**FEBRUARY 2021** 

Making life better, the cooperative way

## We're pleased to say we are local

s a co-op, our members are our priority when we make all decisions. It's a benefit to our members to be located within the communities we serve. We believe there is a special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community.

Blue Grass Energy understands that importance. Electricity is a critical need, and we want our members to know that we're here to help and to serve them. We are more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours, we're your neighbors and friends and we're right down the road.



Member Service Representative Joe Perkins assists members in finding payment solutions that are right for them. Photo: Tim Webb





Making life better, the cooperative way

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**24-Hour Service:** (888) 546-4243 **Automated payment:** (877) 934-9491 **Report an outage:** (888) 655-4243

bgenergy.com

#### **HEADQUARTERS**

P.O. Box 990 1201 Lexington Road Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990

#### **LOCAL OFFICES**

327 Sea Biscuit Way **Cynthiana**, KY 41031-0730

1200 Versailles Road

**Lawrenceburg**, KY 40342-0150 2099 Berea Road

**Richmond**, KY 40476-0276

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

# Committed to a co-op culture for all

ver the years, you've heard me explain why and how Blue Grass Energy is different—because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to cooperative principles that reflect core values of accountability, commitment, integrity, respect and unity.

Electric cooperatives, including Blue Grass Energy, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that same spirit is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. Blue Grass Energy was built by, and belongs to, the communities and members we serve.

While today's world is very different than it was when Blue Grass Energy was founded, our cooperative purpose and values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members' needs will continue to evolve, and my pledge to you is to continue promoting a cooperative culture for all.

By President/CEO Michael I. Williams



## Five ways to stay cozy this winter

aby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

- 1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth where a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings. This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.
- 2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
- 3. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold



air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can

- also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
- 4. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine inyou'll be able to feel the difference.
- 5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

And, last but not least, enjoy your favorite hot beverage such as a cup of tea or coffee. Enjoying your favorite hot beverage can help your body feel warmer.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat.



### Pennies for Purpose supports our communities

Recently, our Pennies for Purpose (PFP) program invested \$4,000 back in to our communities by donating to five local organizations. Making life better, the cooperative way is our purpose and each of these organizations reflect that in what they do for our members. PFP is governed by an independent, volunteer committee of Blue Grass Energy members.

Those recipients were:

- Early Bird Foundation \$500 to support, encourage and empower past, present and expecting NICU families in Kentucky.
- Lawrenceburg/Anderson Co. Tourism \$500 to develop the Rails to Trails
- Jessamine County Food Pantry \$500 to provide food for those in need.
- First Generation Women Achievers \$1,000 to fund scholarships for women who are the first in their family to attend college.
- Cynthiana-Harrison County YMCA Child **Development Center** \$1,500 to help fund the childcare facility.



From left, Blue Grass Energy President & CEO Mike Williams, YMCA CEO Andrew Beckett, YMCA Child Development Center Director Jessica Gallop, and Cynthiana Mayor James Smith. Photo: Denise Myers

Members contribute to this program by electing to round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar. If you would like to support this program, visit the Pennies for Purpose section at bgenergy.com.



