

# BIG SANDY RURAL ELECTRIC *Cooperative Corporation*

www.bigsandyrecc.com

504 Eleventh Street  
Paintsville, KY 41240  
(606) 789-4095  
(888) 789-7322  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



**DAVID ESTEPP**  
**BIG SANDY RECC**  
**MANAGER**



BRAND X PICTURES

## The money-saving list

*Energy efficiency options can fit any budget—here's how to start reducing your costs*

When I go to the grocery store, I carry a list with me. Otherwise, I'm bound to forget something.

The same goes for the hardware store when I want to undertake some projects around the house. What materials do I need? And if the work involves weatherization, will it really help me save money on my electric bill?

Generally, the answer to that last question is a resounding "yes." Even small energy-efficiency measures will save money. For as little as \$2, the cost of an outlet and switch plate insulator kit, you can begin to drastically improve comfort around your residence.

What areas should you focus on? Start with the basics: applying weatherstripping and caulk around doors and windows; replacing traditional incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs); and insulating your water heater. Then look at some bigger expenditures: adding insulation to your attic, installing a programmable ther-

mostat, and sealing ductwork.

You can find even more ways to save on the U.S. Department of Energy's Web site, [www.EnergySavers.gov](http://www.EnergySavers.gov).

Another great resource is the magazine you're holding in your hand. Every month in *Kentucky Living* you'll find do-it-yourself energy and money-saving projects in the Cutting Costs column. The Gadgets & Gizmos column describes how to make the best use of today's home technology. And for the past two Novembers this magazine has included the *Kentucky Living* Energy Guide, with hundreds of efficiency ideas. If you missed last November's guide, find it on [www.KentuckyLiving.com](http://www.KentuckyLiving.com), along with archives of the other energy-efficiency columns. Just go to [KentuckyLiving.com](http://KentuckyLiving.com) and type "energy efficiency" in the "Article Search" box and click "Go" for links to the dozens of energy and money saving columns.

Big Sandy RECC is committed to doing everything possible to keep your electric bills affordable. And to controlling costs through innovation—energy-efficiency programs are just one way your local electric co-op helps you manage your energy use.

Make your list, and start saving.

# Big Sandy RECC messages

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are Big Sandy RECC's office hours?

Our office is open from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Our drive-through hours are the same. We also have a 24-hour drop box for our members' convenience.

### When is my bill due?

Your bill is due the 15th of every month.

### When is the cut-off date?

The cut-off date varies each month. It usually ranges from the 5th-8th of each month.

### What kilowatts am I billed for?

You are billed for the kilowatts used from the 24th of the month to the following 24th of each month or as close as possible. (example: Jan 24th - Feb 24th)

### What does it cost to hook up a new service?

We use an online utility service that checks credit information and determines the fees required. These fees can range from \$25.00 to \$275.00.

### What are my payment method options?

We at Big Sandy RECC want to make doing business with us easy. We have a variety of payment methods for members to choose from. Our members can pay their bill by physical mail, bank draft, credit card draft, at our Prestonsburg payment center (Citizens National Bank at Centre Point), or online. For any information about these services please contact us at (606) 789-4095 or (888) 789-RECC(7322).

### What is an electric cooperative?

An electric cooperative is a type of electric utility that is owned by the members it serves. Its profits, or margins, are put back into the cooperative to help run the business efficiently, or are returned to the member-owner. A co-op exists solely to provide high-quality service at the lowest possible price for its member-owners.

### What are the basic differences among electric utilities?

The three kinds of utilities are distinguished more by their business structure than by the product they sell. They are electric cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, and municipal systems.

◆ An electric cooperative is owned by the members it serves. Therefore, all of the owners live in the cooperative's service territory, with most members living in rural or semi-rural areas. A cooperative operates on a nonprofit, cost-of-service basis. In Kentucky, electric cooperatives serve an average of eight members per mile of electric line.

◆ An investor-owned utility (IOU) is owned by stockholders who may or may not be customers and who may or may not live in the service area. The IOU is a for-profit enterprise. In Kentucky, IOUs serve an average of 25 consumers per mile of electric line.

◆ Municipal systems are usually owned by a city, a state, or federal government agency. Municipal customers are usually located in urban or semi-urban areas. In Kentucky, municipal electric systems serve an average of 60 consumers per mile of electric line.

### What is the environmental surcharge on my bill?

It pays the cost to meet EPA regulations on power plant emissions. All major electric utilities in Kentucky have this charge. It covers the cost of expensive equipment, like scrubbers, to meet the regulations. It is a pass-through charge from our power supplier (East Ky Power).

### What is the fuel adjustment clause on my bill?

It's the cost of coal and natural gas to run power plants, and purchased power. It is a pass-through charge from our power supplier (East Ky Power).

### What are capital credits?

An electric cooperative exists for the purpose of providing its members with electric service—on a nonprofit basis. Therefore, in a cooperative, the net margins do not belong to the corporation—they belong to the individual members who paid the money on their monthly service bills. In most types of co-ops, net margins, after reasonable reserves are set aside to pay back government loans, operating costs, and other expenses, go back to the members in the form of a cash patronage refund. The funds are credited to members and over a period of years these membership funds take the place of federal investment. The individual member's capital credits are his ownership equity in the system. Most electric co-ops have a provision in their bylaws for repayment of capital credits on a rotating basis.

### Are there programs available for members on a fixed income?

The Community Action Partnership began the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program subsidy component on Monday, November 2. The purpose of the LI-HEAP program is to assist eligible low-income households with the costs of home energy through the two components of Subsidy and Crisis. The Subsidy component is designed to provide eligible households with a one-time payment to the household's energy provider. Eligibility is based on the household income, size, liquid resources, and responsibility for home heating. Benefits are calculated based on household income and the primary heating source to ensure that households with the highest heating cost and the lowest incomes, taking into consideration household size, will receive the highest benefit.

# How\$martKY

## How the program works:



**Saving Money and Energy** — Everyone wants to save money and energy, but families and businesses in eastern Kentucky could save more than most. The average utility rate in the region is just a little less than the national average, but the average monthly residential bill is much higher than the national average. This suggests that Kentucky homes are less energy efficient than the housing stock nationally and have greater reliance on electricity for heating, therefore the greater potential for savings.

**Energy Assessments** — How\$martKY takes the “whole-house” approach to energy efficiency, realizing that the various systems in a home—insulation, appliances, air leakage, health & safety, and HVAC—interact to degrade or improve performance of the home. Rather than provide single-item incentives that may not make much difference, the utilities rely upon a whole-house energy assessment to determine the best package of improvements.

How\$martKY assessors are certified building analysts by the

Building Performance Institute (BPI).

**Efficiency Improvements** — While a whole-house assessment is important to identify the most efficient combined package of improvements, there are typical improvements from which most homes could benefit.

**Insulation** The recommended amount has increased in recent years, particularly for the ceiling and floor (if over a vented crawlspace/basement). Many older homes do not have sufficient insulation. Additionally, incorrectly installed insulation can greatly degrade its usefulness.

**Air Sealing** Everyone knows that drafts can chill a room in a hurry, but houses leak air in and out at much greater amounts than most people realize. This is measured in Air Changes per Hour (ACH), which is what percentage of all the air in your home is replaced each hour by outside air—in other words, how much of the air you pay to heat or cool is lost to the outdoors each hour. Some ventilation is necessary to prevent indoor air-quality issues, but most homes leak far more than is necessary. Air sealing involves caulking around windows, doors, baseboards; foaming up plumbing and wiring penetrations to the exterior; weatherstripping doors and windows; and sealing around recessed lighting fixtures.

**Duct Sealing** Why heat or cool air if it never reaches where it is intended to go? Many HVAC systems have leaky ductwork where pieces fit together. Often-times there is no attempt at sealing and if there is, duct tape is applied. Despite its name, duct tape is not a good way to seal ductwork. For that, mastic—a rubbery compound—is the best material.

**Heat Pump Upgrades** In moderate climates such as Kentucky, heat pumps are often the most efficient way to heat and cool a home. An existing electric furnace, space heaters and window A/Cs, or very old heat pump may need to be replaced.

**Fixed Monthly Charge**—The fixed How\$martKY monthly charge is a way for customers to pay for the improvements through installments rather than upfront all at once. Furthermore, the charge is calculated to never exceed the projected savings from the improvements, meaning that the customer will at least break even initially and will hedge against future rate increases.

Any rebates or other sources of funds can be used to buy down the investment by the utility, reducing the amount of the monthly charge. If you would like to participate or need more information, please contact Bruce Aaron Davis at (606) 789-4095.

### Calculating the monthly charge

\$6,500	Cost of Improvements	\$3,950
- 1,000	Customer Contribution	X 5%
- 250	EXPOSURE	\$4,148 @ 3% over 15 yrs
- 1,300	KY Home Performance	= \$29/mo
\$3,950		
	\$50/mo	Avg reduction
	- \$29/mo	Fixed charge
	\$21/mo	Immediate savings

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## EMERGENCIES/OUTAGES

(Nights, Weekends & Holidays)

Toll Free (888) 789-7322

## Save energy. Pocket the rewards.

Sign up for **SimpleSaver** and pocket the rewards.

We will credit your bill up to \$20 annually for each central air conditioner you enroll. Sign up your 40-gallon or greater electric water heater and receive an additional \$10 annual credit. In exchange, we install a switch to cycle the units briefly when electrical demand peaks.

**SimpleSaver**...saving energy just got more rewarding.

**1-800-305-5493**  
[www.simplesaver.coop](http://www.simplesaver.coop)

 **Big Sandy RECC**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



## SAVING MONEY WITH THE FLIP OF A SWITCH.

My family is always looking for ways to save money. By flipping the switch when I leave the room, shutting off my computer and unplugging devices not in use, I'm using less energy. And less energy use equals more savings.

What can you do? Find out how the little things add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

 **Big Sandy  
RECC**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

**BIGSANDYRECC.COM**  
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