

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY

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NOVEMBER 2024

A brighter future

Maker's Mark and Inter-County Energy partner on solar array

The sun shines bright on our old Kentucky home, and Inter-County Energy Cooperative is helping renowned bourbon producer Maker's Mark harness the sun's rays to power the distillery campus in Marion County.

In September, a brand-new 1 1/2-acre solar array began generating electricity at the Maker's Mark distillery and Star Hill Farm in Loretto, offsetting electricity usage associated with the visitor's center, restaurant, gift shop, tasting rooms and other facilities.

For Maker's Mark, it is part of a commitment to sustainability that includes grain sourced from farms certified in regenerative agriculture; careful nurturing of the watershed that feeds the distillery; and a zero landfill initiative that has spurred innovative recycling and composting programs.

"Our goal is to make our distillery and Star Hill Farm the most culturally rich, endearing and environmentally responsible home place of any brand," says Rob Samuels, eighth generation distiller and managing director of Maker's Mark. "Investing in solar energy and sustainability improves the quality of our whisky and protects it for the next generation of whisky lovers."



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



DAN HITCHCOCK

Several years ago, Maker's Mark approached the electric cooperatives—Inter-County Energy Cooperative, which serves the distillery site, and East Kentucky Power Cooperative, which provides wholesale electricity to Inter-County and 15 other cooperatives—to discuss options for shrinking the distillery's carbon footprint.

"Our cooperative members—both businesses and residences—are paying more attention to the impact they have on the environment, and they are looking for ways to operate more sustainably," says Jerry Carter, CEO of Inter-County Energy. "So our electric cooperatives are working with them to understand their needs and to develop tools to meet those needs."

Inter-County Energy, along with EKPC and its 15 fellow owner-member co-ops, developed a so-called green tariff, which provides industrial members with a range of options for accessing renewable energy.

"Every company is different, so we built in flexibility to help companies

like Maker's Mark access renewable electricity on their terms," says Scott Drake, EKPC's director of business and technical services.

For Maker's Mark, the cooperatives agreed to construct the solar array on the distillery property and to dedicate all of the energy to the facility. The solar array is located on a sunny hillside next to several distinctive black Maker's Mark warehouses containing thousands of barrels of aging bourbon. The Star Hill Farm team is planting a mix of grasses, native to Kentucky, under the new solar array and will rotate its herd of sheep to graze the field in the coming months.

Kentucky's signature bourbon industry is leading the way in sustainability in the Bluegrass State. This is Inter-County Energy Cooperative's third distillery-related sustainability project.

"Sustainability is at the heart of bourbon, and we are proud to do our part to help Maker's Mark produce a sustainable, top-shelf bourbon that is recognized around the globe," Carter says.

Don't forget the fire extinguisher

We'll "fall back" to Eastern Standard Time on Nov. 3, signaling the end of daylight saving time in most of the United States. It's a good reminder and opportunity to catch up on safety maintenance around your home. Along with changing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, it's also a time to check your fire extinguishers.

"Too often our fire extinguishers sit forgotten in a cabinet or a closet, but they need regular inspection to make sure they're ready to extinguish or contain a minor fire," says Bo McGuffey, Inter-County Energy's safety coordinator.

Check these things when inspecting a home fire extinguisher:

- **Charge.** Ensure the pressure gauge's needle is in the green zone. Some non-rechargeable extinguishers also have push-to-test pressure indicators.

- **Components.** The safety pin should be secure in the handle and unpulled. The hose should be free of cracks and bend easily. The canister should be free of dents or rust.
- **Expiration date.** Most home fire extinguishers have a useful life of 10 to 12 years. Look for a date stamp on the tag, on the cylinder body or the manufacturer's website. If the extinguisher is expired, replace it. Seals and internal hardware can degrade over time, jeopardizing its function.
- **Location.** Extinguishers should be visible, accessible and no more than 40 feet away from any location in your home. Keep one rated for grease in the kitchen, and away from potential fire sources. Store extinguishers near fireplaces and outside by the grill or outdoor kitchen.
- **Inspection log.** Update the log with



JASON FINN/SHUTTERSTOCK

the date and notes. Keep the log on a tag around the neck of the extinguisher or posted nearby.

Finally, if it's been a while since you've used an extinguisher, take a moment to review the user guide. "Become familiar with its parts and operation because you won't have time to do that if a fire breaks out in your home," says McGuffey.

Daylight saving reminder!



Don't forget to fall back on November 3. Set your clocks back one hour



Inter-County Energy will be closed November 28 and 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Please use our mobile app or contact our 24-hour outage line in case of an emergency or outage at (888)-266-7322.



ALENGANG/HELIX/ADOBE STOCK

SWEETS AND PHOTOS with Santa

FREE EVENT | TREAT BAGS | TAKE YOUR OWN PHOTO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 | FROM 3-6 PM

Inter-County Energy
1009 Hustonville Rd, Danville

Sponsored by:
Christmas Blessings, Inc.



*Christmas
Blessings Inc*
**Silent
Auction**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

*Inter-County Energy
Danville Community Room*

*1009 Hustonville Road
Danville*

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Thanks for the blessings

OUR MISSION

Inter-County Energy accomplishes our daily mission by providing energy and services to our members through a culture of Safety, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

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Jerry Carter

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24-HOUR EMERGENCY/OUTAGE REPORTING (888) 266-7322

For major outage updates and restoration efforts, listen to the following radio stations; WPBK 102.9, WHIR 105.1, WOKH 102.7, WDFB 88.1 or WLSK 100.9.

OFFICES:

DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY
OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
(859) 236-4561

LEBANON/DISTRICT OFFICE
OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
(270) 692-3761

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“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

In this season of thanksgiving, I’m heeding these wise words from inspirational author William Arthur Ward. During this month of thanksgiving, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your membership in our cooperative Inter-County Energy.

Our members are the reason the co-op exists, and I’m blessed to work for you. Your support of our co-op’s mission and values allows your co-op’s employees to stay clearly focused on what matters most to those we serve.

Your connection to the co-op allows us to provide safe, reliable electricity at a competitive rate. This powers both necessities and conveniences to improve lives. The availability of reliable power also aids in recruiting business investment that helps our communities thrive economically.

It’s also a blessing that so many of you take an active interest in this co-op’s performance and business. In July, more than 1,052 of you participated in the annual meeting and elected fellow members to represent you in governing the co-op.

I’m thankful that our six board members carve out time to participate in training sessions, attend planning meetings and follow industry trends. These better-informed advisers serve the co-op’s interests in a way that members expect and deserve.

I’m also grateful for your dedication to the cooperative principle of “Concern for Community.” Through your membership and participation in Christmas Blessings Inc., and United Way, we are a catalyst for good in our community. This year, members’ support allowed the co-op to invest in Salvation Army, Conservation Club House and teaching electrical safety to our local schools throughout our service territory.

As one of Kentucky’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Inter-County Energy sponsored two military veterans as Honor Flight participants, supported Special Olympics Kentucky and cared for families in crisis at the Ronald McDonald Houses.

From reliable power to community caring, none of this is possible without your Inter-County Energy membership. Thanks for the blessings.



JOSHUA RESNICK/ADOBESTOCK