



Contact us

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[www.southcentralpower.com](http://www.southcentralpower.com)

#### Offices

##### Lancaster

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Lancaster, OH 43130

##### Canal Winchester

10229 Busey Road  
Canal Winchester, OH  
43110

##### Circleville

2100 Chickasaw Drive  
Circleville, OH 43113

##### Hillsboro

110 Danville Pike  
Hillsboro, OH 45133

##### Barnesville

37801 Barnesville-  
Bethesda Rd.  
Barnesville, OH 43713

#### Office hours

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Outage reporting

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 Power's Lancaster office.

## Support renewable energy with EnviroWatts

### Interested in supporting green power?

Participate in EnviroWatts®, a green power program that lets consumers support production of energy from renewable sources.

EnviroWatts debuted in Ohio in 2006. It was then based on the purchase of renewable energy certificates from electricity produced by methane gas from a Kentucky landfill. A portion of the money funded research and development in Ohio. Those initial projects include a small wind turbine in Logan County and a solar panel system built in partnership with Miami University in Butler County.

Today, renewable energy credits (RECs) for the EnviroWatts program come from Buckeye Power's portfolio of renewable energy resources. Ohio's electric co-ops purchase their electricity from Buckeye Power.

In 2010 that included a wind farm in Story County, Iowa. Buckeye Power's purchased power agreement is for 30 megawatts of wind generation. The RECs also encompass two anaerobic biodigesters. When they became operational in 2008 they were the first of their kind in Ohio. Using methane from animal waste, the units at the 3,900-cow Bridgewater Dairy in Williams County and the 600,000-laying hen Wenning Poultry farm in Mercer County can produce up to a combined 3 megawatts of green power for Buckeye Power.

### How does it work?

South Central Power consumers who choose to support the development of renewable energy sources participate in EnviroWatts by purchasing 100 kilowatt-hour blocks of renewable energy.

Participants have a \$2 monthly charge added to their electric bill for each 100 kilowatt-hour block that is purchased. Because energy generated from renewable sources is more expensive than energy generated from coal, oil or natural gas, the EnviroWatts charge reflects the costs over and above that of conventional electricity.

EnviroWatts participants do not have renewable energy delivered directly to their home or business. Rather, it's generated and delivered to the Ohio power grid.

This voluntary program is available to residential and business cooperative members. Contact South Central Power to enroll.

Earth Friendly Energy Alternatives

## Country Living honored for media excellence

The Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented South Central Power with the chapter's Media Excellence Award.

Presented in March at the chapter's annual awards ceremony, it was the first time this particular award was given.

DAR recognized South Central Power for its writing, photography and its dedication to educating readers about local history using *Country Living*.

The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

DAR has 168,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. The Elizabeth Sherman Reese chapter encompasses Fairfield, Perry and Hocking counties.



Elizabeth Baker (left), regent for the Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter of DAR, presents the Media Excellence Award to Lisa Hooker, South Central Power's communications and government relations director.

### No posting, please

When South Central Power line crews climb utility poles, they depend on having solid structures under foot. This is not always the case, though. When signs, posters or recreational equipment such as basketball rims, are attached to co-op poles, it creates serious hazards.

Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples all present eminent danger. If a lineman comes into contact with a foreign object when climbing, he can't get good footing. His climbing hooks could cut out and serious injury could result. It also could be dangerous if his arm or leg catches on a nail or other object tacked onto the pole.

Sharp objects can also puncture rubber gloves, boots and other safety equipment, putting the workers at risk of electrocution.

When a line crew has to remove nails or staples from poles in order to climb during an outage, it takes that much longer to restore power.

So please, do not attach any items, no matter how small or innocent looking. Someone's life may depend on it.



### Tune into TV energy savings

So you've bought an ENERGY STAR®-qualified TV to save energy. But there's even more you can do to boost your TV's efficiency.

Obviously televisions are bigger than they used to be. And some of the largest ones can use as much electricity each year as a new, conventional refrigerator. But ENERGY STAR-qualified TVs use roughly 40 percent less energy than standard models.

Of course, if the set is left on when no one is watching, that costs money. But in some cases, even if you hit the "off" button your television could still consume power.

Many high-definition TVs come with a quick start option. By turning it off, you'll save energy and add only a brief period to the start-up times.

Also consider using a power strip as a central "turn off" point. When you're not watching TV and not planning to record a program later, simply flip the strip's "off" button.

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — contact the energy advisor at your local South Central Power office.

## Spring into energy efficiency

Spring marks a perfect time of year to make your home more energy efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money:

**Seal cracks and gaps** around your home. As you put away your storm windows consider adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames. TogetherWeSave.com, a website sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, shows how easy it is to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around vents, ductwork and windows.

**Change filters regularly.** Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder on hot summer days.

**Clean the refrigerator inside and out.** Now's a good time to not only throw out that leftover fruitcake from the holidays but check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency. When it's time to replace that old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that's ENERGY STAR® rated.

**Think sun block.** TogetherWeSave.com points out that by pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Your local hardware store likely carries lots of inexpensive window coverings. Blocking the sun also helps keep your house cooler and more comfortable.

**Enjoy spring breezes.** Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry

clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer, and add a genuine clean scent to your family's laundry.

Learn more about ways to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting TogetherWeSave.com or by calling the energy advisor at your local South Central Power office.



## Staying on top of unsafe products

Each year, thousands of product recalls — many of them electrical devices — occur in the United States. Given that some recalls involve items that have already done great harm, it's important to stay on top of developments to keep your family safe.

Recalls begin in two ways: A federal regulatory agency issues a mandatory recall or the manufacturer voluntarily recalls the product after receiving information that it could be unsafe.

Learn about the dozens of recalls that are issued every week with these key sources:

**Recalls.gov** Six government agencies joined forces to create www.recalls.gov. The site pulls its information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Coast Guard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition to having the latest information, www.recalls.gov allows users to keyword search through its archives. The website also boasts a mobile phone application, which enables consumers to have information when and where they need it. For example, at a yard sale or a day care center, a consumer can type in the name of a particular product to see if a recall has been issued. Some of the agencies, including the CPSC, have RSS feeds, which provide users with new information automatically every day. Some also use Facebook, Twitter and other applications to share information easily.

**ConsumerReports.org.** This popular website contains a safety blog on recalls and additional information including illustrations of unsafe products. Users can sign up for the safety blog to receive information on a daily basis.

## NEWS CURRENTS

## Pay attention to prescription directions

The week of April 1 to 7 is Medication Safety Week. Consider these tips to make the most of your medications.

Clean out your medicine cabinet. Discard outdated medicines and old prescriptions. Drugs can lose potency over time. Store medications in the original containers in a cool dry place. The bathroom usually is not the best location.

Always keep medicines out of reach of children and pets.

Know your medications. Know how to identify each pill and understand what it is for. Write down both the generic and trade names.

Keep a current list of all prescribed and over-the-counter medications. Don't forget birth control pills, patches, vitamins and supplements. Give a copy to a

trusted family member and carry a copy with you. Placing a copy on the refrigerator assists family members and medics in an emergency.

For maximum effectiveness, take each medicine exactly as directed. Effectiveness can depend on various factors such as taking it on an empty stomach or at a certain time. Also note any precautionary stickers on the label.

Over-the-counter vitamins, minerals and herbal supplements can cause unknown interactions with other medications. Speak with your doctor or pharmacist before taking them.

Using a pill organizer requires close monitoring and awareness, since the pills are no longer in their original identifying containers.

## Highway construction season

Spring means road construction season is here.

Drive safely in work zones to protect yourself and work crews. Be patient, too.

Double your following distance so you have time to react to warnings or hazards.

When traffic must merge into one lane, move into the correct lane well in advance.

Pay attention to moving construction equipment and be prepared to stop.

When temporary median crossovers are in place, watch for uneven roadways.

Report inadequate or missing signage to the appropriate highway department.



## Keep track of important documents

If something happened to you, would your family members know where to find your...

- most recent will?
- safe deposit box and key?
- birth certificate?
- marriage certificate?
- past years' tax returns?
- employment records?
- life and health insurance policies?
- deeds?
- cemetery plot deed?
- unpaid bills?
- assets and liabilities?
- financial account numbers?
- living will?
- special instructions?



If you have elderly parents or others who rely on you, make sure you know where to find their key documents.

If some documents are stored online, make sure a trusted person knows how to access them.

Communicating this information *before* a crisis occurs makes a stressful situation easier for your spouse and other family members.