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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.

Expanded Office Hours

Benton REA offices are open longer to better serve members

Starting October 1, Benton REA's doors will be open earlier in Prosser, and will remain open during the lunch hour in West Richland.

The expanded office hours will allow members to speak with a member service representative as early as 7 a.m. on the phone and in



person at the Prosser office. The West Richland office will open at 8 a.m. as usual, but will remain open during the lunch hour.

"The expansion of Benton REA's office hours will provide additional time for the Association's members to conduct their business with Benton REA, either by phone or in person," said Michael Bradshaw, general manager.

When the office is closed, members have several options for paying their bill, including: online, by telephone, by mail or at the drop box located at both offices.

Members can report an outage 24/7 by calling

Prosser Office Hours

7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday
402 7th Street

West Richland Office Hours

8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday,
6095 West Van Giesen Street

800-221-6987 where they will speak to a Benton REA employee during office hours and or a Benton REA authorized answering service when the offices are closed.

If you've never visited the Benton REA office in Prosser or West Richland, please stop by and say hello. We love getting to know our members.

Cooperatives See the Future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high. Consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of "smart" technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There's no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, Benton REA is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs

because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are

unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their members. Electric cooperatives belong to the

SEE CO-OP MONTH PAGE 4

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE



COMMUNITY BORN

COMMUNITY LED

FOCUSED ON YOU

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Now Accepting American Express

Along with Visa, Mastercard and Discover Card, American Express has joined the list of debit/credit payment options available to Benton REA members and PowerNET customers.



Automated Payments

To update your automated payments with your American Express card, simply login to your SmartHub account or speak to one of our member service representatives. Signing up for automated payments is also just as easy.

Benton REA's automatic payment plan allows you to have your monthly payment drawn directly from your bank account, debit or credit card. No more stamps. No more checks.

Online Payments

And, don't forget, you can pay your monthly bill through SmartHUB, our secure, online payment portal. Create an account by clicking "Pay My Bill" on the home page of BentonREA.org. Or, download the SmartHub app in the app store on your mobile device.

Visit BentonREA.org or call 800-221-6987 for further explanation of your many Benton REA and PowerNET payment options. ■



MORE THAN A BUSINESS. BUILDING COMMUNITY.

As a consumer-owned cooperative, Benton REA is driven to be more than a business. By volunteering and supporting local groups, Benton REA staff team up with parents like me to enhance our community. Their scholarships and youth programs provide leadership opportunities, and Benton REA's drive to bring new companies to our area creates jobs for future graduates. We work with Benton REA to care for our community.

We are
MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.

Learn more at BentonREA.org.



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COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th Street | P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-2913

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 West Van Giesen Street
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2921

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Toll Free: 800-221-6987
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
Elicia Copenhaver, Marketing and Communications
May Hays, Community Relations Coordinator
Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
Eric Miller, Energy Services

Co-op Seeks Youth Tour Delegates

Students wishing to attend the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., have until November 30 to apply.

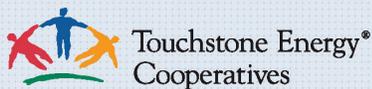
Benton REA will select two area high school students to represent the cooperative on this all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime. The trip will begin June 13 and end June 20, 2019.

Winners will travel with students from Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Idaho to Washington, D.C. While visiting the Capital, they will create lasting memories and friendships, learn about cooperatives, meet with U.S. Representatives and Senators, visit historic memorials and museums and observe the inner workings of our nation's government.

Children of Benton REA members who are in their sophomore or junior year of high school can apply. Applications are available at BentonREA.org/youth and both Benton REA offices. ■



The 2018 Washington state delegates met Senator Maria Cantwell in Washington, D.C. on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Pictured left to right, Taylor Smith of West Richland, Cantwell, Tashi Simpson, Israel Poulson, Talmage Hales and Joshua Cahoon of West Richland.

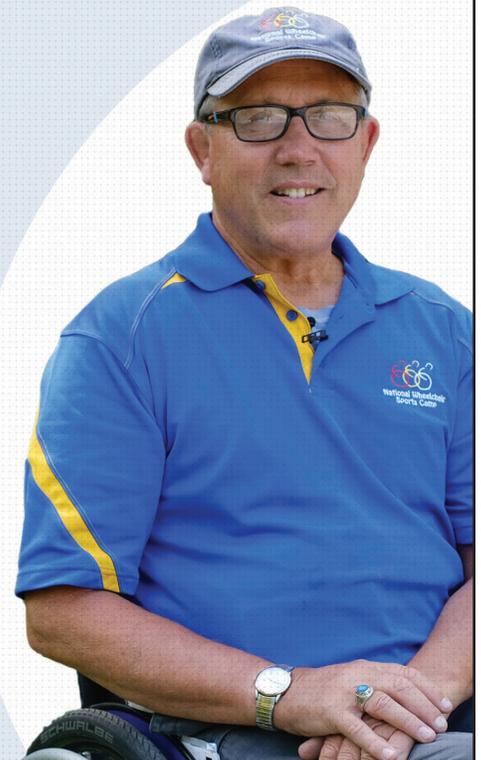


WHO POWERS YOU?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community?
Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com/enter between 10/1/18 and 11/4/18 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community.

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE
\$2,000 SECOND PLACE
\$1,500 THIRD PLACE
\$500 HONORABLE MENTION



VISIT WHOPOWERSYOU.COM FOR FULL CONTEST RULES

Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Inc., 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. ©2018.

Co-op Month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

communities they serve. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.

Co-ops are a catalyst for good

Electric co-ops engage their members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 80 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it profitable. Today, it means proving internet service to rural areas, offering participation in community solar and investing in youth programs.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

Electric cooperatives desire to bring economic opportunity to their local communities. Benton REA partners with the economic development associations, chambers and other civic partners from White Pass to West Richland, and Hanford to Plymouth.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future. ■



1 OF 900

We are one of more than 900 ELECTRIC CO-OPS in the U.S. Together, we collaborate to solve complex challenges to meet the energy needs of our local communities.



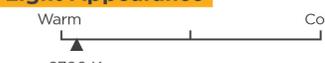
OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.

Lighting Facts

Per Bulb

Brightness	655 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$1.08
Based on 3 hrs/day 11c/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	22.8 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> Warm Cool </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">  <p>2700 K</p> </div>	
Energy Used	9 watts

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance and energy used** (wattage).

Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.



Incandescent
100 watt
1,600 lumens



LED
14 - 20 watt
1,600 lumens