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Scholarship Applications Due January 4

Graduating seniors whose parents are members of Benton REA and whose main residence is within Benton, Yakima or Lewis counties are eligible to apply for Benton REA's scholarships.

Students pursuing either a trade, technical or academic education may qualify.

Scholarships will first cover tuition. If money remains after tuition is paid, expenses such as books can be reimbursed.

Funds for Benton REA's scholarships and other educational programs come from unclaimed ownership credits.

Academic Scholarships

Five \$8,000 scholarships are available to students planning to enroll in a four-year, postsecondary education. The scholarship is distributed in increments of \$2,000 per school year. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to maintain the scholarship.

Trade and Technical Scholarships

Two \$4,000 scholarships are available to students planning to enroll in a two-year community college, trade school or university pursuing a trade.

Scholarship applications and provisions are available at BentonREA.org/youth. For more information, call 509-786-8265 or email memberservices@bentonrea.org. ■



Your Life. Connected.

powerNET

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Internet Service Provider
PC Repair • IT Support
Business Consulting

BentonREA.org/PowerNET 509-786-4004

WE ALL HAVE
THE POWER
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

Don't Worry: Enroll In AutoPay

There is plenty to worry about in 2020. Why let paying your electric or internet bill be on that list?

Benton REA's automatic payment plan allows you to have your Benton REA payments drawn directly from your bank account, your credit card or your debit card. You will never have to worry about missing a payment, writing a check or finding a stamp to mail your payment.

Automatic deductions occur on the 8th of each month, with an option to deduct on the 20th for payments with American Express, Discover, Mastercard or Visa.

Sign up by calling 844-255-3685 for Benton REA's automated enrollment process, or sign up on your SmartHub account. If you have questions or want more information, call 509-786-2913.

Offices Remain Closed

Benton REA's offices are still closed to protect the safety of employees, members and the public during the pandemic. Until the co-op reopens, please use one of our many payment options, including AutoPay.

SmartHub Online

SmartHub is Benton REA's secure, online account management portal accessible by desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. With SmartHub you can pay your bill online and report electric outages, sign up for automated payments, access your digital monthly member newsletter, and review your past electric use and billing history.

Click "Pay My Bill" at the top of BentonREA.org to create or log in to your SmartHub account.

SmartHub App

Download the SmartHub app for Android or iOS and use your smartphone to view and pay your bill.

By Mail

When you receive the Benton REA billing statement, simply place your payment in the self-addressed envelope and mail a check and your bill stub (on the bottom of the first page of your bill) to:

Benton REA
P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350

By Phone

To ensure your financial security, Benton REA uses an automated system for over-the-phone payments.

If you would like to pay your bill over the phone, have your Benton REA account number handy before you call 844-255-3685.

Secure Drop Box

Benton REA's secure payment drop box is available 24/7 at both offices. Payments left in the drop box will be processed the next business day. Please do not drop off cash payments.

Thank You for Paying

It has been a challenging year. Benton REA employees and trustees thank you for continuing to pay your electric bill.

From renters to homeowners, employees to customers, everyone has had to pivot to keep going. Thank you for powering on with Benton REA. ■



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.
- Check to see if your neighbors have power.
- Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or use the SmartHub app.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th St. | 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 St.
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 produced by the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Department:

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Four Ways To Save Energy In the Kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. Like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish.

Here are four ways to save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

Cook With Smaller Appliances

Using smaller kitchen appliances such as slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

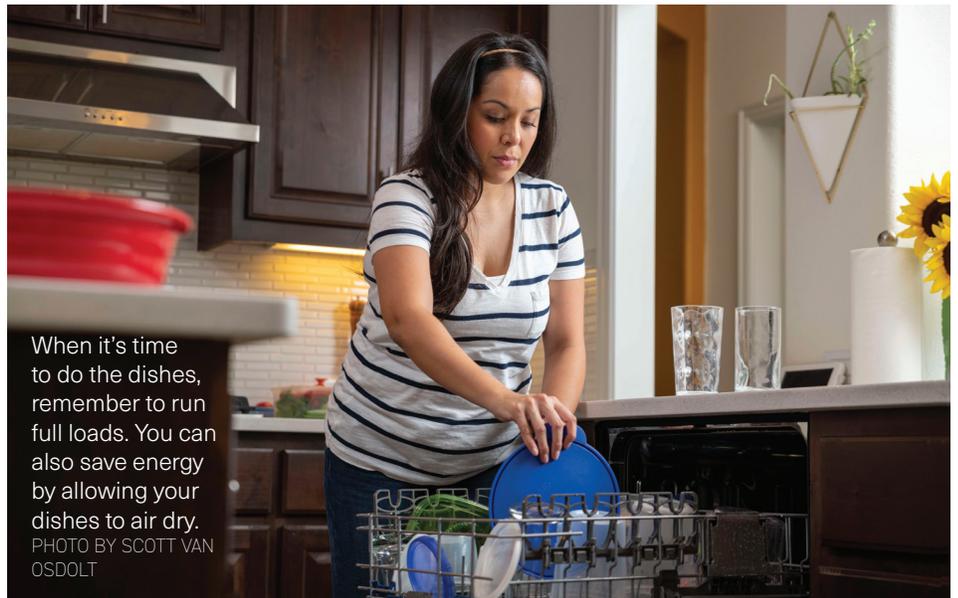
Unplug Appliances

Halloween may be over, but it is possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen. These are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, such as coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens.

The Department of Energy estimates home's energy vampires can add up to \$100 to \$200 a year in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use. Better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

Help Appliances Work Less

There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more



When it's time to do the dishes, remember to run full loads. You can also save energy by allowing your dishes to air dry. PHOTO BY SCOTT VAN OSDOLT

efficiently.

For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they reflect heat better. When putting leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work so hard to cool warm food.

Use Your Dishwasher Efficiently

Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse-hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3 to 7 gallons of hot water each use.

You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher

doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes dry faster.

Bonus Tip

The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth and energy bill will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you will be well on your way to energy savings. Contact Benton REA to learn about additional ways to save energy and money at home. ■



Benton REA Meter Reader Kevin Kellogg gives blood at a previous Benton REA blood drive. PHOTO BY ELECIA COPENHAVER

Give Blood November 17 In West Richland

Benton REA and the Mayfield Gathering Place will co-sponsor a blood drive on November 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 331 S. 41st Ave. in West Richland.

The American Red Cross continues to monitor the pandemic and is committed to operating blood drives in the safest way possible. At each blood drive, Red Cross staff follow the highest standards of safety and

infection control.

To schedule a donation, call 509-781-6753 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code "BentonREA". ■



American Red Cross

Applications for Bill Assistance Now Open

Two local community action agencies are now accepting applications for Benton REA's new bill assistance program. Qualifying residential members who need assistance paying their electric bill may apply.

More than \$4,500 Raised

As of October 21, Benton REA members donated \$2,270.25 to the bill assistance fund through one-time and monthly contributions. Benton REA will match these donations, up to \$5,000 on November 2.

Watch Benton REA's Facebook or Twitter pages for updates on contributions to the program.

Who Qualifies for Assistance

Residential members with a past due balance on their account may apply for assistance if they have a combined annual gross household income equal to or less than 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, based on family size.

Available Assistance

Qualifying members will receive a one-time payment as a credit on their electric account. Each member is limited to one approved assistance payment per calendar year and the bill credit will not exceed the amount due on a member's account.

Based on family size, a member

may receive the following maximum assistance:

Family Size	Max Assistance
1	\$100
2	\$125
3	\$150
4	\$175
5+	\$200

Qualifying households may receive additional assistance, up to \$75, if their household income is 125% of the federal poverty guidelines or lower.

How to Apply

Members may apply now for Benton REA bill assistance funds through two local agencies. Benton REA employees are not involved in approving funds, only in distributing them to approved members.

Yakima County residents should apply through the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Northwest Community Action Center. Call 509-865-7630 or visit yvfwc.com/service/energy-assistance.

Benton County residents should apply through the Benton Franklin Community Action Committee. Call 509-545-4042 or visit bfcac.org/home-base/utilities.

Tell the agency you wish to apply for Benton REA's bill assistance program.

For more information about contributing to the bill assistance program, call 509-786-2913 or visit BentonREA.org/BAP. ■



**WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
TOGETHER.**

Let's Keep Small Businesses Thriving.

It's time to power a Small Business Comeback across America.

Co-op Connections is a free member benefit program brought to you by **BENTON REA**. Download the free Co-op Connections app to find discounts from your local merchants and nationwide. We can support our neighborhood businesses and reopen safely if we all work together and practice smart social distancing.

Visit www.SmallBusinessComeback.coop for more information.



#POWERON

**Only \$6 a Year
can help someone keep
the lights on!**

**105.25 Your Bill
+ .75 Round Up Donation
= 106.00 Total Due**

**If every co-op member rounded up
their bill, together you could give
more than \$5,250 each month to
your neighbors in need!**



Learn more at
BentonREA.org/BAP
or call 509-786-2913

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