

## New Savings Options

*Dental, vision and hearing plan added to the Co-op Connections Card to help members save money.*

For the past year Boone Electric members have been able to save money on pharmacy purchases with their Co-op Connections Card. Now you can save on dental, vision and hearing needs too.

Cooperative Healthy Savings (CHS) is an expansion of the discount pharmacy plan already in place. The basic goal of CHS is to make healthcare more affordable for co-op members. The program is designed with many situations in mind -- from individuals who already have an insurance plan to those with no existing coverage. However, like the pharmacy plan, this is not insurance.

So, how does it work? Here are some frequently asked questions about the new program:

### Can my entire family use the card?

Yes. The card is good for you, your spouse and all legal dependents.

### Is the CHS card insurance?

No, but it is simple and easy to use. Because it is not insurance, there is no paperwork to complete, no health restrictions, deductibles or waiting periods. Present the card to participating providers to receive an immediate discount. (This card will be different from the Co-op Connections Card.)

### Can I get the CHS card if I have health insurance?

Yes. The card can be used along with many insurance plans. With rising deductibles and gaps in coverage, it may make financial sense for you to use your card to help minimize out-of-pocket expenses that are so common with health plans.

### How do I sign up for the plan?

The special pricing through the Co-op Connections Card program is only \$4.25 per month or \$50 per year for the entire family. Similar discount benefit programs are as much as \$9.50 per month.

Cooperative members can sign up for the program by logging on to [www.booneelectric.coop](http://www.booneelectric.coop) and clicking on the Co-op Connections

### Dental Care

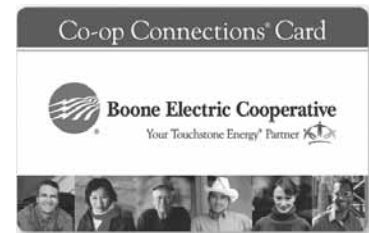
Members save 15-50% on everything from general dentistry and cleanings to root canals, crowns and orthodontia.

### Vision Care

Members save 20-60% on eyewear, including most frames, lenses and specialty items. Save 10-30% on medical eye exams at select locations. Save 40-50% off the overall national average on LASIK surgery. Save 10-40% on most brands of replacement soft and gas permeable contact lenses, including disposables, torics and bifocals through the mail-order service.

### Hearing

Receive a free hearing test and save 15% on the retail cost of more than 70 models of hearing aids. Save 40-60% off average National Retail Pricing on more than 100 makes and models of hearing aids through the mail order service.



Card logo. You will find a dental/vision/hearing link on the main page along with the list of businesses participating in the program. If you do not have internet access, call (800) 800-7616 to sign up.

### How do I find participating providers?

The CHS card is accepted at thousands of providers nationwide. Search online at [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com). Enter code 22222 in the box provided next to "Groups." From here, you can search for providers by zip code.

After you join the program, you will receive a membership kit that shows the providers closest to your home and you can locate more providers by calling the toll free number on the back of your card.

*See a list of the most recent local additions to the Co-op Connections Card program on page 2.*

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## Member Information

### Community Support Programs You Can Add to Your Bill

**Operation Round-Up**  
Helps fund the Boone Electric Community Trust, which provides financial assistance to charitable organizations in BEC's service territory.

**C.A.S.H.**  
Provides utility assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.

**H.E.L.P.**  
Provides utility assistance to low-income families with children. Funds administered by City/County Health Department.



### Welcome these new businesses to the Co-op Connections Card Program

**Bambino's Italian Cafe, Columbia**  
Large order of pasta for the price of a small order. Not valid for delivery.

**Crossroads Restaurant, Sturgeon**  
Buy 1 dessert, get 1 free on Wednesday only.

**Carl's Towing, Columbia**  
10% off towing.

**Catfish Corner Restaurant, Columbia**  
10% discount on entrees #1-#20. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

**Excelsior Enterprises - Juice Plus, Columbia**  
First-time customers eligible to receive a canister of Juice Plus Complete or a bottle of Vineyard Blend after 90 days with the purchase of a 4-month supply of Juice Plus capsules. Visit [www.jpladywithjuiceplus.com](http://www.jpladywithjuiceplus.com)

**Lakota Coffee Co., Columbia**  
\$.25 off any cup of coffee; \$.50 off any espresso drink; \$1 off any pound of coffee. Excludes Jamaican and Hawaiian coffee.

**Mid Mo Security Pros**  
Two months free monitoring per year for existing or switching or \$75 off installation of a new system. Minimum of one-year monitoring required. Visit [www.midmosecuritypros.com](http://www.midmosecuritypros.com)



**New York Deli, Columbia**  
10% off lunch order of sandwich, drink and side; 5% off catering order of 10 or more people. Cannot be combined with other offers.

**Riverview Technologies, Columbia**  
25% off for first-time customers on computer, laptop or server repair. 15% off website design.

**Shelter Insurance - Troy Lowrey Agency, Ashland**  
New customers receive a free gift with a no-obligation quote. Current customers qualify with a Life policy quote.

**Shelter Insurance - Mike Messer Agency, Columbia**  
Free comprehensive insurance protection review and/or free financial needs analysis for life insurance needs.

**Tiger Signs -n- More**  
10% off anything purchased from the website. Visit [www.TigerSignsOnline.com](http://www.TigerSignsOnline.com)

Published by:  
**Boone Electric Cooperative**

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### Thank you for your dedication.

**B**oone Electric crews spent more than three weeks in southeast Missouri helping restore power to more than 60,000 cooperative homes and businesses affected by the January 26 ice storm.

The 33 Boone Electric employees who assisted with the effort are from  
ASHLAND: Adam Bauer, Jake Collins, Matt Kemna, Travis Lynn, Jeff Marren and Craig Weter; BOONVILLE: Jeremy Dreschel; CENTRALIA: Tanner Gooding, Ron Morse and Ben Worley; COLUMBIA: Chuck Ausfahl, Steve Baumgartner, Matt Groseclose, Rob Hawkins, Mike Helm,

Philip King, Jim Miller, Keith Strawn, Jason Toalson, Terry Vandegriffe, Roger Walker, and Jeremy Wooden; FAYETTE: Jamie Conrow and Chris Uthlaut; FULTON: Ellis Choate; HALLSVILLE: David Haun; HARRISBURG: Gary Blakemore and Mike Wilcoxon; MEXICO: Matt Cope; NEW BLOOMFIELD: Dan Barnard; ROCHEPORT: David Carlos and Bruce Douglass; THOMPSON: Tim Gilbert.



# Don't be Tricked into Energy Efficiency

*Be certain any efficiency upgrades are truly helpful and from reputable dealers.*

Energy efficiency is on the minds of millions of Americans. Electric bills are rising due to added demand, rising costs and environmental regulations. Cooperative members are working harder than ever to keep their utility costs down and their homes more air tight.

However, it's important to make the correct decisions when it comes to energy efficient upgrades and products.

The best way to pinpoint your home's efficiency needs is with an intensive audit through Boone Electric's Home Performance with Energy Star program.

Through the Home Performance program, cooperative members receive funding to offset the costs of energy efficiency upgrades. Each of the upgrades must be recommended by a cooperative-approved home energy auditor and must take place within six months of the initial energy audit. Upgrades outside the program are not eligible for rebates.

To participate in the Home Performance with Energy Star program, contact Boone Electric at (573) 449-4181. The first step is to schedule an inspection by a Home Performance contractor. Call BEC for a list of approved contractors.



### Be aware of scam artists and products

Boone Electric members are cautioned to be careful when responding to print, broadcast or Internet ads promising electric bill savings from plug-in or wire-in power conditioning devices.

Clever ad campaigns play on consumer misunderstanding of electricity and electrical devices. Sales pitches with technical-sounding explanations and rosy testimonials overwhelm skepticism and convince buyers to purchase.

Some of these "money-saving" devices must be wired into the home's electrical system. Unfortunately, several companies are marketing their products with unsafe and potentially illegal installation advice. Do-it-yourself installers are instructed to open their meter bases and pull their own electric meters.

Meters are sealed for safety and to prevent tampering. Removing a meter seal without notifying the cooperative could put the account holder at risk of charges for meter tampering and attempting to steal electricity.

Don't fall victim to claims of utility bill savings that seem too good to be true. Contact Boone Electric for information and advice before investing in or installing such devices.

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## Assistance Programs Also Necessary in Warm Months

The weather outside is warming, but that doesn't end the utility assistance need for many members of Boone Electric. Many people need help keeping their homes cool in the summer.

Boone Electric's C.A.S.H. and H.E.L.P. programs assist people with their utility bills. Every dollar given to the programs by Boone Electric members assists other members.

C.A.S.H. provides utility assistance to low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities. H.E.L.P. (Heat Energy and Light Program) assists low-income families with children under age 18.

Members must qualify to receive the assistance. Funds are administered through the Boone County Health Department, located at 1005 W. Worley.

If you wish to donate to these programs, simply fill out the pledge card included with your bill this month and return it with your payment or drop it off at Boone Electric. You can add the donation to the total of your bill. Donations can be made monthly or on a one-time basis. Monthly donations will be added to your electric bills. All donations are tax deductible.

### Questions From the Floor



Todd Culley  
General Manager/  
CEO

Recently, I had the privilege to meet with members throughout our service territory while sharing our morning coffee. We held "Community Coffees" in Hallsville, Ashland, Midway, Sturgeon and Centralia. I would like to share some of the conversation topics with you. I would need several pages to respond in full, but here is a brief version of some of your questions and my responses:

**"Why doesn't BEC charge an increasing rate for using more kilowatt hours to promote conservation?"**

While our Board of Directors has begun shifting rate structures from a declining block structure to more of a flat structure, we currently have adequate reserves, and the majority of our membership who have been solicited favor a structure similar to today's structure, where we give a quantity discount, of sorts, for higher usage.

**"What is BEC (and what are you personally doing to lower my electric rates?"**

BEC has been cautious on filling new, non-critical positions to help hold down rates. Employees have also worked outside their normal job descriptions to increase our efficiencies. We are stretching assets, including vehicles and office equipment, without significantly impacting service response and reliability. Personally, I have reduced out-of-town travel expenses, when and where practical, without missing key industry developments. In some cases, "webinars" have been available, resulting in me not having to leave my office for a meeting.

**"Why did BEC exit the propane business?"**

We exited the propane business for a few reasons, including the volatility in fuel markets; the fuel cell market didn't grow as originally expected (they use carbon-based fuel to create heat, water and electricity); and we were competing with existing service providers with long track records of success.

**"Are environmental controls and/or legislation resulting in increases to our electric rates?"**

Environmental controls and related legislation are resulting in rate increases, as evidenced by our current increase, which in part covers a \$400+ million environmental equipment addition to the Thomas Hill Energy Center. As always, we will meet all legislative and regulatory requirements in a manner minimizing any rate impact to you.

**"Can I sit in on your Board meetings?"**

While the cooperative is technically a private membership and not under the same open meeting laws for public institutions, our Board and Management is proud to practice transparency with the membership we serve. From time to time, we receive requests for attending meetings, and we consider the merits of each. We are also happy to provide an in-house tour, which can include reviews of our Form-7 (financial data).

**"Does BEC pay big bonuses?"**

As a not-for-profit organization, we do not pay big bonuses. We do encourage employees to "go the extra mile," and we will reward them if we see that their efforts have resulted in an end-benefit to the membership. Any bonuses paid generally are tied to projects resulting in reduced costs to our membership and in appreciation and recognition for the many extra hours worked by our salaried team, who do not receive compensation for overtime or storm assistance.

**"What is the cooperative's position on the proposed new nuclear facility and the construction work in progress issue?"**

We are in favor of building baseload generating facilities at the lowest possible cost for Missourians. Cooperatives across the state support Ameren's request to construct a new nuclear facility, as we understand the tax revenue, job creation and energy reliability and capacity benefits which would result. Cooperatives are supportive of some type of efficient cost recovery mechanism for power plant construction. But any recovery plan should be developed with the consumer in mind to keep electric rates as low as possible both in the short and long term.

**"Can wind power replace coal?"**

While wind energy has benefits, it cannot replace coal-based power, as wind does not blow consistently or predictably. Watch for future news about new wind projects and developments. Simply understand wind power has limitations.

**"Does BEC offer greenhouse gas offset cards?"**

By the time you read this, we will likely be offering Greenhouse Gas offset 'Credits' to members; watch for more details.

**"Will you have more 'Community Coffees' in the future?"**

Yes, beginning this fall. Watch this newsletter and the monthly *Rural Missouri* for dates, times and locations.



Boone Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of local, member-owned electric cooperatives providing a high standard of service to customers large and small.

In order to qualify as a Touchstone Energy partner, electric cooperatives must be active members of their community and be dedicated to serving all customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to their community.