

As a cooperative, our “customers” are actually our members and our owners.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES — ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIBLE, RELIABLE

Oregon’s electric cooperatives share the common goal of bringing reliable electrical power to their communities at the lowest possible cost. These locally-owned Oregon companies also share a deep sense of community and a responsibility to the well-being of their members. Born in the ‘30s, the cooperative movement is now represented by 21st century corporations that retain old-time values of community — values reflected in the contributions that cooperatives make to Oregon’s people, its economy and the environment.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

Oregon’s electric cooperatives provide much more than electrical service to their communities. As community-based organizations, co-ops contribute directly to the Oregon economy through taxes, through the creation of jobs, by purchasing materials

and supplies locally and through charitable donations.

- Oregon’s electric co-ops directly employ over 730 people, creating an annual payroll of approximately \$38 million and pay about \$10 million annually in payroll taxes (excluding benefits). Each year, electric cooperatives pay an additional \$10 million in taxes, fees and franchises to governments in Oregon.
- On average, electric co-ops purchase 75% of their goods and services from Oregon companies. This amounts to more than \$104 million annually.
- The majority of electric co-ops return dividends directly to their members in the form of capital credits. Over the last five years, co-ops returned an average annual amount of \$6.4 million to their members. Since their initial formation, Oregon electric co-ops have returned a total of over \$139 million in capital credits to current and former members.
- Electric co-ops place considerable importance on encouraging energy

efficiency. Co-ops spent over \$3 million last year on energy efficiency rebates and incentives — generating an annual energy savings of 26.6 million kilowatt hours.

- Co-ops also assist their communities through donations of money, time and material. Last year, co-op charitable contributions exceeded \$314,000. Direct donations to food banks were over \$5,000 and equipment donations amounted to \$14,500. Co-op employees also donated over 10,000 hours volunteering on community programs and projects. As responsible local businesses, co-ops contribute approximately \$155,000 annually in dues and donations to civic and community organizations. In addition, electric co-ops donated \$430,000 last year to provide energy bill payment assistance to low-income members. ■

