

What is your home's HERS rating?

BY DEBRA GIBSON ISAACS

Blue Grass Energy is improving the HERS rating for members before most of us even know what it stands for or how much it can mean in energy savings.

HERS, which stands for home energy rating system, is the standard by which a home's energy efficiency is inspected, measured and rated. It is the electrical equivalent of miles per gallon in fuel.

The ratings go from 0 to 100, according to Roy Honican, residential services coordinator for Blue Grass Energy. HERS is

a one-time measurement based on an inspection of the insulation, duct leakage and an air leakage test.

"I have responded to high energy usage complaints since 1998," Honican says, "but I have never had a high energy usage complaint on a HERS-rated home. That says a lot."

For years, Honican has collaborated with Steve Wright, owner and president of Shoreline. Wright, a home and commercial builder, puts energy efficiency at the center of all his builds.

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HERS Rater Field Inspector Abby Eipert tests duct leakage in an apartment at the W in Brannon Crossing, Nicholasville. Duct leakage is a leading cause of high bills. Photo: Rachel Settles

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AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

Rachel Settles, Editor



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Member: A powerful word

There is one word that Blue Grass Energy uses when describing the people who receive service from us—and it carries a lot of weight.

The word is “member.” And it is so much more than just a word.

In cooperatives like Blue Grass Energy, being a “member”—also sometimes referred to as a “consumer-member” or a “member-owner”—means more than simply the right to buy electricity. It means that you, literally, are a part-owner of our cooperative. A co-op, by its definition, is dedicated to the mutual interest of the entire membership—including you.

When compared to other businesses like Costco or Sam’s Club, who refer to their customers as “members” because people pay a yearly fee to shop there, being a member of Blue Grass Energy means something more.

For example, being our member allows you to purchase your power at our cost. This is done through capital credits and they are one of the unique benefits of being our member. Any margins left over after paying expenses each year are assigned as capital credits to each member based on the amount of electricity they purchased. Eventually these credits are returned to members. In fact, over 18,500 members received capital credits in May.

Many of the long-time members of Blue Grass Energy have had the benefit of growing up with the cooperative, so they are well acquainted with the notion of the co-op belonging to them. However, for our newer members, it’s understandable if the concept of being a member of an electric utility is less obvious.

Unlike a for-profit utility, we do not have shareholders or out-of-town interests making decisions about how this business is run for the benefit of others. Instead, Blue Grass Energy is a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver safe, reliable, affordable energy services, while improving the quality of life for you.

So, don’t be confused when someone may refer to you as a Blue Grass Energy “customer.” You are a Blue Grass Energy member. And it is our privilege to serve you.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*



CONTINUED FROM 30A

“Blue Grass Energy has helped me a lot by providing their service,” Wright says. “That gives me everything we need to build energy-efficient homes. They are good people and good to deal with.”

Wright, who built 91 homes last year, is currently constructing the W Apartments at Brannon Crossing in Nicholasville.

Step into these luxury apartments and you will notice many upgrades, including 10-foot ceilings. What you can’t see, touch or smell is the lower energy costs renters will pay because energy efficiency is built into each unit as it is constructed.

Armed with advice from Blue Grass Energy, Wright oversaw the construction and then Blue Grass Energy had Bremen Energy Auditors LLC test each unit to determine its HERS rating. Wright says his apartments earn an average of 58 while most existing homes would be rated at 100. The lower the number, the better the energy savings.

For Blue Grass Energy members who are building a new home, you can receive a free HERS rating if the home’s heating and water heating are electric. Simply call Roy Honican at (888) 546-4243.



Clockwise from top, the W at Brannon Crossing apartment complex, Nicholasville. HERS Rater Field Inspector Abby Eipert performs a blower door test which measures air leakage. Field Technician Sydney Vaughn tests a bath fan to measure air quality. Photos: Rachel Settles



OUR 2022 CHARITY PARTNER

KENTUCKY CANCERLINK (KCL)



CONTRIBUTED BY KCL

In September, KCL will host its annual **Links to Hope Golf Scramble**. For registration or questions, contact Melanie Hunter at (859) 309-1700 or email melanieh@kycancerlink.org.

Keene Trace Golf Club
Tuesday, Sept. 20
1 p.m. shotgun start

\$150 per player—
includes lunch, mulligan
package & giveaway

The mission of Kentucky CancerLink is to reduce and/or eliminate barriers to screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. KCL works to be a link to hope to Kentuckians in need of support.



The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible—until everyone has power.



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals.



4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.