



BLUE GRASS LIVING

DECEMBER 2023

Making life better, the cooperative way®

Brighten someone's Christmas season

Are you looking for that perfect gift for someone? Maybe you're tired of giving "stuff"? Consider making this season brighter for those you love by giving a Blue Grass Energy gift certificate.

It's easy. Call or come into your local Blue Grass Energy office. Make a payment on the account, which will be

credited immediately. Then, you will be given the Blue Grass Energy gift certificate to give to the recipient.

This is a great gift for all ages, from the young adult just starting out to the grandparent who has everything. These certificates are available for purchase any time of the year.



Electric Gift Certificate

A gift in the amount of \$ _____ has been credited to your account.

This gift is from _____

Name _____

Address _____

Account No. _____

Authorized by: _____ / / /

 **Blue Grass Energy**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
Making life better, the cooperative way®
P.O. Box 990 • Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990
888-546-4243 • bgenergy.com



ELENA MEDVEDOVA/ADOBE STOCK

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

HEADQUARTERS

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Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990

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Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730

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2099 Berea Road
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**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY BLUE GRASS ENERGY
AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

Denise Myers, Editor



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Serving up savings

The holiday season is here, which means a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings. The extra activity around the holidays may cause you to receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Keeping this in mind, I thought this month would be a good time to remind our members of a few efficiency tips to help manage monthly energy use.

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weather-stripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows, can make a positive impact on energy bills. If you're not sure where to start, contact us and ask to speak to one of our trained energy advisors. We are happy to help you.

If you have decorated for the season, be sure to switch to LED lights to save energy. LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smart phone app to program lights to turn on and off at set times.

If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we enjoy the holiday season. Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills.

From your friends at Blue Grass Energy, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*



Space heaters can cause an increase in your energy usage

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating

and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table. But be mindful how long they operate. A typical space heater is 1,500 watts. If that size heater runs four hours a day for 30 days of a billing cycle, it will add about \$18 to your bill.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than

300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

It's cold out there, but remember that space heaters can pose safety risks and increase your energy bills if used improperly.

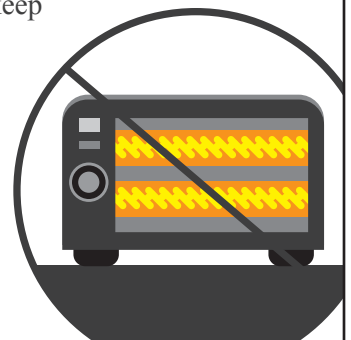
If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort, contact one of our trained energy advisors by calling (888) 546-4243 or emailing energyadvisor@bgenenergy.com. We're here to help you manage your energy use.



TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



HELP US HELP OTHERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

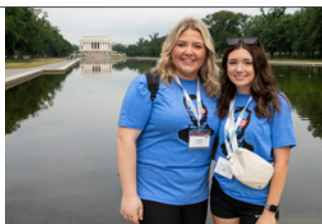
This holiday season, we are excited to announce our new holiday campaign called The Power of Giving. Our charity partners for 2023 are CASA organizations throughout our service area. These amazing agencies make life better for so many abused and neglected children right here in the Bluegrass.

Our partners have given us a wish list of items that will benefit their work in different ways. Some items are directly for the children. Other items will help them keep money in their budget instead of buying

necessities to keep the office running.

For the month of December, please consider helping us help CASA by donating any of the following to one of our four local offices:

- Cash
- Build-A-Bear gift cards
- Gloves
- Socks
- Hats
- Coloring books
- Hair accessories
- Journals
- Winter clothing
- Toys
- Facial tissues
- Disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels
- Squishmallows



STEP UP AND LEAD

★
2024 YOUTH TOUR
WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 17-22



- MEET ELECTED LEADERS
- EXPLORE CO-OP ENERGY ISSUES
- MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE
- INCLUDES ALL-EXPENSES-PAID DAY TRIP TO FRANKFORT AND WEEKLONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (application required)



PHOTOS: TIM WEBB

High school juniors apply by January 31!

Learn more at bgenenergy.com, under "Our Community" tab.

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Our offices will be closed December 25 and 26 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year's.