



## Annual Meeting Events

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for attending the 2022 Annual Meeting. Your participation and support are greatly valued and appreciated. Look for comments and photos from the Annual Meeting in the November/December issue of *Cooperative Living*.

## Fiber Update Info as of 8/22/2022

Miles of backbone – 1,801  
Services installed to the home – 4,609

### CONTACT US

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### Office Hours

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

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info@pve.coop

### Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

### Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

### General Manager

Brad Coppock

### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Ronnie Williams

### Jonesville Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton

### Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

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

## Power in Purpose

Vince Lombardi, famed coach of the Green Bay Packers, once said, “Success demands singleness of purpose.” The purpose of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative — the reason we exist — is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy and improve the lives of the people we serve.

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to consider how our purpose impacts almost everything we do.

Co-ops are member-owned. Electric co-ops like Powell Valley Electric Cooperative are owned by the people we serve, not by the government or investors. Co-op members elect directors to represent their interests and set policy and procedures for the co-op. This focus on our members makes co-ops far more responsive to the people and places we serve.

Co-ops are not-for-profit. Co-ops serve their communities instead of shareholders. We distribute and sell energy to our members at cost and invest excess revenues back into the electric system. All of this means that our members pay less for energy — 15% below the national average.

Co-ops are community-focused. Electric co-ops work to improve everyday life in our rural and suburban



## Manager's Message

Brad Coppock  
General Manager

communities. We do this through reliable energy and investments in education and community development.

Later this month we will participate in the Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service, which is an intentional effort for the state's electric cooperatives to get our hands dirty by serving our communities. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative will be hosting a luncheon for first responders. This is a small but real example of the many ways our co-op impacts the communities we serve.

According to Coach Lombardi, if you wish to be successful, you need to first identify your one true purpose.

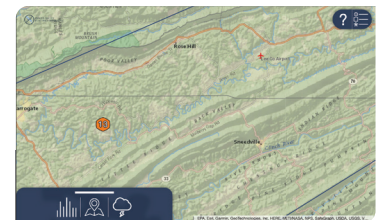
PVEC is successful because we have identified that purpose. It is not serving shareholders in another state. It is not making a profit. It is not pushing a political agenda.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and people-focused.

Our one true purpose is serving our members, and I hope that is seen in everything we do.

## Restoration Updates

As the weather changes, it is inevitable we will face the occasional storm. Unfortunately, this can cause power outages. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative recognizes the importance of having the most up-to-date information. This is why PVEC's website features an outage map. The map displays the locations of any current service interruptions. To report an outage, contact your local area office.



PVEC Outage Map

• Jonesville: 276-346-6003 • Sneedville: 423-733-2207 • New Tazewell: 423-626-5204



# Safety Tips

**Ronnie Williams**  
Tazewell Area Supervisor

I'm proud to say that our team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative keeps the power on about 99.94% of the time. That makes your power something you can rely on almost all the time.

Unfortunately, there are times (about 0.06% of the time) that storms, car accidents, equipment failures and other issues can knock out your power. I know that being without power is a real inconvenience, and that's why some homeowners have generators to keep things going until our crews can get the power back on.



Depending on the size, generators can power lights, cell phones or even your entire house in the case of a power outage.

If you have a generator, it is critical that you use it safely. Here are some tips from PVEC and the American Red Cross to keep you, our lineworkers and your neighbors safe:

- If you are connecting a generator to your home's wiring, please be aware that PVEC requires owners of generators, solar panels, wind turbines or other electric generation equipment that is connected to the power distribution grid to notify their local power company and to install an automatic disconnect switch that is accessible to the local utility. Improperly installed generators can "backfeed," or push high voltage back onto the power grid, creating a dangerous situation for our lineworkers, first responders and the general public.

- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry, and do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure such as a tarp held up on poles. Do not touch the generator with wet hands.

- Only use a generator outdoors. Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other device fueled by gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Keep these devices outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come inside.

If you have any questions about safely using a generator as a backup power supply, feel free to contact your local Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office for more information.

# It's Only October: Should You Turn On the Heat?



PHOTO COURTESY NEST

It's tempting to declare the first downright chilly evening of the autumn the official first day of heating season. Before you turn the heat on at home, however, consider these alternative ways to warm up and conserve energy:

- Bundle up in layers of clothing, a sweater or a cozy throw while you're watching TV in the evenings.
- Throw a couple of extra blankets on each bed to keep everyone toasty warm overnight.
- Run ceiling fans in the bedrooms. If you reverse the spin of the blades to clockwise, they will push warm air — which rises — back down into your room.
- Open the drapes/curtains/blinds on sunny days to let the sun's warmth into your rooms. The fabric on furniture and carpets will absorb and retain some of the heat into the evenings. Close the window coverings once the sun goes down, though, so cool air can't get into the house.
- Gather everyone into a single room for some family fun and run a space heater in that room only.
- Wear socks or shoes indoors. Keeping your feet warm will help your whole body feel warmer.
- Do household chores after dark. The movement involved with the work will keep you warm. Also, running your dishwasher, washing machine and clothes dryer after dark will add a bit of heat to the air.
- Resist the temptation to warm up your home by lighting a fire in your wood-burning fireplace. Most of the heat it produces goes up the chimney, along with any warm air that's already in the house.

Don't turn on your heater until you really need it this fall. Instead, conserve some energy by keeping your family warm in other ways.

# The Electric Co-op History of Innovation

**D**id you know one of the most cutting-edge places for technology is right up the road at your local electric cooperative?

That's right! Innovation isn't happening just in computer labs or on satellites rocketing into space. Electric co-ops lead even the highly-technical electric utility industry in such fast-changing areas as renewable energy and installation of AMI metering that allow the more efficient use of electricity.

While it may seem surprising to think of your electric co-op as a high-tech leader, it's part of a way of doing business that has been finding new approaches to solving modern problems for nearly 100 years.



Records of the Rural Electrification Administration, Record Group 221; National Archives at College Park, MD.

## MAKING LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS

In fact, electric co-ops were originally created to solve one of the most basic and complex of needs and desires — making light out of darkness.

That legacy still works today, and it's why time is set aside each October to recognize National Co-op Month. It's a reminder that business succeeds not just through competition, but also through cooperation.

As a result of the member-owned cooperative form of business, co-ops stand out in many areas of the electric utility industry. They lead the way in community solar — an initiative in which the co-op utility builds a solar array that is supported by interested co-op members buying shares of the project.

Electric vehicles are getting a boost from co-ops as well, with many placing charging stations in public parks and other rural locations.

Just as co-ops first brought electricity to unserved rural areas nearly a century ago, today many of them are working to bring high-speed internet service to their local communities.

In the early part of the last century, America's cities were being transformed by this new thing called electricity. But outside the municipal boundaries, people could only look with envy at the glow from over the horizon. Setting poles and stringing power lines miles outside of town for one or two customers was deemed too expensive.

Luckily, go-getters in America's rural communities believed they could solve the problems that kept the power companies from connecting them to modern society. They called their friends and neighbors together and started forming their own utilities. They were community-based organizations, democratically-run, not-for-profit businesses called cooperatives. Today, there are more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.

It wasn't easy, especially at first. They got a huge boost when, after getting the attention of some key politicians, the federal government created the Rural Electrification Administration. The REA made loans available, helping finance expensive utility construction. It provided technical consulting, developing engineering techniques to carry electricity longer distances. The agency drew up model co-op bylaws and even went on the road with tent shows to demonstrate how to use the latest conveniences like electric ovens and washing machines.

## A TRUE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

But the biggest innovation is simply the co-op itself, and the notion of a utility with only one mission — to make life better for its members, who are also its customers. Electric co-ops didn't spring from a national directive or organization. They are truly homegrown products of what local people wanted for their community. Electric co-ops first started forming as early as 1914, and the formation of the REA in 1935 helped smooth the way forward. But it was local community initiative over the next three decades that finally brought electric service to nearly everyone.

The story of electric co-ops is of a true grassroots movement of unique, homegrown organizations. The one characteristic that applies to all of them is that they care for and listen to the local members they serve.

For electric co-ops, one size does not fit all—it's the local community that's in charge. In recognizing that every member is different, co-ops make both an electric connection, and a human connection.

And that's a truly powerful innovation.





PHOTO BY ANDREW POPOV

# 10 Bad Energy Habits to Break

**S**ome habits are so ingrained that we don't even realize we should break them. When it comes to wasting energy, here are 10 no-brainers from the Alliance to Save Energy that could save energy and money on your electric bill.

1. Leaving the lights on in an empty room. Turning them off when you leave a room will save energy and help your lightbulbs last longer.
2. Using incandescent lightbulbs. LEDs are safer, more efficient and longer-lasting, and they screw into almost any lamp or overhead fixture that you already have.
3. Leaving electronics plugged in when you're not using them. Plug your TVs, computers and phone chargers into power strips that make it easy to turn off multiple appliances at once.
4. Running an extra freezer that's empty. Unless you really need it for overflow from your main refrigerator/freezer, unplug it.
5. Holding the refrigerator door open while you decide what you want out of it. Staring into the fridge wastes an average of 7% of the energy the appliance uses. Decide what you want to eat or drink before opening the door.
6. Running the dishwasher when it's not full. Wait until it's full before hitting "start."
7. Choosing hot water for clothes washing. Unless your clothes are soiled with oil or grease, switch to cold water, which will get them plenty clean.
8. Setting the water heater too high. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 120 degrees, not the 140 degrees that many water heaters default to.
9. Keeping the thermostat too high in winter and too low in summer — even when the house is empty. A programmable thermostat will automatically adjust the temperature when everyone leaves the house, returns home, goes to bed and wakes up. Just set the times and let the thermostat "remember" them.
10. Forgetting to change the air filters in your HVAC systems. Filters trap dust, pet hair and other airborne particles. Once they're clogged, your heating and air conditioning system has to work harder to keep your home comfortable. The harder they work, the higher your energy bills.