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ceo@bentonrea.org

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Benton REA Donates \$10,000 to Local Food Banks

Ten thousand dollars is helping feed local families thanks to Benton REA and matching funds from CoBank, one of the utility's lenders.

Benton REA received a \$5,000 matching grant from the CoBank Sharing Success program. Together, the \$10,000 donation will help families through three Food Banks within the Benton REA member service area.

Six thousand dollars went to Tri-Cities Food Bank serving West Richland and Benton City, \$2,000 was donated to Jubilee Ministries' Food Bank in Prosser and \$2,000 went to Sunrise Outreach Center Food Pantries in Mabton and Sunnyside.

CoBank's Sharing Success program doubles contributions of its consumer members to the charitable organizations and causes they care about most.

About the Food Banks

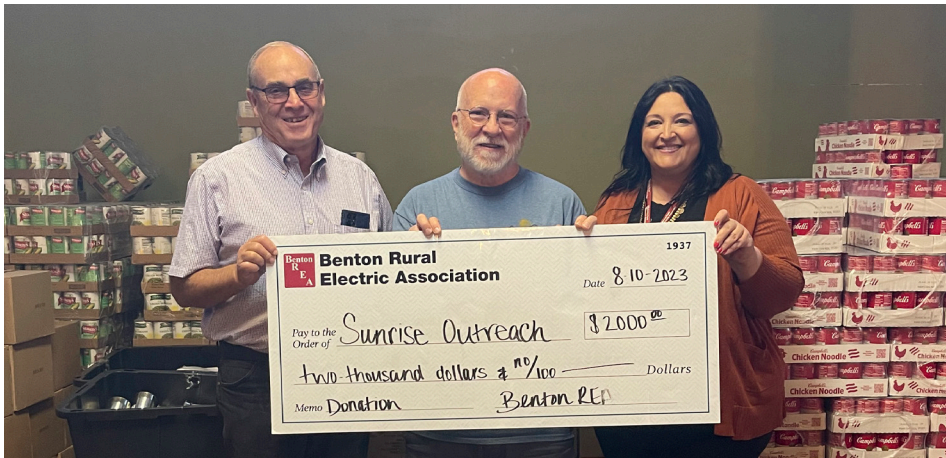
Tri-Cities Food Bank has served residents of Benton County in need since 1975. Financial *Story continued on page 2...*



Ryan Redmond, CEO and Trustee Bob Evans present check to VJ Meadows of Tri-Cities Food Bank.



Ryan Redmond, CEO, Troy Berglund, Deputy GM & VP of Member Experience and Trustee Bob Evans present donation check to Prosser Jubilee Ministries food bank volunteers.



Trustee Bob Evans and Stacey Azure, Communications Specialist present check to Ken Trainor of Sunrise Outreach Centers' Food Pantries.

and food donations come from individuals and caring businesses. Financial donations go directly to operation of food distribution facilities, central office, warehouse, and vehicle fleet to directly serve clients.

Prosser Jubilee Ministries was founded in 1986 and is funded by their thrift store profits, charitable donations, and the support of local churches and businesses that help keep the food bank stocked with refrigerated and non-perishable food items that they offer for free to residents in need.

Sunrise Outreach Centers' Food Pantries were founded in 2009. Their programs encompass the communities of Yakima, Wapato, Sunnyside, Mabton, White Swan, and Wiley City with the support of hundreds of volunteers. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



November Office Closures:
Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 9
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 23

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 509-786-1626 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. - Thurs. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen St.
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2921

Office Hours: Mon.- Thurs., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY

Toll Free: 800-221-6987
www.BentonREA.org
Follow us on Facebook and X

MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is produced by the Benton REA Member Services Department:
Stacey Azure, Communications Specialist
Troy Berglund, Deputy General Manager & VP of Member Experience
Shannon Olsen, Member Services Manager
Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
Chad Smith, Energy Efficiency Manager
Leandra Chavez, Administrative Assistant



Fall Into Energy Savings

Fall is here. We have been lucky enough to have some beautiful weather, but the chilly days are coming. While temperatures are still mild, it's a good idea to check out some of these tips to help you stay comfortable and cut down on energy use.

Set Your Thermostat

It's important to set your thermostat to a temperature that is comfortable for you and doesn't break the bank. Although it can be tempting to leave the thermostat at a set temperature so it's warm when you get home - this will use more energy and in turn cost increase your heating costs. It's more efficient to heat your home as needed, which means turning the heat down when leaving the house, or setting a smart or programmable thermostat to do so, if you have one. It is possible to save as much as 10% on your heating bills by turning your thermostat back when you are away or sleeping at night.

Check Your Water Heater Temperature

Heating water accounts for much of the energy consumed in households. Check the temperature of your water heater and set it to a comfortable temperature, no higher than 120 degrees.

Cover Drafty Windows with Visqueen/Window Film

If you can feel cold air coming in around windows - it's time for a do-it-yourself project! Window film covers are

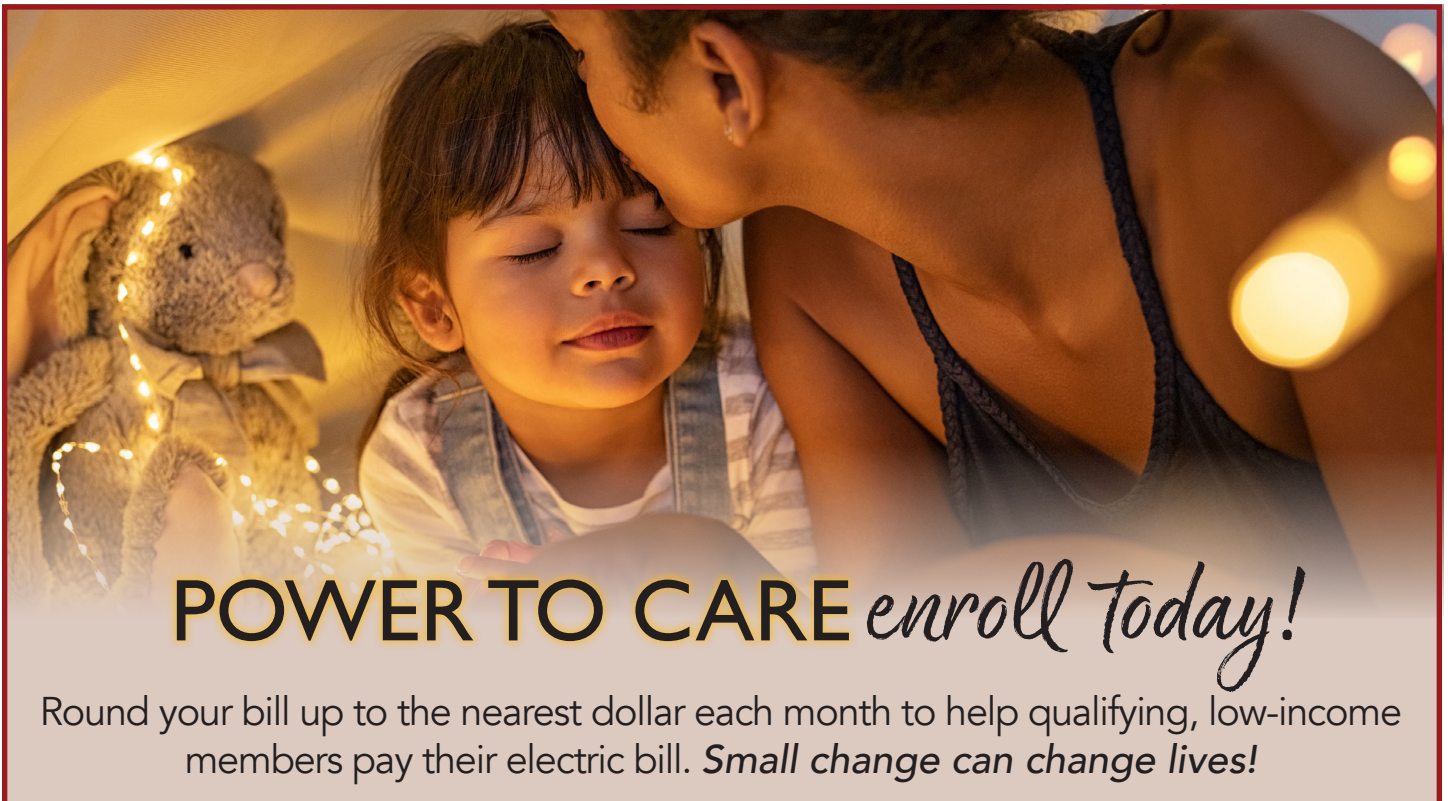
inexpensive, reduce drafts, help the house feel warmer during winter months and reduce moisture buildup on the window due to condensation. They can also eliminate air leaks around the window if they extend over the woodwork, and this extra layer of plastic adds another layer of insulating air to reduce heat loss through the window. The materials are readily available at local home improvement or large box stores.

Not sure where to start? Our Energy Advisors can help!

If you are struggling with high bills or a drafty house, we can help. Our Energy Advisors can offer tips and suggestions specific to your home. A Benton REA Advisor will come out and perform an audit - then make suggestions on energy-efficiency projects that will help you save the most money. They will also work to get you set up with the latest rebates and can walk you through the process of our low-interest energy-efficiency loans. ■

Contact us today. We're ready to help!

Benton REA Energy Efficiency
energyefficiency@bentonrea.org
509-786-8265



POWER TO CARE *enroll today!*

Round your bill up to the nearest dollar each month to help qualifying, low-income members pay their electric bill. *Small change can change lives!*

Visit BentonREA.org/PowerToCare to learn more.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIABILITY

American families and businesses expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford. But that's no longer a guarantee. Nine states saw rolling blackouts last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

Electric cooperatives like Benton REA, are working together towards meaningful solutions to address the reliability challenges spreading across the nation. We will continue to advocate for our members and to protect the reliable, low-cost and carbon-free electricity that is generated by our lower Snake River dams.



**Benton Rural
Electric Association**