

'19 Capital Credits assignment on bill

Current members of Clay Electric who received service in 2019 are being notified about the amount of Capital Credits assigned to their accounts for that year.

The notice of Capital Credits appears on the lower portion of members' bill statements beginning with May billing cycles. If you received service from the co-op during 2019, the amount assigned to you will appear following the message "2019 Capital Credits." If you began receiving service from the co-op after Dec. 31, 2019, no 2019 allocated Capital Credits notice will appear.

Capital Credits reflect the cooperative's not-for-profit and member-owned status and represent each member's pro-rata share of any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are accounted for. They are a unique benefit of being served by an electric cooperative.

This notice of allocation of Capital Credits is not a current refund amount. It is simply to notify members of the amount that is being allocated to the account holder for the previous year's margins. Each year, the co-op's board of trustees decides whether a refund can be made by carefully considering a variety of data and economic conditions.

This year, the co-op's board of trustees declared a \$12 million Capital Credits refund for members who received service from 1990 through 2018. Current members of the co-op who were entitled to a refund received a credit on their March bills. A check was mailed to those entitled to a refund but who no longer receive service from Clay.

POWER COST

Continued from front

The lower cost of power is reflected in a lower Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on members' power bills with a meter read date of April 9-May 7. Members will see a credit in the PCA portion of the bill and the credit will vary based on how much electricity is used.

The savings mark the second time this year Clay Electric members have had a lower power bill. In March, members were refunded \$12 million in Capital Credits and entitled members saw a credit on their bill.

Capital Credits are a reflection of the fact that Clay Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative. This means that any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are paid is set aside in each member's name to be refunded at a later date as Capital Credits.

Project Share helps members in need

Members can help others keep their lights on when times are tough by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to their electric bill each month or by sending in a donation.

The funds are only for the benefit of Clay Electric members. The co-op collects the Project Share donations and the Salvation Army handles the distribution of the funds according to a financial need criteria.

If you would like to contribute, call 1-800-224-4917 or complete a Project Share form at your local district office.

If you are facing a hardship, you can apply for help through the Project Share program by contacting your local Salvation Army office.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Justin Caudell at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: jcaudell@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, May 28 and Thursday, June 25 at noon in Keystone Heights.

3040-26724

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

May 2020

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY Co-op lowers cost of power by 25%

Clay Electric members saw a lower cost of power on their bill in April or early May thanks to a one-time decrease of 25 percent, or an average of \$30 in savings. This means members using the industry household average of 1,000 kWh of power were billed \$84.77. The previous cost was \$112.90.

This savings will assist those in our communities who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The cooperative was able to lower the cost of power due to the decreasing price of natural gas, which Seminole Electric Co-op (Clay's wholesale power provider) uses to generate a sizable portion of the wholesale electricity it provides Clay and eight other distribution cooperatives in Florida.

"Our lower power cost comes as a result of our power supplier continuing to purchase fuel at the lowest possible price," said General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis. "We normally would pass on the savings to members throughout the year, but understanding the hardships many are facing because of COVID-19, we are doing what we can now to help members."

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 **Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Easy ways to save energy if working at home

Whether it's to save on fuel by not commuting to the office a couple days a week, avoid rising day care costs or have more flexibility with doctor appointments, working from home has its advantages. But it could also mean using more energy.

The good news is there are ways to keep your electric bill under control. Here are a few to keep in mind.

Unplug what you're not using

Distractions can be a big problem when working from home. Unplug anything that could act as a distraction, such as televisions, DVD players and game consoles. Also unplug anything that is not in use, such as phone chargers. You'll cut down on vampire energy wasted on wall warts and electronics you aren't really focused on.

Setup your computer for energy savings

Most computers have built-in settings for saving energy. They can reduce screen brightness, automatically lower power consumption if you stop using it temporarily and more. Checking your "sleep" settings can save just a bit more on your electric bill.

Don't change the thermostat

Depending on the time of year, it can be tempting to go down or up a few degrees on your thermostat, but it's important to keep it where it would be if you were at work or away.



Limit lighting wherever you're working. If using a laptop, move to where the natural light is strongest, so you won't have to use overhead lights or desk lamps.

Try opening windows or using fans where possible. Open your blinds and let the sun bring in warmth, and wear a sweater or put on a blanket. If the A/C is necessary, set it for 78 degrees. For heat, set the thermostat at 68 degrees. Every degree below or above these recommendations increases energy costs by as much as 8 percent.

Take advantage of the sun

It's easy to forget to turn off lights in rooms not in use, but they are costing you energy. Make it a habit to check the house. Limit lighting wherever you're working. Open drapes

or blinds, even if it doesn't get direct sunlight. If using a laptop, move to where the natural light is strongest, so you won't have to use overhead lights or desk lamps. Work outside if you can.

Work smarter, not longer

Perhaps the most direct way to save energy while working from home is to cut down on the number of hours you're on the computer and indoors. By setting a schedule and avoiding time spent procrastinating or surfing online, you can potentially free yourself earlier in the day and enjoy time outside.

Use caution if playing near co-op equipment

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, we remind you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous — or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it. Call 1-800-224-4917 or 911 for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- Keep the toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the toy.

Your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so you and others can enjoy plenty of days outside filled with fun. Visit ClayElectric.com for more electrical safety tips.