

Press Release

For Immediate Release: Sept. 2, 2025

Award-winning economic development team receives *Site Selection* Top Utility honor

Continuing a streak of international recognitions for their economic development efforts, Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are among America's Top Utilities identified by *Site Selection* magazine.

This is the fourth consecutive year the cooperatives have received this honor. See *Site Selection* magazine's article at: <https://siteselection.com/2025-top-utilities-making-the-connections/>

"Our team includes dozens of professionals from 17 cooperatives across 89 Kentucky counties working with local, state and federal officials to engage prospects from around the nation and the globe," said Rodney Hitch, Director of Economic Development. "We work together to highlight the tremendous opportunities available in the rural communities we serve."

In 2024, Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives assisted with projects that resulted in announcements of more than \$1.45 billion in new investment and over 2,400 new jobs in Kentucky.

"New and expanding businesses are vital to the communities served by our cooperatives because they provide the jobs and investment to preserve a vibrant quality of life in those communities," said Brad Thomas, Manager of Economic Development.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have received numerous recognitions for economic development. In May, Brittany Cox, Associate Economic Development Manager for the co-ops, was honored among North America's top 50 economic developers for 2025, as determined by Consultant Connect.

The cooperatives are past winners of the Projects With A Purpose Award from the Site Selectors Guild, as well as Excellence in Economic Development awards from the Southern Economic Development Council and the National Rural Economic Developers Association.

The German American Chambers of Commerce presented the co-ops with the Excellence in Economic Development award. The award recognizes the work of the electric cooperatives in promoting German-American business relations and supporting trade and investment between Germany and the United States

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Since re-energizing economic development efforts in 2015, the Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have seen 381 economic development projects, including 154 new company locations with over \$13 billion invested and 20,000 jobs created across the cooperatives' rural service territories.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives include 17 not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives that serve more than 1 million Kentucky residents across 89 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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