



OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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A balanced team for reliability

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers, some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that, too.

Our power supply requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be utilized at any time. Having enough “always available” fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent, reliable power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy—if they get injured, you’ll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the

intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team’s inconsistent three-point shooter. It’s awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it’s nighttime or a cloudy day? That’s where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team with different skills to handle various situations and scenarios.

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that’s not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity—or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are




constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow. But creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren’t necessarily viable yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse “team” of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Who Powers You contest winner

The World War II veteran hat worn by Owen County native Jarl Lee Harris provided only surface-level information. But, it prompted Marlene Browning-Wainscott to start asking questions about his service.

She's been asking veterans about their stories ever since, now going for more than a decade.

Browning-Wainscott is the 2023 Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Who Powers You contest first-place winner. An Owen Electric consumer-member, she'll receive a \$1,000 check for her decades-long work in interviewing and publishing the stories of veterans in Owen County.

"I was shocked and humbled because I know there were so many other people who had been nominated. It is a privilege to share the importance of preserving the history of the veterans. I truly appreciate Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Owen Electric for the opportunity," Browning-Wainscott says.

During her first meeting with that first local veteran, Browning-Wainscott found out that Harris, who died in 2020 at the age of 96, was more than just an ordinary citizen, or even an ordinary veteran.

"I really wish I had someone to share my story with," Browning-Wainscott recalls Harris saying from her chance meeting with him more than a decade ago at her business in downtown Owenton. "Jarl was known in this town as the sign guy. He was very artistic. He had painted signs for the historical society and the funeral home. He was the guy who went to McDonald's to drink coffee.

"No one knew who he was in terms of a veteran. And I said I would love to talk."

And they did.

Harris, the sign guy of Owenton, was also an incredibly brave warrior. He was a Purple Heart recipient who spent time in the U.S. Army serving as a



BLACK BOX MEDIA

paratrooper and a member of the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles. He was part of the D-Day invasion. He liberated Nazi concentration camps. The 101st participated in many battles during World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge. Later, Harris would serve in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

"I knew this was the story of a lifetime."

The story told by Harris and written by Browning-Wainscott was published in the local paper. But as it turned out, it was only the first veteran's story she would tell. The reaction to the sign guy war hero's tale was immediate.

"It made me realize that he was one of many who no one knew who had a story like that," she says. "It was more about giving an opportunity for everyone to understand what had been done for our freedom and our way of

life by people here in our community."

Browning-Wainscott did not stop at one story or two or three.

She started with the World War II veterans. And then moved on to the Korean War veterans. And then finally the Vietnam veterans. She's still doing interviews to make sure that veterans have a chance to preserve their history and tell their own story.

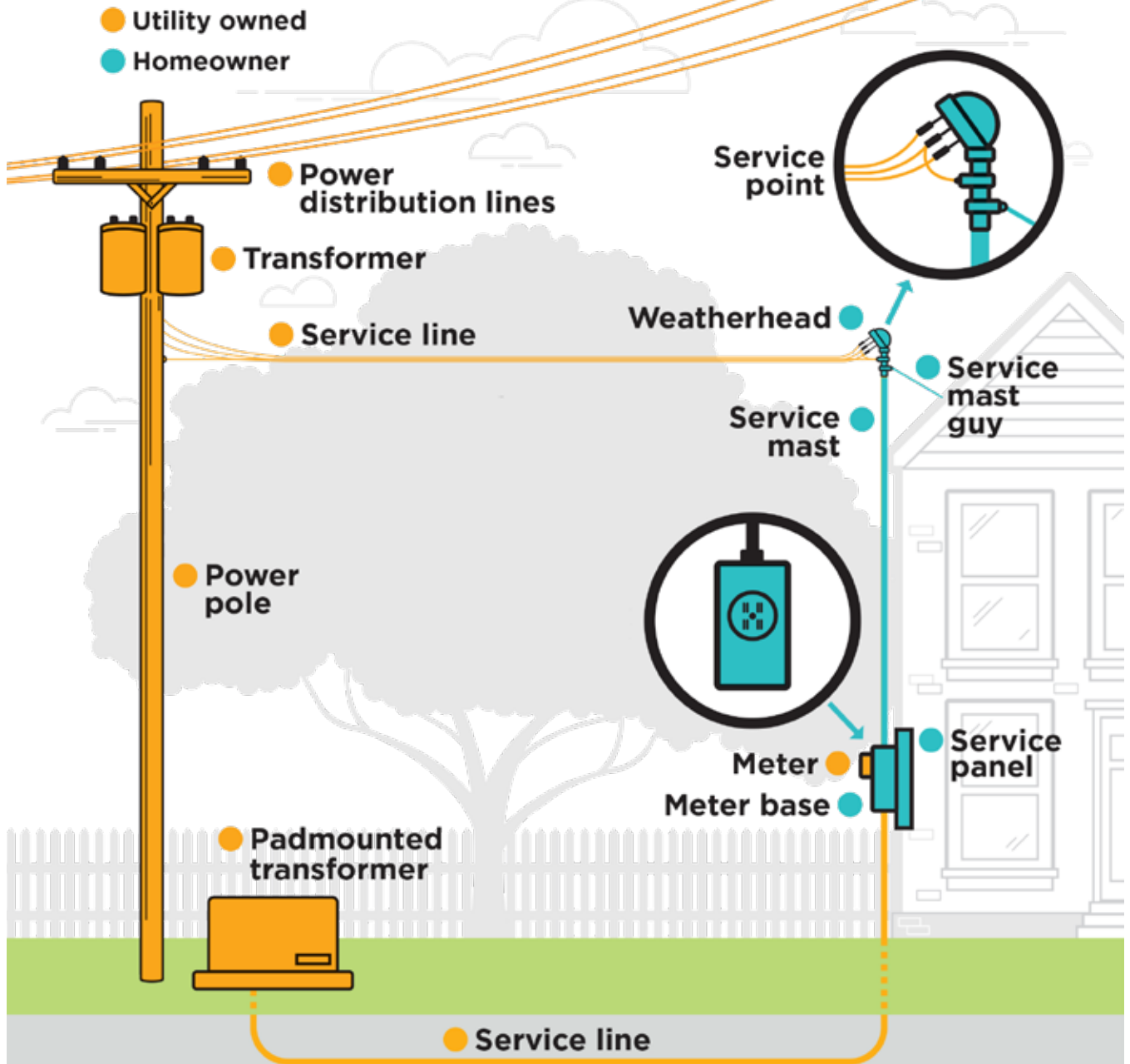
"I was fortunate to be someone that they felt comfortable with telling their story," she says. "Many of them had stories that were difficult to share."

Browning-Wainscott hopes the stories will preserve veterans' legacies and give others a chance to thank them for their service. "The guy walking into McDonald's to get his coffee also served in three wars, received a Purple Heart and jumped on D-Day," she says.

Who Owns What?

Utility Owned Equipment vs Homeowners Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the utility (in gold) and the homeowner (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the utility, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any of the homeowner's equipment, the homeowner is responsible for repairs. Homeowners should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to homeowner equipment.



Source: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home.

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Tips for maintaining an efficient HVAC system

A great way to start your spring season is by ensuring your HVAC system is running at its best. It's essential for keeping you comfortable during the warmer months, and if it breaks down, it can be one of the most expensive pieces of equipment in your home to repair or replace.

Change or clean filters. Dirty filters block airflow, which can decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking more frequently.

Clean the HVAC unit. Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.

Clear space around the HVAC unit. Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near your system, trim it back at least 2 feet around the condenser to increase airflow.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy.

When HVAC equipment fails, it's inconvenient and uncomfortable—especially when it's hot outside. Remember, your system runs best when it's regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's lifespan.

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.

