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mikeb@bentonrea.org



Join us for a modified version of your annual meeting without leaving your vehicle.

84th Annual Meeting of Benton REA Members

ALL MEMBERS INVITED
Saturday, September 18
Red Mountain Event Center
8280 W. Van Giesen St., West Richland



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Drive In to the Annual Meeting

Benton REA invites all members to drive in for the 84th Annual Membership Meeting on September 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a modified version of your annual meeting without leaving your vehicle. Drive to the Red Mountain Event Center (8280 W. Van Giesen St.) in West Richland. You'll get a boxed lunch and a free money plant.

As a cooperative, Benton REA is required to hold an annual meeting of the Benton

REA members. With the rising number of COVID-19 patients admitted to our local hospitals, we believe a drive-in event is safest for our members and employees.

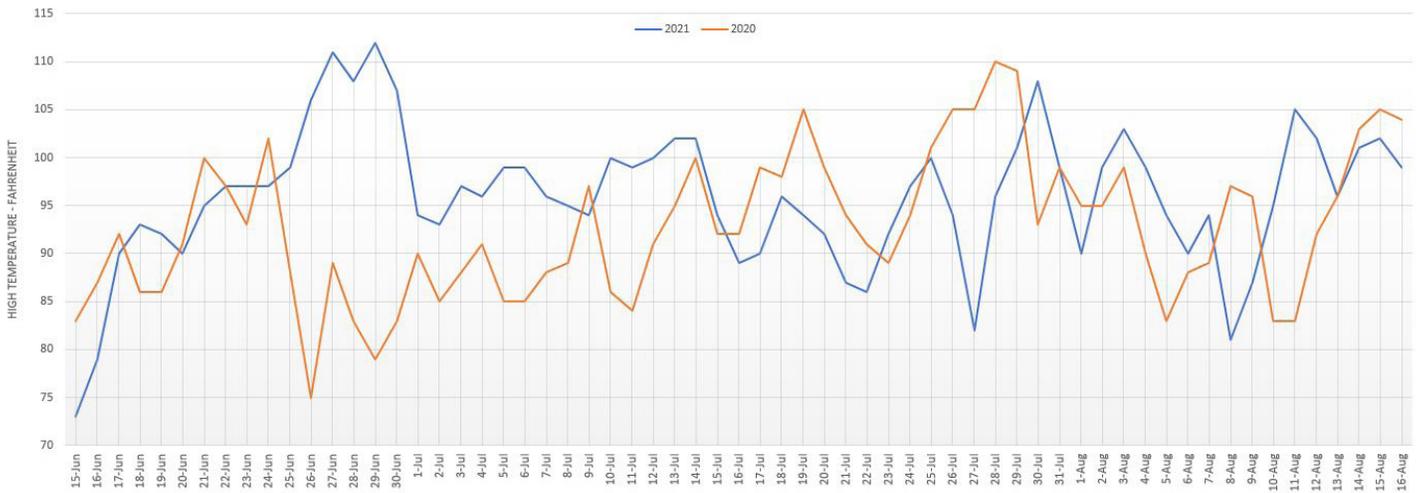
We hope you'll join us at the annual meeting—not only for the prizes, but to learn about what Benton REA did in 2020 and 2021, and what lies ahead.

You could win one of five \$100 and five \$500 Benton REA bill credits, gift cards, a drill set, Yeti tumblers, a Carhartt jacket and more.

Trustee election results for districts 7 and 8 will be announced. If you live in districts 7 and 8 and didn't vote by mail, you can vote from your car at the annual meeting.

Can't Attend? Watch the Livestream

Starting at 10:30 a.m., watch the annual meeting and ask questions via the chat at www.BentonREA.org/YouTube. Online attendees cannot vote during the meeting. ■



2020 & 2021 High Temperatures Comparison, June 15 to August 16

2021 Summer Energy Use Up From Last Year

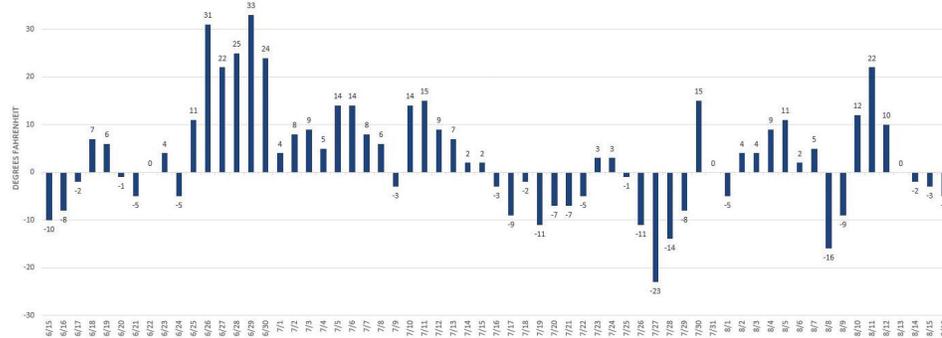
Benton REA members used more energy this summer than last.

While Washington has the lowest overall energy costs in the nation, it also comes with extreme weather changes that directly impact electricity use. Higher than normal use usually follows higher than normal temperatures because air-conditioners

work overtime to keep homes cool.

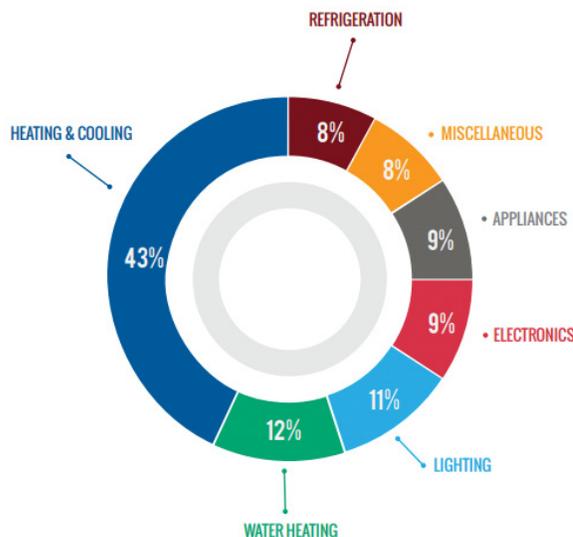
June 29, 2021, was 33 degrees hotter than the same day in 2020. If your bills are higher than usual, it's likely due to this extreme and relentless weather.

Visit www.BentonREA.org/101 for 101 easy ways to save energy and money. ■



Temperature Difference, 2021 Compared to 2020

HOME ENERGY USE WHERE DOES YOUR ENERGY GO?



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

Members Support and Benefit from Power to Care Bill Assistance Program

In September 2020, Benton REA launched the Power to Care bill assistance program. One year later, the program is still helping members get through the pandemic together.

Donating to the fund

Each month, 449 members of the co-op choose to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar, or to donate \$1, \$5 or more.

Since the program began, members have collectively donated \$14,243. This includes \$5,345 donated by members from their 2020 ownership credit payments. Adding Benton REA's matching donation of \$2,284

in October 2020, the total money available to qualifying low-income members is \$16,528.

Contributing to the program is voluntary. Members can enroll through their Benton REA SmartHub account or by completing the form on page 2 of their billing statement.

Receiving from the fund

At publication of this newsletter, 19 members received help paying their past-due electric bill. The total given back to members was \$4,100.

"We hope members who need the assistance will apply for it," says Troy Berglund, community development

and member relations manager.

Residential members with past-due balances on their electric accounts can apply to receive these donated funds.

Bill assistance is granted as a credit on the qualifying members' electric account once per calendar year. The amount received depends on family size, household income and amount due on the electric account.

"We strongly encourage members to contact us at 509-786-2913 before applying to ensure you are eligible for assistance funding," Troy says.

To apply, download the Power to Care Bill Assistance Application and return it to a Benton REA office.

For more information on donating or to download the application, visit www.BentonREA.org/PowerToCare. ■

Energy Assistance Is Available To Benton REA Members

If you have a past-due electric bill and your household income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, you qualify for help paying your electric bill.

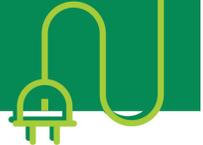
**POWER
TO CARE
APPLY TODAY**



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: energy.gov



 **Benton Rural
Electric Association**

BentonREA.org/PowerToCare
509-786-2913

