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Do You Read This Newsletter?

Benton REA hopes this newsletter provides you with useful information that helps you make good energy decisions and get the most of your membership with Benton REA. But, if you don't read it, consider switching to paperless billing and online newsletters.

Become a Paper Escaper

The first step to ditching the clutter and wasted paper is to create your SmartHub account.

SmartHub is Benton REA's secure online account portal, where members can view current and past energy use and billing statements. Members can also pay online, enroll in programs like AutoPay and Power to Care, and get notifications about new co-op events and programs.

Once you have a SmartHub account, log in by going to www.BentonREA.org and click "Pay My Bill" or use the SmartHub app.

On a desktop, go to "My Profile" and click "My Information." Then choose "Update My Paperless Settings."

On the app, go to "Settings" and "Paperless Billing."

Here, you can turn on the paperless feature for the bills you wish to receive online, or click "Set All to Paperless" to stop receiving all paper bills.

The Benefits of Paperless

Your paperless bill will arrive in your email inbox the first day of the month, rather than several days or weeks later by mail.

When you go paperless, you can also switch to a new payment method. Save a trip to our office or a stamp. Pay online by clicking the link in the billing email you'll receive

the first of the month.

With paperless, you will stop receiving these newsletters by mail. You can still read them by clicking the "Read the Newsletter" link in your billing email. You'll save paper and still be informed about co-op news by switching to paperless billing. ■

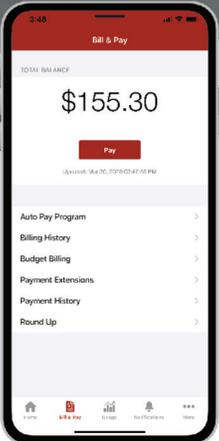
[Set All To Paperless »](#)

Account	Paperless
350700	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
561000	<input type="checkbox"/>
621301	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



SMART PAYMENTS

Save Time.
Save Paper.
Get Back to Life with the SmartHub App.





SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



Upcoming Blood Drives

Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. Blood cannot be manufactured. It can only come from volunteer donors. To schedule your donation, call 509-781-6753 or use sponsor code "BREA" at www.RedCrossBlood.org.

January 4 in West Richland

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

West Richland Municipal Services Building, City Council Chambers

3100 Belmont Blvd.

January 20 in Prosser

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Green Room at the Princess

1226 Meade Ave.



American Red Cross



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 we could give more than \$5,250 each month to your neighbors in need!



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



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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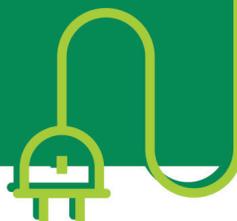
May Hays, Community Relations Coordinator
Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
Eric Miller, Energy Advisor

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Are Portable Space Heaters Efficient?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. Unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which takes a toll on their energy bills.

Whether you should use space heaters depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs. If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home—such as inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system—space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best choice is to improve the overall efficiency of your home.

Stay Warm with Efficiency

If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose-fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Benton REA will pay up to \$2 per square foot of attic, floor and wall insulation depending on the amount you add.

Benton REA incentives for whole-home air sealing are based on the reduction of air volume moving in and out of the home, measured in cubic feet per minute and determined through a blower door test before and after air-sealing. Benton REA will pay a rebate of 20 cents per CFM.



TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

When to Use Space Heaters

Perhaps your home is energy efficient, but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work.

A good comparison is ceiling fans. We use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying. If possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater.

If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space. Most heaters include a general sizing table.

A Word About Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300

deaths. If you must use a space heater:

- Buy a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the UL.
- Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating.
- Place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use.
- Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm such as extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

Benton REA Is Here to Help

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact Benton REA at 509-786-8265. We're here to help you manage your energy use. ■

Hydropower Leads in Benton REA 2020 Fuel Mix



Bonneville Dam near Cascade Locks, Oregon
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BONNEVILLE
POWER ADMINISTRATION

Power From Benton REA Is 95% Carbon-Free

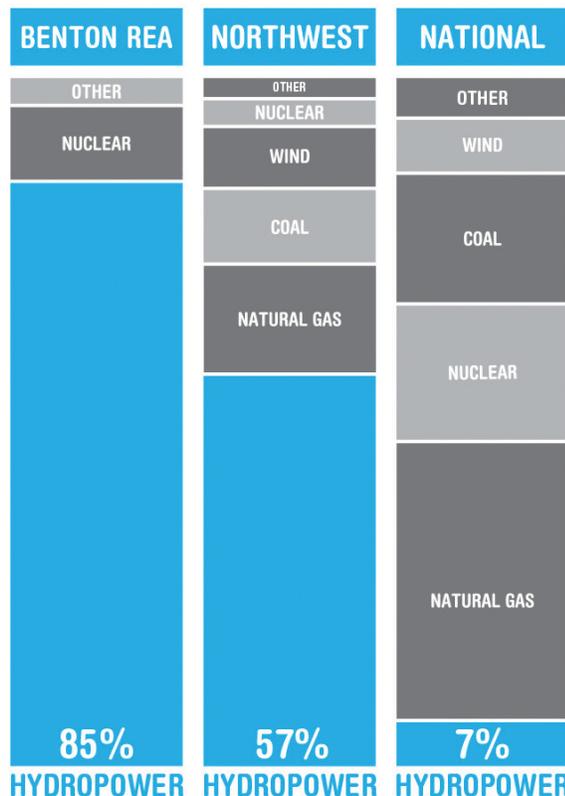
Benton REA members used 534,913 megawatt-hours of electricity in 2020. Of that, 84.69% was produced by hydropower. Another 10.92% was sourced from our local nuclear energy producer and the final 4.39% was unspecified sources.

This data comes from the Washington Fuel Mix Disclosure, which was released December 1, 2021. Unspecified power is electricity obtained in a transaction where the seller does not identify a specific generating source.

More than 95% of the electricity provided by Benton REA is carbon-free. This exceeds the state's aggregate of approximately 65%.

Washington state has the goal of being 100% carbon-free by 2045. Benton REA is helping make that happen through local hydropower and nuclear energy. ■

Energy Sources



THANKS TO
NORTHWEST
RIVERS AND THE
CARBON-FREE
HYDROPOWER
THEY PRODUCE,
OUR MEMBERS
BENEFIT
FROM CLEANER
ENERGY.

**HYDRO
POWER
FLOWS HERE**

*ALL FIGURES 2020 ENERGY GENERATED