

# OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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## Jump start your own energy savings

While Independence Day brings the excitement of parades and fireworks, the subject of energy efficiency doesn't generally inspire the same type of joyous celebration. Maybe it should, because when you think about it, energy efficiency benefits everyone—not just individual households. When you combine energy conservation and advances in utility industry technology, it ultimately helps set our country on a path of energy independence, and we think that's something worth celebrating.

For an individual member, using less electricity can mean a tangible financial benefit at the end of the month by saving more money on your electric bill. When your neighboring members are also conserving and being more energy efficient, it brings the potential for a lower overall cost of providing electric service. As a not-for-profit utility, Owen Electric strives to be prudent in its financial decisions and efficient-making wise choices means managing the costs to our members.

You can jump-start your own energy savings any time—small steps can lead to big savings. Energy efficiency can be achieved in a couple of different ways. The first is through mechanical

upgrades throughout your home, whether that be through replacing an old HVAC system with a new ENERGY STAR model or upgrading your windows. Less expensive upgrades include sealing your home's "envelope" by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out less efficient bulbs for LEDs will also make a noticeable difference.

The second way is by engaging more in the management of your energy use. Installing a smart thermostat is a great place to start. Most are accompanied by an app that allows for remote control via phone or tablet, enabling you to program your thermostat to reflect your household's schedule. While many thermostat programs will allow you to monitor your energy use and edit the schedule to make desired changes, sometimes efficiency can be achieved just by changing old habits. Washing clothes in cold water instead of hot or running the dishwasher at off-peak times are examples of this.



WHITNEY DUVAL

Regardless of the pathway you take to achieve energy efficiency in your home, Owen Electric can help. From our free energy audits to rebate programs and the "Bring Your Own Thermostat" incentive, we're here as an energy resource to help you use less energy and keep more of your hard-earned money in your pocket.

Log on to our website at [owenelectric.com](http://owenelectric.com), or give us a call at (800) 372-7612, option 4, for more information about the home energy efficiency programs we offer.

President and CEO  
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Power tripping

By Drew Long, system engineer supervisor

*The following is a personal account based on observations and opinion. Any views or statements made are not intended to malign any brand or manufacturer, nor do they serve as an endorsement.*

Road trip! I decided to take the all-electric Chevrolet Bolt to Nashville, Tennessee, from Owen Electric's headquarters, in Owenton, to test its road-trip prowess while en route to a conference. While I have experience in electric vehicle (EV) road tripping, I haven't planned a trip with the Bolt, so I was interested in testing some different charging infrastructure.

While there are several sites such as Plugshare, EVGo, Chargepoint and Electrify America to help find chargers, I used the help of a site called ABetterRoutePlanner.com. This site allows you to put in your type of car, present stage of charge, starting point and final destination. The site determines how many stops are needed, where they need to occur and how long it will take you to charge at each one.

The trip was 476 miles, roundtrip. Most EVs currently on the market could do that run on one charge. However, I made extra preparations to be safe. It would have been possible to utilize just a single charging location in Bowling Green, but with just a handful of miles left, I opted to use a second charging



The Chevrolet Bolt EV makes a stop near Louisville for topping off the battery before traveling further on its road trip. Photo: Drew Long

location as a buffer, as this was to be my first lengthy trip in a Bolt.

I decided to head to Louisville, with a quick detour to a nearby Walmart for a quick charge. I only needed to charge for about 10 minutes based on the website's calculations, but was a little hungry, so the stop took closer to 30 minutes, at a total cost of \$4.

Almost fully charged, I headed toward Bowling Green; I could have probably

made the trip all the way to Nashville, but I've been lost in Nashville before, so I opted to charge once more before the final push. I charged for 22 minutes for another \$4 "fill up." With that, I went the rest of the way to Nashville with 65 miles left in the "tank."

There were no destination chargers at my hotel, so I found a DC fast charger to top off and prepare for my journey back home. The Louisville and Bowling Green chargers were both operated by Electrify America. These were awesome, worked well and had plenty of capacity.

All in all, the journey was easy, and I never felt at risk of running out of battery. Driving an EV on a road trip does take more upfront planning, but with a plethora of resources now available, it is not a hard process. While I felt a little like my mom, planning a trip with the AAA's TripTik, I had my route planned, followed it easily and made it without a hitch. With gas prices at nearly \$5 per gallon, driving the Bolt to Nashville saved about \$50 in fuel, compared to driving a 35 mpg vehicle—not too bad for a 476-mile trip.



Drew Long is a system engineer supervisor for Owen Electric Cooperative, Owenton. Long took the Chevrolet Bolt on its first lengthy road trip to a conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Photo: Whitney Duvall

# Ahrman meets with Secretary Jennifer Granholm during visit to Cooperative Solar Farm One

Alan Ahrman, director for District 4 (Pendleton, Campbell) and East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) board chairman, was one of several electric cooperative representatives who met with Secretary Jennifer Granholm of the U.S. Department of Energy, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman and the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet as they visited Cooperative Solar Farm One, hosted by EKPC, in Winchester.

Discussion for the day centered on supplying reliable, affordable, sustainable energy to the 1.1 million Kentucky co-op members EKPC generates power for.

“I thought the meeting went well,” says Ahrman. “The Secretary seems to understand that the change to renewable energy is not a fast one, but slower as the technology is developed.”

While EKPC and its owner-member distribution cooperatives are committed to supporting and using renewable



Alan Ahrman, far right, represents Pendleton and Campbell counties on the Owen Electric Board of Directors. Photo: East Kentucky Power Cooperative

energy resources, they also recognize that they serve some of the most at-risk populations in the United States. Keeping energy affordable and reliable is something

Owen Electric and other cooperatives strive to do, while working to promote and bring jobs and investments to those communities.

## EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

### 7 Cooperative Principles



Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors or trustees), CEOs, and employees help them to effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives.

Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost understanding.



# Out and about in our communities

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Christel Buffin, Lesa Marston and Pam McAlister used their annual community service day to volunteer at Ronald McDonald House of the Bluegrass. They assisted in putting together cabinets, organizing the pantry and other items available for families staying at the House. Photo: Whitney Duvall



Drew Stevens, a biologist with Owen Electric's Conservation Clubhouse program brought native reptiles and amphibians to Owen County Lower Elementary's Summer Enrichment Program. The program teaches youth about some of Kentucky's native species and pairs it with a lesson on energy conservation and electrical safety. Photos: Whitney Duvall