

# Blue Grass Living

The official newsletter of  
**Blue Grass Energy**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*Making life better, the cooperative way®*

*Wishing you and yours a safe and blessed holiday season.*



STORYBLOCKS

**Our offices are closed Dec. 25-26 for Christmas and Jan. 1, 2018, for New Year's Day.**

## Message from the President

### We celebrate the season by giving back

The holiday season is upon us and with it, many things come to mind. Things like memories of family and celebrating past holidays. The season also makes me think of giving.

At Blue Grass Energy, giving is more than just a theme at Christmas. It is something we focus on throughout the year. As a regular reader of this column and magazine,

I hope you have noticed how much we care for our members and communities.

We give back to our members through various methods. From supporting our young members by providing electrical safety education and leadership opportunities to job shadowing and scholarships, we invest in their lives and education.

We also give back by providing economic development opportunities through our 23-county service area. We know helping local governments and economic development authorities attracts new jobs, which directly impacts our members. This is making life better,

the cooperative way.

We embrace the concept of corporate giving. This month will wrap up our year of supporting Make-A-Wish. Just as we are in the making-life-better business, they are too and this month, we are sponsoring an opportunity for you to help us help them.

Wish kids often receive medical treatments that require lots of travel. These trips can be tiresome and draining for not only them, but their families. We want to help make their travels more comfortable and are collecting specific items to help these kids and their families.

Michael I. Williams  
President & CEO

*Continued on 28D*

# Brighten Christmas for someone you love with a gift certificate



Want to help a loved one? Need a gift for that person who has everything? Make the season brighter by giving a Blue Grass Energy gift certificate.

It's easy. Call or come into your local BGEnergy office. You will make a payment on the account which will be credited immediately. You will be given the electric gift certificate for you to give to the recipient.

This is a great gift for all ages. From the child just starting out to the grandparent that has everything. These certificates are available for purchase any time of the year.

## Members can now make one-time arrangements online

*Occasionally, it would be nice to have an extra day or two to pay your bill.*

We are happy to help with a new option of a one-time arrangements online. You can now log into your account and do this yourself.

This option is available after logging in under the "Pay My Bill" tab at [bgenery.com](http://bgenery.com). By setting an arrangement, it gives you a few extra days to pay your bill.

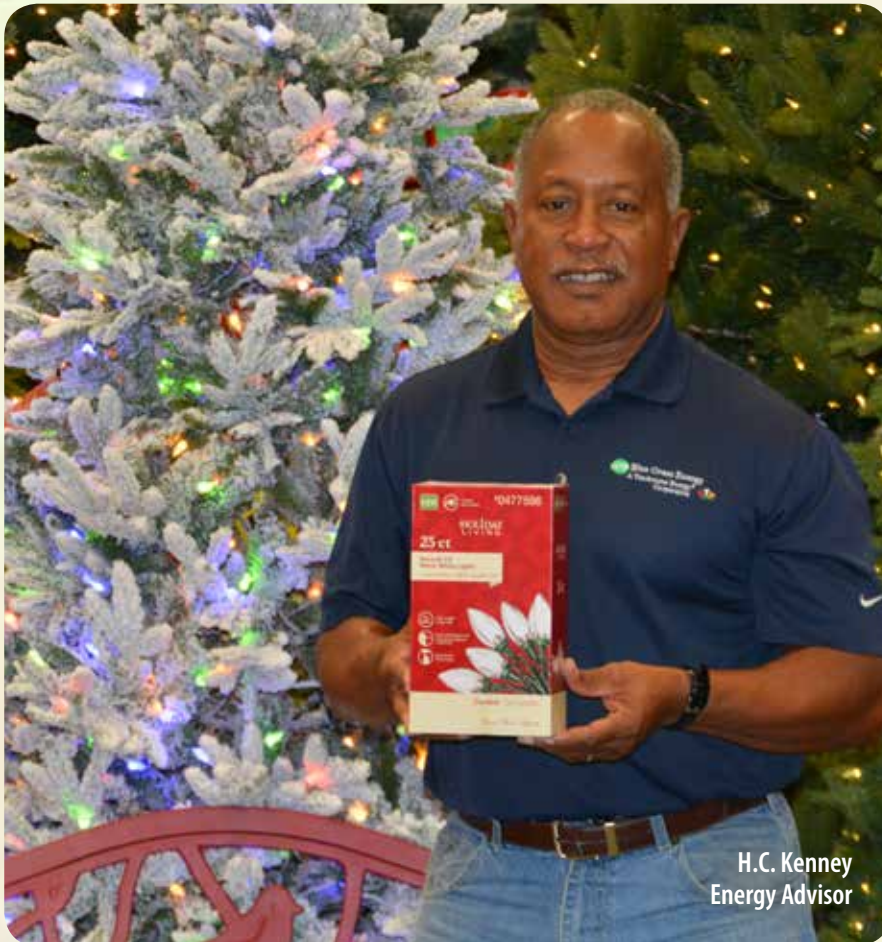
Your account balance must be past due in order for you to make the arrangement and late fees will still apply.





# Holiday Lighting Tips

*This year is rapidly drawing to a close and that means the holiday lighting season is back. Here are some tips for the holiday season from our Energy Advisor H.C. Kenney.*



H.C. Kenney  
Energy Advisor

**Safety is up first.** Most decorations involve some installation at height, so you need to do the following:

- 1. Have a ground crew** (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations...an invaluable part of safety and for keeping you supplied with untangled lights and fasteners.
- 2. Look up.** Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
- 3. Don't overreach.** If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
- 4. Don't overextend the ladder.** If your ladder is too short, don't use it.
- 5. Do not overload circuits** by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
- 6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks** in the insulation that can lead to shorts.

Most of these tips apply equally to inside and outside decorating activities.

## Light selection is next.

If at all possible, invest in LED lights this season. Unlike the first versions to hit the market, the newest generation's colors are more traditional.

**Why go the LED route? Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons.** Unlike incandescent lights, LEDs will last for many years. LEDs have no filaments to burn out. Given the modest number of hours of operation, you can expect LEDs to last seven or more years.

Then there is the **cost of operation benefit from LEDs.** These bulbs use very little electricity. A reasonable estimate of power consumption is 7 watts per 100 lights. How does that compare to the old incandescent? Each of those bulbs used 12 watts so a string of 100 devoured 1200 watts.

Truly want to manage the cost of operating holiday lights? Invest in timers to turn the lights on and off automatically. Really into gadgets? Invest in a smart plug you can program and control your lights from your smart phone.

For more energy tips, contact the U.S. Department of Energy at [energy.gov](http://energy.gov).

## How to reach us

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243

Automated payment: (877) 934-9491

Report an outage: (888) 655-4243

[bgenergy.com](http://bgenergy.com)

### Headquarters

P.O. Box 990

1201 Lexington Road

Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990

### District Offices

P.O. Box 730

327 Sea Biscuit Way

Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730

P.O. Box 150

1200 Versailles Road

Lawrenceburg, KY 40342-0150

P.O. Box 276

2099 Berea Road

Richmond, KY 40476-0276

## Board of Directors

**Dennis Moneyhon**, Foster  
Chairman

**Gary Keller**, Harrodsburg  
Vice Chairman

**Jane Smith**, Waddy  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Doug Fritz**, Paint Lick

**Jody Hughes**, Lawrenceburg

**Brad Marshall**, Cynthiana

**Paul Tucker**, Sadieville

Published monthly by Blue Grass Energy  
as a service to our members.

**Rachel Settles**, Editor



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.

## President's Message (cont'd.)

For our annual 12 Days of Giving this month, we are asking members to help us collect items Wish kids can use to help pass the time in the car on their way to receive medical treatments. We are collecting small handheld electronics, activity books or any other small, entertainment item. If you would like to make a financial contribution, we will gladly pass that directly to Make-A-Wish.

So as you are making your gift-giving lists this holiday season, know that we here at your cooperative are working on our gift-giving list for 2018. We will focus on giving you the service you deserve along with programs and services that will continue in making life better the cooperative way.

On behalf of your friends at your cooperative, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

## Together, let's make wishes come true

*Blue Grass Energy is hosting its annual holiday campaign—  
the 12 Days of Giving.*

**From Dec. 1 through Dec. 18—the first 12 business days in December—call, mail or drop in to your local Blue Grass Energy office and help us make wishes come true.**

**Some Wish kids spend lots of time traveling to and from doctors appointments. So, we're asking for specifics toys and other items that can help entertain them during these trips.**



### Toys/Games

All Blue Grass Energy offices will be collecting items to entertain children, ages 2-18, when traveling. Suggested items are: books, games, electronics, and iTunes and Google Play gift cards.



### Monetary donations

All Blue Grass Energy offices will be collecting money to benefit Make-A-Wish.



*Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with Make-A-Wish. We are excited about the opportunity of making wishes come true for some of our youngest members.*