

OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

September 2026 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

More than electricity

When most people think about their electric cooperative, they think about the power that comes through the lines to their homes and businesses. And while delivering safe, reliable electricity is certainly our most visible responsibility, it's only part of who we are.

As a cooperative, we exist for a different reason than many other utilities. Owen Electric Cooperative was built by the communities we serve because our members believed everyone deserved access to dependable electricity. That same member-first philosophy continues to guide every decision we make today.

Every investment we make in our electric system is done with our members in mind. Every employee, from the lineworkers restoring power during storms to the member service representatives answering questions, understands that we're serving our neighbors—not customers in the traditional sense.

Being member-owned also means success isn't measured solely by miles of line built or poles replaced. It's measured by the trust we've earned, the communities we've helped strengthen and the relationships we've built over generations.

That commitment extends well beyond the electric meter. Throughout



Michaela Amburgey shares a smile as she hands a Member Appreciation Day bucket to her mother, Myra Starks, an Owen Electric member. We loved celebrating our members in Carroll County. Photo: Whitney Duvall

the year, we're proud to support local schools, invest in youth leadership opportunities, promote electrical safety, encourage energy efficiency and partner with organizations that help improve the quality of life throughout our service area. These efforts reflect the cooperative principle of concern for community and are just as important to our mission as keeping the lights on.

As summer transitions into fall, we're reminded that communities thrive when neighbors work together. That's the cooperative model in action. Your membership gives you a voice in the future of

your cooperative and helps ensure that local decisions continue to be made with local priorities in mind.

Thank you for being more than a consumer of electricity. Thank you for being a member-owner of Owen Electric Cooperative. It's a distinction we're proud of, and it's what makes serving you such a privilege.

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Planning ahead with Cooperative Solar

For many people, solar energy is about sustainability. For Bruce Stevens, it was also about planning for the future.

After learning about Owen Electric's Cooperative Solar program through *Kentucky Living* magazine, Bruce began researching the opportunity and evaluating how it aligned with his long-term financial goals.

"I kept studying it and looking at my electric use," Bruce says. "A lot of people don't pay attention to how many kilowatt-hours they actually use. I started calculating my usage and figuring out what made sense for me."

After reviewing his energy consumption and the program details, Bruce decided to license 75 solar panels through Cooperative Solar. His participation represented an investment of approximately \$34,500, or about \$460 per panel, under a 25-year license agreement.

Looking toward retirement

As retirement approaches, Bruce is focused on managing future expenses and reducing uncertainty where possible.

"Energy costs are something we know can change over time," he says. "I wanted to explore ways to better plan for those costs in the future."

For Bruce, Cooperative Solar offered an opportunity to participate in renewable energy generation while helping offset a portion of his future electricity use.

"I'm trying to better manage my retirement expenses," he says. "This was something that fit into my overall planning."

Rather than viewing the program as a short-term financial decision, Bruce sees it as a long-term commitment designed to provide value over the life of the agreement.

Why Cooperative Solar?

Before enrolling, Bruce explored the possibility of installing solar panels at his home. However, the cost and responsibilities associated with a private installation quickly became apparent.

"I was looking at around \$68,000 to do



Owen Electric Cooperative member Bruce Stevens chose to participate in the Cooperative Solar program as part of his long-term financial planning, licensing 75 solar panels through the cooperative's shared solar array. Photo: Whitney Duvall

it myself," he says. "Just the mounting system alone was going to be over \$20,000."

In addition to the upfront expense, Bruce considered the ongoing maintenance and repair obligations that come with owning a residential solar system.

"With Cooperative Solar, I have zero maintenance," he says. "If something happens, it's covered. I don't have to worry about equipment going bad or finding someone to fix it."

That convenience and peace of mind were major factors in his decision.

A simple enrollment process

Bruce was also impressed by how easy it was to get started.

"It was super simple," he says. "You go on the website, compare options and do your own research. There's no pressure."

Within a day, his enrollment was complete.

The ability to research the program independently and make an informed decision appealed to him.

"At the end of the day, whether you're buying cookies or solar panels, you want to feel good about your purchase," Bruce says. "I got zero pressure—just the facts."

Backed by a trusted cooperative

Another factor that influenced Bruce's decision was the stability and reputation

of the cooperative.

"These companies can disappear," he says. "But Owen Electric has been around for decades and will be around for decades more."

Knowing the program is offered by a local, member-owned cooperative gave him confidence in making a long-term commitment.

Planning for the future

Bruce's story highlights one of the many reasons members choose Cooperative Solar. While some participate to support renewable energy, others appreciate the opportunity to plan ahead and take a more active role in how their electricity is generated.

"For me, it's about better managing long-term expenses and having more predictability as I prepare for retirement," he says.

Cooperative Solar allows members to participate in local solar generation without the costs and responsibilities of installing and maintaining their own system. Through a 25-year licensing agreement, members can reserve panels in the cooperative's solar array and receive the associated energy benefits outlined in the program.

As Bruce put it, "It's really all about planning for the future."

Connecting with our communities

Photos by Photos: Whitney Duvall, Sabrina Spaulding, Mike Stafford

Members from across Owen Electric’s service area joined us for this year’s member appreciation days and annual meeting, celebrating the cooperative spirit that brings us together. Congratulations to our \$2,000 scholarship recipient, Lindsey Wyland, and to our \$500 energy gift certificate winners: Carole Bowen of Demossville, Angela Ohmer of Owenton and Stephany Romito of Independence. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this year’s events a success.

We were pleased to welcome Kentucky Sens. Steve Rawlings (District 11) and Gex Williams (District 20) to Owen Electric Cooperative for a day of learning, discussion and hands-on experiences.

The visit included conversations about how electric cooperatives deliver safe, reliable power to our members, the challenges and opportunities facing the energy industry and a live line safety demonstration from our crews. Sen. Williams even geared up

and tried his hand at climbing a utility pole.

We appreciate the opportunity to share more about the work our employees do every day and to strengthen relationships with our state legislators as we continue serving the communities we call home.



Lindsey Wyland



Carole Bowen, Angela Ohmer and Stephany Romito



Sen. Gex Williams



Sen. Steve Rawlings





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Owen Electric students see government and history up close

Owen Electric Cooperative sponsored three students on the 2026 Washington Youth Tour: Jayden Dunn of Grant County High School; Lillian Grothaus, a homeschool student; and Noah Wodrig of Owen County High School and The Gattton Academy.

The weeklong experience, coordinated by Kentucky Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, brings together rising young leaders from electric cooperative communities to experience American history, civic engagement and the cooperative commitment to community.

The Owen Electric students joined Kentucky delegates for visits to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and George Washington's Mount Vernon before continuing to Washington, D.C., where they toured the U.S. Capitol, museums and memorials.

For Wodrig, the Capitol was the most meaningful place he visited.

"What made it special to me was that it represents every state in the nation, not just one," Wodrig says. "Seeing all of the states represented in one place reminded me of how our nation is united while still celebrating its individual identities."

Grothaus says the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History was her favorite moment.

"I had always wanted to visit the museum," Grothaus says, "and getting to explore the exhibits with one of the friends that I made on the tour was an awesome experience."

Dunn says one of the most memorable moments was hearing a speech from Mike Schlappi, a paralympic champion athlete paralyzed in a shooting accident when he was 14 years old.

Schlappi's talk was very inspiring, Dunn says. "He made his story very enjoyable to listen to, despite what happened to him."



Owen Electric Cooperative proudly sponsored local students on the Washington Youth Tour, where they joined more than 1,800 students from across the country for an unforgettable week in the nation's capital. Along the way, they explored historic landmarks, learned about electric cooperatives and government, developed leadership skills and built lasting friendships with fellow youth leaders. Photo: Tim Webb

On Capitol Hill, the students were engaged and appreciative of the opportunity to discuss important issues with congressional staff members and U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. They spoke up for electric cooperatives, asking about FEMA reform and how to make sure Kentucky co-ops are adequately served by FEMA. They also asked about artificial intelligence and the nation's future.

The week also included a walking tour of the memorials on the National Mall, the White House Visitors Center, the World War I Memorial, the Holocaust Museum and the National Air and Space Museum. At Arlington National Cemetery, the students watched the Changing of the Guard and members of the Kentucky delegation laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.