

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • APRIL 2020

## Tackling a big project

Story and Photos by Joy Bullock

South Kentucky RECC works on a number of projects daily. While some are smaller projects, such as building a line to a new residence, there are times that the scope of some projects is quite larger.

This is the case with the KY 461/KY 80 interchange in eastern Pulaski County. The \$69.3 million improvement project will enhance regional mobility and provide a safer, free flowing connection between I-75, Cumberland Parkway and the future Somerset Northern Bypass. Construction for the project is set to begin September 2020 with an anticipated completion date of mid-2023.

South Kentucky RECC Special Projects Engineer Bruce Parkey says there is a great deal of work involved in prepping for a project of this magnitude.

“South Kentucky RECC received a letter from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet requesting all utility companies involved be present at a joint utility meeting in January 2019. This included electric, telephone, cable, water, gas, sewer and so forth. At that meeting, they presented their plans to us, then requested us to get estimates for relocation of our poles and wires.”

Parkey says, so far, SKRECC employees have logged almost 200 hours preparing the estimates for

the number of poles needed, contractor costs and right-of-way clearing for utility relocation. In addition, he says he has spent time at the job site working with communication utilities on our plans because, in many instances, they use our poles to attach their communication cables. These are known as joint-use agreements.

He adds that the co-op has approximately 131 poles that are affected by the KY 461/KY 80 interchange. Parkey says some poles are being relocated, while others are being removed completely.

South Kentucky RECC Vice President of Engineering and Operations Kevin Newton says utility relocations are a substantial part of a road project like this one.

“We have to have our physical plant—meaning poles and wires and transformers—moved prior to the actual start of the road



SKRECC Special Projects Engineer Bruce Parkey, left, and Vice-President of Engineering and Operations Kevin Newton review plans and discuss the KY 461/KY 80 interchange project.

Whether the project is small or large, South Kentucky RECC works hard to be a partner in power and everything that it encompasses, including the best service to the members now and far into the future.

Work is underway by contractors to relocate or remove South Kentucky RECC poles for the interchange project in eastern Pulaski County.

construction. Our employees can start immediately, once the state approves the project, on anything located on state right-of-way. The rest will have to wait until the state can acquire the properties that are involved in the project. Once the state owns these properties, we can access them to relocate their facilities.”

Parkey says contractors have begun working on facilities where right-of-entry has been acquired.

The co-op expects to finish its work on the project by May.

Whether the project is small or large, South Kentucky RECC works hard to be a partner in power and everything that it encompasses, including the best service to the members now and far into the future. **DSK**



## 6 Easy Ways to Pay

South Kentucky RECC offers a number of ways to pay your bill remotely to reflect the “social distancing” advocated by health officials because of COVID-19.

**Stay home to pay!** If you have questions about any of these options, please call us at (800) 264-5112.

**Online at: [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com)**

Auto Pay | E-Check | Credit Card

**Direct Withdrawal**

**24-Hour Kiosk:**

Located at Somerset location:  
Accepting Cash, Check or Credit Card

**Smart Phone App:**

SKRECC at Play or App Stores

**Enroll in PrePay program**

**Interactive Voice Response (IVR)**

**Questions? Call (800) 264-5112**

# Celebrating Earth Day the co-op way

Since 1970, people around the world have celebrated Earth Day on April 22. Events and acts of conservation occurring on this day remind us all of the need to care for our planet. But what about the rest of the year?

At South Kentucky RECC, every day—all 365 of them—is Earth Day. Caring for the community, which includes conserving and protecting Kentucky's natural treasures, is among the principles by which SKRECC operates.

It's why SKRECC supports clean, renewable energy. The co-op has long used hydropower—such as that generated from Wolf Creek Dam in Russell County—to supply a portion of the electricity used. SKRECC and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives were also the first in Kentucky to build renewable power plants fueled by methane from landfills.

More recently, we helped to build one of Kentucky's largest solar projects where more than 32,300 photovoltaic panels harvest the sun to power local homes. South Kentucky RECC members can license one of these solar panels and receive credit on their monthly electric bill for 25 years. Learn details and get

pricing at [www.cooperativesolar.com](http://www.cooperativesolar.com), or call your local office and ask to speak to an energy advisor.

## Caring for Kentucky

South Kentucky RECC also cares for the environment by protecting birds and animals native to our area. Through our peregrine falcon program, we provide a home high above one of our power plants to give these rare birds a safe place to nest. We've also established nesting boxes for American kestrels, small falcons native to Kentucky.

Plant conservation efforts protect rare and native plants, such as the blazing star, which grow under South Kentucky RECC power lines. Co-op employees built a habitat for pollinators that are essential for plant reproduction.

We're sharing our passion for environmental stewardship with area students, as well. SKRECC sponsors Conservation Clubhouse, a free, educational program offered to fourth grades at local schools. It teaches children about reptiles and amphibians found in our state, as well as safety.

## Celebrate with us

You can join South Kentucky RECC in celebrating Earth Day every day



by supporting the renewable energy programs. Sign up for envirowatts to invest in the solar, wind, biomass and hydro projects. Or check out the solar calculator at [www.cooperativesolar.com](http://www.cooperativesolar.com) to determine how many panels are needed for your home or business.

Enjoy celebrating Earth Day on April 22. But don't let the calendar stop you from celebrating it every day—just as South Kentucky RECC does.



**www.skrecc.com**  
**(800) 264-5112**

*We offer...*  
the full spectrum of  
renewable energy options

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**RECC**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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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:**



# Annual Meeting 2020

Coming to a district office near you...

**Wayne County office, Monday, June 8**

**Clinton County office, Tuesday, June 9**

**Russell County office, Tuesday, June 9**

**McCreary County office, Wednesday, June 10**

**All office registration times are 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

- Free bucket and LED bulbs for registering members
- Register for door prizes at each office
- Information about SKRECC services
- Free hot dog, chips and water



**Thursday, June 11 • Somerset headquarters**

**Gospel music with Crossroads Quartet at 6 p.m.**

**Registration begins at 4 p.m.; Business meeting at 7 p.m.**

In addition to regular door prizes, you can register to win a 2011 four-wheel-drive Ford Ranger pickup with a topper.



**You must be present at the June 11 Somerset meeting to register for and win the truck.**



**Drive thru registration at Somerset only  
June 11, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.**

**Somerset office will be open June 11  
from 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.**

**District offices will be open June 11 from  
7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.**