

COLUMBUS CURRENTS

Giving back is the Cooperative Way

By Abby Berry

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It's a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like Columbus Electric Cooperative are deeply rooted in giving back to their local communities year-round.

Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the members we're proud to serve. That's why we sponsor and make donations throughout the year to numerous organizations and events to help make a positive, meaningful impact for our community. You help us power that purpose, too. Columbus Electric Cooperative's Operation Roundup program is made possible through members' participation in "rounding up" electric bills to the next dollar amount. Your generous contributions to Operation Roundup help members and their immediate family through Columbus Electric's scholarship program.

Another way Columbus Electric Cooperative gives back is by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through presentations at our local schools, scholarship opportunities and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due—to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because Columbus Electric Cooperative operates at cost, we give cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

Here's how capital credits work:

Columbus Electric Cooperative members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills, and we track their business with the co-op over time. Columbus Electric Cooperative pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is leftover, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the co-op's board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members. Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a customer. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at Columbus Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.



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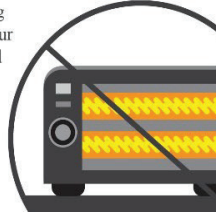




TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



Office closure dates for the holiday season!
December 25, 2024
December 26, 2024
January 1, 2025



Power Your Future! Apply for Columbus Electric's Cooperative Scholarship Program

Columbus Electric Cooperative offers educational scholarships to active members of CEC and their immediate family members. Scholarship recipients can receive financial assistance for up to eight semesters of higher education studies at the school of their choice. Applicants must complete an application and submit letters of recommendation.

Applications may be obtained by contacting our office, the student's high school counselor or at columbusco-op.org/scholarships. The deadline to apply is March 4, 2025.

For questions, please call our office at 575-546-8838

Heat Pump Rebate Reminder

Have you recently had a new air or ground source heat pump installed in your home or business? Don't forget CEC offers rebates for heat pumps to all its members. Rebates are also offered for whole house fans, split system air conditioners and evaporative coolers. Members have 90 days from date of install or purchase to submit their rebate applications! To learn more about Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. rebate programs call us at 1-800-950-2667 or visit us online at columbusco-op.org/rebates

Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the financial and operational reports for the month of October. The Board also reviewed the results of a ten-year technology plan recently completed by the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative. The Board authorized a request to pursue installation of SCADA equipment in the Cooperative substations over the next two years.



Columbus Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

This year, New Mexico representatives will be in D.C. June 16-21, 2025, and Youth Tour delegates will spend their time touring monuments, visiting museums, meeting with elected officials, learning about the cooperative business model, and getting to know young leaders from all over New Mexico and 46 other states!

The best part? It's **FREE!** Everything is covered by Columbus Electric Cooperative! It truly is the trip of a lifetime.

Interested? Check out our website for more information or call our office at 575-546-8838 with any additional questions. Applications for the Youth Tour are available on our website, at our Deming office or the student's high school counselor.

Space is limited! The deadline to submit your application is January 31, 2025. Don't let this opportunity of a lifetime pass you by!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



Emergency Response Number
 1-800-228-0579

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