

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • APRIL 2026

Rebuilding stronger for our members

In May of last year, an EF-4 tornado tore through our community and forever changed the landscape of South Kentucky RECC's Somerset Headquarters. In a matter of minutes, the building that had served our members for years was heavily damaged and ultimately lost.

What was not lost, however, was our commitment to the 72,000 members we proudly serve across the Lake Cumberland region.

"As devastating as that storm was, it never shook our purpose," says SKRECC President and CEO Kevin Newton. "Our mission has always been to serve our members, and that mission did not change when the winds stopped. If anything, it strengthened our resolve."

As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, South Kentucky RECC exists for one purpose: to serve you. Unlike investor-owned utilities, we do not answer to distant shareholders. We answer to our members, the families, farms and businesses who depend on us every day. Every decision we make, including how we rebuild, is guided by what best serves our local communities, not just today but for generations to come.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of that devastating storm, we pause to reflect not only on what happened, but also on the progress we have made and the future we are building together.



JUSTIN MAYFIELD

Construction of our new Somerset Headquarters is well underway. Members driving by can now see signs of progress as steel rises and the footprint of the new facility takes shape. In addition to the loss of the headquarters building, our warehouse and several other buildings on the property sustained significant damage and continue to undergo repairs.

While the new building will stand on the same site, it reflects thoughtful updates based on lessons learned and member feedback. This is not simply a replacement of what was lost. It is an investment in a stronger, more resilient future for our cooperative. The new headquarters will be one story instead of two, improving accessibility and operational efficiency. It is designed with enhanced safety and resilience in mind and built to better withstand future severe weather events. It will once again include drive-thru lanes for member convenience and feature a 24-hour payment kiosk, enabling members to conduct transactions at any time.

"Rebuilding gives us the opportunity to think long term," Newton adds. "This facility is being designed not just for today's needs, but for the next generation of members. It is about resilience, efficiency, and making sure we continue delivering the level of service our members expect and deserve."

Every element of the new facility has been designed with long-term service in mind, supporting operational efficiency, improving the member experience and ensuring our cooperative remains well positioned to serve a growing region for decades to come.

It is important for our members to know that South Kentucky RECC maintains comprehensive insurance coverage to address weather events of this nature. The storm damage and rebuilding of our headquarters are being handled through that coverage. Because of careful planning and strong financial stewardship, this rebuilding effort does not compromise the stability of your cooperative.

While construction continues, this

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year's annual membership day event for Pulaski County will once again be held offsite at the Somerset Mall, as it was last year. Hosting the event there allows us to safely accommodate members while our headquarters is under construction. There are no director board seats up for election this year, but we encourage members to attend, stay informed and take part in the cooperative process that keeps South Kentucky RECC strong.

Major weather events may damage

buildings, but they cannot destroy the cooperative spirit that defines us. Over the past year, we have continued delivering reliable power, responding to outages, investing in infrastructure and supporting the communities we call home. The rebuilding of our headquarters is more than a construction project. It is a forward-looking investment that reflects resilience, stewardship and our long-term commitment to serving you and future generations of members.

For more than 80 years, South Kentucky RECC has powered progress across Southern Kentucky. This new facility represents the next chapter in that legacy, built stronger, built smarter and built for the future.

We look forward to welcoming members back to a new, improved facility and to continuing the work of powering progress across southern Kentucky.

Together, we are stronger than the storm.



SK
South Kentucky
RECC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DAYS

June 9 Wayne and Clinton county offices	June 10 Russell and McCreary county offices	June 11 The Somerset Mall (Pulaski County)
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7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL



PHOTOS: SKRECC STAFF

WADE HARRIS

Stay alert for overhead hazards during planting season

It's almost planting time. As you begin the process of buying seed and getting equipment ready, we want you to think about electrical safety. South Kentucky RECC reminds our farmers to work smarter and safer this spring by being alert to the dangers of overhead power lines.

Take precautions when moving equipment around the farm, traveling down the road or planting in fields by:

- Looking up and around to keep yourself and equipment at least 20 feet from power lines. Don't forget that nonmetallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, too.
- Checking the height of farm machinery to be sure it can safely clear overhead lines. Lower equipment to its lowest level before moving or transporting. Remember that wind, uneven ground or other factors

outside of your control can cause equipment to contact power lines.

- Using spotters when operating large machinery near power lines. Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- Never attempting to raise or move power lines to clear a path for tall machinery. Doing so could result in electric shock or death. If power lines need to be raised or moved to help with moving large machinery this season, call the co-op at (800) 264-5112 so we can safely assist you.

If contact is made between farming equipment and overhead lines, guy wires or poles, stay in the cab and warn others to stay away. Call 911 to alert



KOAPAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

emergency services and call the co-op. Don't exit the equipment unless there's a fire or risk of fire.

If you must leave the equipment, jump—don't step—away, land with feet together and shuffle as far away as possible. Make sure both feet are always touching each other and touching the ground. Don't touch the ground and the equipment at the same time.

When heading back to the fields, take a safety-first approach to kick off your season with a good start.

The people behind the power

April 13 is National Lineworker Appreciation Day

Weathering the storm is just another day at the office for South Kentucky RECC's lineworkers.

On April 13, National Lineworker Appreciation Day, we proudly recognize the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to keep the lights on and deliver safe, reliable electricity to our members.

On a typical blue-sky day, our line crews respond to service requests and complete projects that strengthen the system and enhance reliability across our service area.

They are also the first responders of our electric system. When severe weather strikes—bringing lightning, high

winds, ice, extreme heat or bitter cold—lineworkers step into challenging and often dangerous conditions to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Their training, skill and commitment keep electricity flowing to the homes, farms and businesses we serve.

Linework isn't a profession suited for everyone, but we are incredibly grateful it is the chosen path for these dedicated individuals. Whether performing routine maintenance or responding to emergencies, our members can depend on them to provide safe, reliable service.

The 47 members of South Kentucky RECC's line team construct, operate and maintain nearly 7,000 miles of power



BRANDON WESLEY

lines and essential equipment throughout our service area. Their work powers our communities and strengthens the place we all call home.

Board of Directors

Brent Tackett, Chairman
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Clinton County
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McCreary County
51 Center Ave., Whitley City, KY 42653
(606) 376-5997

Pulaski County—Temporary Address
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(606) 678-4121

Russell County
2405 N. Main St., Jamestown, KY 42629
(270) 343-7500

Wayne County
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(606) 348-6771

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Visit www.skrecc.applicantpro.com/jobs/ to explore exciting career opportunities with the South Kentucky RECC Team.

South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit 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:



\$1,000 scholarships available

Women In Rural Electrification will award three \$1,000 scholarships this year to eligible Kentucky college students.

Kentucky WIRE is an organization of wives of rural electric cooperative directors, managers and other key employees. Its goal is to further the public's understanding and appreciation of the rural electric program.

The scholarships are open to any applicant who meets the following criteria:

- Family of student(s) must be served by a Kentucky rural electric cooperative, such as South Kentucky RECC.
- Student(s) must have completed one semester in college and have at

least 60 credit hours by the end of the 2026 spring college term. Student(s) must be in good standing at the time of the award. (Electric cooperative employees, directors, managers, and their relatives are not eligible.)

- Student(s) must attend a Kentucky college or university.

The deadline to apply is June 5, 2026. Scholarship recipients will be notified in July.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, career goals, recommendations from professors and community leaders, and financial need.

For more information or to apply, visit www.skrecc.com/scholarships.



GIVE CREWS LOTS OF ROOM

It's the law

National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 20-24. Be mindful of lineworkers on the job.

- **Work zones also include utility crews who work along the roadsides** to build, repair and maintain the highway of electric power lines.
- When motorists see the orange work zone warning signs and vehicles with flashing amber lights, **they should slow down and prepare for the zone ahead.**
- **Kentucky law requires motorists to approach cautiously and change lanes away from the emergency vehicles if they can do so safely.** If not, they should reduce their speed to 10 mph under the posted speed limit and proceed with caution.

JOSH HESS