



Know the signs of a scam

Cooperative members have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the pandemic. As people became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Impostor scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the “power company,” in today’s more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

CONTINUED ON 26C



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

HEADQUARTERS

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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.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members making a difference

Communities play an important role in every aspect of our lives. At your cooperative, we are committed to seeing our members and the areas we serve succeed. In fact, a concern for our communities is one of the seven cooperative principles, and we have several programs partnering with our members that are making a difference.

Our corporate charity partnership is a great example. Each year, our employees choose a charity that makes life better for our members. Then, they volunteer and organize events to support them. Just last month, we had our first online auction to benefit Kentucky CancerLink (KCL). Many of you participated and bid on a variety of items that were offered. Working together, we raised \$2,777 that will go directly to KCL and help those facing cancer in Kentucky.

Pennies for Purpose (PFP) is another program that allows us to work with our members. PFP is funded by our members who round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar; and the program provides funding to charitable causes across our 23-county service area. This program is just over three years old, but has already given \$10,000 back to 13 nonprofits who are making our communities better. This couldn't happen without your generous support.

Another collaboration is with our economic development partners. For over eight decades, we have had a role in developing the economies of central Kentucky. Long-time relationships include our chambers of commerce, economic development authorities and local industrial boards. Leveraging these partnerships, we have worked together to support the businesses we serve and to bring new growth into our communities.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle is credited with saying, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." The accuracy of this statement is proven through the results of our partnerships. Working together, we have achieved so much more for our communities. Along with your help, we will continue making life better, the cooperative way, for the areas we serve. Thanks to each of you for supporting your cooperative and your community.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*



COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, so you don't have time think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at (888) 546-4243. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, bgenergy.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us at memberservice@bgenergy.com, or use the online portal or BGEnergy App to check the status of your account. Remember, Blue Grass Energy will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to

provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number. If this scam attempt occurs via email or by text, do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. When in doubt, contact us.

DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMS

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Blue Grass Energy employees carry an ID badge, and you are always welcome to call our office and verify that they are an official employee. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your



HONOR FLIGHT  KENTUCKY

The Welcome Home Ceremony
is planned for Saturday, Sept. 17,
at Blue Grass Airport.

home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves. Beware, scammers will sometimes provide fake badges.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

Change the filter

Changing the filter in your HVAC system should be done on a regular basis. Check it monthly and replace as needed depending on the type of filter you have.

Keeping a clean filter helps your HVAC unit run smoother, saves you money and helps you breathe easier.



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

link2hope

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.



Pennies for Purpose

Pennies for Purpose is a way to help our neighbors and communities for pennies each month.

This program is funded by our members who round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar, and will provide funding to charitable causes across our 23-county area.

A \$64.89 bill would round up to an even \$65. By rounding up, the average yearly contribution would be about \$6.

For more information on enrolling or to apply for a donation, scan the QR code to the left or visit bgenergy.com. You can also call (888) 546-4243 to participate.



CRAIG/DOBE STOCK



Pennies
for purpose

Our offices will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.