

PowerLines

A monthly publication for member/owners of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

October 2012

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\$1.7 million to be paid

The retirement of capital credits is a tangible demonstration of your ownership in Eastern Illini - your electric cooperative.

Beginning next month, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will begin retiring capital credits for members that received electricity from Eastern Illini from 1974 to 1978. The retirements will total \$1.7 million right back to you - our member/owners.

What are capital credits?

Any profits made by Eastern Illini are referred to as margins. Margins result when our revenue is more than our expenses. At the end of each year, any available margins are allocated back to you - into your capital credit account - in proportion to the amount of electricity you purchased that year. The more electricity you purchased, the greater the share of the margin allocation that will be made to your capital credit account. When the allocated funds are returned to you as capital credits, we say that they have been retired.

Assets of the cooperative

Eastern Illini, like all electric co-ops, operate at cost - collecting enough revenue to run and expand the business but with no need to raise rates to generate profits for distant shareholders, like investor-owned utilities do. When Eastern Illini has money left over, it's allocated back to

you and other member/owners as capital credits. When our financial position permits, we retire, or pay the capital credits to you.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What do we do with the allocations?

The retirement of capital credits—so-called because you provide capital to the cooperative for it to operate and expand—depends on the co-op's financial status. Eastern Illini holds onto allocated capital credits to cover emergencies, such as a natural disaster, and other unexpected events, and to expand our electric system, all of which may require large-scale construction of poles and wires. By holding on to the capital credit allocations, we can lessen or eliminate the need to raise rates or borrow money (which could also lead to higher rates) to pay for the infrastructure. Each year, Eastern Illini's Board of Directors carefully looks at the financial condition of our cooperative to determine how much, if any, capital credits can be retired.

Our goal is to get to a 25-year payback cycle, so even more of you can enjoy your capital credit refund checks.

The retiring of capital credits is one more way we are looking out for you.

Dave Champion

1 billion+
people own co-ops in

90+
countries, generating
100 million jobs.

Did You
Know...

Co-ops provide electricity, financial services, insurance, marketing, food, and more!

Celebrate the business model that puts people **FIRST**.

Celebrate
Cooperatives!



Learn more at www.usa2012.coop



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A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Save big money with a simple program

The Co-op Connections Card is a FREE member/owner benefit from Eastern Illini.

The Co-op Connections Card is a simple, FREE savings program that gives you discounts at local businesses and well known national companies. Discounts are available at all types of businesses and several online services - many of which you probably already shop.

The Co-op Connections Card also gives you a pharmacy benefit that could save you 30 percent or more on your prescriptions - all with no paperwork or hassles. In fact, Eastern Illini members have saved well over \$100,000 on prescriptions by using the Co-op Connections Card.

A new benefit will help you save more and live healthier every day!

Our highly successful prescription discount offer is now joined by discounts on dental, vision, hearing, lab work & imaging, and chiropractor visits. Best of all, you get all these great benefits for FREE.

Another great benefit of your Co-op Connections Card is the coupons. Simply log on to connections.coop and start downloading. They can be used almost anywhere, and can save you hundreds of dollars on the things you are already purchasing.



To get more information, please visit connections.coop. At the website, you can find the coupons, plus all of the local deals and national offers available when using your Co-op Connections Card. You can also print off a temporary card to use until your new one arrives later this year.

Local businesses also offer great savings with your Co-op Connections Card. Get discounts where you are already shopping by visiting the connections.coop website and typing in your zip code. Your card will also work as you travel, since the card is accepted across the country.

A new Co-op Connections Card will be sent to you, enclosed with next month's electric bill.

Be on the lookout for your new card so you can start saving money in time for Christmas!

Electric aggregation on election ballot

Next month voters in Champaign and Vermilion Counties will have the chance to vote on aggregating the supplier of the energy portion of the electric bills for customers of the local investor owned utility (IOU).

Even though Eastern Illini member/owners are eligible to vote on this issue, they will not qualify for the program since they are already part of an aggregating group - our co-op.

The Illinois Commerce Commission recognizes that since we are owned

and governed by our member/owners, we are already looking out for their best interests. For that reason, deregulation rules are geared only toward IOUs.

In this case, the counties are acting as a "middle-man" to help facilitate a whole group of IOU customers choosing a new energy supplier.

It's interesting to note that this county-wide aggregation is very similar to what electric cooperatives like Eastern Illini did in the 1930s to

help get electricity to the rural areas when no existing companies even wanted to serve these areas.

Eastern Illini's President/CEO Wm. David Champion noted, "As a not-for-profit cooperative that is owned by our members, we plan to offer you stable energy prices for the long haul.

We have secured a long term power supply (the Prairie State Generating Campus in Lively Grove, Ill.) so you will continue to have safe and reliable energy for years and years to come."

Don't let savings go up in smoke

Your fireplace creates a warm, cozy atmosphere during wintry weather, but don't let it add unnecessary dollars to your electric bill.

Fireplaces heat the room they're in but at the expense of the rest of the house. Most of the heat in traditional fireplaces goes up the chimney instead of warming living space, and the draft pulls heat from other rooms. So if your thermostat is located away from the fireplace, it will work harder to maintain room temperatures for the rest of the house.

Fireplace "inserts" help boost energy efficiency. However, emissions from old inserts and fireplaces without inserts are up to 20 times worse than using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-certified wood stoves, pellet stoves, or gas/oil furnaces. So look for an EPA-certified insert if you want to supplement your home's heating.

Contact a local retailer to learn about efficient stoves and inserts that will circulate hot air into a room to help lower heating costs. But keep in mind the disadvantages of using high-maintenance fires as heat sources,



You should have your fireplace and chimney inspected every year. Also, don't forget to keep the chimney flue closed when the fireplace is not in use.

including constant attention and ash disposal.

If you don't have an efficient insert but love a crackling fire, follow these measures for safety and improved efficiency.

- Seal those cracks. While sealing drafts around your home, don't forget to check the chimney. Smoke and heat that escape through cracks can pose a fire hazard. It's best to hire a professional to fix cracks in high-heat areas.

- Clean sweep. A National Fire Protection Association standard suggests having your chimney and fireplace inspected once a year, and cleaned or repaired when necessary. Even if you don't use your fireplace often, an annual inspection will find any blockage from animal nests or any other deterioration.

- Batten down the hatch. Keep the chimney flue closed when not using your fireplace to prevent conditioned or heated air from escaping.

- Choose your wood wisely. Wood that's dried at least six months provides the best heat, so avoid any that's wet or newly chopped. And the harder the tree species, the longer your fire will burn. This makes ironwood, rock elm, hickory, oak, sugar maple, and beech good choices. Store wood off the ground and away from your house to remove the threat of termite infestation, and cover the top to lessen moisture but leave the sides open for circulation.

- Fight the draft. If you plan on a long-lasting fire, lower the thermostat to save energy—just be prepared to wear a sweater in other rooms—and resist the temptation to crank the temperature back up after the fire goes out.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Two degrees can make a big difference on your electric bill. Setting your thermostat 2 degrees Fahrenheit higher in summer and lower in the winter results in major energy savings. Investing in a programmable thermostat can save even more—these devices automatically lower and raise your home's temperature. Set it and forget it! Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Win \$25 by filling out this survey

Please take a few moments to fill out this short survey. Answer the following questions, then simply mail it to us along with your electric bill payment. You can also fax the completed survey to us at 217-379-2936 or fill it out at our website: www.eiec.coop.

All returned surveys will be eligible to receive one of 10 \$25 bill credits!

Please rate your satisfaction with Eastern Illini on each of the following:

	not at all satisfied								very satisfied	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing excellent customer service	<input type="radio"/>									
Ability to resolve issues or problems	<input type="radio"/>									
Conducting business in a professional manner	<input type="radio"/>									
Friendly and courteous employees	<input type="radio"/>									
Knowledgeable and competent employees	<input type="radio"/>									
Charging reasonable rates	<input type="radio"/>									
Providing valuable programs and services	<input type="radio"/>									
Delivering good value for the money	<input type="radio"/>									
Community involvement and support	<input type="radio"/>									
Providing information about energy efficiency	<input type="radio"/>									
Supporting renewable energy	<input type="radio"/>									
Having a minimum of outages	<input type="radio"/>									
Restoring power quickly after an outage	<input type="radio"/>									

For the following four questions, please rate your answers based on a scale of 1 to 10.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Considering all your experiences, how satisfied overall are you with Eastern Illini?

not at all satisfied very satisfied

To what extent has Eastern Illini fallen short of or exceeded your expectations?

falls short exceeds

Imagine an ideal utility company. How well do you think Eastern Illini compares?

not very close very close

If you could choose your electric company, how likely is it that you would choose Eastern Illini again?

very unlikely very likely

How do you view your relationship with Eastern Illini?

I'm a member I'm a member/owner I'm an owner I'm a customer

Which radio stations do you listen to?

WGFA, 94.1 WIXY Classic, 99.1 WGCY, 106.3
 WITY, 980 am Others _____

When do you normally listen to the radio?

6-9 a.m. 9-11 a.m. 11 a.m. -1 p.m. 1-4 p.m. 4-7 p.m.
 7-10 p.m. after 10 p.m.

Please list your account number so we can contact you if you are one of the winners of the \$25 bill credit drawing. Your account number can be found on your electric bill. _____