



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Capital Credit refunds paid as bill credit!

Your board approved the rotation/retirement of **\$349,422.86** in capital credit equity. All current and former member-owners, who received electric service and contributed to margins in **1985, 1986, 1987, or 1988** will be repaid. Active members received their Capital Credit Refund on the December bill, which was mailed out in early January.

Capital credit equity comes from the cooperative's margins, which amounts to the difference between the money we collect during the year minus our operating expenses. Until it's repaid to members, the equity

is used to finance new construction and system improvements. RECC has returned more than \$4 million in member equity since 1978.

A key difference between electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities are Capital Credits. An investor-owned utility returns a portion of their profits to shareholders. But, RECC allocates 100 percent of our margins to the members, who purchase electricity during the year.

Estates of deceased members can continue receiving capital credit retirements or choose a discounted Capital Credit Equity payout to close

out a membership account. Please let us know if you have any questions about your capital credit account. Thank you for your past purchases from RECC!



Rate stability continues in 2021 with PCA credit

While virtually all aspects of today's cost of living continues to rise, RECC members have enjoyed one of the longest periods of rate stability in recent history. RECC rates are among the best of all Illinois cooperatives and residential rates remain lower than they were in 2009. The trend will continue, as your board of directors approved a PCA reduction (\$0.007 per kWh) for all rate classes in 2021! Please see the chart below for RECC's Residential and Farm Service Rate, the co-op's largest rate class.

12-year comparison of Rate 1 - Residential and Farm Service					
Monthly Use	2009	2011	2017	2019	2021
500 kWh	\$97.00	\$100.10	\$102.86	\$89.60	\$89.10
1,000 kWh	\$159.00	\$162.50	\$170.70	\$150.20	\$149.20
3,000 kWh	\$395.00	\$404.00	\$420.50	\$371.00	\$368.00

Can your business afford not to have backup power?

Your electric service is very reliable, but outages do happen, and they can be costly in terms of lost revenue, reduced productivity, and dissatisfied customers. Are you ready for the next outage? Although installing and maintaining standby power can be costly, it can really pay off in the case of an outage. Choosing the right size and type of backup power depends on your facility, equipment, and business needs.

Type - Generators are typically fueled by diesel or natural gas. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. Diesel often has a lower upfront cost, but you'll have a fuel tank that must be refilled, maintained and protected from water infiltration due to bad weather. Natural gas units may cost more to install, but they are cleaner-burning and more convenient from a maintenance standpoint. Conventional technologies, such as reciprocating engines and turbines, are most commonly used.

Size - What do you need to keep your business operating? Essential systems may include lighting, communications, processing equipment, heating, or air conditioning. Some of these systems may need to operate continuously, while others may only be needed during business hours. Consider peak power surges, as well as single-phase loads and load imbalance. Don't forget nonlinear loads, such as battery chargers, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and power factor.

Switching - Your generator will require a manual or automatic transfer switch to disconnect from the power grid when the generator is supplying power to the load. There are different testing and operational requirements for generators depending on whether they're classified as an emergency, standby or critical operations power



system. Consult with a qualified electrician or engineer to size and design a backup power system that meets your needs.

Decision - Does your business need standby generation? The answer may partly depend on the cost of an outage. Although the future is hard to predict, you can get a good idea of the potential cost to your operations by nailing down a few expenses:

Lost revenue - Estimate the hourly lost income to your business by taking your annual revenue and dividing it by the number of days and hours you are in operation each year.

Lost productivity - Your employees need to be paid, but they're often less productive or not able to produce at all during an outage. Take your annual payroll, divide it by the number of workdays and hours that you're in operation and you'll get an

idea of how much an outage can cost you in wasted overhead.

Interruption costs - Backup generation is critical for restaurants and grocery stores because their inventory is perishable. Some processes are so critical that an outage or even a slight interruption can be detrimental, such as an animal hospital or painting production. Operations that are heavily dependent on communications equipment, database servers and retail point of sales systems are also good candidates.

Conclusion - Often, the financial hardship of a power outage is not fully understood until afterwards. Take a hard look at your business operations and assess what the financial impact of a short or long-term power loss would be, and compare that to the cost of leasing or owning a standby generation system.



Spirit of the community

Local businesses are the backbone of our community – a source of pride.

Buying locally supports our farmers, tradesmen and merchants.

In addition, funds from sales tax stay in our community for schools, fire and police departments, city parks, natural resources, and more.

Keep the spirit of our community alive. Shop locally!

Brought to you by your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Rebates available *for appliances and heating systems*

Electric clothes dryer - \$50	Electric range or oven - \$50	Electric water heater - \$250
Add on heat pump - \$100	Heat pump all electric - \$250	Geothermal system - \$250

Visit www.recc.coop, click on the tab "Download Forms," get rebate form, and submit request.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WORKING FROM HOME?

CREATE A DEDICATED SPACE



Not everyone can do this, but it helps if you can have a separate space to keep your work area (and your workday mindset) separate from other areas of the home.

SET A SCHEDULE

Try to set a workday schedule and stick to it as much as possible so that work and home do not constantly intertwine.



CREATE BOUNDARIES



Just as a workspace serves as a physical work boundary, try to set other at-work boundaries: discuss work hours, deadlines and interruption ground rules with others under your roof.

BE REALISTIC

Creating boundaries is more difficult with children and teens around. If you can, try to create a work schedule around their most demanding hours or juggle coverage with another adult.



TAKE A STAND



Researchers at Columbia University found that adults who sit for one to two hours at a time without moving have a higher risk of early death than those who get up more often. Aim to get up and move every 30 minutes.

TAKE BREAKS

Working nonstop might make you feel heroic, but it actually decreases productivity. Consider scheduling brief breaks and taking them - outdoors if possible.



 Safe
Electricity.org

*Happy Valentine's Day
February 14, 2021*