

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 a portion of the capital credits allocated for 1996 & a portion of 1997 totaling \$348,432. 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.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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

DEADLINE TO
apply is **MARCH 4, 2025**

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.

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

CEC Board Approves 2025
Rebates for Members



Take a look at February's Enchantment magazine for full details or at columbusco-op.org/rebates



2025 Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 5, 2025

Animas School
 Auditorium
 Animas, NM

The official notice of the meeting will be mailed at a later date.

Board Highlights



The Board of Trustees met on January 28, 2025. They reviewed and approved the monthly operations and financial reports. They also approved the retirement of capital credits, approved the deferral of revenue for 2024, set the date for the 2025 annual meeting, and approved the bad debt write offs for 2024. The Trustees discussed their upcoming strategic planning meeting, which will take place in March.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

Source: energy.gov

Winter Moratorium Protection Notice (LIHEAP)

Protection from winter shut-off ends March 15, 2025. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 1-800-950-2667 to make arrangements for payment. Members of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at (888) 427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.

Para informacion en espanol llame 1-800-950-2667

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

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