



Kentucky's
Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives®

Press Release

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Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in Top 20 utilities in economic development

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have been named in the top 20 U.S. utilities in economic development by *Site Selection* magazine.

In 2021, the 17 electric cooperatives facilitated business recruitments and expansions that resulted in 2,600 jobs announcements and \$2.3 billion in projected investment in the communities they serve.

"*Site Selection* magazine's recognition highlights the efforts of people from all 17 of our electric cooperatives, working alongside local, state and federal officials to bring jobs and investment to rural Kentucky," said Rodney Hitch, Director of Economic Development.

Brad Thomas, Manager of Economic Development, noted the cooperatives are member-owned, not-for-profit organizations headquartered in Kentucky and owned by the Kentucky residents they serve.

"This recognition is particularly gratifying because, when we are successful, it truly benefits the people and communities of Kentucky," he said.

In addition to job creation and new capital investment announcements, *Site Selection* magazine considers utilities' website tools and data; innovative programs and incentives for business; and the utility's own job-creating infrastructure and facility investment trends.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have deployed novel tools to market business sites in Kentucky communities, including PowerVision, which uses drones to capture detailed mapping and infrastructure data for rural industrial parks, and producing videos that can be shared instantaneously with prospects anywhere in the world. They have also developed innovative programs to help businesses access renewables to meet corporate sustainability goals.

"The elite Top 20 we named this year earned the honor amid a field of around 3,300 electric utilities across the country, including around 900 cooperatives," says Managing Editor Adam Bruns of the rankings *Site Selection* has published since 1999. "Like the power they generate, their robust economic development teams and programs are well distributed throughout the country. And just as their generation and distribution portfolios turn toward renewables and smart technologies, these utilities' economic developers are helping their communities pursue sustainable growth by cultivating the flow of smart capital and talent."

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Site Selection's announcement continues a streak of awards and recognition for the economic development efforts of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. They won the 2021 Projects With A Purpose Award from the Site Selectors Guild and are past winners of Excellence in Economic Development awards from the International Economic Development Council, the Southern Economic Development Council and the National Rural Economic Developers Association.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives include 17 not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives that serve more than 1.1 million Kentucky residents across 87 Kentucky counties.

They include:

- Big Sandy RECC, Paintsville, Ky.
- Blue Grass Energy, Nicholasville, Ky.
- Clark Energy Cooperative, Winchester, Ky.
- Cumberland Valley Electric, Gray, Ky.
- Farmers RECC, Glasgow, Ky.
- Fleming-Mason Energy, Flemingsburg, Ky.
- Grayson RECC, Grayson, Ky.
- Inter-County Energy Cooperative, Danville, Ky.
- Jackson Energy Cooperative, McKee, Ky.
- Licking Valley RECC, West Liberty, Ky.
- Nolin RECC, Elizabethtown, Ky.
- Owen Electric Cooperative, Owenton, Ky.
- Salt River Electric, Bardstown, Ky.
- Shelby Energy Cooperative, Shelbyville, Ky.
- South Kentucky RECC, Somerset Ky.
- Taylor County RECC, Campbellsville, Ky.
- East Kentucky Power Cooperative

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