

# ON-BILL FINANCING

SAVING MONEY, CREATING JOBS

**The cheapest energy is the energy we don't use. Energy efficiency upgrades can save Montanans money, create jobs, and contribute to rural prosperity.**

**M**any Montanans experience high electric bills because of old, inefficient buildings in need of upgrades. Although these upgrades would save Montanans more money on their energy bills than they cost over the long term, affording the upfront costs can be challenging.

What if you could fix up your home or business so that your place is cool in the middle of summer, and warm in the dead of winter? And to top it off, you could save money on your electric bill!



**On-bill Financing**, a type of energy efficiency program, can make it possible! On-bill financing allows residents to make meaningful improvements to their homes and businesses without any upfront cash, taking out a loan, or assuming debt. On-bill financing is catching on at rural electric cooperatives across the country, and your co-op can offer it too!

## The Co-operative Advantage

If you receive power from a rural electric cooperative, you are a member owner of the co-op with all other residents and businesses that the co-op serves! As a member owner of the co-op, you have a voice in how your co-op can best serve you and other member owners in your community.

Rural electric cooperatives were founded on the cooperative principle of democratic member control. Member-owners of rural electric cooperatives have the opportunity to work with their staff and elected boards to achieve affordable power by advocating for energy efficiency programs.

**MONTANA HAS 25 RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
DELIVERING POWER IN ALL 56 COUNTIES, AND PROVIDING  
POWER TO OVER 400,000 MEMBERS.**

Rural electric co-ops can access no-interest or low-interest financing through the federal Rural Utilities Service (RUS) in order to offer on-bill financing to their members. Project financing is repaid on the members monthly co-op utility bills. In most cases, the member experiences no out of pocket expenses and also sees a significant decrease in their energy consumption.

### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Insulation
- New heating and cooling systems
- Lighting improvements
- Water efficient fixtures and more

### ELIGIBLE PROPERTY TYPES

- Homes
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Non-profit
- Agricultural

## HOW IT WORKS

### Receive an energy audit

Your electric co-op sends a certified contractor to your home or business to conduct an energy audit at no upfront cost. This audit identifies the upgrades that will lower your electric bill, such as insulation, lighting, and new heating or air conditioning systems.



### Install the upgrades

Your electric co-op pays for equipment, installation, and all other associated costs of the upgrades to your home or businesses. There are no upfront costs to you, the member. **Then, an inspector checks that the work was done right.**

### Save money each month

Now that the work is complete, your energy bills go down because saving energy saves you money. **You pay back the cost of the upgrades through a charge on your monthly electric bill. This charge is less than the savings being produced by the upgrades,** so your electric bill goes down even though the co-op is recovering the cost of the upgrades.

## **BENEFITS OF ON-BILL FINANCING**

### **DEBT-FREE**

There is no loan or debt, and no lien on your property. The costs are recovered through your utility bill. The co-op is making an investment behind the meter to a property in its service territory.

### **TRANSFERRABLE**

If you move, the next folks moving into your home or businesses enjoy the benefits of the upgrades, and the co-op continues to recover its costs from them.

### **INCLUSIVE**

The transferable and debt-free nature of on-bill financing means that renters are eligible for the program too, not just those that own their home or business outright.

## **SAVINGS**

## **INVESTMENT**

### **PROVEN SUCCESS**

**D**ozens of rural electric co-ops nationwide offer on-bill financing; currently Flathead Electric is the only one within the state of Montana. Flathead Electric's residential "energy fix" loan program was introduced in 2009 and over 20.74 megawatt hours have been saved between 2009 and 2017- enough energy to power about 20,000 homes a year!



**ASK YOUR CO-OP ABOUT ON-BILL FINANCING TODAY!**