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TroyB@bentonrea.org

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New Business Hours Beginning June 19

In an effort to provide the best possible service to our members, we have made the decision to implement new business hours starting on Monday, June 19th.

Both West Richland and Prosser offices will be open to the public from 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Thursday, and be closed on Fridays.

"We want to have all employees working to serve members during all hours that we are open to the public," says Troy Berglund, Interim CEO.

Right now, Benton REA's staff has staggered start times and days to cover all business hours. The conversion to this new schedule allows staff to provide the most personalized and consistent service to our members while we are open.

"Four, 10-hour work schedules have also shown to be beneficial to employees," says Berglund. "We want our employees to have a strong work life balance and be in great spirits when they are here serving our members."



PowerNET will also be changing their hours to the new Monday - Thursday schedule.

Emergency outage crews will continue to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 509-786-2913 or by reporting your outage using the SmartHub app. ■

Save the Date!

Benton REA 2023 Annual Meeting is Saturday, July 15



Plans for the 86th Annual Member meeting are well underway.

Members are invited to join us at Prosser High School for this family friendly, free event.

Participate in activities beginning at 8:30am such as tethered hot air balloon rides, face painting, bingo, an electric vehicle showcase and more.

The day will conclude with our 86th Annual Membership Meeting beginning at noon. ■

Do You Have an Electric Vehicle?

Sign-up to participate in the annual meeting EV showcase.

If you own an electric vehicle, we would like to invite you to display it at this year's annual meeting.

The EV Showcase allows members to see different makes and models of electric vehicles all in one place.

To display your vehicle, please RSVP to Ron Mitchell at rmitchell@bentonrea.org with your name and the make, model and year of your electric vehicle. Cars will be displayed from 8:00am - noon. ■



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



Benton REA offices will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

We remember and honor all who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.



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. - Fri., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 W. 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 Department:
Stacey Azure, Communications Specialist
Troy Berglund, VP of Member Services
Shannon Olsen, Assistant Member Services Manager
Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
Chad Smith, Energy Efficiency Advisor
Leandra Chavez, Administrative Assistant

Thinking About a Heat Pump Water Heater?

With higher rebates and a possible tax credit, now is the time!

If you are considering installing a new heat pump water heater, now is the time.

The rebate amount we offer on select ENERGY STAR models of heat pump water heaters has gone up \$200 for a total rebate of \$800-\$900.

On top of the rebate we offer, there is also a federal tax credit you may be eligible for.

Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, federal income tax credits for energy efficiency home improvements will be available through 2032. A broad selection of ENERGY STAR certified equipment is eligible for the tax credits.

The federal tax credit is for 30% of the project cost, up to \$2000. Taking advantage of tax credits, along with any available rebates, is a good way to

make energy efficiency upgrades to your home or business.

Heat pump water heaters, also referred to as hybrid electric water heaters, are changing the way we heat water. Compared to traditional electric water heaters, hybrid water heaters can cut your water heating costs in half.

They work like a refrigerator, but in reverse. A refrigerator pushes heat from inside the unit out to the air around it, while a hybrid electric water heater uses fans and an evaporator to pull warmth from the surrounding air and transfers it to water in the storage tank.

Before purchasing or installing a hybrid electric water heater reach out to our Energy Efficiency department at 509-786-8265. ■



NEW! Benton REA Energy Consulting Program



Are you thinking about energy efficiency upgrades for your home? Our new **Energy Consulting Program** can analyze your home, suggest upgrades to improve efficiency and comfort, then help you prioritize the order you complete the projects in.

They can also help you determine if other products could be right for you, such as:

- Residential Solar Installation
- Electric Vehicle and In-home Charging Station
- Heat Pump Water Heater
- Upgraded or New HVAC System
- Programmable Smart Thermostat
- Windows
- And more!

Call 509-786-8265 to schedule!

 **Benton Rural
Electric Association**

May is National Electrical Safety Month

As you head outside to do yard work this spring and summer, be sure to look up and out for power lines.

The graphic below demonstrates how to work safely around overhead lines.

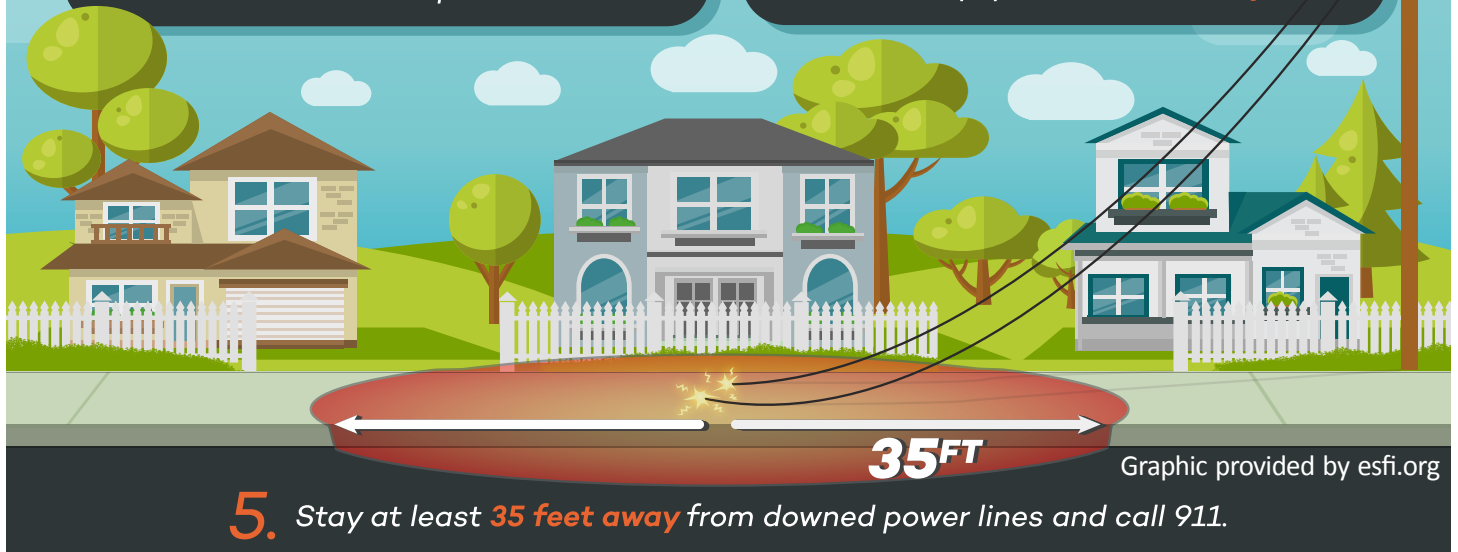
Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical related injuries in the future.

Be alert. Look up. Stay safe! ■

Home Electrical Safety

Always Look Up Always

Before starting **any** project, **be alert of where the power lines are located**, and know how high they are hanging. Whether you're working on the roof, trimming trees, or painting your siding, it's your job to be aware and to **alert others about nearby power lines**.



Graphic provided by esfi.org