SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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 a 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.

INTERESTED IN SOLAR? LET'S TALK!

These nice sunny days have many people thinking about summer projects and ways to be more energy efficient. For some, this might mean researching whether or not solar energy is right for them. Before diving in, let's start with one quick fact: solar energy is not energy efficiency. Solar energy is generating electricity, while energy efficiency is finding ways to use less energy.

From our experience, members who install solar are motivated by saving money, environmental concerns, and sometimes both. It's important to understand that the main way a solar system saves you money is by offsetting your daytime electrical usage from the electrical grid and by self-consuming your solar energy as it's being produced.

Solar installation is like prebuying your LP for the year; you invest most of your money upfront for future energy. Focusing first on energy efficiency addresses both motivations and may be less expensive in the long run.

Energy Consumption

A good tip is making sure your home is as energy efficient as can be before you order your array. The larger the system, the more it costs. Being efficient with your energy use will save you money in both consumption and in the size of the system you need to buy.

A fully insulated and air-sealed home uses less energy and is a great starting point for reducing your energy consumption and your electric bill. Low-cost upgrades like LED bulbs and smart thermostats can be easy updates to make. Additionally, investments in whole-home insulation or upgrades to your heating and cooling equipment can significantly increase your home's energy efficiency.

If you aren't quite sure where to begin in making your home more efficient, consider an energy assessment through Focus on Energy. Members are also encouraged to review their usage through their online SmartHub account.

Rooftop Solar

Members who wish to install the solar panels on their roof should determine the roof is in good condition. If your roof is old or in poor shape, it may need to be replaced before panels can be mounted. Additionally, your roof should receive a lot of sun to make the most of a rooftop system. Consider how much sun (and shade) the roof receives and whether any trees need to be removed.

Electric Bills and Storage

Unless you plan to disconnect from the cooperative and go "off-grid", you will continue to receive a monthly bill. Every meter on our system incurs a daily facility charge which covers the cost of delivering reliable electricity to the service. This charge helps to cover the cost of maintaining infrastructure such as poles, wires, substations, transformers, and the operations necessary to ensure dependable power. This charge ensures cost fairness among all members connected to the grid and can be thought of as your insurance or energy storage plan, providing electricity in case your system fails or if the weather is too dreary to generate sufficient energy to fully supply your needs.

Since solar panels only produce energy when the sun is shining, and battery storage may not quite be financially possible for most people yet, most members will rely on the co-op for power during the night or when your system isn't meeting your full energy needs.

Contact Your Co-op

Scenic Rivers Energy encourages members to contact the cooperative to discuss your project and learn of the fees and paperwork necessary to connect your system to the electrical grid. Additionally, we can work with you to review your past usage to aid in determining the best size for your home.

Understanding the considerations above before installing your own solar array will ensure you meet both your money-saving and environmental goals. If you have questions on installing renewable energy at your site, please contact our Director of Member Services, Ron Jentz, at 800-236-2141.

NET BILLING EXPLAINED

Our co-op currently utilizes net billing, which means we buy any extra power your system generates at the current avoided cost rate set by the Federal Government. In net billing, members are credited for the excess energy at a rate that is usually lower than the retail rate they pay for electricity. Unlike net metering, net billing doesn't allow you to store unused kilowatt-hours for later. Any surplus energy not immediately used at home is sent back to the electric grid.

To get the most out of your solar system, it's best to use the electricity as it's produced or consider installing a storage battery. We also recommend keeping this in mind when determining the size of the solar array you wish to install.

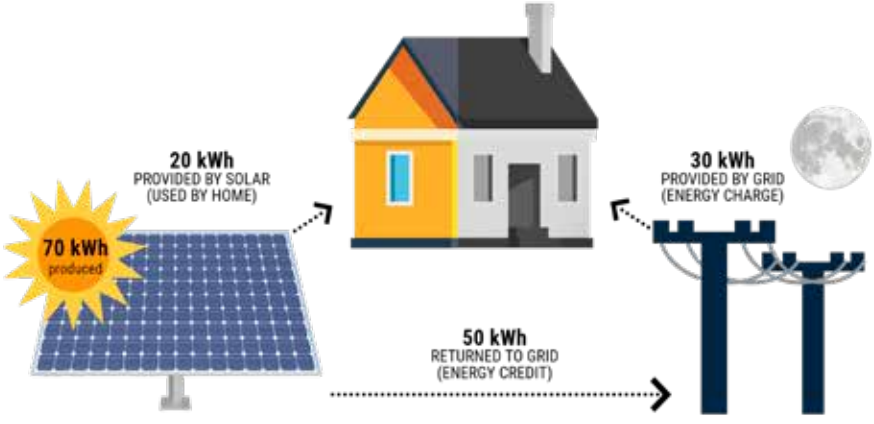
The infographic shown to the right compares two households: Home A, which uses most of its electricity at night, and Home B, which uses most of its electricity during the day. Home B will achieve a quicker return on the solar investment because more solar energy is consumed as it's produced.

Infographic created for informational purposes only. Actual household consumption and solar panel array production may vary. Additional factors can influence usage. Please contact the cooperative for more information.

HOME A:

The family leaves for work before sunrise. During the day, the solar panels generate 70kWh of electricity. Even though no one is home, the house still uses 20kWh to run essential appliances like the air conditioner and refrigerator. The unused 50kWh of solar energy is sent back to the electric grid as it is produced.

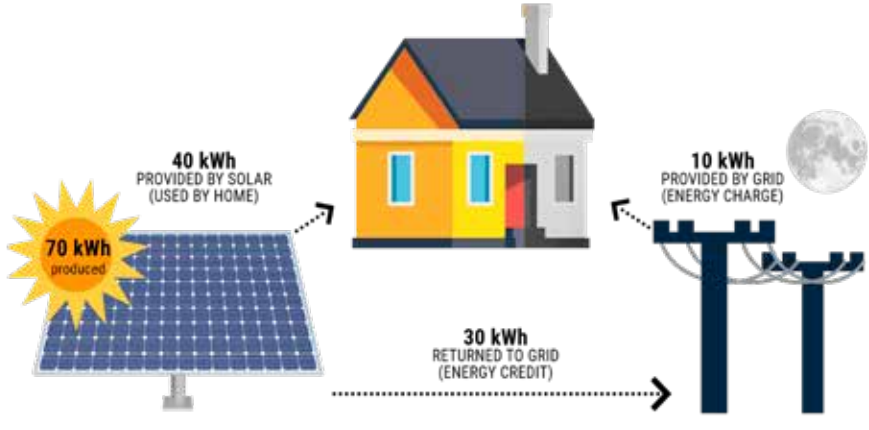
At night, when the family returns and does most of their housework, the solar panels are no longer generating electricity. As a result, they use 30 kWh from the electric grid.



HOME B

The family works from home and does most of their housework during the day. While the sun is shining, the solar panels generate 70kWh of electricity. During the day, they use 40kWh to power computers, run appliances, and keep the home cool. The remaining 30kWh of unused solar energy is sent back to the grid as it is produced.

At night, when the solar panels are no longer producing power, the family uses 10kWh as they prepare for bed and continue to run their essential appliances like the air conditioner and refrigerator.



DORM ROOM
ELECTRICAL SAFETY:
TIPS FOR A SAFE SEMESTER

Be smart and stay safe. Share these tips with your campus-bound students.

DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS
Too much power draw = fire risk.

Tip: Plug dorm room fridge directly into wall outlet.

UNPLUG WHEN NOT IN USE
Even when off, devices can still draw power or overheat

Tip: Unplug fans, chargers, & appliances when you're out.

REPORT ELECTRICAL ISSUES FAST
Flickering lights? Warm outlets?

Tip: Tell campus maintenance ASAP; don't wait

NEVER USE DAMAGED CORDS
Frayed or cracked cords can spark a fire.

Tip: If a cord looks worn, replace it - don't tape it!

DECORATE SAFELY
Don't use nails or tacks to secure cords or light strands.

Tip: Use plastic hooks to hang string lights.

NEVER CHARGE A PHONE UNDER PILLOWS OR BEDDING
It could overheat or catch fire.

Tip: Create a dedicated charging station in your room.

KEEP CORDS COOL & CLEAR
Don't run cords under rugs, beds or doorways.

Tip: Keep cords visible to avoid overheating.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

"Beauty of a Sunflower Catching the Sun" is this month's featured photo from Kathy Miller, a member in Cuba City, WI.

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This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider