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mikeb@bentonrea.org

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Co-op Connections App Offers Local Coupons Without Scissors

Co-op Connections is a free member benefit brought to you by Benton REA. Your co-op wants to help you stretch every dollar when running errands, planning a trip and taking care of your family.

Co-op Connections will help you save at local restaurants, service providers and retailers. The card also provides savings on prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing and more.

Show the card or the Co-op Connections app at the point of sale to redeem these local offers. Showing the information on the back of the card to the pharmacist or health provider staff may be necessary to obtain discounts.

Pharmacy Savings

In 2020, Benton REA members saved \$2,211.45 on prescriptions just by showing their Co-op Connections card to their pharmacists. The average prescription savings was 64% off retail price.

The card is not insurance, nor is it intended to replace your current prescription insurance. However, it can be used to supplement coverage members have on prescriptions. Contact your pharmacist to find out if you can save with the Co-op Connections Card.

Use the App, Save on the Go

You will also find great discounts from our network of 150,000 Entertainment® offers, which require the Co-op Connections app—available on Apple and Android devices.

On the app, go to the discount you want and tap the Redeem button when you're ready to use the deal. Show your screen to your cashier to process the discount. If you prefer, print the redemption coupon in advance to show the merchant. Be sure to check the redemption requirements and expiration date on www.Connections.coop before trying to redeem offers.

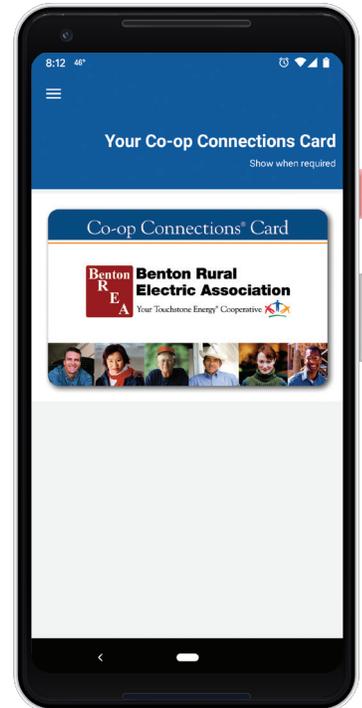
Online Cash Back Mall

Online shopping has increased during the pandemic. Why not save on purchases you are already making?

Benton REA's Co-op Connections card offers an online cash back mall where you can earn money when shopping at your favorite online vendors. Once you hit \$15 in earned cash back, you will get a check in the mail.

National Deals

There are amazing national discounts with Wyndham, Uber and Disney, as well as incredible hotel, airline, cruise



Download the Co-op Connections app for Android and Apple in your mobile device's app store.

and other travel perks, which can be redeemed exclusively at www.Connections.coop.

When major live events like sports, concerts and theater begin again, you can save 10% on tickets with the Co-op Connections card. Remember to use the promo codes found at www.Connections.coop during checkout.

Visit the website and download the app to unlock these valuable discounts and find all the ways to save. Call 509-781-6753 to request a physical card. ■

On a Budget? So Is Your Utility Bill

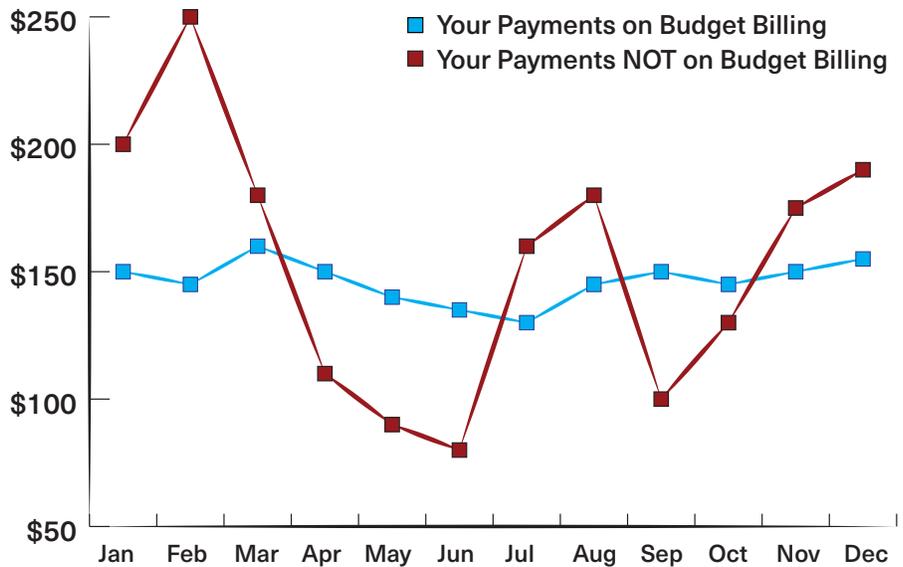
If your electricity use is higher in the winter and summer months, but your budget doesn't ebb and flow with the temperature, Benton REA's budget billing might be right for you.

Budget billing eliminates seasonally fluctuating payments and helps families stay within their monthly budgets.

The amount you pay will not be equal every month, but will be similar based on your average electricity use during the 12 most recent months. If you do not have 12 months history with Benton REA, a fixed payment will be calculated and will automatically convert to your monthly average after 12 months.

With budget billing, your monthly bill will show how much electricity you used, the budget payment due and the current balance on your account.

To keep your account from getting a large negative balance, 1/12 of any negative balance is added to your payment.



You may enroll any time, but spring is a great time to sign up for budget billing and prevent your summer bills from rising with the temperature.

To find out what your budget payment would be, call Benton REA at 509-786-2913 to speak with a member service representative. ■

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

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MEMBER SERVICES

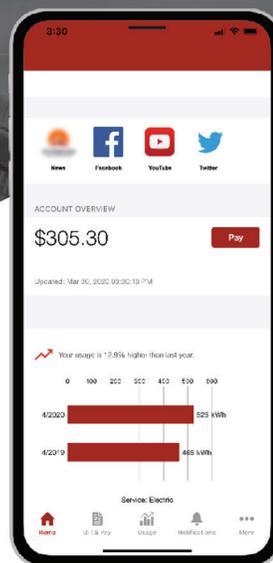
This newsletter is produced by the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Department:

- Elecia Copenhaver, Marketing and Communications Coordinator
- Troy Berglund, Community Development and Member Relations Manager
- Shannon Olsen, Assistant Community Development and Member Relations Manager
- May Hays, Community Relations Coordinator
- Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
- Eric Miller, Energy Advisor



INTRODUCING SMARTHUB

On the go
and in control.



SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

Is Your Home Electric Vehicle Ready?

Drivers across the U.S. are starting to refuel at the outlet instead of the gas pump. As electric vehicle growth continues, studies are finding most drivers are plugging in at home to charge.

“EV-ready homes” describes homes providing safe access to a dedicated power supply for charging at a Level 2 station.

Level 2 charging generally uses a 240-volt outlet/NEMA 14-50 receptacle and delivers 10 to 20 miles of range per hour, whereas Level 1 charging uses a standard 120-volt outlet and delivers 3 to 5 miles of range per hour.

EV-ready homes come with benefits for both homeowners and builders. For homeowners, they save time and money. Making a home EV ready is simple during initial construction, but

post-construction upgrades can be expensive. Additionally, residents will have an easier time purchasing an EV knowing they have a convenient and fast place to charge.

Builders see another set of perks. Constructing EV-ready homes adds little to costs, differentiates them from competition, increases home value and attractiveness to buyers, demonstrates a commitment to the environment and shows support for consumer choices.

There are a few items to consider to get the most out of a home charging setup.

When locating the charging outlet, it is important to choose a place near a frequent parking spot, such as in a garage or carport/driveway. If available, garages offer the simplest installation, limit exposure to the elements and

prevent unwanted access. No matter where the outlet is placed, make sure there is available space on the floor, walls and ceilings; be mindful of overhead doors or objects that may obstruct a vehicle’s ability to plug in; and avoid locations requiring the charging cord to be wrapped around or draped over the vehicle.

Benton REA EV Incentives

Benton REA offers members several incentives to purchase electric vehicles and install at-home charging stations. These include:

- \$100 EV Registration Incentive (before Level 2 charger installation)
- \$50 EV Registration Incentive (after Level 2 charger installation)
- \$25 Plug-In Hybrid Registration Incentive
- \$300 Level 2 Charging Station Incentive (off-peak charging)
- Up to \$2,000 Level 2 Charging Station Loan

For more information, visit www.BentonREA.org/EV or call 509-781-6752. ■

Electric Vehicle Home Charging Levels

	Level 1 Charging	Level 2 Charging
Voltage	120V 1-phase AC	208-240V 1-phase AC
Amps	12 to 16	<80 (Typically 30)
Charging Load	1.4 to 1.9 kW	2.5 to 19.2 kW (typically 6.6 kW)
Charging Time	3 to 5 miles/hour of charging	10 to 20 miles/hour of charging



DRIVE ELECTRIC

The average electric vehicle can save a driver who drives 15,000 miles in a year about \$850 annually on fuel. All-electric vehicles start to pay for themselves a long time before they reach the end of their expected lifespans, leading to significant savings over time.

-Fleet Carma



Community Impact Statement

At the end of 2020, Benton REA served 11,129 members and 14,981 electric accounts. 332 new electric accounts were added in 2020. The cooperative owns 1,739 miles of power line spanning 620 square miles in Benton, Lewis and Yakima counties.

PowerNET served 1,044 internet customers and 60 business networking key accounts in 2020. 178 new internet services were added in 2020. Other PowerNET customers received computer repair services, email accounts, websites and other miscellaneous services throughout the year.

2020

Community

\$1.8 Million Paid Back to Members

Since forming in 1937, Benton REA has paid more than \$15.5 million back to its member-owners.

\$20,000 Donated to Food Banks

With a matching donation from CoBank, Benton REA was able to give back to our community during a time of need.

\$16,101 Donated to Nonprofits

Twenty-six organizations requested donations from Benton REA in 2020. Qualifying organizations are eligible for up to \$900 each year. Larger donations are authorized by the Benton REA Board of Trustees upon request.

\$50,000 Awarded in Scholarship

Benton REA awarded five \$8,000 academic scholarships and one \$4,000 trade and technical scholarship to graduating high school seniors. In lieu of the canceled 2020 Youth Tour, Benton REA awarded each of the two delegates \$3,000 college scholarships.

12 Poster Contest Winners

Twelve children of Benton REA members—from kindergarten to fifth grade—received a cash award for first, second and third place, and honorable mention in the co-op's 2020 safety poster contest.

Energy & Savings

85% Carbon-Free

With hydro, nuclear and solar power in its energy mix, nearly all electricity on Benton REA power lines is produced carbon-free, per the most recent data available in the 2018 Washington State Fuel Disclosure Report.

4.3 million kWh of Solar Power

In 2020, 235 Benton REA members owned 3,046.2 kilowatts in solar energy, producing an estimated 4,264,680 kWh of renewable electricity. That's enough to power 187 homes for a year.

45,634 kWh of renewable energy was generated in 2020 from Benton REA's 31.96 kW community solar farm in West Richland. From January 2019 to December 2020, it produced 88,428 kWh.

2,060,707 kWh Saved

Benton REA residential members saved 439,130 kWh in 2020 by weatherizing their homes, purchasing new energy-efficient appliances, HVAC systems, windows and more.

Our agricultural members saved 494,214 kWh of electricity in 2020, and our commercial and industrial members saved 1,127,363 kWh with efficiency improvements to their businesses.

\$343,762 in Rebates

In addition to saving energy, members received cash rebates for their efficiency upgrades in 2020.

\$2,211 Saved on Prescriptions

With Benton REA's Co-op Connections® Card, members received an average 64% off the retail price of their prescriptions in 2020.