

Your Benton REA Board of Trustees

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Bob Evans
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Tim Grow
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Scott Fisher
Trustee, District 6

Catherine Russell
Trustee, District 8

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw
mikeb@bentonrea.org

Is Your Power Out?

If your electricity is out for more than a few minutes...

Check your breaker box to see if a circuit breaker has tripped.

Then, check to see if your neighbors are without power.

Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or via the SmartHub app.

"More Powerful Together" is Annual Meeting Theme

Mark your calendar for Benton REA's 81st Annual Meeting to be held at Prosser's Housel Middle School on February 10, 2018. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. with the business meeting to begin at Noon.

"More Powerful Together" has been chosen as this year's meeting theme. Board President Mike Freepons will address the members with a message focused on how the Benton REA members, board of trustees and employees are more powerful together.

Members will once again have the opportunity to participate in a free health fair, bingo, an energy and information fair and enjoy



lunch catered by Henry's Restaurant and Catering of West Richland. The Richland High School Jazz Combo will entertain guests before the meeting. Dozens of door prizes will be given away, including five \$100 and five \$500 Benton REA electric bill credit certificates.

Trustees for District

7—Connie Krull, and District 8—Catherine Russell, will be up for re-election. Both districts are located in West Richland. Members in these districts may vote prior to or at the annual meeting.

Plan to take advantage of your membership and attend your 81st Benton REA Annual Member Meeting. ■

Free English and Spanish Conservation Classes



Do you know how much insulation your home needs?

This month, Benton REA will host both English and Spanish residential energy conservation classes.

Members who are more comfortable speaking Spanish may attend the class that will be held on February 28 at Benton REA's Prosser office located at 402 7th Street. A class taught in English will be held on February 22 at the Benton REA West Richland office located at 6095 W. Van Giesen Street.

Both classes will begin at 6 p.m.

Each member attending will receive a graph depicting his or her energy use from the past three years as well as several energy saving products. The class instructors will help members interpret their home's current and past energy use.

Attendees will learn about the role of appliances, lighting

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and other sources of energy use in the home.

One \$100 and two \$50 Benton REA electric bill credit certificates will be given away in a drawing at the end of each class. The class is free to Benton REA members and non-members may attend for a \$20 fee. A limit of 35 seats are available, so register quickly to reserve your seat by contacting Eric Miller at emiller@bentonrea.org or 509-786-8265. Spanish speakers can register by calling 800-221-6987. ■

Duct sealing is one way to prevent wasted energy and money.



In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the executive order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Two years later, Benton REA received an REA loan to bring electricity to rural farmers in Benton County, Wash.



Benton REA will be closed Monday, February 19 in honor of President's Day



MORE THAN A NUMBER. A PROMISE.

At Benton REA we are each more than an account number. We are part of a promise to make life better and our communities stronger. That's why Benton REA, your local electric cooperative, helps hometown students like me pay for college. Thank you for supporting youth programs, scholarships, and grants to keep our community strong today and 20 years from now.

We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

To learn how you and Benton REA are #MorePowerfulTogether, read your Ruralite Magazine, High Voltage newsletter and visit BentonREA.org.



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COOPERATIVE INFO

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th Street | P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-2913
Toll Free 1-800-221-6987
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen,
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2921
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Office Closed for Lunch Noon - 12:30 p.m.

www.BentonREA.org
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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is a product of the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Office
Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
Elecia Copenhaver, Marketing and Communications
May Hays, Community Relations Coordinator
Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
Eric Miller, Energy Services

Apply for your \$300 Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebate

If you are in the market for an electric vehicle, consider Benton REA's rebate and loan options for purchasing a faster, Level 2, smart in-home charging station.

The Level 2 (240-Volt) smart charging station charges an electric vehicle in 8-10 hours as opposed to the 24 hours it takes a Level 1 charging station.

"The smart part of it means it can be programmed to charge at a certain time of day or night - in our case, after 10 p.m.," says Ron Mitchell, Benton REA's electrical advisor.

By charging your electric vehicle

after 10 p.m., this guarantees the electricity used will take place during Benton REA's non-peak hours of the day. The faster, Level 2 charging station also ensures that your vehicle will be fully charged in the morning.

By participating in this program, as well as taking simple steps to decrease your electric use during peak hours, members can help keep the cooperative's operating costs down.

Members may be eligible for both the electric vehicle charging station rebate and loan and are encouraged to speak with Ron Mitchell before applying for the electric vehicle smart charging station rebate and/or loan.

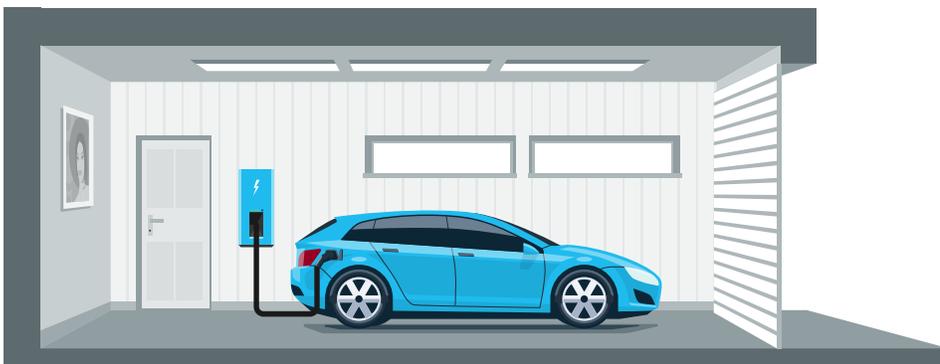
Call 509-786-8265 or email rmitchell@bentonrea.org for an application.

\$300 Rebate Requirements:

- ✓ Must be a residential Benton REA member who owns the residence
- ✓ Must purchase and install a residential Level 2 (240-Volt) smart charging station for your all-electric vehicle. Hybrid vehicles do not qualify.
- ✓ Set the charging delay to a time determined by Benton REA (such as 10 p.m.)

Loan Terms (Up to \$2,000):

- ✓ Recipient must be a Benton REA member in good standing with no more than one delinquent payment in the last 12 months
- ✓ Must meet all requirements of the electric vehicle charging station rebate
- ✓ Agree to a 3% fixed interest rate
- ✓ Agree to a 1-5 year maximum, nontransferable loan
- ✓ The member's electric service will be used as collateral on the loan. ■



Trustees Earn Credentials

Two Benton REA Trustees recently earned credentials in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Certificate Program.

Scott Fisher, Trustee of District 6, earned his Credentials Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD) in October of 2017. This is the first of three tiers in NRECA's Director Certificate Program. Fisher was elected by the members to the Board of Trustees one year ago.

Connie Krull, Trustee of District 7, earned her Board Leadership Certificate in October of 2017. Krull has served on the Benton REA board since September of 2012. She earned the CCD prerequisite in October of 2015.



Connie Krull - District 7 Trustee

NRECA's Director Certificate Programs are designed to help electric cooperative trustees understand their roles and responsibilities, stay



Scott Fisher - District 6 Trustee

up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future. ■

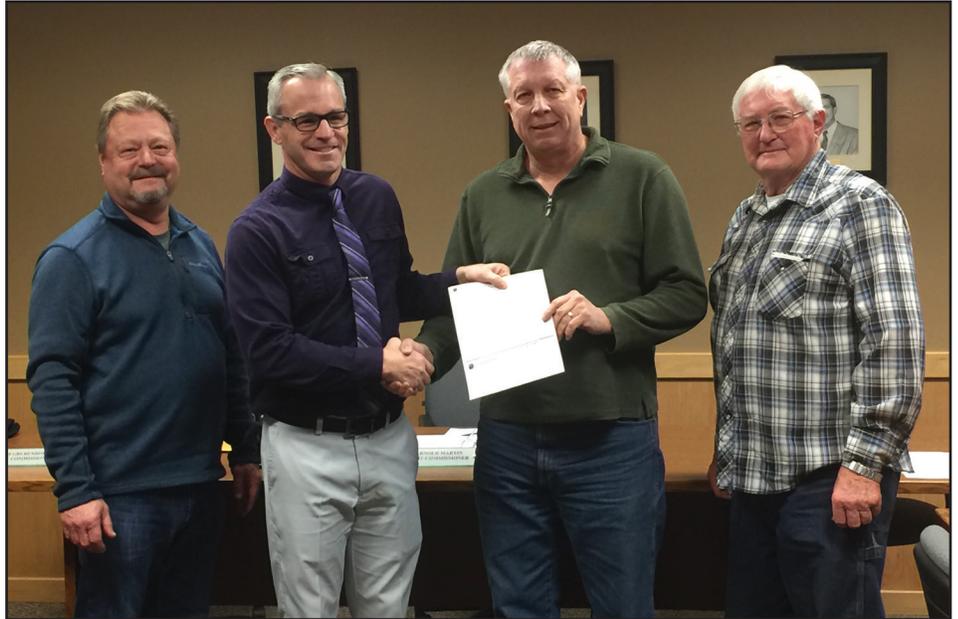
Sunnyside Port Receives \$100K Energy Efficiency Incentive

The Port of Sunnyside accepted a \$100,000 energy efficiency rebate from Benton REA at its Dec. 4, 2017, commissioner's meeting. The rebate was granted to the Port for the energy savings gained from the installation of their covered anaerobic lagoon (CAL) expansion.

"This is the single largest rebate check Benton REA has written in the history of its commercial efficiency incentive program," stated Troy Berglund, community development and member relations manager for Benton REA. "We are excited to further help the Port of Sunnyside in its economic development efforts."

The CAL expansion doubled the Port's waste water treatment capacity from 550,000 gallons per day to 1.1 million, thus enabling the expansion of the neighboring Darigold-Sunnyside's milk processing plant and allowing more capacity for future economic growth.

The Port's new anaerobic digester is projected to save 4,484,186 kilowatt hours (kWh) and \$168,156.98 annually. The savings are due to the CAL's biological anaerobic treatment process, which uses almost no electricity compared to the doubling of electric aeration equipment that would have been required if the CAL had not been installed.



Port of Sunnyside Commissioners Jim Grubenhoff, Jeff Matson and Arnold Martin accept a check of \$100,000 from Benton REA's Community Development and Member Relations Manager Troy Berglund, second from left.

"The electricity saved was an added benefit from all the growth," said Jay Hester, executive director of the Port of Sunnyside. The addition of the CAL was necessary for Darigold's expansion and the addition of 50 family-wage jobs at the plant.

In addition to the energy efficiency rebate, Benton REA helped the Port of Sunnyside secure several grants and loans through both the cooperative and the United States Department of Agriculture to help fund the CAL

expansion in 2014.

As of Nov. 30, 2017, the Port has paid back 24 percent of its loans from Benton REA, which the cooperative has placed into a revolving loan fund for other economic development projects in the area. Businesses who are members of Benton REA and are interested in more information about Benton REA's revolving loan fund should contact the cooperative at 509-786-8265. ■



Whether personal or business, your computer is important to you. We can help keep it running. Our goal is to provide you with personal, professional and timely support.

High-Speed Internet • Hardware Repair • Data Backups • Virus Removal • Training

www.BentonREA.com

509-786-4004

help@bentonrea.com