



## Q & A Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Card

### 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](http://www.bemc.org) or [www.connections.coop/bemc](http://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](http://www.bemc.org) and click on the Co-op Connections card icon on the home page or go directly to [www.connections.coop/bemc](http://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 participating pharmacies and other health services by visiting

[www.carrythecard.com](http://www.carrythecard.com).

To look up prescription prices, go to

[www.rxpricequotes.com](http://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](http://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

### PRESCRIPTION & HEALTH SAVINGS

#### 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 pre-scriptions at over 60,000 pharmacies nationwide.

Visit [www.locateproviders.com](http://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](http://www.rxpricequotes.com)

#### **NEW** Healthy Savings Package - what do I get?

These discounts are now included AT NO EXTRA CHARGE. In addition to the pharmacy prescription savings, you will receive access to these discounted health benefits at Healthy Savings providers:

- **Dental Care...** save 20 - 40% on most dental services, including orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics. (HumanaDental)
- **Vision ...**get 20-50% savings on eyewear, contact lenses, LASIK surgery, eye exams and more (through Coast to Coast Vision, other national chains and local providers)
- **Lab Work & Imaging ...** 10 - 60% off usual charges for MRI, CTs, blood tests and other lab procedures. (You prepay for the tests online or by phone, receive paperwork, go to the closest lab, confidential results come directly to you.)
- **Chiropractic ...** 30-50% savings on diagnostic services and treatments
- **Hearing Aids** - 35% off hearing aids at Newport Audiology Center locations. *NOTE: there are NO locations in our area as of Jan 2012.*

#### What do you need to show to get these discounts?

You can print a temporary card that shows the new Healthy Savings logos at [www.connections.coop/bemc](http://www.connections.coop/bemc). Or come by a BEMC office, show your Co-op Connections card and get stickers to apply to your card and key fobs. (stickers available mid-Feb).

#### How to find a provider in this area?

Go to [www.connections.coop/bemc](http://www.connections.coop/bemc). Click on "Discounts on Dental, Vision..." to access the Healthy Savings page. Click on the provider link.

**On your first visit only** - you will need to set up access, using **Member# 142407524** and **Group ID 22203NC12**, provide your email info and create a password.

Then use the search tools by zip code to locate the service of your choice. You can also access detailed information and sample savings for each type of service.

If you do not have Internet access, stop by a BEMC office and view the master list, or call and request a copy by email.

***This is not insurance nor is it intended to replace insurance. This plan provides discounts at certain healthcare providers for medical services. This plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. The plan member is obligated to pay for all healthcare services but will receive a discount from those healthcare providers who have contracted with the discount plan organization. Discount Medical Plan Organization: New Benefits, Ltd., Attn: Compliance Department, PO Box 671309, Dallas, TX 75367-1309.***



# Q & A Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Card

## 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](http://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!

## NEW - MY VIP SAVINGS

The BEMC Co-op Connections program also gives you access to **MyVIPsavings....** an amazing Internet Mall where you can enjoy convenient shopping and exciting savings at over 1,000 of your favorite online stores including, Walmart, Macys, Best Buy, Dell, Office Depot, Gap and Target just to name a few.



Plus, you'll receive *CashBack* dollars on every qualifying purchase! Look for special deals of the day on your homepage and specials like double cash back. *CashBack* incentives vary from store-to-store..range from 0.5% to as much as 10%! When you have accumulated \$25 in your *CashBack* account, you can request a check.

Follow the links on [www.connections.coop/bemc](http://www.connections.coop/bemc) to set up your MyVIPsavings account. For the first visit only, you will need the group number on the back of your Co-op Connections Card.

## MORE! PRINTABLE STORE COUPONS

Co-op Connections also has a section for printing store coupons on everything from groceries to baby supplies and more!

We invite you to explore the website . . . new savings opportunities are added often!

---

## INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES

### 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](mailto:coopconnections@bemc.org).

Businesses may join the program at any time.

### What does it cost for the participating business?

There is no cost other than 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 member 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.

### My favorite store, doctor or other business isn't listed. Can I nominate them to join?

An individual or business can call 1-800-800-7616 to get more information.

If you are recommending a business, please provide business name, a contact name, address and telephone number.