



## Is your information up to date?

To be able to best serve you, it is essential that we have the most up-to-date information available. We ask that all members ensure we have both your 911 address and your billing address, as well as updated phone numbers.

If you are unsure whether or not your 911 address has been provided, look to your monthly bill. At the top of the page, there is a section labeled "Service Address."

If this section is incorrect or left blank, please call your local PVEC office to update.

## Reminder

Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship deadline: **April 1.**

## Fiber Update Info

as of 1/15/2024

Miles of backbone – 1,801

Services installed to the home – 8,471

### CONTACT US

420 Straight Creek Road, P.O. Box 1528  
New Tazewell, TN 37824

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Web

pve.coop



Email

info@pve.coop

### Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

### Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

### General Manager

Brad Coppock

### Director of Operations

Travis Tolliver

### Jonesville Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton

### Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Tyler DeBusk

*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an  
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

## Co-op Careers

When young people are asked what they want to be when they grow up, most don't mention a career at their local electric co-op. I'd like to change that. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative provides a critical service to its communities and offers diverse career paths that cater to a range of skills and interests.

### PATHS

One of the biggest advantages of pursuing a career at a co-op is the variety of paths available. Whether you have a penchant for engineering, finance, linework or community outreach, there's a role for you. Skilled lineworkers build, maintain and repair electrical infrastructure, ensuring uninterrupted power supply to homes and businesses. Engineers design and optimize systems, while professionals in finance and administration ensure the smooth operation of the business. Cooperative leaders build connections between the co-op and the communities we serve. As our industry becomes more advanced, our need for skilled programmers and network security experts grows. The possibilities are vast, providing individuals with the chance to align their passion with a fulfilling career.

### POSSIBILITIES

Looking to the future, career opportunities at electric co-ops are promising. The growing demand for electricity and the increasing electrification of our economy, coupled with technological advancements, opens up new opportunities for innovation and specialization. As the energy landscape evolves, co-ops adapt, creating needs for skilled professionals in emerging fields. This translates to



## Manager's Message

**Brad Coppock**  
General Manager

job stability for employees, offering a sense of security as they contribute to the essential service of powering communities.

**As the energy landscape evolves, co-ops adapt, creating needs for skilled professionals in emerging fields.**

### PASSION

One of the main differences that set careers at electric cooperatives apart is the deep sense of passion our employees often bring to their roles. Our team members share a commitment to serving their communities. This shared purpose fosters a unique workplace culture where employees take pride in their contributions to the well-being of their neighbors and friends. The work that we do matters, and it impacts everyone in our communities.

Careers at electric cooperatives offer a diverse range of opportunities, promising job stability and a sense of purpose rooted in service. It is our hope that young people entering the workforce will consider a career in the co-op. Whether you're drawn to the technical intricacies of power distribution or the community-focused aspects of outreach, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative provides a fulfilling environment for individuals passionate about making a difference in the lives of others.

# Safety Tips

Shane Bunch  
Safety Coordinator



As you embark on the annual ritual of spring cleaning, it's essential to not only declutter your living space, but also ensure a safe environment for you and your loved ones. Here is a comprehensive guide to integrating electrical safety into your spring-cleaning routine.

**1. Dust off the outlets.** Begin your electrical safety journey by dusting off electrical outlets and switches. A clean surface reduces the risk of electrical fires caused by dust accumulation.

**2. Inspect electrical cords.** Inspect the cords of your electronic devices and appliances for any signs of wear, fraying or damage. Replace damaged cords promptly to avoid electrical hazards.

**3. Declutter the power strips.** If you are utilizing power strips to accommodate multiple devices, ensure they're not overloaded. Declutter the area around power strips to prevent overheating and potential fire risks.

**4. Ventilate electronic spaces.** Electronic devices, especially those that generate heat, require proper ventilation. Ensure that devices like computers and gaming consoles have sufficient airflow to prevent overheating.

**5. Look at your lighting.** Clean light fixtures and replace any burned-out bulbs. Ensure light fixtures and bulbs are compatible and meet safety standards.

**6. Inspect your appliances.** Before stowing away winter appliances, such as heaters or electric blankets, give them a thorough inspection. Ensure they're in good working condition, and store them safely to prevent damage.

**7. Don't forget outdoor safety.** If your spring cleaning extends to outdoor areas, be cautious around electrical fixtures. Be sure to inspect outdoor outlets for any damage, and keep electrical appliances away from water sources, such as pools, ponds and water spigots.

**8. Maintain your dryer vent.** Clean out your dryer vent to prevent lint buildup, a common cause of electrical fires. Ensure the vent is clear, allowing your dryer to operate efficiently and safely.

**9. Childproof the electrical outlets.** If you have young children, use spring cleaning as an opportunity to ensure electrical outlets are childproofed. Install outlet covers to prevent curious fingers from exploring potentially dangerous spaces.

**10. Schedule professional inspections.** For a comprehensive electrical safety check, consider scheduling a professional inspection. An electrician can identify potential issues that may not be visible during routine cleaning.



## Maintaining the Cooperative's Rights-of-Way

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is responsible for maintaining the rights-of-way along its more than 3,700 miles of transmission and distribution power lines. After extensive evaluation, PVEC has determined that the best and most effective way to maintain its rights-of-way includes the herbicide ground-spraying program. The cooperative has been very pleased with the results of this program and believes that you, as co-op members, will be impressed with the results as well.

As a landowner, you have the right to take care of your own property. If a landowner does not want herbicides used on his or her property, PVEC will provide the landowner the opportunity to clear his or her own property to PVEC's specifications. This clearing must be done at the property owner's expense. A landowner choosing to clear his or her own right-of-way must remember that working around power lines is extremely dangerous and should only be done by someone specially trained and qualified for that type of work.

Members affected by the 2024 right-of-way program will be notified through their electric bills. If you have questions or comments about this program, feel free to give us a call at your local area office: Jonesville, 276-346-6003; Sneedville, 423-733-2207; or Tazewell, 423-626-5204. This herbicide application is one of the many efforts used by PVEC to provide maximum reliability of service at the lowest possible rates.

## Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed March 29 in observance of Good Friday. Our best wishes to all of you for a blessed Easter! As always, PVEC dispatchers will be on duty throughout the holiday weekend to take your emergency calls.

# Resolve to Save Energy

New Year's Day is far behind us, but it's never too late to resolve to break bad habits and start good ones.

At the top of the springtime list: energy-saving habits. Experts say the best way to start a new habit and make it stick is to start small. Here are a handful of simple, small steps you and your family can take to create your new energy-efficiency habits:



**1.** At the top of the list, of course, is to turn off lights, TVs and other electronics when you're not using them. On your way out of any room, switch everything off.

**2.** Turn on ceiling fans when you enter a room and turn them off when you leave. Ceiling fans make the people in the room feel cooler but have no function in an empty room.

**3.** Once it's warm enough to turn on the AC, inch the thermometer up 1 degree each week. As your family gets used to slightly warmer indoor temperatures, you can see some real savings on cooling costs.

**4.** Use bathroom and stove exhaust fans for only a few minutes at a time, until the smoke or steam has cleared. While exhaust fans expel heat and humidity from a room, they also suck air-conditioned air out if you run them longer than necessary.

## PVECFiber Options

Leased wireless routers are available at an additional monthly fee of \$5.00.

100/100 Mbps  
\$59.95 per month

700/700 Mbps  
\$89.95 per month

500/500 Mbps  
\$79.95 per month

1 Gig / 1 Gig  
\$99.95 per month

Unlimited phone service is also available for \$24.99 per month.

# Years-of-Service Awards

Three Powell Valley Electric Cooperative employees recently celebrated service anniversaries with the cooperative. Employees receive awards beginning with their fifth year of employment and at five-year intervals thereafter.

LeeAnn Dalton was presented her service anniversary award by Billing Supervisor Lisa Tarver. Dalton is a customer service representative and has served the members of PVEC for five years.

Carl Hilton was presented his service anniversary award by Director of Operations Travis Tolliver. Hilton works with the right-of-way program and has served PVEC members for 15 years.

Bobby Johnson was presented his service anniversary award by Director of Operations Travis Tolliver. Johnson is a crew leader and has served PVEC members for 30 years.



LeeAnn Dalton – 5 years of service award presented by Lisa Tarver.



Carl Hilton – 15 years of service award presented by Travis Tolliver.



Bobby Johnson – 30 years of service award presented by Travis Tolliver.



## A Balanced Team for Reliability

**T**he winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting 3-pointers, and some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that, too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy — if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent 3-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is

shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team with different skills to handle various situations and scenarios.

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity — or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow. But creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.

Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy.