

# You Are A Member

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**A**s a cooperative, our “customers” are actually our members and owners. Co-ops have long-standing relationships with the communities they serve. Here’s another example.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

As community-based Oregon businesses, electric cooperatives are naturally interested in the economic health of local communities. In addition to providing energy-related incentives for businesses in their territories, co-ops also directly invest in economic expansion.

In recent years, co-ops invested over \$1.6 million in local businesses and over \$3.4 million in economic development projects. This included paying for a

percentage of underground service or line extensions to new businesses, assistance with additional infrastructure (such as water and sewer lines) and helped with other costs associated with economic development projects. Co-ops also awarded thousands of dollars in economic and community development loans.

Several co-ops work with PNGC Power’s Economic & Community Development Program to provide new or expanding businesses with assistance in site planning, regulations and financial packages.

By helping to stimulate Oregon’s economic growth, co-ops expand commerce, create jobs and strengthen local communities. ■