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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.

Giving Back to Co-op Members

Capital credit retirement checks mailed this month

Check your mailbox this month because you may receive a check from Benton REA.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Benton REA you became a member-owner in the equity of the cooperative. Other businesses return profits to investors and stakeholders. Benton REA is different. We belong to the communities we serve, so over time, we return any excess revenue back to our members! These returns are called capital credits.

This fall the Benton REA Board of Trustees approved the distribution of \$1 Million in capital credits to more than 18,000 current and former



Benton REA members.

Due to the expense of processing printed checks, \$10 is the minimum retirement amount that will be issued to members. Retirements less than \$10 are accumulated year-to-year until the sum is equal to or greater than \$10.

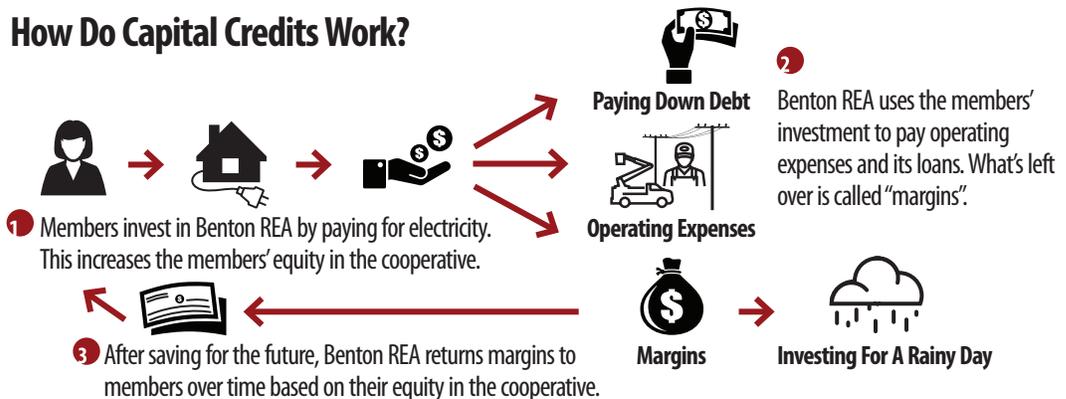
If you have questions regarding your capital credits or wish to inform Benton REA of any changes to your address or telephone number,

please contact Benton REA at 800-221-6987 or email info@bentonrea.org.

Issuing capital credits during December has become a favorite holiday season tradition at Benton REA. Everyone at Benton REA—the Board of Trustees, the management and the employees—wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ■

Since formed in 1937, Benton REA has returned more than \$12 million back to member-owners.

How Do Capital Credits Work?



Scholarship Applications Due January 4

Your son or daughter could earn one of five \$8,000 scholarships from Benton REA if he or she applies by Jan. 4, 2019.

High school seniors whose parents are Benton REA members and whose main residence is within Benton, Yakima or Lewis counties are eligible to apply for a Benton REA scholarship.

The cooperative offers both Academic and Trade & Technical scholarships. Academic Scholarships may be used to pay for a 4-year post-secondary education. Trade & Technical scholarships may be used

to pay for expenses incurred in a 2-year certificate program. All scholarships will award up to \$8,000 each over the course of the student's education.



Applications are judged based upon high school academic performance as well as a written essay.

Visit BentonREA.org/scholarships to download the application for both scholarships. Call 509-786-8265 with your questions. ■

*Benton REA Offices
will be Closed on*

*Christmas Day
December 25*

*New Years Day
January 1*



MORE THAN ENERGY. A SHARED VISION.

Benton REA is driven to deliver more than energy. We share a vision of what our community can be if we team up to stay strong. Our leaders are locals, like me. Benton REA employees also raise their children here and work to keep our community clean and safe. What is your vision for our community? Let's join forces to get there.

We are
MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.

To learn how you and Benton REA are #MorePowerfulTogether, visit 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

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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is a product of the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Office

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Eric Miller, Energy Services

Community Donations Still Available in 2018

As the year comes to a close, the Benton REA Board of Trustees wishes to remind members of the community donations available to local organizations who impact the lives of Benton REA members.

Benton REA recognizes that, in addition to the basic needs of serving electricity, it is committed to positively impacting the communities within the electric service territory. Donations that meet the board's criteria are granted on a first-come-first-served basis each calendar year.

Monetary donations may be awarded to organizations or charities whose primary focus positively benefits a segment of the Benton REA membership. These include, but are not limited to, schools and school-sponsored programs, youth activities, civic and chamber of commerce

programs, community health and community events.

The full donation policy and guidelines are described at BentonREA.org/member-programs/community-donations. For questions, email memberservices@bentonrea.org or call 509-786-8265.

To request a community donation for your group, please submit a letter of request including the organization's or charity's name, where the donation should be mailed, the requested amount of funding and a description of what the funds will be used for to:

Benton REA
 Attn: Community Donation Request
 PO Box 1150
 Prosser, WA 99350 ■



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 BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

BentonREA.org/PowerNET 509-786-4004



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

City Saves \$41K With Energy Efficiency

In two years, the City of West Richland saved \$41,092 and reduced their energy use by 637,450 kilowatt hours at its Wastewater Treatment Plant, earning them an additional incentive from the Benton Rural Electric Association.

Most of the savings were achieved by installing equipment on existing HVAC units and aeration and blower controls which provides live data on the efficiency of their motor processes.

“This allowed operators to calibrate the equipment to achieve the twin goals of effectiveness and energy savings,” said Eric Miller, Benton REA’s energy advisor.

The team at the waste water treatment plant reduced energy costs by 30 percent, saving the city over \$23,000 per year. Benton REA was able to award the City \$17,379 over two years for their efforts to reduce energy use. Troy Berglund, community development and member relations manager with the cooperative, presented the final check to the City at its November 6 council meeting.

“Reducing energy at this magnitude allows for new industrial development within the City of West Richland without having to add substations or other large infrastructure investments,” said Berglund. “Their kilowatt hour savings also helps to keep rates low for all Benton REA members and helps save the City, and its residents, money.”

Savings will continue at the wastewater treatment plant due in part to the efficiency training its operators received from Bonneville Power Administration’s Energy Smart Industrial Partners. These energy experts worked with City employees to discover unnecessary energy use as they trained operators how to reduce it. The training was provided to the City at no cost through Benton REA’s energy efficiency programs.

Businesses interested in reducing their energy use can contact Benton REA at 509-786-8265 to learn more about the co-op’s commercial and industrial incentives and programs. ■



City employees accept a rebate from Benton REA. Left to Right: Dustin Miller, wastewater treatment plant operator; Tony Simon, energy smart industrial partner with Cascade Engineering; Roscoe Slade, public works director; Mayor Brent Gerry; Troy Berglund, community development and member relations manager with Benton REA; Randy Paulson, sewer operations supervisor and Michael Maier, wastewater treatment plant operator.

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

-  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
-  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
-  Turn off lights when not in use.
-  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
-  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you’re away.
-  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
-  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
-  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you’re away from home.
-  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
-  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.