

Contractor Highlight:

Joshua Layne, Total Comfort Solutions

Josh Layne says that being a How\$mart partner has allowed him to meet new people and connect with clients that he would not otherwise have the opportunity to meet. He understands that many folks struggle with high bills, and is happy to find a way to be able to help by increasing their efficiency. He finds the work personally rewarding, and enjoys building relationships in the process.

"Being a part of the program has opened new doors for me," Josh said. He says he may even become BPI certified in the future.

In his free time, Josh enjoys riding in a five-seater side-by-side with his family. We thank Josh for being a willing and supportive partner, and for always providing member-owners with high quality work. Thank you, Total Comfort Solutions, and thank you, Josh Layne!



Josh Layne is the owner and operator of Total Comfort Solutions, and has been a partner with How\$mart since he started his company in 2014.

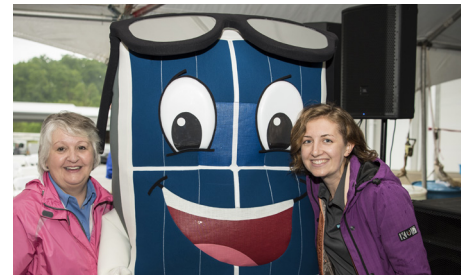


\$martNews

The How\$martKY™ Newsletter | Summer 2017

Licking Valley RECC Annual Meeting

Licking Valley Rural Electric Cooperative hosted their annual meeting on May 12. The music was captivating, the car show was classic, and their new "Solar Sam" mascot got a lot of attention. Solar Sam is helping promote the new Cooperative Solar program. Solar is gaining a lot of traction in the region right now, and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are at the forefront of that movement. For a one-time payment, member-owners can license solar panels and receive credit on their monthly power bill for the energy produced. David Crews, Senior VP of Power Supply at East Kentucky Power Cooperative (which will operate the 60-acre Cooperative Solar Farm One) said several home owners and businesses have signed up for the Cooperative Solar program. Although most businesses operate on a budget and need to incorporate their budget cycle into the process, business engagement will likely ramp up in the new year. Crews says cooperative solar has been received well overall. The Cooperative Solar program is available to 530,000 homes and businesses served by 16 electric co-ops in 87 Kentucky counties. For more information, visit www.CooperativeSolar.com. Sounds like some real movement is happening with this initiative, and the future is looking bright!



Maudie Nickel and Rachel Norton with Solar Sam.

How\$mart Clients Find Comfort in Energy Efficiency

One reason that homeowners are increasing requesting energy efficient upgrades is to improve the quality of their health. In fact, in some cases, it has been presented as being just as high a priority as saving money and energy.

Many member-owners, or the family members that live with them, have a mobility or health issue. This leaves them spending almost all of their time inside their home, making it all the more important for it to be well heated, ventilated and combustion safety tested. One such story came out of our survey last year:

In 2014, my significant other died of cancer... we were both disabled. We did not have our home paid for or car paid for. He did not have death insurance. My disabled son moved in with me, we were struggling for food. The heat unit went out and air conditioning, we could not get help. I am 69 years old and [have] a heart condition, my son is ill (COPD, mental illness), [and] uses oxygen. [We finally got help] through Barren County Warm Hearts, [of] which I was a member. I have Farmers Rural Electric to thank for that, and Alan Motley Electrician, heat, air conditioning. My bill is a lot lower and we have air and heat.

It's stories like these that show how inclusive finance programs like How\$martKY can really make a difference in people's lives. Energy efficient homes can truly improve the happiness, health and quality of life of those that live in them.