

COLUMBUS[®] CURRENTS

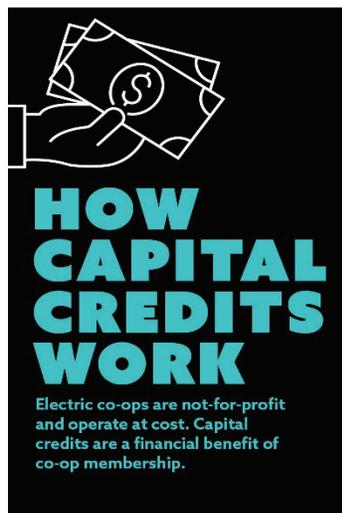
Board OK's Capital Credit Retirement

Operation at cost is part of the cooperative difference. Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities—you, as a consumer and a member own a portion of the business. And one benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits.

When Columbus Electric has money left over, it's allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. When the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members. This year the Cooperative will retire the remaining of the capital credits earned for 1997 & a portion of 1998 totaling approximately \$350,000. Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives from other types of electric utilities.

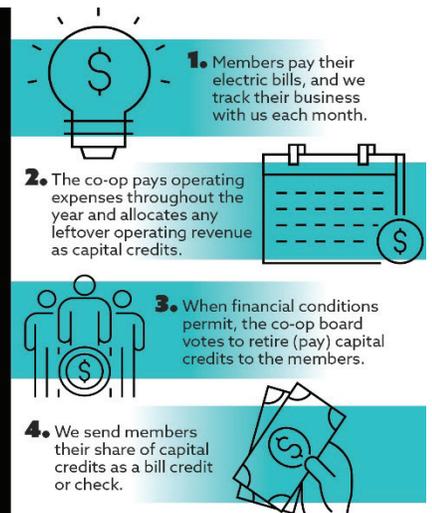
Capital credits are so-called because members provide necessary capital to the cooperative for it to maintain and operate the electric distribution system. These monies decrease the need to raise rates or borrow all the money necessary to pay for infrastructure. After a number of years, as financial conditions permit, we retire a set amount of capital credits.

These margins are the only real source of equity for electric cooperatives, so it is essential for a co-op to maintain the right balance between retiring capital credits to its members and retaining sufficient equity on our balance sheet. We do our best to strike that balance in an effort to provide you rate stability. This is just one more way that we looking out for you!



HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.



1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.
2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.
3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.
4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2026 Safety Poster Coloring Contest

Every year Columbus Electric Cooperative sponsors a safety poster coloring contest for students in our service area for 2nd, 3rd & 4th grades. Congratulations to this year's winners! This year's theme was "Fly Drones Far Away From Overhead Power Lines"



Overall Winner & 1st Place - Deming
Dan Isai Trevizo



1st Place - Animas
Madi Schilling



2nd Place - Deming
Sophia Gonzalez Moschetto



2nd Place - Animas
Sophie Ruiz



3rd Place - Deming
Carmen Sanchez



3rd Place - Animas
Rengifo Palomino



Our office will be closed
Friday, April 4, 2026 in
observance of
Good Friday

Board Highlights

The CEC Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 24th. Representatives of our power provider, Tri-State G&T, were present to visit with Trustees and discuss their long-term financial forecast and other matters. The Trustees reviewed and approved the 2025 year-end financial report.

Did you know? CEC sells electric water heaters

Save yourself some time and money with Columbus Electric Cooperative's Water Heater Rebate Program. As a member of CEC, you can purchase a brand new 40- or 50-gallon electric water heater through our water heater program.



- 40 gallon - \$50
- 50 gallon- \$60

*CEC will deliver your water heater(s) for free to your home or business!

For more information about the program call 1-800-950-2667 or visit columbusco-op.org/rebates.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)