

Learn more about: Kentuckians For The Commonwealth's campaign to

# RENEW EAST KENTUCKY



Renew East Kentucky is an organizing campaign to move Kentucky's rural electric co-ops toward cleaner energy, increased energy efficiency, and more open and democratic governance.

Our goal is to create good, local jobs, ensure affordable electricity for those most vulnerable, and begin shifting power from the hands of the few to the hands of the many.

Renew East Kentucky will be an important step in transitioning our region to a sustainable and healthy economy that is good for all of us.

The 16 cooperatives in the East Kentucky Power Cooperative service area



**We are Kentuckians.** We love our families. We care about our communities. And we want what everybody wants: more **affordable energy**; **good jobs** that don't do damage to our land, air, or water; **a say** in the important decisions that affect us; and **healthy communities**.

Today we have the **best opportunity in generations** to build the Kentucky we deserve. KFTC members are now at the table with electric co-ops, looking for ways to bring about more **energy efficiency and renewable energy**. Energy-saving pilot projects, including the new How\$martKY program, are taking place throughout the area. And people are stepping up more and more to **participate in the decisions** their co-ops are making.

**But, we must keep working.** We are facing real economic hardships. We have to organize our communities and convince the co-ops that helping their members **save energy and save money** should be a top priority. We need to lobby our decision-makers to get behind **clean energy, energy efficiency, and job training**. And we need to communicate a vision of what is possible: that **together we can renew east Kentucky**.

# What is KFTC doing to help RENEW EAST KENTUCKY?

## We have a vision. We're taking action.

To renew east Kentucky, we propose that the East Kentucky Power Cooperative and its sixteen distribution cooperatives launch a strong **energy efficiency and renewable energy program** that is **well-funded** and **long-lasting** in the EKPC service area.

KFTC members are currently participating in the **Clean Energy Collaborative** with EKPC with a goal of developing and recommending a well-researched **energy efficiency and clean energy plan** to the EKPC Board of Directors.

**Grants and loans** from USDA's Rural Utility Service (RUS) and other funders could fund a large part of this initiative, allowing the co-ops to implement these significant **energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions**.

**On-bill financing** is also an important part of the plan. **How\$martKY**, a program now in the pilot (or testing) stage, will allow co-op members to upgrade their homes and **pay for improvements with their utility savings**.

Implementing this plan will also require its adoption by the EKPC board, approval by state regulators, as well as a **region-wide commitment to workforce development**.

And we will need **committed and energetic partners**, both established and unlikely, from the community colleges to labor unions, housing non-profits to Community Action Agencies.

## What can I do to help Renew East Kentucky?

- Set up a personal meeting with your co-op's management and/or board directors to talk about the importance of getting behind energy efficiency, clean energy, and transparency in your co-op
- Request to attend one of your co-op's board meetings to learn more about the decisions your co-op is making
- Host a Renew East Kentucky petition drive in your community to find new people interested in clean energy and energy-savings programs
- Contact a KFTC organizer to set up an educational presentation about the Renew East Kentucky campaign for yourself, your KFTC chapter, and/or your neighbors



Jackson Energy members meet with their co-op staff.

KFTC members have begun **taking action** and, over the coming years, we will work to **Renew East Kentucky** in the following ways:

- Organize in our communities by hosting house-parties, talking with neighbors, etc.
- Participate in the Clean Energy Collaborative with EKPC & the co-ops
- Help promote the How\$martKY on-bill financing program
- Work to reform the local distribution cooperatives
- Lobby for legislation to bring clean energy to Kentucky & funding for on-bill financing
- Develop leadership skills related to clean energy & democracy
- Create and use strategic communications tools and materials



**KENTUCKIANS FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH**

[www.kftc.org](http://www.kftc.org)