

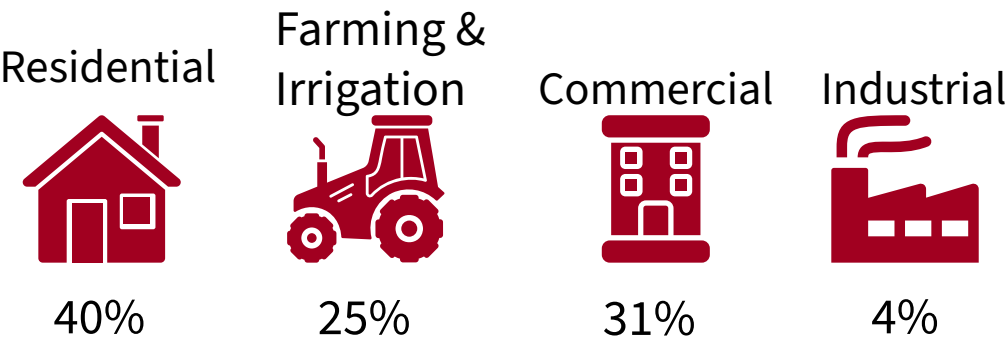
Large Loads Growth & Available Power

The facts may surprise you.

Where our power is used today

 Industry uses a small share of the local power. Our community uses the majority of its energy for homes, business, and farms.

In Benton County (2024)



Myths vs Facts



Data centers will drain local electricity.



FACT



Large energy users must fund infrastructure or supply their own power.



Growth increases cost for existing customers



MYTH



Tiered rates and policy ensure large pay higher costs.

New Demand = New Energy

Large new users will often build their own infrastructural along side the local system because of this, big projects bring big investments in new power.

Data Centers



Bringing new infrastructure and investment.

 New loads follow different regulations and pay higher off takers rates

Solar + Battery



Adding renewable energy and storage for reliability.

Nuclear (SMRs)



Small modular reactors planned for future clean base-load power.

How our power system works

(Ex: Benton PUD)

Power Generation

Hydro, solar, wind, nuclear & more



BPA (Wholesale)

Sells power in bulk to PUDs



Local Utility

Delivery power to our community



Customer

Power for homes, businesses, and farms



Planning for weather impacts

Energy depends on nature, so we plan for it.

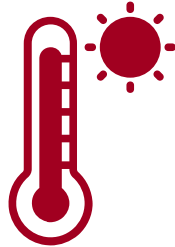


Low snowpack = less water = less hydro-power



Extreme heat = higher demand for electricity

That is why we need a mix of flexible, reliable energy sources.



Current Policies

Federal rules require that large energy users:



Pay higher rates (marginal cost)

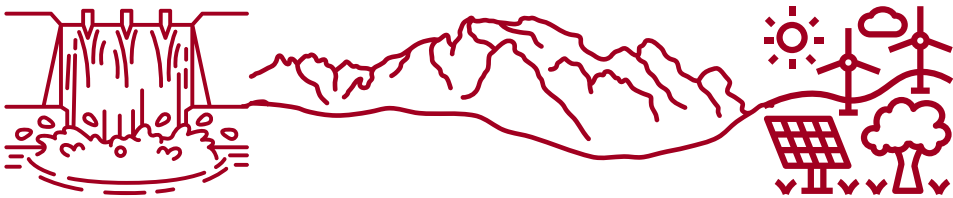


Provide their own powers resources.



This protects existing customers from higher costs.

THE BOTTOM LINE: Load growth requires planning (e.g. power generation, grid updating and expansion)



Learn more about your energy future at your local power provider.

Acknowledgments

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WSUTRI-CITIES

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