

OWEN Electric Connection

Owen Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

OCTOBER 2017

Shining a brighter light on 4-H fun and games

Cooperatives provide better lighting for four camps

Spending a week at 4-H camp—a rite of passage for nearly 40,000 Kentucky youth each year—is a brighter experience following lighting upgrades provided by Owen Electric and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

The co-ops replaced aging fluorescent lighting at four camps with new, energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lamps. The change has dramatically improved the lighting and boosted morale while also sharply reducing energy costs at the J.M. Feltner Memorial, North Central, Lake Cumberland, and West Kentucky 4-H camps.

Cooperatives provided the engineering, funding, and materials for the upgrade as well as arranged recycling of the old fluorescent lights.

Summer camps are the largest program 4-H offers in Kentucky to develop youth.

Throughout June and July, weeklong sessions at the camps feature fun and games along with education.

Campers participate



Kids attending the 4-H North Central Camp in Carlisle thank Owen Electric and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives for the upgrade that reduced lighting costs by 70 percent. Photo: Mark Mahan

in activities ranging from shooting sports to forestry classes.

"This (improved lighting) really enhances the experience for us at the camp," says Joey Barnard, director of the North Central 4-H Camp in Carlisle. "People are more awake and engaged."

The new lights also save money for the 4-H program, says Tom Castle, an engineer with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives who coordinated the lighting makeovers. Switching to LEDs has reduced the camp's lighting costs by about 70 percent.

"It's going to save at least \$13,000 a year on their electric bills, and that doesn't even

count the additional savings in reduced maintenance," he says, pointing out that LED lights last much longer than fluorescents. Using LEDs also sharply reduces carbon emissions, Castle points out. "It's the same as eliminating carbon dioxide emissions from 13,200 gallons of gas. And there's no problem with disposal of the bulbs, which you have with the mercury in fluorescents."

The project was a labor of love for Castle, who fondly recalls spending time at the North Central 4-H camp as a boy.

"We can all be proud that, because of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, 4-H can make the summer camp program even more memorable for thousands of youth across the state," he says.



Mark Stallons
President/CEO

The
SUN
shines bright
on my old Kentucky
home



Owen Electric's
Cooperative Solar

What is Cooperative Solar?

Cooperative Solar will be a community solar farm owned by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. It will be built by fall 2017, and will provide renewable energy without the headaches of installing and maintaining solar panels at private homes and businesses.

Where will the farm be built?

Approximately 9 miles east of Lexington and 2 miles west of Winchester, adjacent to Interstate 64 and U.S. 60. Thousands of motorists will see the farm daily as they pass it on I-64.

How large will Cooperative Solar be?

Cooperative Solar will have more than 32,000 photovoltaic panels covering 60 acres, making the installation one of Kentucky's largest solar farms. Construction began spring 2017.

How can members participate?

For a one-time payment of \$460 per panel, participating members will receive a 25-year license for one of the panels. That means they will get credit on their monthly power bill for the value of the energy generated by their share of the solar farm. And they can monitor panel performance online.

When can members participate?

You can join our Cooperative Solar community today.

Why do businesses want to participate?

Many businesses have sustainability goals that can be met through Cooperative Solar.

What are additional advantages for joining?

In addition to getting bill credits, participating members will also get:

- Renewable power at an affordable cost.
- No worries about maintenance or hassles from bolting panels to their roof.

Are there other reasons members might want to participate?

Many co-op members are interested because:

- They rent or face deed restrictions that prevent the private installation of panels.
- Their roof is shaded by trees or doesn't get good exposure to the sun.

What if I move?

If you move within Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' service area, then you can continue to participate—and you don't have to move any solar panels. If you move outside of the service area, then you can choose to assign the remainder of the license to another co-op member, such as a family member, friend, church, or school.

For more information, call (800) 372-7612 or log on to www.cooperativesolar.com.

Owen Electric Highlights



Fitzgerald Back-to-Back Home Run Champ

John Fitzgerald, crew leader and lineman, went home again as the winner of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Business Professional Home Run Derby. Fitzgerald hit 11 home runs in 90 seconds.

Staff, Board of Directors Attend Ribbon Cutting

Members of Owen Electric's staff and the board of directors attended the ribbon cutting of Jefferson Community & Technical College's new Carrollton campus. While there, they were able to tour the facility, including a classroom named for Owen Electric in thanks for its financial contribution.



OEC Gives Back

OEC's Community Service Team spent a day planting trees for Grant County Public Library. Members of the team included (photo above far right): Jude Canchola, Residential Services manager; Jennifer Gravitt, Member Services representative; Whitney Duvall, manager of Communications and Advertising; Wes Petzinger, IT Support technician; and Mike Stafford, manager of Business and Government Relations.

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OUT WITH A LINE CREW

Kaileigh Grider, a 7th grader at Maurice Bowling Middle School, recently spent a morning taking photos of an Owen Electric line crew.

