



Co-op Advantage

EXCITING NEWS

The ECE Board of Directors has approved a capital credits pay out of over **\$6 MILLION** for 2019



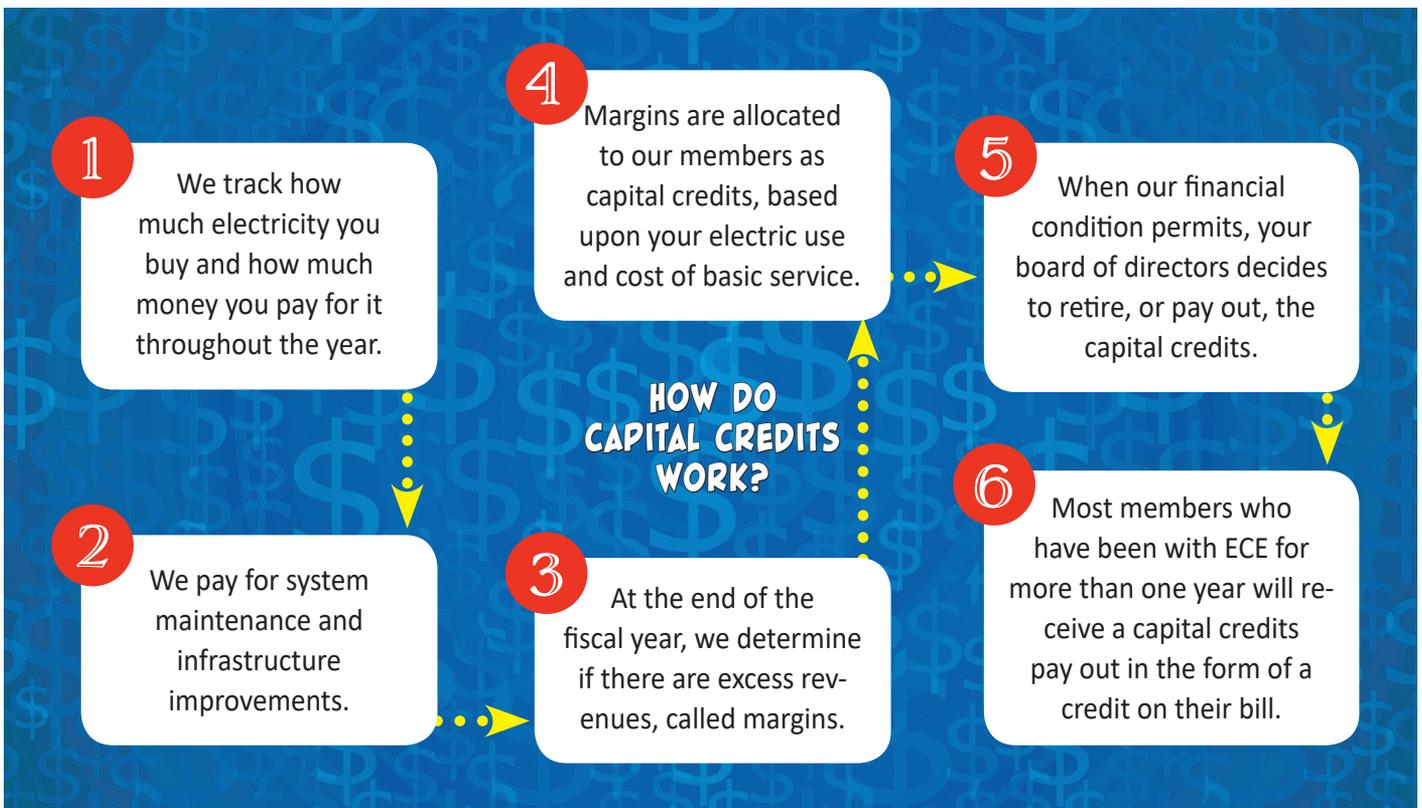
It pays to be a co-op member

As a member, you share in the financial success of your cooperative, and capital credits are your slice of the pie. You will see your portion of the pay out reflected on your bill due in December.

When there is a margin over the cost to operate, a portion is allocated to you, based primarily on your energy use and cost of basic service charges. The money is placed in your capital credits account. We retain this member capital for up to 25 years, which is very common in the industry, and use it for infrastructure improvements, system maintenance, and emergencies. Capital credits are retired (paid back) to you over time

if the financial condition of the co-op allows. This year's retirement includes all accumulated capital credits from 1994 and a percentage of all other years allocated to members. If you receive a pay out it will be in the form of a credit on your bill.

It was our intent to retire \$4 million in capital credits in 2019. Great River Energy (GRE), our power supplier, has not refunded capital credits since 1998, but this year GRE retired \$2 million to ECE. We're sharing this pay out with our members. The additional \$2 million from GRE will provide funds to members who were on our system over 25 years ago.



Watt's Cookin'

Congratulations to Carin Mack, a member from Isanti, MN, for winning the Watt's Cookin' stuffing recipe contest. Carin will receive a \$25 energy credit.

MARBLE RYE & APPLE STUFFING

1 lb. loaf marble rye bread, cubed into $\frac{3}{4}$ " pieces (approx. 10 cups)
1 stick butter
2 large leeks, white and pale green parts only, chopped
2 large ribs celery, chopped
5 bay leaves
1 tsp. fresh rosemary, chopped
2 large apples (1 lb.), cored and chopped
3 c. low sodium chicken broth
2 eggs
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper

Place oven rack in upper half of oven. Preheat oven to 300°. Scatter bread on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until toasted, about 25 minutes, stirring once. Let cool. Increase oven temperature to 375°.

In a large skillet, melt butter over medium high heat. Add leeks, celery, bay leaves and rosemary. Stirring often, cook until vegetables are soft (approx. 5 minutes). Add apples and cook for another minute. Remove from heat. Remove and discard bay leaves.

In a large bowl, whisk together chicken broth, eggs, salt and pepper. Add both the bread and the celery mixture. Toss to combine.

Transfer the stuffing to a greased, shallow 3 qt. baking dish. Bake about 45 minutes, until top is browned. Yields 8 servings.

We're still looking for those cabbage recipes. To enter our Watt's Cookin' contest, mail your favorite cabbage recipe to Watt's Cookin', P.O. Box 39, Braham, MN 55006. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number, ECE account number, and be received by Dec. 27, 2019. The winning recipe and the contributor's name and city will be featured in a future edition of the Co-op Advantage. Recipes can also be emailed to info@ecemn.com.

Don't forget, Watt's Cookin' will be a quarterly feature in 2020.

Give the gift of safety

Rather than buying another random last-minute gift, consider purchasing something that keeps your family and friends safe all year long.



Every household can use a **heavy-duty extension cord** to handle a more demanding electrical load during projects.



Early warning of carbon monoxide in your home is critically important. A **carbon-monoxide detector** can help detect deadly gas in the house.



Designed for safety, a **power strip with a built-in circuit breaker** often comes with the added feature of surge protection. It can prevent overloading of the power strip, which can cause fires and electric shocks.

When buying electronic gifts or decorations, get them from reputable retailers and make sure they are approved by a nationally-recognized testing lab. Put safety of your loved ones at the top of your list this season!



Auto Pay WINNER

Visit our website to learn about Auto Pay. If you would like to be entered in the monthly drawing, sign up for Auto Pay today!

Members who currently participate in Auto Pay will automatically be entered in the drawing.

**Congratulations
Dwight and Janice Hahn
Askov, MN**

Member Appreciation Events popped with fun

Our four locations bustled with activity October 3 as members and employees celebrated Cooperative Month with food and games. More than 1,400 members attended Member Appreciation Events hosted in Braham, Milaca, Finlayson and Superior. We offered a free pulled pork meal, a chance to win energy credits, bike drawings, and gourmet popcorn.



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Co-ops unite during National Drive Electric Week

Several types of electric vehicles (EVs) were on display during a special EV-focused event in Duluth September 16 at Canal Park Lodge. The event connected those interested in EVs to those who have already made the leap of purchasing and owning an EV. We worked with Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, Cooperative Light & Power, Great River Energy, and Lake Country Power to host the event.

Industry experts engaged with attendees during a discussion panel and shared their experiences of owning electric vehicles, including information about expanding charging technologies. The event continued at the adjacent solar panel/EV charging lot.

“We are committed to educating members about changes in our industry,” said Justin Jahnz, Manager, Energy Services and Strategic Projects. “It was great to partner with other EV experts to give our members the opportunity to learn more about this exciting technology, and we were pleased to offer it to members in the northern portion of our service territory.”

Electric vehicles offer a variety of benefits, including lower costs-to-own over the life of the vehicle, cleaner air, no emissions, and a smooth, powerful ride. Visit our website for special charging rates and rebates on EV chargers.





ENERGY MATTERS

with ECE President/CEO
Steve Shurts



Capital credits pay out: The largest in ECE's history

When you signed up for electric service, you became a member-owner of an electric cooperative. That means you, not a group of private investors, benefit from any margins the co-op sees at the end of the year.

We take our commitment to your membership into consideration every year as we develop a budget that provides a moderate margin at year end. At the end of the year (after all expenses are covered) those margins are allocated to those who used and paid for their electric service—our members.

Capital credits help reduce the need to borrow additional funds. If we were to return the total amount of

allocations to members, we would have to borrow or increase our rates to meet our mortgage requirements.

Utilizing member capital to improve and maintain our system helps to provide the reliable electric service you expect while doing everything possible to maintain reasonable rates.

This year we're making history by refunding our largest amount of capital credits to date: over \$6 million. With this refund, we have shared over \$85 million in capital credits with members. Capital credits is just one of the many benefits that set cooperatives apart from other utility business models.

If you have a power concern, we want to know about it

Low levels of A/C (alternating current) voltage on the grounded conductors of an electrical wiring system are a normal and unavoidable consequence of operating electrical equipment. This voltage, sometimes called stray voltage, is referred to as neutral-to-earth voltage (NEV) when it can be measured between two objects which may be simultaneously contacted by livestock.

If you suspect NEV or other electricity related issues, such as low voltage,

electromagnetic fields, or power quality concerns, contact us. We have qualified employees who can answer your questions and investigate any suspected problems.

Please note: if a person feels an uncomfortable tingling sensation, the condition is probably not NEV but a serious problem with your wiring system or faulty equipment. This situation requires immediate attention and an electrician should be contacted to investigate and correct the problem.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



East Central Energy
P.O. Box 39
Braham, MN 55006

Service Center locations:
Braham, Milaca, and Finlayson
Monday-Friday
Hours vary by service center.

1.800.254.7944

General business calls are answered from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Emergency and outage calls are answered 24 hours a day.

Email: info@ecemn.com

The ECE Board of Directors meets monthly. Please call Executive Administrator Julie Johnson at 763-689-8046 to confirm meeting information. Monthly board meeting highlights and board operating policies can be found on SmartHub.

The Co-op Advantage newsletter is published by East Central Energy, your not-for-profit, member-owned, local electric cooperative.

ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website:
eastcentralenergy.com



Holiday office closings

November 28 and 29
December 25



MIX
Paper from
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ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

It **PAYS** to be a **CO-OP MEMBER**

East Central Energy
PAID over **\$6 MILLION**
to members in the form of
capital credits in 2019

ECE 1.800.254.7944
eastcentralenergy.com



Capital credits represent YOUR OWNERSHIP in YOUR COOPERATIVE

As a co-op member, you share in the ownership of your electric utility. Capital credits are paid back (or retired) to you over time if the financial condition of the co-op allows.

This pay out represents your portion of the over **\$6 million** capital credits refund authorized by the ECE Board of Directors for 2019.

For more information about capital credits, call or visit our website.

The amount you receive is based on your length of membership with the co-op and the amount of power used during the period of membership.

Most members who have been with the co-op for more than one year will receive a capital credits pay out in the form of a credit on this month's bill.

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**PO Box 39
Braham MN 55006-0039**

Phone: 1-800-254-7944
eastcentralenergy.com

1678 1 AV 0.375
JOHN PUBLIC
4123 AMY STREET
ANTOWN MN 55000-4123

4 1678
C-9 P-9



Board District 1

Account Number	123456700	REGULAR	
Due Date	12/31/2019	Amount Due	\$125.00

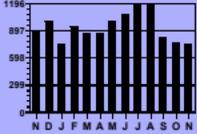
AS A MEMBER OF THIS COOPERATIVE, YOU PARTICIPATE ECONOMICALLY IN ITS SUCCESS. YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT'S REFUND, LISTED BELOW IN BLUE, IS YOUR SHARE OF THE \$6 MILLION APPROVED BY THE ECE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO RETURN TO MEMBERS IN 2019.

KWH USE HISTORY

This period
30

Current Month's Average KWH Per Day
24

Average Cost Per Day
4.36



Meter Number	Rate Description	Previous Read Date	Present Read Date	Days	Previous Reading	Present Reading	KWH Use	Rate	Totals
41234567	RESIDENTIAL SERV MN	11/02/2019	12/02/2019	30	35273	35011	738	1.0 0.12480	92.16

SERVICE	AMOUNT
SERVICE LOCATION: 3624 00-0007 SERVICE ADDRESS: AMY STREET, 4123 ANTOWN MN 55000	\$0.00
PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$134.00
PAYMENTS - 11/30/2019	\$134.00CR
KWH ELECTRIC ENERGY CHARGE	\$92.18
COST OF BASIC SERVICE	\$30.25
POWER COST ADJUSTMENT (PCA) .0000000 X 738 KWH	\$0.00
POWER COST ADJUSTMENT-LOAD MANAGEMENT CREDIT .0000000 X 0 KWH	\$0.00
STATE TAX	\$8.12
CAPITAL CREDITS PAY OUT	\$6.46CR
OPERATION ROUND UP AMOUNT	\$0.61
TOTAL CURRENT CHARGE	\$125.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$125.00

Return Bottom Portion With Your Payment

Account Name:
JOHN PUBLIC

Account #	123456700
Due Date	12/31/2019
Amount Due	\$125.00
Amount Paid	



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A TwinLake Energy Cooperative

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