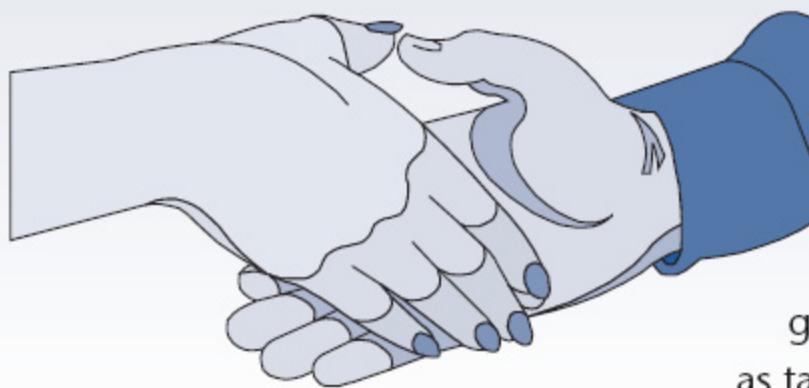


You Are A Member

As a cooperative, our “customers” are actually our Members or Owners.



You might wonder what the difference is between a cooperative, or co-op, and other types of utilities, such as investor-owned (PGE or PacifiCorp) or other consumer-owned utilities, like Peoples’ Utility Districts and Municipal Utilities.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BASICS

What Is A Co-op?

An electric cooperative is a private, non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state and owned by the customers, or members it serves. It is governed by a board of directors elected from and by the membership. It is guided by principles including voluntary membership, local

control, autonomy, member participation and concern for community.

What They’re Not:

As consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops differ from investor-owned utilities, in that they are non-profit companies, owned by their members—not stockholders. They are governed by locally-elected boards and are not rate-regulated by the Oregon Public Utility Commission as are the investor-owned utilities.

Unlike other types of consumer-owned utilities electric co-ops are not government entities and do not have governmental powers such as taxing authority or the ability to issue bonds. Co-ops are private companies.

Oregon’s Electric Cooperatives:

Oregon’s 18 electric cooperatives are distribution utilities serving approximately 10% of the state’s electricity consumers. Electric co-ops are located in 32 Oregon counties, covering 65% of the state’s geography and traversing some of its most rugged terrain, with over 24,000 miles of distribution line. ■