



## New office hours effective June 1, 2016

In an effort to streamline all business units and better serve our members, Shelby Electric Cooperative, PWR-net Wireless Broadband and Shelby Energy Company will be open from **7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning June 1, 2016.**

### After hours phone numbers

Cooperative..... 1-800-677-2612  
Shelby Energy .....217-774-2311  
PWR-net .....217-774-2323

If you need to make a payment, electric and Internet customers can use the SmartHub app or use the cooperative's secure Pay-By-Phone

feature by calling 1-855-385-9981 and follow the automated prompts to pay by check, credit card or debit card.

As always, our drive-up payment depository is available in front of the building at 1355 State Highway 128, Shelbyville, for use any time of day.

## Annual meeting set for June 17

Mark your calendars now for Shelby Electric Cooperative's 78th annual meeting of members to be held on Friday, June 17, 2016. This year's meeting will again be held at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Look for your annual meeting notice that will be arriving in the mail later this month. The notice

will contain information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda and important registration information. All registered members who come to the meeting will receive a \$10 bill credit. **If you bring your registration card with you and present it at the time of registration, you will receive an \$11 bill credit.**

There will be free blood pressure checks, bucket truck rides, bounce house and crowd favorite the Gene Trimble Band will provide pre-meeting music and much more. Sunshyne the Clown and Tim the Twister will be making a return appearance as well.

As in previous years, a barbecue pork chop dinner will be served between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. prepared by the Shelby County Pork Producers. Registration also begins at 10:30 a.m. with the business meeting scheduled for 1 p.m.

See you Friday, June 17 at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville for your Cooperative's 78th Annual Meeting!



# Just what are Capital Credits

When you signed up for electric service, you became a member-owner of this cooperative. Unlike other electric utilities, your cooperative exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit.

Any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered “margins.” These margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative. This capital allows Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) to finance operations and construction, with the intent that this capital will be repaid to you in later years.

As of 2016, SEC has retired all capital credits up to the year 1987, totaling more than \$5 million. Each year when capital credits are retired, many questions arise. We have provided answers to some questions below for a better understanding of capital credits.

## What are capital credits?

Patronage capital is the cooperative’s margins, or money left after all expenses have been paid for that year. Shelby Electric uses these margins for capital investments, such as building or replacing power

lines, substations and other electric system improvements. After being used as working capital, the money is returned to members as patronage capital credits (like dividends). It represents each co-op member’s share – or equity in the cooperative. Patronage capital is allocated to members in proportion to the dollar amount of electricity used. Capital credits are paid out as the cooperative’s financial condition permits.

## How do I receive my capital credits?

Eligible members still on our lines receive capital credit refunds as a credit on their electric bill. Members no longer on our lines receive their retirement amount in the form of a check mailed to the most recent address on file.

## How are capital credits calculated?

The amount of capital credits you earn in a given year is based on the amount of capital you contribute to the cooperative through paying your monthly bills. The more electric service you buy, the greater your capital credits account – although the percentage will remain the same. The sum of your monthly bills for a year is multiplied by a percentage to determine your capital credits.

## What percent of my bill is returned as capital credits?

The percentage of your total payment that is allocated as capital credits varies from year to year, depending on the success of the cooperative. Capital credits are only allocated for a year in which SEC earns margins. Since capital credits are a member’s share of the margins, no credits are allocated for a year without any margins.

## What happens to the capital credits of a member that dies?

The capital credits of a deceased member may be paid at a discount without waiting for a general retirement. Estate payments are not

automatic. A representative of the estate must request the credits by contacting the cooperative billing department. If the membership is jointly held by a spouse, the estate will only be retired after both the member and spouse are deceased.

## Will I receive a capital credit every year?

Not necessarily. The Board of Directors must authorize a retirement before you receive a credit. When considering a retirement, the Board analyzes the financial health of the cooperative and will not authorize a retirement if SEC cannot afford it. SEC has paid capital credits nearly every year for the past two decades.

## What happens to my capital credits when I leave the SEC service area?

They remain on the books under your assigned capital credit number until they are retired. You should make sure SEC has your current mailing address.

*If you have questions concerning capital credits, or anything else related to your cooperative membership, please give the cooperative a call at 1-800-677-2612.*



**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**or 1-800-677-2612**  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**  
**twitter.com/YourCoop**  
**facebook.com/YourCoop**

**New Office Hours:**  
**7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Effective June 1, 2016**



Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

**REAL LIFE REAL POWER**

**Getting Real with Marla ~ It's all about the base**

May and October can be great months to determine the baseline electricity consumption for your home. These months often have our region's most mild temperatures, requiring little to no heating or air conditioning.

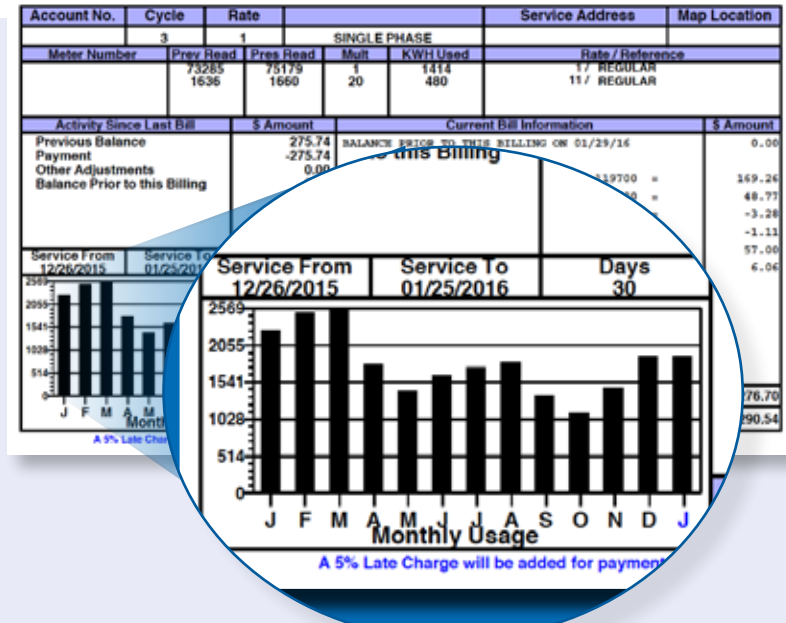
Typically in Illinois, heating and air conditioning consume the most energy in our homes. Since we have no control over the weather, our best defense against that expense is to air seal and insulate (in that order).

The baseline is everything besides heating and air conditioning. Understanding your account's baseline electricity consumption lets a person know how much it costs for electric water heating, lighting, electronics, appliances, electric tools, office equipment, sump pumps, well pumps, etc. Changes in habits and lifestyle can often affect baseline use.

Water heating is often the second highest energy expense. Make sure the water heater is set at 120 F degrees. Wash laundry in cool or warm water when possible. Ask family members to limit the amount of hot water used for bathing and showering.

Older appliances can be expensive to operate. Refrigerators and freezers that are more than 10 years old may cost double the amount to operate than a new, more efficient model. This may be a good time to reconsider using that old, second refrigerator in the garage for beverages. The warmer the temperature is, the harder that energy hog has to work to keep your drinks cool, especially when located in an unconditioned location, such as a garage.

Electronics are quickly taking a larger piece of the pie in residential electricity use. The sheer quantity of



electronics that we have added to our households in the past few years adds up to substantial electricity consumption. More than 75 percent of American households have two or more televisions. Not only do the TVs use electricity, but so do all their cohorts, such as cable and satellite boxes, DVD and Blu-ray players, and video game consoles. The typical household spends more on electricity for their home entertainment than it would cost to operate a new refrigerator.

Don't forget the home office. Baseline items using electricity (and subsequently, producing heat) include overhead lighting, desk lamps, computer, phone/answering machine, adding machine, printer and chargers for electronic devices. When my husband works from his home office, the office gets quite warm (resulting in him turning the air conditioning down for the

whole house). In this scenario, our baseline use has a direct effect on our air conditioning use.

Your Shelby Electric Cooperative bill has a bar graph representing your monthly use for a year. Generally, the two lowest months occur when temperatures are moderate; these will be your baseline months. To investigate even more closely, choose a week when the weather is forecast to be mild. Keep a diary of your family's activities while at home, including laundry, electronic use and cooking. Then, give me a call at 1-800-677-2612 and I will help analyze your electricity consumption. The SmartHub App is another great tool to see your energy use. Download it today from your app store.

~ Marla Eversole, Member Services

**Shelby Energy Company**  
1-217-774-2311

**PWR-net Broadband Internet**  
1-877-994-2323  
Please leave a message after hours

**Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
1-800-677-2612  
1-217-774-3986

# Your Power – Your Plan – Your Choice

## UPay - a Prepaid Electric Service from Your Cooperative

### Real power solutions to fit your way of life.

Have you ever wished you could take control of your energy consumption? Now you can with **UPay**, a prepay energy solution from Shelby Electric Cooperative.

**UPay** works best for members wanting to take control of their electric use and monitor consumption. Research has found using the prepaid method of buying electricity can actually save you money by reducing your consumption.

#### UPay allows you to:

- Control your energy use and budget
- Pay for energy as you use it
- Purchase electricity on your schedule
- Monitor and reduce energy use
- Pay as you go, no monthly bills
- Have greater flexibility with seasonal homes
- Pay and manage a family member's bill
- Control your budget if you are on a fixed income
- Control and manage electric consumption on rental property
- Enjoy savings with reduced consumption



Optional In-Home Display



**UPay** prepay from Shelby Electric Cooperative gives members the control to monitor their electric consumption on a regular basis which allows the member to notice patterns in their day-to-day use. The beauty of the **UPay** program is that it fits YOUR budget. You can buy enough electricity to last until payday or you can buy enough to last several months. The choice is yours!

Contact Shelby Electric Cooperative to learn more about this prepaid option by calling 1-800-677-2612.

*The SEC phone payment and e-bill options for checking or savings accounts will not be made available to members who have had NSF or returned funds with SEC within the past 12 months.*



**Cooperative offices  
will be closed on Monday,  
May 30 in observance  
of Memorial Day.**