

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

How quickly the years pass!



by David A. Johnston,
SIEC's Director
of Administration
& Finance

Capital credits are a benefit of belonging to a cooperative. You, and every member who receives electric service from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), own part of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

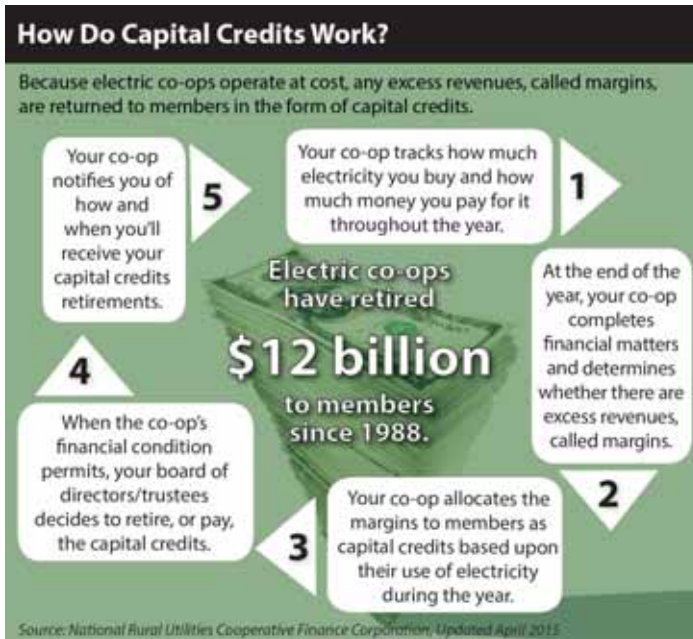
You may ask...what are capital credits and how are capital credits generated? Let's see if I can help clarify this for you.

Like all businesses, SIEC earns revenue and pays expenses. The difference between revenue earned and expenses incurred is called profit for most businesses. But for cooperatives, like SIEC, this difference is called margins. These margins are returned to you because SIEC is a non-profit utility. Thus, capital credits represent your share of SIEC's margins as well as your ownership of SIEC.

Here's how they work...

■ **Allocation:** Each year, you are allocated the previous year's margins based on the amount of electricity you purchased in relation to the total amount of electricity purchased from all members. An allocation is issued by the board of directors and represents your share of ownership in a nonprofit, member-owned cooperative.

■ **Retirement:** The margin allocations accumulate over time in your name. They are periodically retired (refunded) to you, when directed by the board



of directors, based on the financial condition of SIEC.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens to a member's capital credit if they no longer have an account with SIEC?

A member will no longer receive capital credit allocations of future margins. However, the balance in the member's capital credit account will be maintained until retired. It is important that the member keep us up to date with their address, otherwise we may not be able to locate them when it is time to retire capital credits on their account. Even if you are no longer on the SIEC system, please keep your contact information current. Remember, a member's capital credits are their ownership of SIEC and is an asset that belongs to them.

What happens to a member's capital credits if they die?

Capital credits earned by a deceased member are paid to the member's estate. SIEC offers a special capital retirement of the outstanding balance of the deceased member's capital credit account, at a discounted rate.

I have an account that is in my deceased parent's names. Should I obtain a membership in my name?

Yes, a membership is required by the person who is receiving electric service. Also, when you obtain a membership in your name, you will be able to retire the deceased parent's capital credit account immediately (see previous frequently asked question). **Tamara Hill**

For more information about capital credits, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 618-827-3555.

Avoid a bad decision when your water heater breaks

Save money and help the environment with a replacement—your co-op can help

If you want to save money on your energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas – and other emissions – to help the environment, a good step would be to have a replacement plan for your water heater when it fails.

And a key part of that plan is to get advice from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

That helpful tip comes from an expert who's just published research showing that the increased use of electric appliances would improve energy efficiency at home and for the nation.

Keith Dennis is the senior principal of end-use solutions and standards at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). His article, published in the November issue of *The Electricity Journal*, shows that for decades we've been using assumptions and measurements for energy efficiency that are no longer accurate. It explains that electric water heaters are a much better choice than natural gas – both for environmental impact, as well as home

energy savings. And that's important. Water heating accounts for approximately 15% of your home's energy use.

The problem is, replacing a water heater is often a panic decision—water heaters seem to break at the worst time, and you're more likely to be thinking about the guests coming to visit the next day than the best energy efficient decision.

"Most people replace their water heater in an emergency situation," Dennis says. "Moving forward, utilities will be more and more involved in helping with that purchasing decision."

The bottom line: Before purchasing a new water heater for your home, talk to the energy experts at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Give Chris Boyd, Director of Member Services, a call at 618 827-3555.

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va.



Notice to members requesting poles or guy wires to be relocated

The Cooperative receives many requests from members to relocate poles and/or guy wires. The reasons for requested relocations vary, and many members do not realize they need the pole or guy wire moved until after their new construction projects have started. The Cooperative will, at its discretion, relocate poles and/or guy wires at the request of the member **at the member's expense**.

Please "look up" before starting to build that new building or driveway, plant that tree, or erect that antenna. Don't create a safety hazard where Cooperative facilities must be moved. In the event a member creates a safety hazard that causes the Cooperative to modify its poles or facilities, the member shall pay for the cost of the relocation or modification. Please contact Michael Logeman, P.E., Director of Engineering, at 618-827-3555, if you have any questions on relocation of facilities.



SIEC Board of Directors

William E. Littrell (President)..... Union Co.
 Scott Miller (Secretary-Treasurer) Alexander Co.
 G. Robert Inman Pulaski Co.
 David Martin..... Massac Co.
 Bob L. McIntosh Pulaski Co.
 Carole J. Kelley..... Johnson Co.
 Richard D. Moss Alexander Co.
 Scott L. Ury..... Union Co.

Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)

General Manager Chris L. Bennett

**For Outages Call:
 800-762-1400 * 618-827-3555**



Like us on
 facebook

Knowing what to do saved their lives

When teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school, they never dreamed what they had learned that day would be put to test. Only days later, Whittaker and Taylor, along with two classmates, were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

“When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on their minds,” explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “We’re usually more concerned about whether anyone was injured or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We can forget that by exiting the vehicle, we’re risking exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.”

If you are in an accident with a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity’s path to the ground and could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it—creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.

While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

After an accident, stay in the car, and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

The safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle



Lee Whittaker



Ashley Taylor

is if it is on fire and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to “bunny hop” with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure that you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly.

Whittaker, Taylor and their friends survived their accident because they had learned what to do. While they waited more than 30 minutes for line crews to arrive and deactivate

the power line, Whittaker and Taylor made sure nobody left the car and warned those who came upon the accident to stay far away.

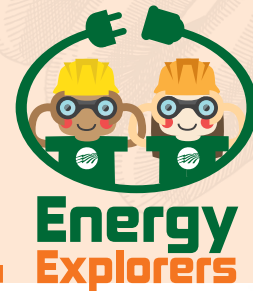
“Knowledge was crucial in keeping everyone involved in the accident safe,” Hall says. “We want to make sure that everyone knows what to do if they’re in accidents with power poles.”

For more information and to see Lee and Ashley’s story, visit SafeElectricity.org, or call Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at 618 827-3555 to arrange for a PowerLine Safety demonstration for your school or group.

Thomas Smothers



EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH



Reducing energy use is good for the environment, and by being energy efficient, you can help your parents save on their monthly electric bill! Find the words associated with energy efficiency in the word search below.

Circle all words associated with efficiency. The hidden words appear straight across, backwards, up and down, and diagonally. Use the word bank below as a guide.

WORD BANK

- REDUCE
- LIGHT SWITCH
- APPLIANCES
- LED BULB
- RECYCLE
- ENERGY USE
- CONSERVATION
- THERMOSTAT

R	Y	F	T	T	I	C	U	Z	U	N	I	W	Q	L
Q	E	K	T	A	V	O	U	Z	B	C	Q	V	I	T
S	D	D	O	I	T	N	C	Y	R	K	N	G	X	E
H	F	I	U	V	O	S	P	F	M	S	H	Y	B	S
V	W	J	X	C	M	E	O	S	W	T	S	L	I	U
G	Z	I	U	H	E	R	Y	M	S	K	U	X	K	Y
Q	S	H	L	X	W	V	H	W	R	B	K	L	D	G
C	J	Q	P	O	R	A	I	X	D	E	O	V	Q	R
W	D	O	E	L	G	T	D	E	W	K	H	R	J	E
E	V	K	E	A	C	I	L	P	J	U	P	T	V	N
J	C	D	B	H	B	O	A	O	K	M	P	Q	Z	E
P	X	Y	S	E	C	N	A	I	L	P	P	A	P	H
L	W	T	L	P	U	T	G	T	R	I	C	A	W	C
D	V	X	V	R	J	B	I	M	L	S	B	J	O	C
X	F	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	H	J	Y	Y	V	U



Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Cathy with your account number at 800-762-1400 to claim your prize.

