



Together we can realize the promise of

# BENHAM POWER

The community of Benham, Kentucky, in Harlan County, is working hard to chart our energy future. Right now, we have our best opportunity in generations to help residents save energy, save money, and produce local power right here in Benham.

Residents of the town, along with the City Council and the Power Board, have come together to find a solution to a difficult problem. We are a municipally-owned electric utility and in 2016 we must find a new wholesale provider of our electricity. But, in this difficulty, we see an opportunity: We are designing a program that will help a huge portion of our residents save on their energy use, and save money, without having to pay any upfront costs to do energy upgrades. We are working to make our water and sewer treatment plant and our city-owned buildings more efficient in order to save our city money and to reduce the Power Board's extremely high peak demand costs.

If we can do this, we hope to delay future rate increases to our community. And we are exploring ways to generate our own power right here in our community, by possibly harnessing the outflow of our water systems, our landfill gas, and the potential of the sun on our rooftops. We are working to become more energy independent and to create savings and local work for our neighbors in the process.



## Building on the great work of our neighbors

The town of Lynch, Kentucky--Benham's next door neighbor--used federal grant funds to upgrade their water and sewer treatment plants. They performed an energy audit to find the best ways to save energy and then the funds were used to upgrade lighting, insulation, water pumping equipment, and install new HVAC systems at the town facilities.

Lynch mayor Johnny Adams estimates that the energy bills of the water plant alone are now 20 percent lower. With the funding potential of the Promise Zones, the SOAR Initiative and other investments, Benham too can upgrade our own facilities to save energy and save the city and residents money.

## The example of Lacey Griffey's home

To demonstrate the potential of residential energy efficiency upgrades to save energy and save money, our Power Board partnered with non-profit groups to make Lacey Griffey's home more energy efficient. An energy audit was performed, which helped find the best ways to tighten up Mrs. Griffey's home and make it more efficient. The home was insulated throughout, air sealed, a new water heater installed and the HVAC system improved and repaired...and now Mrs. Griffey's savings are huge! In January 2013, her bill was more than \$600. This January 2014, while the rest of Benham's bills went up by 42% due to the extreme cold, Mrs. Griffey's bill was 56% lower! She paid less than \$300, all while now having a more comfortable home.

The Benham Power project is currently a collaboration of the City of Benham, Benham Power Board, COAP Inc., and KFTC. For more information contact the KFTC office at 606-632-0051