



Autumn
2022

The Hartselle

Connection

Serving Hartselle's People, Building for Hartselle's Future

Celebrating the Benefits of Public Power Oct. 2-8

The first week in October, Hartselle Utilities will celebrate Public Power Week. We join over 2,000 public power utilities who provide electricity to 49 million Americans.

Why have a week to 'celebrate' public power? If you've grown up in this area, you may not realize that publicly-owned utilities are rare: Only 14.6% of Americans get their electricity from public utilities.

We think it's better – but you don't have to take our word for it. A study by the U.S. Energy Information Association (EIA) showed that public utility rates are, on average, 13% lower than those of investor-owned utilities. EIA also found "municipal utility customers experienced the lowest instances of power outages in both frequency and duration" during the year the data was studied.

A History of Working for the People

During the 1920's and 30's, there was a contentious battle for control of power generation in the Tennessee Valley. In 1920, Henry Ford tried to build a private dam to create a utility to modernize the Tennessee Valley. He was blocked by Sen. George W. Norris of Nebraska, who distrusted private utility companies.

Thirteen years later, the Tennessee Valley was reeling from the Depression. To help the region, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's



New Deal program created the Tennessee Valley Authority. TVA's mission was to modernize and improve the quality of life here through electricity, better agricultural practices, and economic development.

Today, TVA produces electricity and distributes it through 153 local power companies – including Hartselle

Utilities – in Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia.

Local is Better

"Hartselle Utilities not only serves Hartselle – we are part of Hartselle," explains General Manager Bob Sittason. "We live here. We are part of the community; you'll see us at the grocery store, church, and ball fields. Most of our employees are from the area. Our five board members are local leaders. We make policy decisions based on what's best for our community, not on what will make us the most money. You don't usually find that with investor-owned utilities."

Hartselle Utilities was incorporated in 1989 as a public utility. Our loyalty is to our customers – not stockholders. We want our customers' utility bills to be as low as possible. That's why this newsletter often includes articles on how you can lower your energy and water bills.

Hartselle Utilities focuses on delivering reliable, efficient service, not just today but in the future, as well. We conduct pole inspections every year and maintain our right-of-ways to insure our system is in top shape to serve this community. (Our families don't like power outages, either!)

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Online Resources To Help You Save Money On Energy Costs

The EnergyRight program – developed in a partnership between TVA and local power companies, including Hartselle Utilities – offers a wealth of free resources, says Hartselle Utilities Customer Service Manager Tim Mitchell.

"EnergyRight offers a free, do-it-yourself Home Energy Assessment that can help people save money on their utility bill," Mitchell explains. Hartselle Utilities customers who complete the assessment receive customized recommendations for their home, an energy-saving kit, and a Home Depot gift card.

The EnergyRight website offers other free resources to HU customers, including:

- *The Quality Contractor Network*: Find licensed and insured contractors trained to meet TVA's quality guidelines.



- *Home Energy Project Financing*: Explore options to finance home energy projects, such as installing new appliances or an HVAC system.

- *Energy Savings*: Videos and articles with tips and tricks on saving energy in every part of your home.
- Visit energyright.com to learn more.**

Hartselle Utilities will be closed on these holidays:

- Veteran's Day: Friday, Nov. 11, 2022
- Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25, 2022
- Christmas: Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26, 2022
- New Year's: Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 and Monday, Jan. 2, 2023
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, Jan. 16, 2023
- President's Day: Monday, Feb. 20, 2023

Hartselle Utilities Sewer Collection Crews



From left to right, Zack Alred, Kevin Pope, Stephen Johnson, Kris Owens, and David Taylor

Who makes sure all the sewer collection pipes are flowing properly in Hartselle? HU's sewer collections team ensures that over 91 miles of sewer mains and 21 lift stations operate properly, and sanitary sewers flow to the wastewater treatment plant.

Kris Owens has worked for HU for over 22 years and has served as the Sewer System Inspection Operator for five years. He works in conjunction with Zack Alred, an employee of two years, who was recently promoted to Line Cleaning Technician in June 2022.

Stephen Johnson became the Lift Station Maintenance Technician in May 2022, after the retirement of Steve Stinson. Stephen has worked in several roles within sewer collections since 2008 and has been an employee of HU for 16 years. Kevin Pope joined this team in September 2022 as the Sewer System Equipment Operator, after working in the meter reading department for over five years.

David Taylor, Sewer System Controller, supervises these crews as part of his role in the Engineering Services Department, which he has served in for over seven years of his 20 years of service at HU. Each of these employees bring specialized skills to their job and we congratulate Stephen, Zack, and Kevin on their new positions!

Public Power Week ... continued from front page

When TVA was created in 1933, part of its mission was to bring economic development to the region. That continues today throughout the Tennessee Valley. Here in Hartselle, our staff works with partners to provide utility infrastructure to attract jobs and opportunities to this community.

As a Hartselle Utilities customer, you have a voice. Our board holds open meetings, typically the first or third Monday of each month, in the Board Room of our main office on Sparkman Street. Customers are always welcome. Information about upcoming meetings is available on our website. Agendas are posted in our lobby and online seven days before each board meeting.

Getting your electricity from a publicly-owned company probably isn't something you think about, and that's the way it should be. You expect the power to be on when you need it, and we aim to deliver, so you can focus on other things in your life. That's worth celebrating!

A message from the Hartselle Fire Department:



Fire won't wait.

Plan your
escape at
fpw.org.



**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**

Rate Changes Effective October 1

There will be an increase in HU's Electric rates effective October 1, 2022. HU's residential customer charge will increase by \$1.00 per month and the energy charge will increase by \$.00058 per kWh. The monthly increase for our average residential customer, who uses 1,229 kWh on average per month, will be \$1.71.

Manage Your Account Online

Customer Portal



Mobile App



Scan the above codes with your smartphone to access Hartselle Utilities' Customer Portal or to install our Mobile App.

Hartselle Recycling Calendar

Here is Hartselle's recycling calendar for the rest of 2022.

For questions about sanitation pickup, containers, or your Recycling Pickup Zone, visit hartselle.org or call Public Works at (256) 773-2643.

November '22						
Sun	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October '22						
Sun	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

December '22						
Sun	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Zone 1-A Zone 1-B	Zone 2-A Zone 2-B	Zone 3-A Zone 3-B	Zone 4-A Zone 4-B
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For the full Recycling Pickup Calendar and Zone Map, visit hartselle.org

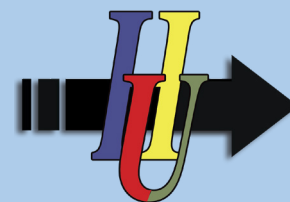
Have a non-emergency question or a question about your bill? Email us at inquiries@hartselleutilities.org.

We try to respond to billing and general questions within 24 hours; service issues that need investigation may take up to 48 hours.

To report a gas leak, sewer backup or power outage, call our office. Our phones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During business hours (M-F, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm), call (256) 773-3340. After hours, call (256) 773-2533 or (256) 773-2588.



256-773-2533 or 911



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