



**BENTON**  
RURAL ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

# High-Voltage News

2025 | QUARTER 3

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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## Downtown Prosser Gears Up for Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament



Basketball fans are invited to hit the streets for the annual Prosser 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, happening July 19–20, 2025, in downtown Prosser. This high-energy event transforms city streets into an outdoor court where teams face off in a fast-paced, fun-filled competition.

Open to youth and adult players, the tournament offers divisions for students entering 1st grade through high school (based on the 2025–2026 school year), as well as Men's 6' and Under, Men's Open, and Women's Open categories. Whether you're a seasoned player or just love the game, there's a spot for you and your team.



The tournament has become a summertime tradition in Prosser, bringing together families, friends, and the community for two days of basketball, sportsmanship, and local pride.

Team registration is open now through July 10 on the City of Prosser website at [cityofprosser.com/events](http://cityofprosser.com/events).

Don't wait to sign up—spaces fill fast!



**Benton REA is a proud sponsor  
of this community event.**



## Sign up for Paperless Billing Today

Starting in July, postage rates will increase again—making now the perfect time to switch to paperless billing.

Signing up is easy. Log in to your SmartHub account, go to Settings>Paperless Billing, and select the tab to turn it on. While you're there, make sure your email address is current by visiting Settings>Contact Methods.

Paperless billing is secure, convenient, will save you a stamp, and helps your cooperative reduce costs.

## Benton REA's Independent Auditor's Report Now Available

A copy of Benton REA's 2024 Independent Auditor's Report is available to all members and is published on the Benton REA's website. You may also request a copy at either the Prosser or West Richland office.

**Go to: [BentonREA.org/board-of-trustees](https://BentonREA.org/board-of-trustees)**



## Change Your Air Filter to Save on Cooling Costs

When the summer heat hits, your air conditioner works harder to keep you cool—especially if your air filter is dirty. A clogged filter makes it difficult for air to flow, forcing your AC to run longer and use more energy.

In the summer months, when your system is running more often, it's especially important to check and change your filter regularly. Most filters should be replaced every one to three months, or according to your system's recommendation.

A clean filter will keep your HVAC running smooth and more efficiently. That means cooler air, less strain on your equipment, and lower energy bills.

A quick filter change can make a real difference in comfort *and* cost.





# Three Smart Home Technologies to Help You Save Energy

Smart technologies make our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting your home wi-fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security—they can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

While not all smart home products are specifically designed with energy savings in mind, there are several smart technologies that can help you lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save.

## Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the thermostat based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce



heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually, and with models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.



## Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled or turned off (or on) remotely through a smart phone app. Smart bulbs are available in a range of shapes, brightness levels, colors and more, so shop for the products that work best for your home lighting needs.

Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to \$300+ depending on how many bulbs you need.

## Smart Plugs

Smart plugs are inexpensive gadgets that can help you save energy. Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off (known as "phantom load"), which can take a toll on your energy bills. Smart plugs are simply plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your wi-fi network. When set up, the smart plug can cut power (or return power) to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load.

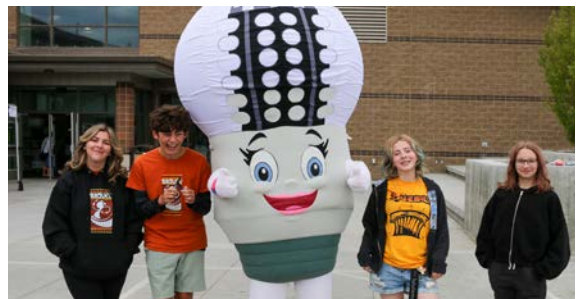
Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart hubs, like Alexa or Google Nest, or controlled through the plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use and a set of four can be purchased for as little as \$25. If you're looking for new ways to save energy, try these budget-friendly, convenient smart home technologies.

» **Benton REA offers a \$140 rebate on qualifying smart thermostats. Visit [BentonREA.org/energy-efficiency](https://BentonREA.org/energy-efficiency) to apply.**





# Thank You for Attending Voltage and Connect 2025!



*See you next year!*