



WE'RE ON THE SEARCH TO RETURN UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

We are searching for members with unclaimed capital credit funds. As a cooperative member, you are much more than a customer; you're part owner. You and your fellow members contribute to the capital of the cooperative, meaning you also share in any extra revenue beyond what's needed to keep the co-op financially stable.

These funds are returned to members in proportion to their usage of the co-op's services through capital credit allocations. Capital credits represent each member's share of the cooperative's profits and ownership stake in the co-op.

If the board of directors approves the retirement of capital credits, active members will receive a credit on their October billing statement, and non-active members will be mailed a check if that amount is greater than \$10.00.

However, there are always some capital credits that we have trouble distributing. Some people move off the lines without leaving a forwarding address, and other members pass away.

We do our very best to find these people and see to it that they receive the capital credits they have earned, but we need your help. A list of members who are entitled to unclaimed capital credits can be found online at sre.coop/capital-credits.

Please take a moment to review this list. If you see any familiar names and you know how to locate any of these people or their heirs, please ask them to call our office. We will verify their account and obtain the current contact information.

If we cannot find these individuals or their heirs, the unclaimed funds will be forfeited to Federated Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization that distributes these funds for educational or charitable purposes. It is from these funds that we are able to give yearly scholarships.

To view the list of members with unclaimed capital credits, scan QR Code or visit sre.coop/capital-credits.



FAQ: CAPITAL CREDITS

What are capital credits?

Capital credits are one of the many benefits of co-op membership. As a cost-of-service energy provider, SREC doesn't earn profits. Instead, co-ops use the term margins, which is revenue remaining at the end of the year after all bills are paid. Capital credits reflect each member's equity in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative. This differs from dividends that investor-owned utilities pay shareholders, who may or may not receive service from the utility.

What happens to the capital credits of a member who passes away?

A deceased member's capital credits may be paid at a discount without waiting for a general retirement. A representative of the estate must contact us.

What's the difference between allocation and retirement?

An allocation is your share of the margins. We set this money aside to use as operating capital for improvements and maintenance. Members will see their yearly allocation on their August bills. A retirement is the amount you receive as a credit on your statement. It is a percentage of your allocations accumulated over the years. Typically, after utilizing capital for 20 to 30 years, it is retired.

Are capital credits retired every year?

Each year, your board of directors decides whether to retire capital credits based on the co-op's financial health. SREC's ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative's strength and financial stability.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING DAY IS AUGUST 11

Summer is in full swing and many homeowners still have a long list of outdoor projects to get done. Before digging in - *no pun intended* - be sure to call Digger's Hotline at 8-1-1 to locate all public underground utilities. It's free, it's easy, and it's the law. State law requires you to contact this service at least 3 full business days before starting any digging project (like planting a tree or building a fence). Homeowners may also submit a request online at diggershotline.com.

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damage, give severe electrical shock and serious injuries. When calling, Digger's Hotline will obtain information about your upcoming project and the location of the project. They will then pass this information on to all utility professionals to come and mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities. Locators follow these uniform color codes with each color indicating a specific type of underground utility. Some of these include the following:

- **Red** – Electrical
- **Orange** – Communications, Cable, Telephone
- **Yellow** – Gas, Oil, Petroleum
- **Blue** – Water and Irrigation
- **Green** – Sewer and Drain Lines
- **White** – Indicates Proposed Excavation

Even if you think you know where the lines are located or had the lines located previously, it is best to *always* call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

Your responsibility doesn't end with the phone call, you should confirm that all utilities have responded by comparing the marks and flags to the list of utilities notified on your Digger's Hotline ticket. You must wait to dig until all utilities have marked their lines. Failing to call Digger's Hotline or waiting for the ticket to clear could cause serious injuries and outages for not only yourself, but also your neighbors.



Private Utilities

The 8-1-1 locators do not locate privately installed utilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include those for electric, gas, telephone and fiber, water systems, underground fencing, etc.

More Information

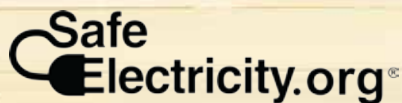
For more information about safe digging practices, please visit the Digger's Hotline website at diggershotline.com, call 8-1-1, or contact us at 800-236-2141. Stay safe while digging and cross off those home improvement projects this summer.



BLEND UP *Summer* REFRESHMENT

Nothing beats a refreshing smoothie on a hot summer day! Before you blend, keep electrical safety in mind:

- Dry your hands completely before plugging in or operating your blender.
- Plug your blender (and other high-wattage appliances) directly into an outlet instead of power strips to prevent overheating.
- Make sure kitchen outlets, and any outlets near a water source, have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection to help prevent shock.
- Replace appliances with broken plugs or cords that look frayed, worn or cracked.
- Unplug your blender before removing stuck ingredients or cleaning it.
- Never submerge the blender base in water.



TROPICAL SUMMER SMOOTHIE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup frozen mango
- 1 banana
- ½ cup coconut water
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- ½ cup pineapple chunks
- Ice as needed for desired consistency

DIRECTIONS:

1. Add the mango, banana, coconut water, yogurt and pineapple to blender.
2. Blend until smooth.
3. Add ice and blend until smooth.
4. Pour into glasses, enjoy!

(makes 2 servings)



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TIPS TO AVOID

ENERGY SCAMS

One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity—adding symbols, numbers and capital letters—password length is equally important. A longer password or passphrase is generally harder for cybercriminals to crack than a short, complex one. Consider creating a memorable phrase made up of several unrelated words, and avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Use a unique password for each account and enable multi-factor authentication when possible. Taking these simple steps can help keep your personal information and online accounts secure.

Source: CISA



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



"Oat Shocks" is this month's featured photo from Craig Grau, a member in Livingston, Wis.



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This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Offices will be closed Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.