

## Sustainability, the co-op way

Sustainable. We frequently hear that word, usually referring to environmental stewardship.

But let's not forget that sustainable also means continuous, viable, feasible or, my personal favorite, worthwhile. No matter which word you choose, the same definition applies: staying power.

The incorporators of Fleming-Mason Energy understood that access to electricity was essential to the economic staying power of rural communities throughout Fleming, Mason, Lewis, Rowan, Nicholas, Bath, Bracken and Robertson counties.

Bringing power to northeastern Kentucky improved the quality of life for rural residents. It put running water in homes, lights in schools and heat in churches. It attracted businesses and industries. In short, it made communities worthwhile places to call home.

Our 50 employees include line-workers who battle all weather conditions and are willing to work long hours to ensure that your home or business has power.

Though electricity is now widely accessible, Fleming-Mason Energy's role as a community sustainer has not changed. Today your cooperative is fueling community staying power by:

- Attracting businesses and jobs. We're using cutting-edge technology, such as data from aerial drone flights, on-line videos and mobile mapping to aggressively attract new businesses from across the globe to create local jobs.

- Creating a quality workforce. SOAR-STEM, a cooperative-led program in our schools, is aimed at building a world-class science, technology,

engineering and math workforce right here in Kentucky.

- Caring for our world. We honor the "green" definition of sustainability through renewable energy programs like Cooperative Solar and cooperative-sponsored environmental stewardship projects that care for our Kentucky home.

- Ensuring the financial health of the cooperative. First and foremost, we are committed to operating



TIM WEBB

our member-owned business efficiently to provide members reliable, safe electricity at the lowest possible cost.

From Morehead to Hamilton Ridge—and all local communities in between—Fleming-Mason Energy is making its mark on local sustainability, the co-op way.

### At your service, 24/7

Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7—even during a holiday. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.



Joni Hazelrigg  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# Contact Fleming-Mason Energy before you plant trees or build

## Contact us:

In Fleming County:  
(606) 845.2661

Other Counties:  
(800) 464.3144

Hours:  
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

## Editor

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## Follow us on:



If you own property in a rural area with power lines crossing it, please contact Fleming-Mason Energy before you plant trees, build a barn, new house or erect any structure near the right-of-way easement. The right-of-way is the corridor of land on both sides of utility poles that must be kept clear in order to safely provide you with reliable service.

Fleming-Mason Energy will be glad to mark the location of the right-of-way and explain any landscaping or construction requirements necessary.

To keep our electric system accessible, property owners cannot plant incompatible tree species, (any species that would attain a height greater than 10 feet at maturity), construct buildings, structures, foundations, garden sheds, signs or erect any other structures within the right-of-way. Flower beds, vegetable gardens, compatible tree species, crops and fields for livestock grazing are acceptable within a right-of-way.

When planting around pad-mounted transformers (the green utility boxes in your yard) or other electrical equipment, please leave adequate space for co-op employees to do maintenance.



When in doubt, though, please call before you landscape or build.

Call before you do any digging, to make sure you avoid hitting an underground utility line by accident. Fleming-Mason Energy participates in the state call center, so simply call 811 to check, or call our co-op offices, whether you are planning to dig yourself or if you are hiring a professional.

# Scholarship deadline is March 31, 2020

Fleming-Mason Energy is proud to sponsor its 2020 Annual Meeting Scholarship contest. This program was designed to enhance the education and resulting careers of deserving students by offering 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Some of the participation requirements are:

- Candidates must be from the Fleming-Mason Energy service area and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a resident of the said area AND a member of Fleming-Mason Energy. Applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must have a residential or business account with Fleming-Mason Energy and the account must be registered in one or both names.
- The candidate must be a graduating high school senior in good standing.
- The applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an educational or training institution.



*Fleming-Mason Energy 2019 scholarship recipients. Photo: Matt Goins*

- Candidates must agree to appear in person at the Fleming-Mason Energy Annual Meeting to be held on June 11, 2020. All applications must be received and/or postmarked on or before March 31, 2020.

To obtain a complete list of qualifications and an application, visit [www.fme.coop](http://www.fme.coop) and click on "Youth Activities," or check with your guidance counselor's office.

## Safety Matters

# Work safely near power lines this spring

Whether trimming trees, using ladders outside, harvesting crops or flying drones, thinking about electric power line safety is important every day.

Trimming trees or bushes near power lines can be dangerous because electricity can arc from the power line to the tool, potentially causing injuries and even death. When working near power lines, look up and stay at least 10 feet away from them at all times.

When using a ladder to climb on the roof or to trim trees, the same rule applies. Keep 10 feet between you and any power line.

When using tractors or other farm machinery, be sure there is 10 feet of clearance between the equipment and any overhead line.

Use caution and check local laws before flying a drone near power lines, power plants, substations and other electrical equipment. A drone crash can cause a power outage and operating drones near electric infrastructure could violate local ordinances.

Power lines are necessary to distribute electricity to homes and businesses, but always respect potential safety hazards when working near them.

Fleming-Mason Energy hopes you will be safe around power lines.



KEVIN OSBOURN

ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

# BABY-PROOFING DONE RIGHT

**Electrical safety should be at the top of the list when preparing a safe space in which babies and children can thrive.**

**Tamper-resistant receptacles cost as little as 50 cents more than a standard outlet and can save a child's life.**

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- These outlets are now required in all new homes and homes renovated after 2008. The shutter system allows only plugs to be inserted because both springs must be compressed at the same time.
- If outlets are occupied, an easy way to prevent children from pulling on these cords is by moving furniture in front of the covers.
- If outlets are unoccupied, and you don't have tamper-resistant receptacles (TRRs), it's vital to find tight-fitting electrical outlet covers. Test them with your children to be sure they cannot pull them out. Then you can live with peace of mind their chances of electrical shock will be decreased immensely.
- Being electrically safe isn't difficult, but it does take time to keep you and your family safe. For more information about TRRs and how to keep your home properly baby-proofed, reach out to your electric cooperative.

