

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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## South Kentucky RECC named Business of the Year

South Kentucky RECC has been named Business of the Year (101-200 Employees) by the Somerset Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, an honor presented during the Chamber's Annual Banquet. The event drew nearly 1,000 attendees, making it the largest crowd in the chamber's 101-year history.

Each year, the chamber recognizes businesses and individuals who strengthen the local economy and contribute to the success of the community. South Kentucky RECC was proud to be counted among this year's recipients.

"This recognition reflects the dedication and teamwork of our employees, who work every day to serve our members and communities," says Kevin Newton, president and CEO of South Kentucky RECC.

### A team effort, powered by people

South Kentucky RECC currently employs 134 people who serve in a wide range of roles essential to keeping the electric system reliable and responsive. These include lineworkers; service, field service and right-of-way technicians; and staff supporting accounting, human resources, member services, facilities, safety, information



technology, communications, engineering, system operations, materials, operations and transportation.

Together, these teams work collaboratively to ensure safe, dependable electric service and strong support for the cooperative's members and communities.

### What it means to be a cooperative

Unlike investor-owned utilities, South Kentucky RECC is a member-owned electric cooperative. All customers served by the cooperative are also member-owners, giving them a meaningful voice in how the organization operates. The cooperative is guided by a locally elected board of directors who live and work in the communities SKRECC serves.

Rather than focusing on profits for shareholders, SKRECC reinvests its resources into maintaining infrastructure, strengthening the electric system and planning for the future. The cooperative's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while supporting economic development, community growth and quality of life across its service territory.

### Rooted in history, focused on the future

South Kentucky RECC's story began with the effort to bring electricity to rural America. Formed on October 8, 1938, when 10 farmers met in Monticello to establish a rural electric cooperative, SKRECC energized its first lines on January 23, 1940. From a small rented office and limited resources, the

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cooperative steadily expanded to meet growing demand.

Today, SKRECC operates five offices and serves more than 70,000 electric meters, remaining true to its founding mission of local ownership and community service. In January 2024, Kevin Newton—a lifelong Pulaski County resident and more than 30-year SKRECC employee—was named president and CEO. Under his leadership, the cooperative continues to emphasize safety, reliability, affordability and community engagement. In April 2025, SKRECC surpassed 500,000 work hours without a lost-time accident, reflecting a strong culture of safety and excellence.

## Serving a wide and diverse region

South Kentucky RECC's service territory stretches across 13 counties in south-central Kentucky and northern Tennessee, with Pulaski County as its largest service area and home to more than 29,000 members. The cooperative maintains more than 7,000 miles of power lines across Pulaski, Wayne, Clinton, Russell, McCreary, and parts of Cumberland, Adair, Casey, Lincoln, Rockcastle and Laurel counties in Kentucky, as well as parts of Pickett and Scott counties in Tennessee, supporting a wide range of communities, landscapes and member needs.

## Resilience in the face of the storm

On May 16, 2025, a fast-moving storm caused widespread devastation across SKRECC's service territory, leaving nearly 27,000 accounts without power. An EF4 tornado struck the cooperative's headquarters, destroying the main office building and damaging nearby facilities. Critical systems were disrupted, but SKRECC employees acted quickly, relocating servers, restoring dispatch and communication systems in less than 48 hours, and beginning power restoration immediately.

Working alongside mutual aid crews from other cooperatives and contract crews, SKRECC replaced more than 250 poles and repaired miles of damaged power lines. While employees continue to serve members from temporary locations, construction of a new headquarters is underway, marking another step forward in the recovery.

## Honoring the people who made it happen

The days following the storm showcased the extraordinary dedication of SKRECC's lineworkers and employees. Crews worked long hours in dangerous conditions, navigating debris, downed trees, broken poles and twisted power lines, while other departments ensured logistics, communications and member services continued without interruption.

Despite the loss of facilities and disruptions to normal operations, employees across every department stepped up. Their professionalism, adaptability and commitment to one another and the membership exemplified the cooperative spirit at the heart of SKRECC.

## Committed to community

Community involvement is a cornerstone of South Kentucky RECC's mission. The cooperative supports more than 50 organizations, schools, teams and events each year and maintains partnerships with chambers of commerce across multiple counties. Through its employee-funded HOPE Fund, SKRECC provides monthly support to local charities, while also investing in youth and education through scholarships, the Washington Youth Tour, the WIRE Scholarship Program, and the WhoPowersYou Contest.

Employees also volunteer their time, participate in safety demonstrations at schools, and support causes such as Ronald McDonald House, Special Olympics and Honor Flight,

reinforcing SKRECC's deep connection to the communities it serves.

## Building a stronger tomorrow

To better serve its members, SKRECC continues to invest in technology, system upgrades, and member-focused services. A 24/7 Outage Center, SmartHub app, enhanced cybersecurity protections, modern communication systems and smart grid technologies all help improve reliability and response times. Ongoing right-of-way maintenance and mutual aid partnerships further strengthen the cooperative's ability to respond when it matters most.

South Kentucky RECC extends its appreciation to the Somerset Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce for the honor and to the employees who represented the cooperative at the event. The Business of the Year award stands as a reflection of SKRECC's enduring commitment to service, resilience and the communities we are proud to power.

## THANK YOU!

We are deeply thankful to the many individuals and organizations whose support helped us through Winter Storm Fern.

To our members: We humbly thank you for your patience, your prayers and the many acts of kindness shown as our crews worked to restore power. Your encouragement and understanding meant more than words can express.

To the businesses and community groups throughout our service territory who reached out during this major outage event: We are proud to serve such caring and supportive communities. This was a challenging time, and seeing so many come together to help us rise to the challenge truly warmed our hearts.

We are sincerely and forever grateful.

*The board of directors and employees of South Kentucky RECC*

# Local students recognized as Co-op Champions

Kentucky Electric Cooperatives recently recognized three outstanding students as Co-op Champions for their leadership, service and commitment to cooperative values. Addison Carr of Clinton County High School, Mattie Goley of Wayne County High School and Elise Meggs of Somerset Christian School earned the honor for their dedication to civic engagement and community involvement.

The students completed the Co-op Champions program, a leadership initiative that builds on the Electric Cooperative Washington Youth Tour experience. Grounded in the cooperative principles that guide Kentucky's member-owned electric cooperatives, the program encourages students to take initiative, serve others and develop skills as future leaders.

As part of the program, each student planned and hosted a Co-ops Vote

voter registration drive at their school. The nonpartisan Co-ops Vote initiative, led by America's electric cooperatives in partnership with Kentucky Secretary of State Michael Adams, promotes civic responsibility and voter participation. The registration drives encouraged eligible students who will be 18 by the 2026 general election to register to vote.

"Registering to vote is the first step to active citizenship," says Adams. "I commend these students for getting civically engaged at a young age."

Through the Co-op Champions program, Carr, Goley and Meggs gained hands-on leadership experience while helping strengthen civic engagement in their schools and communities, demonstrating the impact young leaders can make when guided by cooperative values.



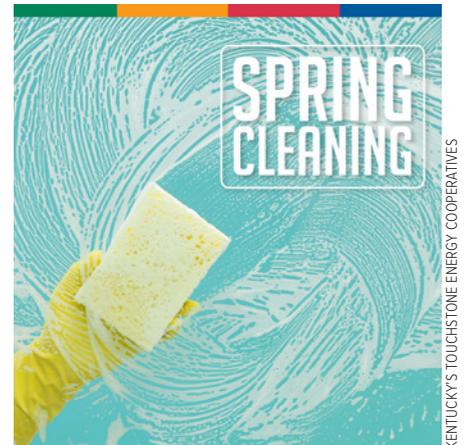
From left, Mattie Goley, Elise Meggs and Addison Carr. Photo: Justin Mayfield

## Spring clean for energy efficiency

*Add these five easy tasks to the to-do list*

It may still feel like winter outside, but spring arrives this month, and for many that means giving your home a good cleaning. Adding these simple tasks to the cleaning checklist will improve the energy efficiency of your home.

- 1. Vacuum air ducts and vents.** Cleaning out dust and dirt helps heating and cooling systems work more efficiently. It can also increase the system's lifespan, too.
- 2. Wash or replace air filters.** Clean air filters in your HVAC system improve air flow, which increases heating and cooling system efficiency. This one project can lower energy consumption by up to 15%. You should be changing air filters regularly to keep your system working at its best all year long.
- 3. Look for leaks.** As you wash windows and wipe down door frames, inspect them for cracks and openings where warm or cool air can leak out of the house, causing the heating and cooling system to work harder than necessary. Seal gaps with caulk, sealant or weather stripping.
- 4. Do some dusting.** Dust keeps electronics and motors from running at top efficiency. Wipe down your computer, office equipment, electronics, light bulbs and even refrigerator coils.
- 5. Clean the sliding door track.** If your home has a sliding glass door, clean out the track. Dirt and grit in the track can ruin the door's seal and create gaps where air can escape, increasing your energy usage and costing you money.



A few small spring-cleaning tasks can make a big difference in your home's energy consumption—helping you save both energy and money.

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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com) to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



**On the farm**

**Safety tips for farmers this planting season**

- Make sure farm equipment like planter arms and sprayers safely clear overhead power lines. Stay at least 20 feet away from power lines in all directions
- Consider asking your electric cooperative to move overhead lines around buildings or frequently used pathways.
- Keep a safe distance from power poles and guy wires.
- If your farm equipment becomes entangled with power lines, stay on the equipment, call 911, keep others away and stay calm.
- If you are planning a controlled burn, mow and remove vegetation at least 15 feet around any pole prior to burning. Apply fire retardant to the area as recommended by the manufacturer prior to the burn period.
- Prevent fires from passing under power lines, as smoke contains carbon particles that conduct electricity.

VALENTIN/KOVADOBE STOCK

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER**

Don't forget to spring forward on Sunday, **March 8!** While you're changing your clocks, take a moment to check and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors—it's a simple step that helps keep your home safe.

NRECA