



Macon Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Building the Future: MEC Connects Students with Careers in the Electric Utility Industry



The future of Missouri's workforce starts with giving young people opportunities to explore careers firsthand. Macon Electric Cooperative was proud to be part of Build My Future Macon, held September 16 in Macon, where area students had the opportunity to discover a variety of skilled trades and career paths available close to home.

Build My Future is more than a traditional career fair. Instead of simply hearing about different occupations, students have the opportunity to interact with professionals, ask questions and experience aspects of different careers through hands-on demonstrations. The event connects students with local

employers and organizations while showcasing career opportunities that may not always be found in a traditional classroom setting.

For Macon Electric Cooperative, the event provided an opportunity to introduce students to careers within the electric cooperative industry and give them a better understanding of what it takes to provide safe and reliable electricity to our communities.

More Than a Job

Working for an electric cooperative requires a unique combination of technical knowledge, teamwork, problem-solving and a strong commitment to safety. While lineworkers are

often the most visible employees of an electric cooperative, especially during outages and severe weather, it takes employees with many different skills to keep a cooperative operating successfully.

From operations and engineering to member services, accounting, communications and technology, electric cooperatives offer a wide range of career opportunities. Each position plays an important role in fulfilling the cooperative's mission and serving its members.

Events like Build My Future allow students to begin making those connections between their interests and potential careers.

For students interested in becoming lineworkers, the opportunity to interact with electric utility professionals can be especially valuable. Linework is a highly skilled profession that requires extensive training and an unwavering commitment to safe work practices. Lineworkers must also be prepared to work in challenging conditions, including extreme temperatures, storms and after-hours outages.

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Those responsibilities come with something equally important such as the opportunity to serve neighbors and communities.

Investing in the Next Generation

As a locally owned electric cooperative, Macon Electric understands the importance of developing a strong workforce in rural Missouri. Encouraging young people to explore skilled trades and other local career opportunities can help strengthen our communities for generations to come.

Workforce development is also an important part of preparing for the future of the electric utility industry. Technology continues to change the way cooperatives operate, but the need for skilled, dependable employees remains constant. Introducing students to these careers early can help them understand the education, training and skills they will need to pursue them after high school.

Build My Future creates an environment where students

can ask questions, try something new and perhaps discover a career they had never considered before.

Macon Electric Cooperative is grateful for the opportunity to participate alongside other area businesses, organizations and skilled professionals who invested their time in local students. Bringing employers and students together helps demonstrate that meaningful and rewarding career opportunities can be found right here in our

region.

Whether one of the students who attended this year's event someday becomes a lineworker, electrician, equipment operator, technician, engineer or chooses another career entirely, giving young people the chance to explore their options is an investment in the future of our communities.

At Macon Electric Cooperative, we're proud to help power that future.



Kaseyville Line Project Builds Reliability for the Future

At Macon Electric Cooperative, providing reliable electricity means making sure our lines and equipment are ready to serve our members today and in the years ahead. One example of this work is our Kaseyville Line Hardening Project, supported by a \$1.2 million FEMA grant. This funding gives MEC the opportunity to make important improvements to our local electric system while reducing the amount of project costs that must be covered by our membership.

The project includes improvements to about six miles of electric line in the Kaseyville area. We are upgrading the line from single-phase to three-phase, giving us a stronger line that can better handle the electricity needed to serve the area. These improvements will also help prepare this part of our system for future needs as the demand for electricity continues to change.

The project will also give our crews more options when an outage occurs.

This line provides an alternate feed from the current line that crosses the Chariton River. This area is difficult to access and is prone to storm damage. If there is a problem with the Chariton River line that normally serves the area, we will have the ability in certain situations to bring power in from another substation. For our members, that can mean fewer homes and businesses without power and a quicker path to getting the lights back on. It also gives our crews more flexibility when making repairs or completing maintenance on the system.

We recently met with Missouri State Representative Tim Taylor to give him an update on the project and explain how these improvements will benefit the Kaseyville area and Macon Electric Cooperative members. The visit gave us an opportunity to show how grant funding is being put to work locally and how projects like this can make a meaningful difference for the rural communities we serve.

Projects like the Kaseyville Line Hardening Project are about more than replacing poles and wire. They are about making our electric system stronger, giving our crews better options during outages and helping keep the power on for the families, farms and businesses we serve. Reliable electricity plays an important role in everything from everyday life at home to keeping local farms and businesses running.

With the help of grant funding, MEC can complete important projects like this while continuing to be responsible with our members' dollars. By planning ahead and investing in the areas of our system where improvements are needed, we are working to provide dependable electric service our members can count on now and well into the future.



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8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. |
Monday- Friday

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CLOSURES:

Wednesday, November 11 - Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Break
Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Friday, January 1 - New Years Day