

KYMEA POWER POST

A Quarterly Publication by KYMEA.



A Vision Shared. Reliability Delivered.

BY MICHELLE HIXON

The vision that brought KYMEA together remains as strong as ever.

Ten years ago, a group of Kentucky communities came together with a shared purpose: to secure reliable, affordable power for their citizens while maintaining the local control that public power provides. The creation of the Kentucky Municipal Energy Agency (KYMEA) was built on collaboration, foresight, and the belief that cities working together could achieve more than they could alone. That vision continues to guide us today.

Through joint action, our member cities have strengthened their collective energy future. By pooling resources, sharing expertise, and making strategic investments, KYMEA has developed a diversified and resilient power portfolio that supports long-term reliability. Projects such as the Energy Center I and Ashwood Solar I demonstrate how collaboration enables innovation — delivering dependable generation while also preparing for the evolving energy landscape.

However, reliability is more than infrastructure - it reflects the strength of the partnership behind it. Our member utilities, directors, city leaders, and staff work together every day to ensure our communities have the power they need to grow and thrive. That shared commitment is the foundation of KYMEA's success.

As we celebrate our 10-year anniversary, we are reminded that the Agency's greatest strength is the partnership among our members. Together, we have built an organization capable of meeting today's challenges while planning responsibly for tomorrow.

The vision that brought KYMEA together remains as strong as ever. By continuing to work collaboratively and invest strategically, we will ensure that the power of partnership keeps reliability at the center of everything we do — for the next decade and beyond.



**KYMEA 2026 ANNUAL
MEMBERS CONFERENCE**

Scan to Register Now!

P. 2 From Vision to Institution: Building KYMEA from the Ground Up

P. 4 Building Together: Founding Members Reflect

P. 5 KYMEA Teams Up with Lightchange: Annual Cybersecurity Training

P. 6 Powering Up



From Vision to Institution: Building KYMEA from the Ground Up

BY DOUG BURESH



Greetings,

In our last issue of the Power Post, we reflected on KYMEA’s Joint Action Journey — why municipal utilities across Kentucky chose to come together and how the joint action model offered a durable solution to rising costs, market complexity, and the need to preserve local control. That story focused on vision and purpose.

This issue continues the journey but shifts the focus from why KYMEA was formed to how it was built.

Because long before KYMEA delivered its first megawatt of power on May 1, 2019, the real work of joint action was already well underway. The Agency that exists today — staffed, operational, and actively investing in Kentucky’s energy future — was first created through careful governance, legal structure, and collective decision-making by its founding members. Those early steps, taken largely behind the scenes, are what made everything that followed possible.

TURNING AN IDEA INTO A PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Creating a joint action agency is not a single decision; it is a sequence of deliberate commitments. For KYMEA’s founding members, that process began with a shared recognition: that collaboration required more than cooperation — it required structure.

The first task was establishing the legal foundation that would allow independent municipal utilities to act collectively while preserving their autonomy. Interlocal cooperation agreements

became the cornerstone of that effort. These agreements defined how cities would work together, how authority would be shared, and how responsibilities would be allocated. They translated trust into enforceable commitments.

At the same time, the founding members developed KYMEA’s bylaws — documents that may not attract headlines, but that ultimately determine how an organization functions. Those bylaws established the Agency’s governance model, voting structure, officer roles, and decision-making processes. Importantly, they reflected the values that continue to guide KYMEA today: fairness, transparency, and member-driven control.

With those frameworks in place, the Agency formally elected its initial officers and board leadership. These individuals were tasked not with overseeing a fully formed organization, but with guiding something that still existed largely on paper. Their role required foresight and discipline — setting policies and approving actions for an Agency that had not yet hired staff, opened an office, or delivered power.

COMMITTING BEFORE OPERATIONS BEGAN

One of the most remarkable aspects of KYMEA’s formation is that many of its most consequential decisions occurred before the Agency had employees.

Contracts were negotiated. Power supply strategies were debated. Long-term commitments were evaluated. All of this was done by member representatives who understood that joint action requires confidence not only in the concept, but in one another.

Entering into agreements — whether for power supply, market participation, professional services, or financing — meant that KYMEA’s members were committing to a shared future. These were not tentative steps. They were binding decisions that demonstrated belief in the Agency’s long-term value.

This period demanded patience. Progress did not always come quickly, and outcomes were not always certain. But what distinguished KYMEA’s early development was a willingness to do the hard, unglamorous work of institution-building — knowing that success would depend on getting the fundamentals right.

FROM GOVERNANCE TO OPERATIONS

By 2018, the Agency reached a pivotal transition point. With its legal and governance framework firmly in place, KYMEA was ready to move from concept to operation.

That year, the Board hired the Agency’s first President and CEO and began assembling a small but capable staff. The mandate was clear: start up an operational joint action agency capable of

Important Dates

March

- 23rd AR Committee Meeting
- 23rd ECI Committee Mtg
- 23rd BROC Mtg
- 26th Combined AR & Board Meeting

April

- 23rd ECI Committee Mtg
- 23rd Combined AR & Board Meeting

May

- 22nd ECI Committee Mtg
- 22nd Combined AR & Board Meeting



reliably serving members beginning May 1, 2019.

Building KYMEA as an operating organization meant establishing systems, processes, and controls from the ground up. Market participation protocols were developed. Financial and settlement systems were implemented. Regulatory compliance frameworks were put in place. Policies governing risk management, reporting, and member communications were formalized.

At the same time, the Agency worked closely with its members to prepare for the transition to all-requirements service. This required coordination, data exchange, and trust on both sides. The goal was simple but demanding; ensuring that when KYMEA flipped the switch on its first day of service, everything worked as intended.

MAY 1, 2019: THE BEGINNING OF DELIVERY

When KYMEA began delivering power on May 1, 2019, it marked the culmination of years of planning and preparation. But it was also the start of something new.

From that day forward, the Agency shifted from formation to performance. Decisions were no longer hypothetical; they had real-time consequences in energy markets and member communities. The systems built during the formative years were tested daily, and the governance structures established at the outset proved their value.

What followed — portfolio diversification, financial stability, rate reductions, renewable investments, and ultimately the development of Energy Center I — can all be traced back to those early foundational choices. The Agency's ability to act decisively today rests on the care taken in those first steps.

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

As we celebrate KYMEA's 10-year anniversary, it is worth

remembering that joint action success is never accidental. It is built — carefully, collaboratively, and deliberately.

The work that created KYMEA did not happen all at once, and it did not happen without debate. But it was guided by a shared understanding: that Kentucky's municipal utilities are stronger together than apart, and that local control is best preserved through collective action, not isolation.

Today, KYMEA stands as a fully operational agency serving its members with professionalism, discipline, and long-term vision. That outcome is a credit to the municipal leaders who were willing to commit early, govern responsibly, and trust the joint action model before results were guaranteed.

LOOKING AHEAD

This newsletter marks another chapter in our year-long reflection on KYMEA's first decade. In future issues, we will continue to highlight the people, projects, and partnerships that define who we are today.

But none of what lies ahead would be possible without the foundational work that came first — the agreements signed, the bylaws written, the officers elected, and the contracts approved before the Agency ever hired its first employee.

That is the quiet strength of joint action. And it is the reason KYMEA enters its second decade positioned not just to endure, but to lead.



A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP

FEATURING THE ORIGINAL VISIONARIES & FOUNDING MEMBERS

MAY 20-22, 2026



Building Together: Founding Members Reflect

Member communities share what KYMEA partnership has meant over the past ten years.

Since KYMEA's founding, our member cities have worked together to strengthen reliability, stability, and long-term energy planning. As we reflect on the past ten years, several founding members shared their thoughts on what this partnership has meant to their communities.



“

KYMEA is member-driven, giving a voice to our communities.

-Kevin Howard, Berea Municipal Utilities



”

Reliable, sustainable, affordable energy for our customers.

-Josh Callihan, Barbourville Utility Commission

“

Since joining KYMEA, we've had the lowest wholesale & retail rates statewide.

-Ron Herd, City Utilities Commission of Corbin



”

Over the past 10 years, KYMEA has grown into more than a power purchasing agency; it's a collaborative network of municipal utilities across the state.

-Brad Porter, City of Madisonville Electric



”

Being a KYMEA member allows Bardwell to deliver lower electric costs, predictable rates, and real savings for our community.

-Mayor King, City of Bardwell Utilities

We've kept rates unchanged, saving ratepayers over \$2 million since 2019.

-Josh Callihan, Barbourville Utility Commission



”

Utilities collaborate to provide reliable, affordable, & sustainable power while minimizing risks for communities.

-Kevin Howard, Berea Municipal Utilities



KYMEA Teams Up with Lightchange: Annual Cybersecurity Training

BY: CARLY LITTLETON

KYMEA is committed to the professional development of staff across our member communities. Each year, the Agency partners with LightChange Technologies — a Louisville-based IT firm with more than 20 years of experience supporting municipal and energy infrastructure — to provide complimentary cybersecurity training. With expertise in anti-cybercrime protocols, risk management software, and sensitive information systems, this partnership is pivotal in protecting a secure and reliable power grid in today’s complex digital landscape.

Cyber threats have evolved rapidly over the past decade; prompting regulatory agencies and utilities to strengthen initiatives to prevent cyberattacks. This year’s Annual Cybersecurity Training, led by LightChange’s Lead Cybersecurity Engineer, Mikey Veenstra, detailed common cybersecurity risks and how cybercriminals specifically target working professionals in their day-to-day roles. To help mitigate these threats, Veenstra developed a synopsis of effective countertactics such as identifying phishing attempts, using high-entropy passwords, and implementing multi-factor authentication for all staff. The importance of proactive defense measures and fortified information systems remained central to the session. KYMEA’s pledge to



operational excellence and collaboration ensure that our members and their municipal staff are offered opportunities that support ongoing modernization within the public power space, while equipping them with the knowledge and tools to stay ahead of cyber threats. Trainings like this — with help from LightChange Technologies — are among the many KYMEA initiatives that support reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy services across the Commonwealth.

Preparedness: A Strategy, Not a Reaction

BY: CARLY LITTLETON

Members of the KYMEA staff were invited for an Electrical Energy Sector Briefing at the Louisville F.B.I. Field Office earlier this month, with the goal of strengthening the coalition between public and private sectors. Within the past few years, cyberterrorism tactics have increasingly targeted public power infrastructures, seeking to cause mass disruption to the United States.

From the beginning, the briefing emphasized that resilience is not reactive — it’s intentional. Expanding upon this concept, F.B.I. Special Agents and Intelligence Analysts specified how both private and public sector energy infrastructures must implement a Written Incident Response Plan as part of their anti-cybercrime defense systems.

Constituting a live framework, a Written Incident Response Plan supports an improved decision-making process that limits operational damage, all while expediting remediation when time is limited.

To best gather effective defense responses during cyberattacks, organizations must first identify risks within both IT and operational departments. Once this is gathered, three core elements must additionally align: technical, legal, and managerial leadership.

Communication planning processes are crucial to ensure the best response is delivered when systems are compromised. However, these plans must exist outside central networks. When systems are fragile, communication planning provides the best support to ensure clarity and security across diversified infrastructure networks.

Ultimately, resilience in today’s digital landscape depends not only on technology, but on preparation and collaboration. By engaging with federal partners and industry experts, KYMEA continues to reinforce its commitment to protecting the infrastructure that keeps our communities powered and secure.



POWERING UP

KYMEA is expanding to better serve its member communities. With new responsibilities at Energy Center I, three talented team members are joining to support the agency's mission, bringing expertise that will help KYMEA continue delivering reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.



ETHAN TEVELDAL
ECI Plant Manager

With 15 years of experience in power generation, Ethan brings extensive knowledge of RICE and combustion turbine plants from his work in the Midwest. As KYMEA's Energy Center I Plant Manager, he directly supports the Agency's mission to provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy services. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family and exploring the outdoors, including plans for their first Kentucky adventure at Red River Gorge.



CARLY LITTLETON
Administrative Services &
Communications Coordinator

Carly joins KYMEA as Administrative Services & Communications Coordinator, bringing over six years of media and strategic communications experience. With expertise in rhetoric, content development, and digital design, she plans to expand KYMEA's digital visibility and create engaging media designs that highlight the Agency's value to its members and communities. Known for her energetic presence, Carly can often be heard before she's seen around Headquarters – often in her house shoes!



CHASE BRAND
IT/OT Systems Administrator

Chase has joined KYMEA as the Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT) Systems Administrator, bringing four years of experience from a G&T Cooperative in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. His hands-on expertise in managing complex utility systems will strengthen KYMEA's infrastructure and support both IT and OT needs. A passionate Texas Rangers fan, he's excited to explore Southeast MLB ballparks — even if he's still skeptical about the local barbecue compared to home!





ENERGY CENTER I UPDATE

Progress Advances Regardless of Winter Storm Fern!

Construction at KYMEA Energy Center I made solid progress in January, highlighted by the successful pour of the administration building slab and continued advancement of the engine hall structure. Despite weather-related challenges late in the month, crews maintained momentum by prioritizing critical path work, completing key below-grade foundations, and advancing structural steel and masonry activities. Preparations also continued for major equipment deliveries scheduled to begin later this winter, setting the stage for significant on-site transformation in the months ahead.



Foundations of Progress: December updates for KYMEA Energy Center I

In December, the KYMEA Energy Center project made notable progress with zero safety incidents. Key achievements included completing the admin building and air handling foundations, erecting primary steel for the pre-engineered metal building, finishing grounding work and duct bank pouring for underground electrical systems, and continuing soil stabilization at the substation site. The project team updated the master schedule and held planning meetings, keeping the project on track with the substation as the critical path.





Kentucky Municipal Energy Agency
1700 Eastpoint Pkwy. Ste. 220
Louisville, KY 40223

DISCOVER THE POWER OF ENERGY OPTIONS



#PUBLICPOWERFORKENTUCKY



If you have ideas for the next Power Post, please email Michelle Hixon at mhixon@kymea.org.



www.kymea.org



LinkedIn



contact@kymea.org