

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • JULY 2026

A revolution worth celebrating

This month, America celebrates the 250th anniversary of the *Declaration of Independence*, a milestone that honors the courage and determination of those who dared to imagine something new. Their belief in independence, equality and self-determination created a nation and changed the course of history.

More than 150 years later, those same values inspired another transformation that would forever change life across rural America.

In the 1930s, electricity was commonplace in cities, but many rural families still lived without power. Bringing electricity to the farms, homes and communities of Southern Kentucky seemed nearly impossible. Private utilities had little incentive to build miles of power lines to serve a handful of rural customers, leaving many communities without access to one of the most important innovations of the modern age.

The solution came from the people who lived here.

Local farmers, business leaders and community members came together with a shared belief that rural families deserved the same opportunities as everyone else. They organized, invested in their future and created South Kentucky RECC. What began in 1938 with a small group of determined individuals and a simple vision has grown into a cooperative serving more than 70,000

members across South Central Kentucky.

Today, that same spirit of cooperation remains at the heart of South Kentucky RECC. While the tools and technologies have changed, the mission has not. Just as our cooperative's founders worked to bring electricity to every

corner of the region, today's employees work every day to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to the communities they serve. Crews maintain more than 7,000 miles of power lines, respond to outages, upgrade infrastructure and prepare the system to meet future energy needs.

Rural electrification was never just about turning on the lights: it was about creating opportunity. That mission continues today as South Kentucky RECC supports economic growth, strengthens communities and invests in infrastructure for future generations. Reliable electricity remains one of the most important foundations for attracting businesses, supporting local jobs and improving quality of life throughout the region.



Early cooperative employees work on Kentucky's transmission system, helping expand reliable electric service to rural communities. Investments like this laid the foundation for the communities and economy we serve today. Photo: EKPC Archives

As families gather to celebrate Independence Day, it is worth reflecting on how cooperation, self-governance and a commitment to the common good helped build both our nation and the rural electric cooperatives that continue to serve communities today.

America's 250th anniversary is a celebration of freedom, progress and possibility. For nearly nine decades, South Kentucky RECC has carried forward the cooperative spirit that brought electricity to rural Kentucky. What began as a bold idea pursued by local residents continues today through a commitment to serving members, strengthening communities and powering opportunity across the region.

That is a legacy we are proud to continue.

Ensuring reliability

Providing reliable power to our members 24/7, 365 days a year, is our job here at South Kentucky RECC. It's also why our wholesale power supplier, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, is in the process of building four electricity generation projects. South Kentucky RECC and 15 other Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are excited about the new generation that will come online in the next few years because it will ensure reliable power for our communities.

EKPC, in partnership with its member co-ops, is investing more than \$2 billion in a range of new projects meant to address Kentucky's growing demand for electricity and to safeguard reliability and competitive rates.

EKPC forecasts the need for electricity will continue growing and exceed the capacity of its current generation facilities by the end of this decade. During the winters of 2022–23 and 2023–24, EKPC set new all-time peak demand records due to extreme cold events when large amounts of electricity were being used for heating.



Projects coming soon to serve co-op members include:

- A new 214-megawatt, natural gas-fueled power plant called Liberty Station in Casey County. Targeted operation: December 2028.
- A new 745-megawatt natural gas unit at EKPC's Cooper Station near Somerset. Construction is expected to begin later this year.
- Co-firing with natural gas, a 225-megawatt unit at Cooper Station to generate power from both coal and gas.

Targeted operation: December 2029.

- Converting the 1,340-megawatt, four-unit Spurlock Station in Maysville to generate power from both coal and gas. Targeted operation: December 2029.

"We're building for the future," says South Kentucky RECC President & CEO Kevin Newton. "These innovative, flexible electric generating facilities will help South Kentucky RECC ensure our continued ability to deliver the energy you need, when you need it."

Don't fall for summer home repair scams

As temperatures rise, so do reports of door-to-door home repair scams.

Contractors may show up uninvited, claiming your air conditioner is about to fail or your roof was damaged in a recent storm. Some even say they are already working in your neighborhood and can offer a today-only deal.

Don't fall for it. These high-pressure tactics are designed to push homeowners into quick decisions. Warning signs include requests for large upfront payments, insistence on cash, lack of a written estimate or no verifiable business address. In some cases, scammers may pose as utility workers and ask to check your meter or demand payment to avoid service shutoff.

Before agreeing to any work, take a few minutes to verify the company. Ask for a license number and proof of insurance. Look up the business independently and check for reviews or complaints. Legitimate contractors will provide written estimates and allow time for questions.

If something feels off, it probably is. Taking a pause can protect both your home and your wallet during the busiest repair season of the year.



Give everyday items to make a difference

South Kentucky RECC members and employees are once again lending a helping hand to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Lexington, an organization dedicated to providing care and resources to local families when they need it most.

Throughout July, we're collecting items to stock pantry shelves at the Lexington Ronald McDonald House, which provides lodging, meals and comfort to loved ones of children receiving medical treatment at an area hospital.

“By donating everyday items like paper towels and snacks to Ronald McDonald House, we help provide a home-away-from-home for families and make it easier for them to focus on their child’s recovery,” says Morghan Blevins, SKRECC’s communications manager.

The Ronald McDonald House is just like a home, needing the basics to comfort and support families. To help keep the house running, we’re collecting:

- Shelf-stable microwavable meals



- Individually packaged snacks and crackers
- Breakfast foods like bars and flavored oatmeal packs
- Drinks—K-Cup coffee pods and cases of bottled water
- Travel-size personal care items – deodorant, soap, lotion
- Food storage supplies—aluminum foil, plastic wrap, zipper plastic bags
- Cleaning supplies—paper towels, trash bags, disinfectant wipes

- Toilet paper
- Laundry pods

All donated items must be new and unopened. A detailed wish list can be viewed at rmhclxington.com (click on Get Involved, then Wish List).

Bring your donated items to your local South Kentucky RECC district office or the SKRECC Payment and Service Center located in The Somerset Mall by Friday, July 31.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

250th
ANNIVERSARY

★★ 1776 – 2026 ★★

SKRECC offices will be closed on Friday, July 3.

For outages, please call (800) 264-5112 for Dispatch.

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Discovering South Kentucky is a newsletter insert to *Kentucky Living* magazine and is published by the Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, Louisville, KY, and by South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, P.O. Box 910, Somerset, KY 42502, (606) 678-4121.

Address all correspondence to: Discovering South Kentucky, P.O. Box 910, Somerset, KY 42502.

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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.

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Celebrate National Grilling Month with safe outdoor cooking practices

July marks National Grilling Month, the height of summer and the perfect time to celebrate the art of outdoor cooking. Beyond great tasting food, outdoor grilling can cut down power use by keeping the stove off, which keeps your home cooler during the hottest months. Your air conditioning doesn't have to work as hard when the kitchen stays cool. That helps lower your usage in the hotter months.

South Kentucky RECC shares these tips for safe grilling:

1. Pick a safe spot. Set up your grill at least 10 feet from your home, deck railings and tree branches. Choose a level spot away from foot traffic. Never use a grill in an enclosed area like a garage.
2. Take care with charcoal. Only use starter fluid made for charcoal grills and never add fluid to an open flame. After cooking, let coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.
3. Look for leaks. When using a gas grill, test for a gas leak by applying an even mix of water and dish soap to the hose and connections. If bubbles appear, there is a leak. Always open the lid before lighting to avoid a buildup of gas.
4. Pay attention. Never leave a hot grill unattended. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.
5. Clean regularly. Dirty grills are one of the top causes of grill fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Skipping regular cleanings can also affect how well your grill works.

This month, get grilling—safely—to save energy.



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