

Your Benton REA Board of Trustees

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Vice President, District 3

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Trustee, District 1

Michael Freepons
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Tim Grow
Trustee, District 5

Scott Fisher
Trustee, District 6

General Manager
Michael J. Bradshaw
mikeb@bentonrea.org

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Support Local and Save

Use your Benton REA Co-op Connections Card to save at local businesses this holiday shopping season

Gift wish lists are being made with haste and it's getting a little colder outside. The holiday shopping season is right around the corner.

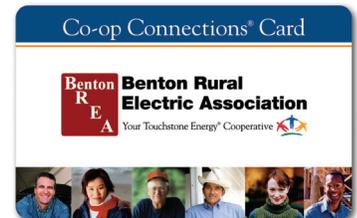
Speaking of around the corner, there are plenty of locally owned businesses in our neck of the woods that can provide unique gifts and experiences for your loved ones, and Benton REA's Co-op Connections member benefit program can help you save while you keep dollars in the local economy.

This winter, power a small business comeback and visit the shops owned by our

friends and neighbors. To find all the ways to save locally, visit www.Connections.coop or download the free Co-op Connections smartphone app in the Apple or Google app stores.

Use the app's "Deals Near Me" option as you shop at local merchants or anytime you are out running errands. Keep in mind, with many participating dining options, you can fill up on grub while you fill your trunk with toys, clothes, home goods and more.

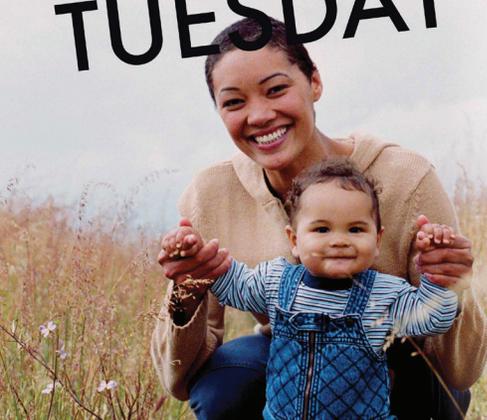
If you own a business and want to offer Benton



REA members a Co-op Connections discount, call 509-786-8265 or email memberservices@bentonrea.org.

As you are busy stockpiling gifts for family and friends, keep our small business community in mind this holiday season. ■

GIVING TUESDAY



Less than \$1/month can make a world of difference

POWER TO CARE

ENROLL TODAY

Visit BentonREA.org/PowerToCare
or Call 509-786-2913 to Enroll



**Benton
REA**

Scholarship Applications Due January 7

Graduating high school seniors who are children of Benton REA members and whose main residence is in Benton, Yakima or Lewis counties may apply for Benton REA's 2022 continuing education scholarships. Applications are due January 7.

Funds for Benton REA's scholarships, youth tour and other education programs come from members' unclaimed ownership credits.

More information and applications for Benton REA's scholarships are available at BentonREA.org/youth. Call 509-786-8265 or email memberservices@bentonrea.org with questions.



\$4,000 Trade and Technical Scholarships

Two \$4,000 scholarships are available to students pursuing a trade and planning to enroll at a community college, trade school or university.

Examples of eligible certification and associate of applied science programs include but are not limited to automotive, electrical lineworker, paramedic, computer-aided drafting, nursing, pharmacy technician and welding.



\$8,000 Academic Scholarships

Five \$8,000 scholarships are available to students planning to enroll in a four-year, postsecondary education.

The scholarship will be distributed directly to the school in increments of \$2,000 per year. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to maintain the scholarship. ■

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:

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



What Are Hybrid Electric Water Heaters?

Hybrid electric water heaters, formerly referred to as heat pump water heaters, are revolutionizing the way we heat water. Compared to traditional electric water heaters, HEWHs can cut your water heating costs in half.

Why are they called hybrids?

The word hybrid appears in the name because it uses two electric methods to heat the water.

The primary method of heating the water is the heat pump, which uses the same vapor refrigeration cycle found in refrigerators and air conditioners, but in reverse.

The secondary method is the same electric heating element used in standard electric water heaters. This secondary method is used only during periods of high demand.

If an HEWH uses the warm air my furnace is working hard to generate, doesn't that negate the efficiency and savings?

There will always be space heat interaction if the HEWH is located inside the home or is also ducted to an inside area of the home.

During winter, the HEWH will draw heat from the home, but the HEWH's vapor compression cycle is roughly three times more efficient than the average furnace, so there is still an overall benefit.

In spring and fall, the effect on household temperature is neutral. In summer, HEWHs help cool and dehumidify the home.

To minimize effects on the heating and cooling load of the home, avoid using an exhaust-only strategy. This draws air from inside and exhausts it to the outside, increasing the amount of air leaking into the home and decreasing the energy savings from the HEWH.

If an HEWH is installed inside the living space, does it need to be vented or ducted?

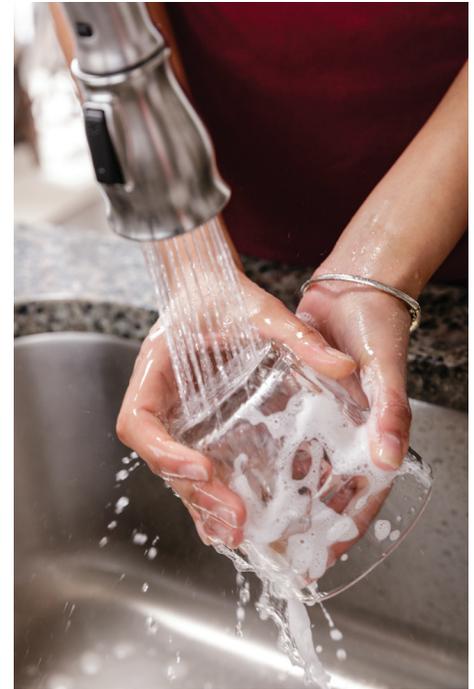
If an HEWH is located in an area of the home that is less than 700 square feet, venting of the space or ducting of the HEWH is required for proper functionality.

Two rules are generally advised. Do not direct the exhaust air toward areas occupied on a regular basis such as a bedroom or TV room. And do not use the exhaust-only strategy referenced in the previous answer.

Are HEWHs reliable? Is this a new technology?

The technology used in HEWHs has been in use for more than 50 years. Manufacturers of these products are large companies with a long history of producing water heaters.

As proof of their confidence, most



manufacturers offer a 10-year warranty, while standard water heaters typically carry a six-year warranty.

HEWHs are more expensive than traditional electric options. Will I save enough to cover the added cost?

Hot water heating accounts for about 11% of the average household's annual energy use. Benton REA members may receive a \$600 rebate after the purchase of a new tier 2 or tier 3 HEWH.

In addition, units installed Jan. 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021 may qualify for a \$300-\$500 federal tax credit.

The savings—plus the potential to cut your home's energy use by 5% to 6%—helps justify the switch to the more efficient technology.

And, remember to turn down your water heater temperature to 120 F to save even more energy and money.

Visit www.BentonREA.org/Rebates for a list of qualifying hybrid electric water heaters and download a rebate application. ■

Article and photos courtesy of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. To learn more, visit www.hotwatersolutionsnw.org.



Thank You for Attending Your 84th Annual Meeting

On the rainy morning of September 18, Benton REA hosted a drive-in annual meeting for the first time in the co-op's 84 years.

"As a cooperative, we're required to hold an annual meeting of the Benton REA members," says General Manager Mike Bradshaw. "While planning the meeting, the number of COVID-19 patients being admitted to our local hospitals was rising and we believed a drive-in event was safer for our members and employees."

The turnout for the modified 84th

Annual Meeting of Benton REA Members was greater than organizers expected, drawing 124 co-op members.

Benton REA showed three video reports during the meeting. All are available on at www.BentonREA.org/YouTube.

Trustee Catherine Russell presented the secretary/treasurer's report. President Connie Krull discussed Benton REA's current projects and services during her video report. Bradshaw spoke about the co-op's dependence on hydropower during the



Members receive a boxed lunch and drinks from Matt Cochran, wireless representative, and Cecilia Valencia, billing clerk. PHOTO BY ELECIA COPENHAVER

BELOW: More than 100 cars drive in to Benton REA's 84th Annual Meeting of Members on September 18, 2021. PHOTO BY JEB KNOX

2020 annual report video.

To watch the recorded meeting and these video reports, visit www.BentonREA.org/YouTube. ■



Trustees Krull, Russell Reelected for 3-year Terms

District 7 Trustee Connie Krull and District 8 Trustee Catherine Russell were reelected to serve three-year terms on the Benton REA Board of Trustees. Both candidates ran unopposed.

Connie and her husband, Benson, have been Benton REA members since 1996. One of Connie's passions is being involved in her local community. She says being a part of Benton REA is instrumental in helping her do that.

Catherine and her husband, Kevin, moved to the Tri-Cities in 1982 and to West Richland in 1994.

"I believe in doing volunteer work within the communities I live," Catherine says. "I am willing and able to continue dedicating the time needed to represent the members' interest at Benton REA."

Benton REA is governed by eight trustees. Read your



President Connie Krull, District 7 Trustee West Richland, Bird Hill and Paradise South

trustee's full biography at www.BentonREA.org/trustees. ■



Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Russell, District 8 Trustee West Richland, West Lattin Area