

**What does this card I received cost me?**

Nothing! No cost ever for this program to our members. This is absolutely a free service to you from BEMC. It is an attempt to give you more value for your dollar as a member of BEMC. The number of participants giving discount offers will grow, so keep checking www.bemc.org or www.connections.coop/bemc to keep up with the great offers you can enjoy.

How does it work?

All BEMC members received Co-op Connections cards and key fobs in a special mailing in April 2011. When they present the card at any participating business, they get a discount! It's that easy.

There is no charge, ever, to members at any time, or to businesses who participate. Businesses decide how much of a discount they will offer. Members will present their card each time they use it, but they won't leave it with the business. It's not like a coupon, it's a card that continues to help our members get more and more discounts.

What types of discounts?

Everything you can imagine. Automotive, entertainment, financial services, fitness, florists, health/beauty, healthcare, home care, lodging, medical, photography, real estate, restaurants, retail, services, technology, these are just a few of the categories. Here's a sampling of our local deals:

- Ocean City Chevrolet's offering 10% off service parts and labor and 1% over invoice on new vehicles;
- RBR New and Used Books is giving 20% off any purchase;
- The Adventure Kayak Company offers \$5 off a local kayak tour;
- Get a 10% discount on any service at Elements Salon & Spa;
- At The Giggling Mackerel, get 10% off your dining bill;
- Get a FREE \$1 Game Bonus Buck with a purchase of \$10 or more Planet Fun Card;
- Curves in Southport is giving 50% off the registration fee;
- Like cheesecake? Get 10% off at SweeDeePie's in Whiteville.

And there's lots more . . . photography studios, chiropractors, heating & cooling, boat excursions, carpet cleaning, legal services, Ingram Planetarium, ice cream, computer and business services..... the list goes on and will continue to grow. WOW!

How do I find a list of where I can get discounts?

Visit www.bemc.org and click on the Co-op Connections card icon on the home page or go directly to www.connections.coop/bemc

The list is very easily searchable and very easy to use. You can do a Basic Search by keyword or zip code or by category, or with Advanced Search, choose all the deals for Brunswick EMC or any other participating co-op, search multiple co-ops, by state or city.

You can get a list of the pharmacy discounts by visiting www.locateproviders.com. To look up prescription prices, go to www.rxpricequotes.com

Why is this called the Co-op Connections program?

It's called the Co-op Connections program because co-ops throughout the nation are participating to bring value to the members of electric co-ops as well as to help participating businesses. It's a program of BEMC in cooperation with Touchstone Energy, our national branding program. It's a new way for us to look out for and help our members, especially in times like today when we're all faced with higher costs.

Where will the vendor list be advertised?

The current list of vendors was included in the April 2011 mailing and is posted on www.bemc.org. But more vendors are joining daily, and can join any time. Newly joining members are listed on the web site and in the next BEMC newsletter or in your monthly bill insert. BEMC will advertise the list at every opportunity, including handing out the list at the Annual Meeting of Members.

What if I lose my card ?

You can stop by any BEMC office to pick one up or call 910-754-4391, give us your name and address, and we'll send another card to you.

What is that account number on the back?

The member number listed on the card is just to identify you as a member of the BEMC Co-op Connections Card Pharmacy Discount Program. It is NOT your BEMC account number.

Can anyone get a BEMC Co-op Connections Card? You must be a current member of BEMC to receive a card. It's a special benefit for members only.



Q & A Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Card

There's also a pharmacy discount?

Touchstone Energy has over 60,000 pharmacies already signed up and participating. All our members will enjoy reduced rates **ON PRESCRIPTIONS ONLY** at participating pharmacies. Members should compare the discount they get with the card with what they will get from their insurance and of course use whichever one is most advantageous. For those without insurance, the savings can be both welcome and substantial.

How much will I save with the pharmacy discount?

The discounts save you 10% to 60% on **prescriptions** at over 60,000 pharmacies nationwide. Visit www.locateproviders.com to find participating pharmacies in our area. *The discounts are on prescription items only, not on other products sold at the pharmacy or store.*

Does everyone in my family need an individual card?

No, one card may be used by the entire family. You receive one full-size card and two key fobs.

How is the pharmacy discount different from traditional prescription insurance?

The plan is not insurance; it is a pharmacy discount offer. The card provides immediate discounts **on prescriptions** at the pharmacy. Upon presenting your card to the pharmacist, you will pay the lower of a discounted price or the pharmacy's regular retail price. There are no forms to fill out and no limit to the number of times you use the card. These discounts are only available at participating retail pharmacies.

Can my Co-op Connections card be used with my current insurance benefit to reduce my costs?

No, it cannot be used in conjunction with insurance, but the cost may be less with the card than with your insurance, so be sure to have the pharmacist compare. However, use your card to purchase prescriptions not covered by your insurance plans at a discounted rate.

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 medication, you can visit www.rxpricequotes.com

Can I use my card when I travel?

YES! That's an extra benefit for both members and businesses. If you're going on vacation, check at www.connections.coop/bemc for the area you plan to visit and see what businesses there participate.

Make a note and show your card. You will get the same discount that local co-op members get.

Save on your car rental, hotel, etc. too with national deals available online.



In the same way, members of participating co-ops in other areas that are visiting here can look up BEMC area businesses that participate.

Make a habit to look for the Co-op Connections window decals wherever you happen to be!

As a business, how do I join?

Simply call 910-754-4391 to request a contract to be sent to you, fill it out, and send it to: Brunswick EMC, ATTN: Co-op Connections, P.O. Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459, by fax to 910-755-4299, or by email to coopconnections@bemc.org.

What does it cost for the participating business?

There is no cost, except the discount the business decides to give the customer, which is a small price to pay for the increased customers and free advertising.

As a participating business, how long do I stay in the program?

Businesses are required to stay in the program for one year, and the contract will automatically renew unless the business opts out. At the end of the year, 30 days notice is required to opt out.

How will the public know the business is a member?

Besides the web site and newsletter entries, each business will receive a cash register sticker and window cling for posting.

Can only BEMC businesses participate?

No, the business does not have to be a BEMC member to participate. It does have to serve members in the BEMC service area, which includes Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Robeson counties.