South Central Power Co.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Offices

LANCASTER
2780 Coonpath Road NE
P.O. Box 250
Lancaster, OH 43130
740-653-4422
1-800-282-5064

CANAL WINCHESTER
10229 Busey Road
Canal Winchester, OH 43110
614-837-4351
1-800-524-0802

CIRCLEVILLE
2100 Chickasaw Drive
Circleville, OH 43113
740-474-6045
1-800-206-0745

HILLSBORO
110 Danville Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-3421
1-800-207-0020

BARNESVILLE
37801 Barnesville-Bethesda Rd.
Barnesville, OH 43713
740-425-4018
1-800-468-4717

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.southcentralpower.com

Keep This Number

When reporting an outage, an automated outage reporting system may answer your call. It may ask for your 12-digit account number to help locate the outage site. This number is found on your monthly bill. It's handy to write it down and keep it near the phone.

Suggestions

Please send your *Country Living* story ideas or comments to the attention of Lisa R. Hooker at South Central's Lancaster office.

SOUTH CENTRAL POWER COMPANY

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Right-of-way maintenance and vegetation control

Spring is here. Leaves are returning to the trees and all things green are growing again. While spring is more than welcome, it also raises the issue of trees and vegetation control at South Central Power.

The cooperative's right-of-way maintenance program is an integral part of the co-op's electric system maintenance. This is especially true because of the heavily forested areas in a large part of the co-op's rural service territory.

South Central Power spends about $6 million annually on tree trimming and vegetation control. Each year, the cooperative cuts, trims or treats trees and vegetation on a predetermined cycle. Each annual cycle covers approximately 2,300 miles of electric line.

The cooperative's Barnesville area is covered every four years, while the rest of the service territory is maintained over a three-year period.

When a tree is cut, its roots are still alive. Resprouting is prevented with a follow-up herbicide application.

The cooperative's approach to rights-of-way is an effective and environmentally safe way to manage brush growing around many miles of co-op poles. It also is the premier vegetation control method preferred by industry experts nationwide.

Depending on the type of line, the co-op usually maintains a 10-foot clearance (20 feet total) on both sides of its poles and power lines. In typical circumstances, right-of-way maintenance helps prevent outages and reduces line damage caused by trees. A clear right-of-way makes it easier to locate broken poles, downed lines and other equipment failures, so repairs can be made more quickly.

At times, some homeowners are reluctant to have their trees trimmed. Residential trees can cause difficulties if they're planted too close to power lines. Having trees growing through or near South Central Power electric lines only invites difficulties during storms and high winds. The co-op and its consumers experienced this during the recent ice storm and wind storm.

South Central Power makes a concerted effort to work with property owners on tree-related issues.

For more information about the right-of-way maintenance program or to alert the co-op of trees on your property that potentially could cause a power outage, contact Director of Vegetation Control Tom Lacey at 740-689-6170 or 1-800-282-5064 ext. 6170. E-mail him at lacey@scp.utilities.com.

Does South Central have your correct phone number?

While South Central Power's automated outage reporting system accepts either a telephone number or the outage reporting number, most consumers find it more convenient to use a phone number

If the customer calls the outage reporting number, 1-877-OUTAGES (1-877-688-2437) and the cooperative has an accurate phone number on record, the system automatically matches the phone number to the account.

Outage calls made to a local office also may be picked up by the automated outage reporting system. However, the system will not automatically match the number to the account. Instead it will ask the caller to enter either the account's phone number or outage reporting number.

When using the automated outage reporting system, follow the verbal prompts to report an outage. Pressing any other keys will not report the outage or connect you to a live person.

How it works. When the severity of an outage overwhelms the co-op's telephone system, an automated system handles the overflow outage calls. Customers know they've entered the automated system when a male recorded voice answers.

You'll be asked if you're calling to report blinking lights or a power outage.

If the automated system matches the phone number with one in the co-op's customer account data base, it will ask if the site of the telephone number also is the outage location.

If it is, you'll be asked to confirm the address and if you are aware of downed wires, trees or poles. The outage then is automatically reported to South Central Power's dispatchers.

If the automated system cannot match the telephone number, you'll be asked to enter the 12-digit outage reporting number for the outage site. You'll then be asked for any additional outage information.

Multiple electric accounts. Customers with more than one location on South Central Power electric lines should provide a single phone number to be linked to all of the sites. The system then will prompt you to select the outage location. Please contact the co-op with the single telephone number you selected so it can be noted.

Medical conditions. If a medical condition is noted on a consumer's record, the system acknowledges it. ***A medical condition, however, does not guarantee immediate power restoration.*** Such consumers should have a plan on how to move the affected person to safety in the event of an extended outage.

Please call your local South Central Power office with a telephone number that corresponds to your home or business location. E-mail us through the Web site or note the appropriate phone number on the monthly bill stub that accompanies your payment.

Periodically, the cooperative includes a special message on the monthly electric bills of consumers who do not have phone numbers on their account.

Getting a tax refund?

By now, many people already know if they are getting an income tax refund from Uncle Sam.

If you are, consider investing in a security system from South Central Power.

There are various types of wireless sensors to choose from. Most people choose a combination of sensors to monitor for intrusion, fire and carbon monoxide. Some customers also use a sump pump sensor to detect basement flooding.

Security cameras also are available.

All security systems installed by South Central Power are monitored 24-hours-a-day. When an alarm is activated, the system alerts you, family or neighbors you designate, and the appropriate safety authorities.

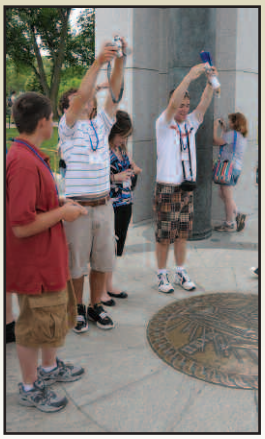
The individual components are economical and can be customized for your home or business.

Call South Central Power and schedule a free visit. There's no obligation.

Security systems also are available to people who are not South Central Power electric customers.

If you know someone considering a system, please have them call us at 1-800-282-5064 ext. 6153.

We're happy to explain the options offered by South Central Power.



Check it out, juniors...

Enter to win a trip!

2009 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.
June 12 to 18

See the treasures in our nation's capital. You can enjoy an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 12 to 18 as part of the electric cooperatives' Youth Tour. Visit the Capitol, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Vietnam Memorial, Mount Vernon, cruise on the Potomac and see many other fascinating places.

You will have a chance to meet and talk with your congressional representative. Best of all, you'll meet other students your age from all across the United States.

South Central Power will sponsor one or two students on this trip. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high school junior.

For information on how you can be part of this trip, complete the form here and mail it to South Central Power today or call your co-op.

Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the trip to Washington, D.C. this summer.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Male ❑ Female ❑

Mail to: South Central Power
Attn.: Rita Tate
P.O. Box 250
Lancaster, OH 43130-0250
or call 740-689-6167
or 1-800-282-5064 ext. 6167
Applications due by April 17.

June 25

for high school students

A unique energy adventure!

- ✓ Visit the Cardinal power plant
- ✓ See how electricity is produced
- ✓ Engage in energy-learning activities
- ✓ Learn how coal generation fits with renewables

Sponsored by South Central Power and Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

For more information on how you can be part of this Energy Day, contact your electric cooperative using information on the form.

Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the Cardinal Energy Day, June 25

Name _____

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

High school students Male ❑ Female ❑

Mail to: South Central Power, Attn.: Rita Tate
P.O. Box 250 Lancaster, OH 43130-0250
or call 740-689-6167 or 1-800-282-5064 ext. 6167
Applications due by April 24.

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News Currents

Spring cleaning time

Yes, it's that time of year again. Time to rid yourself of winter's cobwebs and spring's muddy footprints.

Before you start cleaning up the grime, read the instructions on the cleaning solution. These vary from product to product; it is best to follow their guidelines. If you have questions, contact the 1-800 number or visit the Web site listed on the product for helpful information.

Always have the national poison control and prevention hotline number near the phone: 1-800-222-1222.

Cleaning products never should be mixed. Combining bleach and ammonia creates a deadly gas, for example.

Always keep the cleaners in the original container. It will reduce the confusion and risk when using the cleaner, which otherwise might be mistaken for something harmless.

Do not use chemicals near an open flame. The cleaning solution could be flammable.

After the cleaning spree, remember to put the lid back on the containers and place the chemicals out of the way of children and pets.

If you find some old paint, wood stain, cleaners or fertilizer in the garage or basement, contact your local Solid Waste Department. They will inform you on the best way to dispose of them.

Remember the 3Rs on Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22. Help the environment by practicing the three Rs. *Reduce* how much you use, *reuse* what you can and *recycle* the rest in an environmentally friendly way.

Reduce. Buy permanent items instead of disposables. Buy and use only what you need. Buy products with less packaging and fewer toxic chemicals.

Reuse. Repair items as much as possible.

Use durable coffee mugs instead of styrofoam. Use cloth napkins or towels instead of paper. Use empty jars, bottles and boxes when it is appropriate and safe to do so.

Reuse grocery bags as trash bags. Purchase refillable pens and pencils.

Instead of throwing things away, donate extras to friends, family or to charity.

Recycle. Recycle printer paper, newspapers and unwanted mail. Also recycle plastic, glass bottles, cardboard and aluminum cans. If a community curbside collection program is not offered, take them to a nearby collection center.

Recycle cell phone, computers and other electronics properly.

Investigate if your community has a household hazardous waste collection day for paint, oil and other items.

Compost food scraps, grass and other yard clippings and dead plants.

Close the loop. Buy recycled products and products that use recycled packaging. That makes recycling economically possible.

Caulking and sealing

An easy way to lower your energy costs is to caulk, seal and weatherstrip around the pipes, doors and windows of your home.

Not only will it keep your home more comfortable in the summer and winter, but you also will enjoy energy savings throughout the year.

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