



# OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

February 2026 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## Powering through winter, together

February is a month that often asks a little more of all of us. The days are still short, the temperatures dip low and winter weather can put our electric system—and our patience—to the test. But it's also a month that highlights the strength of our communities and the values that guide your electric cooperative every day of the year.

At Owen Electric Cooperative, reliability and safety remain our top priorities during the winter season. Our crews continue inspecting lines, clearing rights-of-way as we can, and keeping our trucks and equipment maintained and prepared to withstand harsh conditions.

When storms roll through, our team is ready to respond around the clock. They leave their families on the coldest nights to ensure the lights stay on for yours, and I'm proud of the dedication they show time and time again.



MICAH JOINER

February is also a good time to look ahead. As we plan for spring maintenance and ongoing system upgrades, we remain focused on strengthening grid resilience and improving the service you count on. We're continually improving processes that allow us to monitor outages more quickly,

detect issues before they become problems and make smart, long-term decisions that keep your energy reliable and affordable.

Because we know winter can be tough on household budgets, we continue offering tools like Levelized Billing, energy-efficiency rebates and usage alerts—all designed to help you manage your bill with confidence. Owen Electric exists to serve you, and every program we offer reflects that mission.

Finally, February gives us a moment to appreciate what makes our communities special—neighbors helping neighbors, communities built on trust and a shared commitment to looking out for one another. That spirit is at the heart of everything we do as a cooperative.

Thank you for allowing us to power your homes and support the places you live, work and gather. We're honored to serve you, and we look forward to brighter, warmer days ahead.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

President and CEO  
Michael Cobb



# Using space heaters wisely this winter

As winter weather lingers across the area, you may be tempted to use one or more space heaters to take the chill off. These small appliances are convenient and provide quick warmth for a single room, but they come with two important considerations: high energy use and potential safety risks. Understanding both can help you stay warm efficiently and safely this winter.

## The energy impact of space heaters

Space heaters are energy-intensive. Most portable models use around 1,500 watts. Running a heater for just a few hours each day can add substantially to your electric bill. While they're handy for short bursts of warmth, using space heaters as a primary heat source will make winter energy costs skyrocket.

## Use your space heater sparingly

Heat only the spaces you're using: Instead of heating the entire house, focus on the room you occupy most. Closing doors and keeping unused areas cooler can make a noticeable difference.

Use timers or thermostats: Many newer space heaters have built-in thermostats or programmable timers. Set your heater to run only when you're in the room, and avoid running it all day or overnight.

Supplement, don't replace: Space heaters work best as a complement to

your home's main heating system. Use them for short-term comfort rather than as the sole source of heat.

Combine with energy-saving habits: Dress warmly indoors, use blankets and seal drafts around windows and doors to reduce overall heating needs.

## Safety is key

Along with energy considerations, safety should always be top of mind. According to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters are a leading cause of home heating fires. Following basic safety precautions can greatly reduce your risk.

Maintain a safe distance: Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can catch fire, including furniture, curtains, bedding and papers.

Never leave unattended: Turn off space heaters when leaving a room or going to sleep.

Plug directly into the wall: Avoid using extension cords or power strips, which can overheat and cause fires.

Inspect regularly: Check cords and plugs for fraying or damage, and replace the unit if you notice wear.



KENTUCKY'S TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

Look for heaters with built-in safety features such as tip-over shutoff, overheat protection and UL certification, which indicates the product has been tested and meets rigorous safety standards.

## A thoughtful approach to winter warmth

By using space heaters thoughtfully, you can enjoy cozy warmth while minimizing energy costs and keeping your home safe. Remember, these devices are best for supplemental heating and should be strategically used and monitored. Understanding both can help you stay warm and safe this season.

## SPACE HEATER CALCULATOR



$$\text{Heater's wattage} \div 1,000 \times \text{Hours used per month} \times \text{kWh rate (0.09527)} = \text{Monthly cost}$$

Most space heaters are 1,500 watts. If you're operating a space heater 8 hours a day, and your electricity rate is approximately \$0.10 per kWh, then:  
 $1,500 \text{ watts} \div 1,000 = 1.5 \text{ kw} \times 240 \text{ hours/month} = 360 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.09527/\text{kWh} = \$34.30/\text{month}$

\*Dividing by 1,000 converts watts to kilowatts

WANDERCREATIVE BY PIXABAY



# Out and about in our communities



Whitney Duvall and Jude Canchola work with students at the Reality Store at Maurice Bowling Middle School in Owenton, a hands-on financial literacy program that helps students learn how to manage a monthly budget, pay bills and make real-world financial decisions. At the store, students “shop” for living expenses and necessities while staying within their assigned budget. In the photo above, Jude helps Corbin Stivers deduct his utility expenses from his balance sheet, teaching practical money-management skills in a fun, interactive setting. Photos: Emily Cammack and Whitney Duvall



Owen Electric employees and their families had a fun time participating in the Independence Christmas Parade, spreading holiday cheer and celebrating with the community. Photos: Owen Electric staff



Masen Chandler, a senior at Carroll County High School, shares his experiences with the Frankfort and Washington Youth Tours and the Co-op Champions program during the December board meeting.



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# We



## Our Members

- **We're built on caring:** Co-ops are founded on the principle of people helping people.
- **Members are the heart:** Every member has a voice in co-op decisions.
- **We love to share:** Excess revenue is returned to members in the form of capital credits.
- **Co-ops keep the spark alive:** We provide safe, reliable electricity to power your home.
- **We're stronger together:** Collaboration among members allows our co-op to thrive.
- **Love local:** Decisions are made locally, by people who live in the communities we serve.
- **A legacy of love:** Co-ops have spent decades in the communities they serve, working hard to make life better.