



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

November 4, 2021

Ms. Linda Bridwell, P.E.
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

RE: In the Matter of the *Application of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. For Issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Approval of Certain Assumption of Evidences of Indebtedness and Establishment of a Community Solar Tariff*, Case No. 2016-00269 - Annual Report of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.

Dear Ms. Bridwell,

In accordance with the November 22, 2016 Order of the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) in the above-styled case, please accept this as the annual report of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. (“EKPC”) regarding the progress of EKPC’s Community Solar Facility. With regard to the Commission’s request for information on the total number of participating retail customers and the number of participating retail members identified by owner-member, the following table details this information as of October 31, 2021:

Co-op	Meters	# Licenses
Blue Grass Energy	44	189
Clark Energy	14	23
Cumberland Valley Electric	1	1
Farmers RECC	6	28
Fleming-Mason Energy	8	88
Grayson RECC	5	107
Inter-County Energy	7	340
Jackson Energy	13	39
Licking Valley RECC	4	6
Nolin RECC	15	29
Owen Electric	53	254
Salt River Electric	12	122
Shelby Energy	16	105
South Kentucky RECC	14	147
Total	212	1,478

Also, EKPC is providing copies of the marketing materials used to promote participation in the Community Solar Facility.

EKPC continues to believe that the Community Solar Facility furthers EKPC's efforts to fulfill its strategic objectives and offers our owner-members' retail customers the ability to voluntarily participate in a facilities-based renewable energy program at the least possible cost.

Should you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Woods", written in a cursive style.

Patrick Woods
Director, Regulatory & Compliance Services

Enc.



the future of solar



YOU.

Thinking about solar energy for your home?
But don't want the hassle of installing your own system?
You can save thousands on installation costs and get
the benefit of solar energy with Cooperative Solar.
We can help make your solar journey easy,
affordable and sustainable.

www.cooperativesolar.com



Cooperative Solar

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives 

July 2021

Kentucky Living Magazine

2021 Half Page advertising



the solar generation



Cooperative Solar
solar power from your local electric cooperative

cooperativesolar.com

January 2021



all natural ingredients



Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives 

Cooperative Solar
solar power from your local electric cooperative

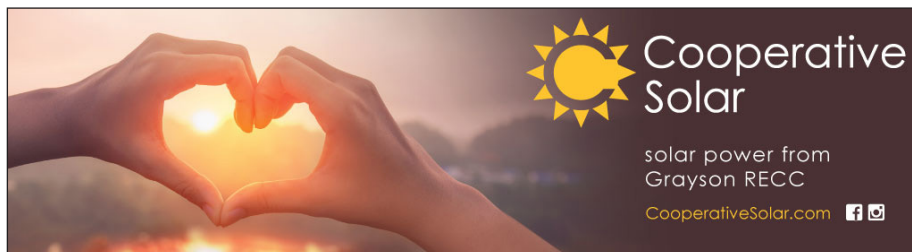
cooperativesolar.com

May 2021

Digital Advertising



Bluegrass Greensource



Web banners in various sizes

E-mail Blasts


Spring 2021



Cooperative Solar
Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Visit Cooperative Solar

Bluebirds Get Homes at Cooperative Solar Farm One




Cooperative Solar is ensuring Kentucky's Eastern Bluebirds have roofs over their heads! We recently erected more than 15 birdhouses just for our colorful neighbors on the solar farm campus. It makes a great addition to our pollinator habitat, shown below.



Spring 2021


Summer 2021



Cooperative Solar
Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Visit Cooperative Solar

Cooperative Solar a 'no-brainer' for Russell County participant




Guy Huelat wanted the assurance of renewable energy for his Russell County home, but he wasn't crazy about how solar panels would look on his property. He ended up licensing 77 panels through Cooperative Solar. "I'm very happy with our experience," he says. [Read more about his experience.](#)

A Look At The Past Year of Solar Production



Summer 2021



NOT YOUR ENERGY PROVIDER



Blue Grass Energy

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 





ABOUT FAQ MEDIA SIGN-UP CONTACT  



Cooperative Solar

Easy. Affordable. Renewable. That's Cooperative Solar from Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. It's renewable energy that makes sense, from the people you know and trust—your local electric cooperative.

[Learn More](#)

 <h3>PANEL CALCULATOR</h3> <p>How many panels? What will it cost? What's the benefit? How much will it reduce your carbon footprint? Find out.</p> <p>CALCULATE ></p>	 <h3>NEWS & UPDATES</h3> <p>Keep up with the latest news on Cooperative Solar.</p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p> <p>SIGN UP FOR EMAILS ></p>	 <h3>SIGN-UP NOW</h3> <p>Receive the benefits of clean, renewable energy for your home or business. Sign up for Cooperative Solar.</p> <p>SIGN UP ></p>	 <h3>ENERGY GENERATION DATA</h3> <p>See live and historical generation data from Cooperative Solar Farm One.</p> <p>LEARN MORE</p>
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Informational materials

Solar 101:

What you need to know

Kentucky's
Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives®



Solar 101: Points to ponder before purchasing a solar system

As private solar installations become more prevalent, cooperative members are seeking information before making a major investment. If you are considering an energy investment in your home, we suggest a good place to start is energy efficiency, learn more below. If you are seeking the assurance that your home's energy comes from green, environmentally friendly sources, please consider the options available from our cooperative.

If you wish to install a private system, remember that even if nature provides energy from the sun, there are significant costs to install solar panels. Prices vary significantly based on system size, location and much more. Take time to ensure your long-term expectations are reasonable, you understand available options and choose an option that meets your energy needs. Here are eight important points to consider:

- 1. Know your goals**
Are you trying to save money? Are you trying to offset all the energy you use with renewables or simply to reduce your carbon footprint? If you are trying to offset all your energy consumption or just a portion? Do you want backup sources to ensure your power stays on during storm outages?
Knowing these answers will impact what options are best for your situation. Understanding your goals will make it clearer what you need.
- 2. Get the biggest bang for your energy buck**
Before investing in solar, consider that most homeowners can immediately reduce their electric bills 15 to 25 percent by adding weather stripping, sealing ducts, caulking, adding insulation or upgrading their HVAC system. Before installing your own energy source, it is a great idea to eliminate current energy losses. Why pay for more energy when you could be using less?
Our cooperative has decades of experience helping members to use energy as efficiently as possible, and we know that members can see large reductions in their monthly bills by plugging the air leaks that are in their homes and
- 3. Use realistic assumptions about power from the sun**
The average U.S. home uses about 10,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. A few solar panels will not power your home. If you wish to eliminate your bill entirely, most homeowners need between 25 and 35 panels to achieve energy independence, according to Consumer Reports.
If you are seeking energy independence by installing solar power, there are some points to consider:
1. Even if you power your entire home, you will still have an electric bill as long as you are connected to the grid.

2. If the power produced exceeds usage, you will not receive a cash payment.

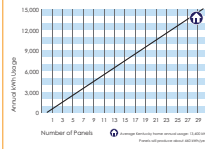
Under Kentucky's net metering law, when you generate more energy than you consume, the value of the excess energy is credited on your bill, but the energy credits are never converted to cash payments. Unused credits will be carried forward to future bills to offset times when you use more energy than you make.

Your monthly power bill will still include a service fee to pay for the poles and wires, as well as the people to maintain them, so they are ready to provide energy you if panels aren't making the power you need, like at night.

There are good third-party sites like PVWatts Calculator (<https://pvwatts.nrel.gov/>) from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory you can use to estimate production of a system using your address.

A single panel at our Cooperative Solar Farm in Winchester produces about 460 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a year. The graph to the right from www.cooperativesolar.com shows the number of panels that would be needed for different levels of annual energy usage.

Estimated number of panels to offset annual usage



Ask your private solar installer what assumptions they use for their payback calculations. For example, many solar panel installers will incorrectly use a 3 to 5 percent annual increase in your current electric bill for each future year. That is not only too high, it makes the installer's payback better. If the payback estimate sounds too good to be true, please beware.

4. Calculate solar panel payback accurately

Make sure your solar power investment will not cost more to own and finance than simply continuing to pay your current electric bill. Unfortunately, this can happen. To avoid that, answer these key questions:

- What is the cost per watt of the system?
- If I finance the system, how much interest will I pay?
- Is it sized correctly? If the system is too large, the extra investment is lost.
- How long has the installer been in business? Will they honor their warranties?
- What are the maintenance costs?
- What is the lifespan and replacement costs of the inverter?
- Will my home's insurance rates increase?

Batteries typically generators pose costs should be purchased to purchase the

5. Use the federal solar tax credit to defray installation costs

The federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit can help you save significantly on costs. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, an average-sized residential solar system—about 400 square feet of solar panels—costs \$18,000. For 2021, the federal credit is worth 22 percent, which would reduce the cost of the average system by \$3,960.

Compare that with the Cooperative Solar program, where 400 square feet of panels would be equivalent to about 22 Cooperative Solar panels. That would offset the energy of a home using about 10,000 kWh per year. The up-front cost for 22 panels on Cooperative Solar would be \$10,100, which is much lower than the average-sized private residential system, even including the federal tax credit.

6. Include all costs in your estimate

If you want backup power, you will need batteries or other equipment. To keep line workers safe from potentially deadly backfeeding, your home will not be powered by solar panels during outages. Two electrical installed net-meter during of

7. Get warranty promises in writing

Key warranty questions to ask private installers include:

- For roof-mounted systems, is there a warranty against roof leaking?
- If it does leak, who pays for roof repairs?
- What is the warranty for the solar system components such as panels, inverters and wiring? What is the length of the warranty for each component?
- Under the warranty, will the replacement of my solar panel components be 100 percent or does the replacement value decrease over time?
- If so, what is the replacement percentage schedule for each component?
- Are labor costs for installation included in the warranty for listed components?
- If you go out of business, does the solar panel manufacturer honor the warranty?

8. Consider our co-op's renewable options

You don't have to install a system at your home to have renewable power. Our Cooperative Solar and environmental programs are two options to consider. Learn more at www.cooperativesolar.com and www.environmentalco-op.com.

Participating in either of these programs is affordable and much more convenient than installing private renewable power systems, and there is no hassle with the maintenance and repair of owning your own system.

(Insert Co-op name, website and phone number)

We have renewable power resources and two great options



More people are investing in solar energy than ever before. That's a good thing.

For members with a net metered system already installed, we have a workbook to track the panels produce and how much energy you are using. Get a copy of our "Net Metering Workbook" at www.environmentalco-op.com or stop by our cooperative for a copy.

Before installing solar panels at your home, please take a look at these two great affordable options offered by our co-op.

Cooperative Solar
Cooperative Solar: For a one-time fee of \$400, you get a 25-year license for a single solar panel located at our 40-acre solar farm near Winchester. Each panel produces between 23 and 50 kilowatt-hours of solar energy monthly, and you can license as many panels as you need to offset your annual usage. Every month, the energy output of your licensed panels is credited to your bill. Learn more at www.cooperativesolar.com.

Environmentals
Environmentals: You can select energy generated from environmentally friendly solar, wind, biomass and hydro sources for as little as \$2.75 monthly. Learn more at www.environmentals.com.

If you have questions, call us. We're your trusted energy advisor!