



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



THE OEC CURRENT

People You Can Count On

www.otsegoec.coop

November 2011

Cooperative Board Approves Capital Credit Retirement

It's time for you to get the credit —capital credits, that is— for helping build, sustain, and grow your local electric cooperative. This December Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. will retire nearly \$150,000 to approximately 2,600 eligible members.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. you became a member of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. So instead of returning leftover funds, known as margins, to folks who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, Otsego Electric Cooperative allocates and periodically retires capital credits to members based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

This year members, who received power during 1984, will receive capital credit retirements through a check in the mail. The amount will reflect their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during that year. In order to maintain financial stability, 25% of the 1984 capital credits will be retired. That may seem like a long time ago, however, those funds helped us keep rates low. In addition, this capital reduces the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system. It also covered emergency expenses.

Of the \$150,000 retired funds, approximately \$25,000 will be reserved for estates. We are currently in the process of calculating the final retirement.

Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Stephen Rinell, CEO

Board of Directors

Gary Potter
President

Charles Arnold
Vice President

Wendell Saunders
Treasurer

Steve Child
Secretary

Roger Erway
Director

Fred Braun, Jr.
Director

Edward Clarke
Director

Kathleen Del Plato
Director

Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

Load Control Switches Installed
915

Co-op Savings Per Month
\$2,746

Total 2011 Savings
\$27,118

16-19-16-06-PF



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

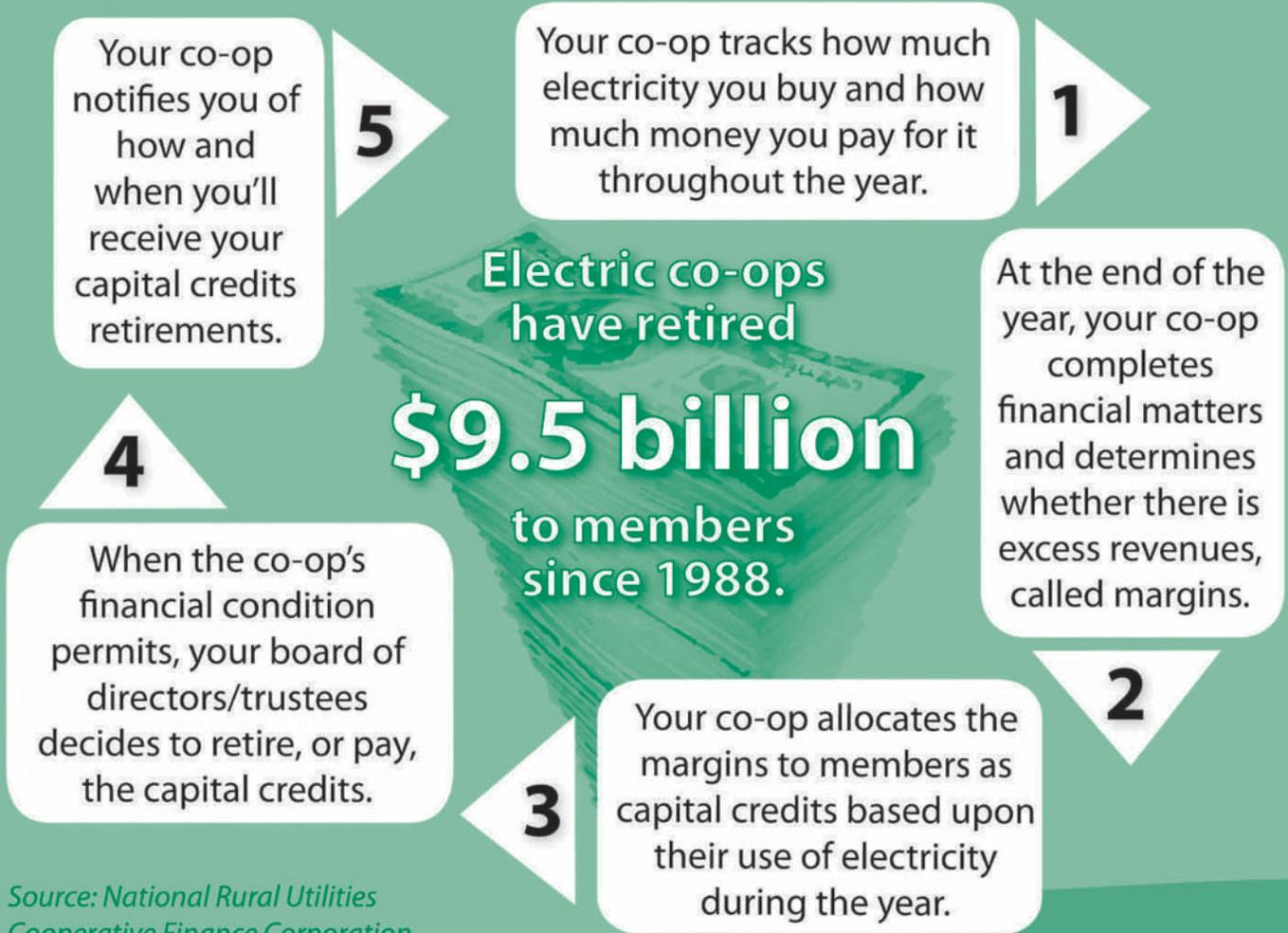
Use motion sensors on your lights to save on your electric bill. These sensors turn on lights automatically when someone enters a room and turns them off after a person leaves.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

BRINGING VALUE AND COMFORT TO ENHANCE OUR MEMBER'S QUALITY OF LIFE!

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



Solar PV Projects



In the last two years Otsego Electric Cooperative has had a total of nine Solar PV projects interconnected through grants from the New York Power Authority (NYPA). So far this year approximately 19,000kWh of solar power has been sent back OEC's distribution system from interconnected solar PV projects. At this time we do not know if additional NYPA grant money will be available for projects in 2012.

If additional 2012 funding becomes available we will post it in our newsletter. If it becomes available, funding will be on a first-come-first serve basis.

Energy Theft/Meter Tampering Costs YOU!



ENERGY THEFT CAN BE LIFE THREATENING AND IS ILLEGAL

Energy theft costs YOU, the member. **When dishonest members do not pay for electricity they have used, honest members must pick up their tab.**

- We prosecute energy thieves.
- Thieves are billed for diverted energy plus investigation fees.
- A \$100 safety inspection fee is assessed for meter tampering and cutting OEC seals in addition to other diversion charges.

If you suspect someone is receiving un-metered electricity or using a fraudulent name to prevent paying the bill, call the OEC office at 607-293-6622. Your information will remain confidential and be promptly investigated.

Auto Bank Draft

Pay your bills automatically – without writing a check



It's a convenient, easy way to pay your electric bill – without writing a check. You save the cost of a check, postage, inconvenience, and the possibility of forgetting to pay. Join today! Using Otsego Electric Cooperative's automatic bill payment system is simple, all you have to do is sign up. You can choose to have your payment made with a bank draft from your checking or savings account. Call 607-293-6622 for details.



Food Bank

Otsego Electric Cooperative is a drop-off-point for our local area food bank. There are many local families who appreciate the food donations, especially during the winter months.

Please remember non-perishable items only.



For outage information and energy saving tips follow us on Twitter @ OtsegoEC

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Otsego Electric Cooperative works hard to keep the power on for its members, but severe weather can sometimes put us in the dark. You'll be safer and less inconvenienced if you have the following emergency supplies on hand:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| flashlight with fresh batteries | radio with fresh batteries |
| candles and holders | blankets |
| matches | wind-up clock |
| firewood and kindling | manual can opener |
| charcoal grill with charcoal and | paper plates and plastic utensils |
| lighter | bottled water |
| non-perishable food | extra batteries |



IS YOUR SERVICE MAP LOCATION LOCATED IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

Somewhere in the body of this newsletter there's a service map location number. Your map location number is located on your bill. If you find your map location number in this newsletter call the office within 15 days and your account will be credited \$25.



Marathon[®] WATER HEATERS

Contact our office at 607-293-6622 to find out about member discounts on Marathon electric water heaters.

If you are heating water with gas or oil consider using clean electricity.

Call the Co-op office at 607-293-6622 if you are interested in having a load control switch put on your electric water heater. There is a two dollar monthly credit per switch.

The Otsego Electric Cooperative office will be closed Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 24th.



Give the Gift of Electricity This Holiday Season

Are you looking for a gift for a friend or family member? We may have the answer for you...



OTSEGO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.	
HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATE	
To:	_____
Your electric account at Otsego Electric Cooperative has been credited in the amount of \$ _____	
From:	_____
 Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. <small>A Division of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.</small>	
3192 County Highway 11 PO Box 128 Hartwick NY 13348	 Happy Holidays



Finding the right gift for a friend or relative is not always easy, Needs differ with every person, but almost everyone has an electric bill. So why not give someone you care about the gift of electricity. The Otsego Electric Cooperative HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATE makes it easy for you to provide a credit on a relative or friend's electric account.

Just provide us with the co-op member's name and address (if you have their account number it would be helpful, but not necessary). We'll handle the rest.

You may pay by cash, check or debit/credit card. Otsego Electric Cooperative will provide you a certificate to give to them, or at your request, we will mail the certificate to them. **If you choose, certificates can also be given anonymously.** Stop by our office or call us today for more details.

Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 128, Hartwick, NY 13348

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Phone: 607-293-6622

After Hours and Outages: 1-866-591-3192

Call Dig | Safely. New York before you dig 1-800-962-7962 or 811