricity to supply all the power for about 1,000 typical Kentucky homes.

Participants in Cooperative Solar can buy a 25-year license at \$460 per panel to support renewable energy, and it's easy to sign up at [www.cooperativesolar.com](http://www.cooperativesolar.com).

We also offer a program called enviowatts. We started it back in 2003 when we built Kentucky's first renewable energy plants and used the gas from decaying landfill trash to make electricity. There are now six of these plants in the commonwealth. They are part of an expanded enviowatts program that gives members the option of supporting renewable power generated from wind, water or the sun.

I'm proud to tell you that enviowatts is both environmentally responsible and a cost-efficient way to produce power. For as little as \$2.75 a month, you can participate in this program. Learn more at [www.enviowattsky.com](http://www.enviowattsky.com).



*Bill Gatherwright checks one of the 32,000 panels in Cooperative Solar Farm One, which was built last year by Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Photo: Tim Webb*

With Earth Day taking place April 22, there's no better—or easier—way to celebrate our natural treasures than by investing in one of our clean, renewable energy programs.

At Fleming-Mason Energy, we don't just talk about taking care of our Kentucky home. We're doing it.

## At your service, 24/7

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



**Joni Hazelrigg**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## 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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GEOGRAFIKA

## Recycle, don't toss, used electronics

When you recycle or donate your used electronics, like computers, cell phones and flat screens, you do the environment a big favor.

Recycling 1 million laptops saves roughly the amount of energy it takes to power more than 3,500 homes in a year.

Even if the device isn't functioning, it still contains metals, plastics

and glass, which can be reused by someone else for another purpose. In fact, from 1 million useless cell phones, recyclers can reap 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium.

To find a place near you that recycles electronics, go online to [www.ecyclingcentral.com](http://www.ecyclingcentral.com).

## Save energy and celebrate

Earth Day—an annual celebration of the environment—is a good time to resolve to save some energy around your home. You can start this month by:

- Caulking around windows and doors to seal air leaks, and adding insulation to your attic. Both will prevent air-conditioned air from getting out of your house through the roof this summer. Wasting less energy is the easiest way to save it.

- Unplugging the TV, stereo, computer, printer and other electronics when you're not using them. Unplug cell phone chargers once you remove the phone.

- Replacing your old thermostat with a programmable model. You could save up to 10 percent on cooling and heating, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

# Can you dig it? Call 811 first!

Have you ever come home to find painted lines or little colored flags near your property?

Various colored flags identify what lies beneath the ground, and if you see flags it's possible your neighbor has called 811 to have underground utilities identified. If the flags are red, that means electricity lines are buried underneath.

There are all types of lines and pipes buried beneath the surface of the earth, and the flags on the surface indicate service lines for water, electricity and natural gas. So when you start planning to dig anywhere on your property, call 811 a few days before you break ground. Utility professionals will be dispatched to your home or business to determine the location of underground lines.

When you make the free call to 811 before you dig, you'll help prevent unintended consequences such as injury

to you or your family, damage to your property, utility service outages to the entire neighborhood and potential fines and repair costs.

Picking up the phone and calling 811 before you dig is the easy part.

The hard part is getting the shovel out and going to work after your underground line inspection is complete.

Fleming-Mason Energy is concerned for your safety. This spring, call 811 before you dig and be safe.



SHUTTERSTOCK

## Earth Day on April 22

- Investing in LED light fixtures. You'll save energy and you won't have to replace lightbulbs for up to 10 years.
- Lowering the water heater's temperature to 130 degrees. Wrap your electric water heater tank in a blanket designed to keep it warm so it will use less energy to heat the water.
- Washing clothes in cold water to save more than \$60 a year.
- Replace your air conditioner's filters before the cooling season begins. Clean filters help the system operate more efficiently.
- Put off using the air conditioner, especially at night, until the weather gets hotter. Open the windows instead and let the spring breezes into the house to keep you cool.





## ELECTRICAL SAFETY DURING SPRING PLANTING



# SPRING INTO SAFETY WHEN WORKING ON THE FARM

Spring has sprung in the Bluegrass state. It's planting season for many of the state's farmers. While you prepare to plant your crops, don't forget to spring into safety—especially when working around electricity.

### IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT, KNOW WHAT TO DO.

Safety tips for farmers to keep in mind this season:

- To prevent electrocution, make sure farm equipment (including planter arms and sprayers) safely clears overhead power lines. This tall equipment can easily become entangled in power lines. Keep at least a 10-foot distance from power lines in all directions.
- Contact 911 immediately if your equipment comes into contact with a guy wire or power pole.
- Water, dust and farming often go hand-in-hand. Install waterproof and dustproof electrical boxes and outlets at the farm.
- If a standby generator is used on a single-phase system, it must be connected to the farm's wiring system through a double pole, double-throw switch. The switch disconnects the farm's electrical system from the electric cooperative's lines during an outage and prevents backfeed—keeping linemen safe from the risk of electrocution.
- Finally, make sure full-time and seasonal farm workers are educated to stay safe on the farm. Each worker should be aware of the dangers and utilize proper safety procedures.

