



First Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



A Member-Owned
Cooperative

800-489-7405

www.firstelectric.coop



First Electric's Congo Operations Center near Benton will include a 1 megawatt solar array that on clear, sunny days will produce enough to power approximately 120-125 members' homes.

First Electric developing solar project

First Electric is developing a 1 megawatt solar project next to the co-op's Congo Operations Center, which is under construction near Benton.

The 3,840-panel system by Ten K Solar will be placed on approximately five acres. It will be installed by Today's Power Inc. TPI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc., the Little Rock-based utility service cooperative owned by First Electric and the 16 other Arkansas electric distribution cooperatives.

"First Electric's mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable, affordable and responsible power," President/CEO Don Crabbe said.

First Electric and its power provider, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp., accomplish that goal by maintaining a balanced combination of generation resources. This includes "baseload" resources — currently coal and natural gas — that can provide a constant supply of electricity as well as "intermittent" resources — hydropower, wind and solar power — that are used when they can round out the mix in a cost-effective manner.

Optimal production for First Electric's new system will be on clear days with abundant sunshine. On those days, the 1 megawatt system will produce enough to power approximately 120-125 members' homes. (First Electric's peak system requirement is approximately 450 megawatts.)

Factoring in the federal tax credit, this solar project will produce electricity at a cost competitive with First Electric's current wholesale rate. TPI offers First Electric and other not-for-profit electric cooperatives the opportunity to benefit from the 30-percent federal solar investment tax credit that previously only was available to taxable companies.

Deadlines near for scholarship, Youth Tour applications

First Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for its scholarship program and the 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Scholarships

High school seniors whose parents or guardians are First Electric members may apply for one of five \$2,000 scholarships that the cooperative awards each year. To be eligible for the scholarships, which are funded through Operation Round-Up, applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average through their senior year of high school and attend an accredited institute of higher learning in Arkansas on a full-time basis. An application is available under the "Community" tab at www.firstelectric.coop and at any First Electric office. Deadline is April 1.

Youth Tour

High school juniors whose parents or guardians are First Electric members may apply for the Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 8-16. An application may be completed online or downloaded under the "Community" tab at www.firstelectric.coop. Applica-

tions also are available at any First Electric office. Deadline is March 17.





CO-OP CONNECTIONS: THE ONE CARD THAT DOES IT ALL

You benefit from Co-op Connections!

First Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, is proud to be part of the communities we serve. That's why we offer the Co-op Connections Card, a member benefit that provides discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses. This same program has saved co-op members nationwide millions on prescriptions and now offers significant savings on dental, vision, hearing, lab and imaging services and chiropractic work.

Free to all members

Each member of our co-op receives the Co-op Connections Card free. There's no sign-up. No annual fees. You can get a card at a First Electric office, or you can print a card from home. The link is available under the "Products & Services" tab at www.firstelectric.coop.

Valuable discounts

You can recognize where the Co-op Connections Card is accepted by decals in the local retailers' windows or by the registers. (A list of local retailers may be found under the "Products & Services" tab at www.firstelectric.coop.) In addition to local businesses, we have secured discounts from a variety of national businesses and chains, such as rental car companies and hotels. Your card also entitles you to substantial prescription discounts nationwide.*

How are the Healthy Savings discounts different from insurance?

This plan is not insurance; it is a benefit discount offer. The card provides immediate discounts at the participating provider of your choice. Upon presenting your card, you will pay the

discounted price at the time of service. There is no paperwork and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. These discounts are available only at participating providers.

Can I use my Co-op Connections card with my current insurance benefit to reduce my costs?

No. Your card cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. However, use your card for products and services not covered by your insurance plans and receive a discounted rate.

Where can I get a list of providers that accept the card?

The Co-op Connections Card is accepted at more than 100,000 health-related providers nationwide. Find participating locations at www.HealthySavings.coop or call 800-800-7616.

Can I find out the discounted price of my prescriptions before going to the pharmacy?

Yes. If you know the name, strength and quantity of the prescribed medication, then you can find the discounted price of the medication by visiting www.rxpricequotes.com. You will receive the best price available to you through this program.

Search using smart phones or tablets

The Co-op Connections Program allows members to find discounts while on the go. Use this app to find discounts right at home or anywhere you travel. Search "Co-op Connections" in the App store or Google Play to download your free smart phone app!

**Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance. The discount is only available at participating pharmacies.*

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT: As a federal contractor subject to the nondiscrimination and affirmative action obligations of Executive Order 11246, as amended, and its implementing regulations, First Electric Cooperative Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "the Cooperative") will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status or any other status protected by law and will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status or any other status protected by law. Such action includes, but is not limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.