

## Your Benton REA Board of Trustees

**Michael Freepons**  
*President*  
*District 2*

**Connie Krull**  
*Vice President*  
*District 7*

**Mark Platt**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
*District 4*

**Buddy Treadway**  
*Trustee, District 1*

**Bob Evans**  
*Trustee, District 3*

**Tim Grow**  
*Trustee, District 5*

**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.

# When the Lights Go Out, It's Their Time to Shine

On April 9 Benton REA will honor the dedicated men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

We proudly recognize all electric linemen, servicemen, metermen, staking technicians, operations and engineering coordinators and warehousemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions, whenever duty calls, to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

Benton REA lineworkers are the first responders on the

scene of power outages and other electric distribution system emergencies. When needed, they work around the clock on high-voltage power lines. Conditions can be dangerous, but they are always ready and willing to do their best to ensure reliable electric service is provided for Benton REA members.

These men and women maintain more than 1,700 miles of power line, serving more than 14,000 member accounts in Benton, Yakima and Lewis counties.

To honor these brave men and women, Benton REA

encourages you to remember to thank a lineworker on April 9—and all year long—by sending in your cards and words of thanks.

Please send your comments of appreciation and encouragement for these dedicated lineworkers to [memberservices@bentonrea.org](mailto:memberservices@bentonrea.org) or drop them off at your closest Benton REA office in either Prosser or West Richland. ■



# PowerNET Remains Net Neutral

On March 5, Washington became the first state to approve its own net-neutrality rules that will take effect in June 2018. This move followed the Federal Communications Commission's December 2017 decision to repeal certain regulations on broadband companies.

Net neutrality is the principle that internet service providers must treat all data on

the internet the same, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application or method of communication.

Benton REA's PowerNET has no desire, and does not have any plans, to block, throttle, interfere with, or prioritize traffic on our network. In addition, PowerNET will not ask our customers to pay us for

access to any specific internet content, and PowerNET will not directly or indirectly favor some internet traffic over other traffic.

"We believe in the principle of net neutrality, and we will honor it, even if we are not legally required to," said Jeff Bastow, Benton REA's manager of IT and PowerNET.

For more information about PowerNET's internet service packages as well as computer repair and business networking services, visit [BentonREA.com](http://BentonREA.com) or call 800-398-1232. ■



## MORE THAN ENERGY. SOLUTIONS.

I want to use the sun to keep my lights on, but I'm not a solar expert. Luckily Benton REA does more than deliver electricity. They deliver solutions. I can work with my cooperative to find incentives for adding solar panels to my home. Benton REA helps me find the right solution for my family.

We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

Discover fresh energy solutions that make us [#MorePowerfulTogether](https://www.bentonrea.org), at [BentonREA.org](http://BentonREA.org).



### In this issue

- 1 LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY
- 2 POWERNET REMAINS NET NEUTRAL MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER
- 3 FACEBOOK UPDATES BENTON REA VISITS OLYMPIA
- 4 LOW-E WINDOW REBATES CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

### 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](http://www.BentonREA.org)  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

### 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

# The Fastest News from Benton REA is Online

Times are changing. Once again, Facebook is changing the way you will see posts in your News Feed. These updates mean your News Feed will focus on news from family and friends (because you care about them the most). However, this will leave out the news, employment opportunities, energy-saving tips and outage information updates from Benton REA.

To stay connected to news from Benton REA, follow these three steps.

## Follow us on Facebook and select "See First"

Keeping in touch is easy, if you know where to look. First, visit our Facebook page and make sure you're following

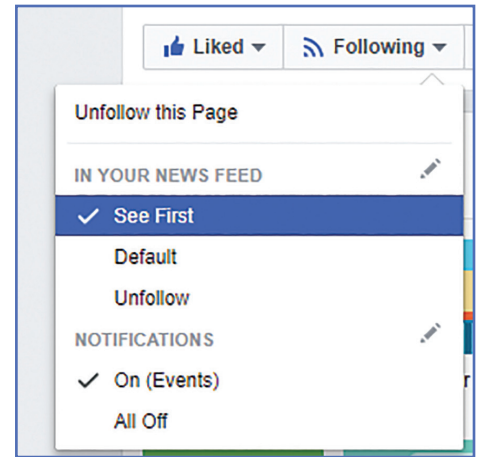
Benton REA. Then select "See First" from the drop down menu. This tells Facebook you value our content.

## Bookmark Our Page for Easy Access

Keep our Facebook page at the top of your browser and visit us with just one click by adding us to your favorites. Visit our Facebook page and use the Bookmarks Tool (ctrl + d on PC, or command + d on a Mac) to save a quick link in your navigation bar in your browser.

## Sharing is Caring

Don't forget to like and share your



favorite posts from Benton REA. Community engagement tells Facebook you value our content. Every like, smile and heart helps.

Thank you for being a part of our Benton REA community. We look forward to growing a digital community with you on Facebook, Twitter and BentonREA.org. ■

# Co-ops at the Table in Olympia

Collectively, Benton REA members are represented by four state senators and eight representatives. In February, several Benton REA trustees and staff members visited the state capitol to meet these representatives and discuss the issues that impact Benton REA and its members.

Benton REA's top legislative priority positions include carbon policy, local control and rural broadband.

When considering carbon policy, Benton REA encourages legislators to focus on methods that achieve the most carbon reduction at the lowest possible cost. Electrical system reliability must be the cornerstone of any carbon policy.

Like many electric co-ops, Benton REA faces challenges not shared by other forms of utilities. Therefore, it is critical that we are not included in legislation that uses one-size-fits-all mandates. It is essential that the locally elected cooperative boards, which understand the unique challenges that each co-op faces, be allowed to make important utility decisions.

Benton REA is also a strong advocate for expanding and improving internet connectivity in rural, unserved areas. Benton REA's PowerNET was created to bring internet access and technology consulting services to our local communities.



**Secretary/Treasurer Mark Platt, General Manager Mike Bradshaw, Member Services Manager Troy Berglund and President Mike Freepons stand with Washington State Senator Sharon Brown in her Olympia office.**

Energy is a topic heavily discussed at all levels of government and Benton REA—your local electric cooperative—makes it a priority to be at the table during these discussions to ensure our members are protected and represented.

You can read more about Benton REA's 2018 legislative priorities and standing positions by visiting [BentonREA.org/my-services/energy-legislation](http://BentonREA.org/my-services/energy-legislation).

In addition, the Benton REA Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution in February supporting the continued operation of Columbia Generating Station, a carbon-free source of affordable electricity. This resolution can also be found at [BentonREA.org](http://BentonREA.org).

For more information and to get involved in electric cooperative legislative issues, visit [Vote.coop](http://Vote.coop). ■

# Low-Cost Window Upgrades

Are you planning a spring cleaning project that involves those hard-to-reach windows? Why not upgrade your window energy efficiency while you're at it? For a low-cost upgrade that doesn't require replacing your

windows, Benton REA recommends Low-E storm windows.

"Low-E" stands for Low Emissivity, meaning in the summertime these windows block some of the radiant heat of the sun entering the home through the window, and alternately keeps radiant heat from escaping out the windows in the wintertime.

"A special film is applied in the construction of these Low-E storm windows and is tailored to the region in which they are installed," says Eric Miller, Benton REA's energy advisor. "The cost of these windows and their installation is much lower than a traditional window replacement, it

dramatically improves the efficiency of the window assembly."

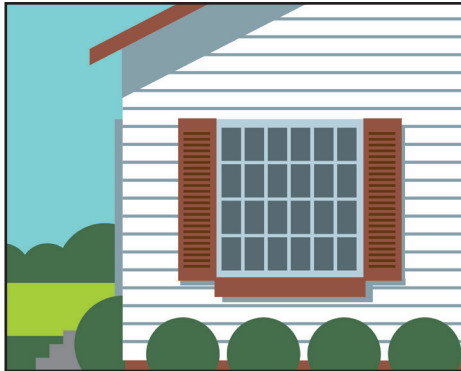
Electrically heated homes with single pane or metal framed double-paned windows are excellent candidates for the addition of Low-E storm windows as they are a low-cost energy efficiency upgrade.

In such applications, Benton REA will credit you \$2 per square foot for your purchase and installation of Low-E storm windows.

## New Windows

If you'd rather replace your single-pane or metal framed double-paned windows and glass doors with more energy efficient ones, Benton REA has a rebate for that as well. You can receive \$3 per square foot for qualifying windows and doors.

Contact Benton REA prior to installation or purchase for a current list of qualified contractors and program requirements as well as current federal tax credit information. To qualify for Benton REA's window rebates, members must use electricity as their primary heating source.



Always Call  
Before You Dig.

One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



## DIY Savings

If Low E new windows or storm windows aren't in your budget this year, then a quick DIY energy-saving task is to seal around your doors and windows with caulk. By spending a few dollars on supplies, you can save on home heating and cooling costs over the course of a year. Now's the best time to weather-seal your home before the summer heat arrives.

For more energy-saving or rebate information, email [emiller@bentonrea.org](mailto:emiller@bentonrea.org) or call 509-786-8265. ■