



CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE PAID

This year OEC will be paying out capital credits from 1999. If you have capital credits of less than \$25, you will receive a credit on your electric bill. If it is \$25 or more, you will receive a check in August. Checks will be available for pickup at the Member Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, August 3. Any checks that are not picked up at the picnic will be mailed the following week.

What are capital credits?

You, the members, are the owners of your electric cooperative, and capital credits reflect your ownership in the cooperative. As you pay for your energy, OEC utilizes the revenue to grow, operate, and maintain a safe and reliable energy system. Any money that is earned over and above the costs of doing business is called margins. Your portion of allocated margins is then returned to you in the form of capital credits.

Capital credits are the most significant source of equity for most cooperatives. They are similar to the dividends that investor-owned utilities pay to their shareholders except that OEC “dividends” go back to the members/owners.

How does a member get capital credits?

When a member of Oconto Electric begins purchasing electricity, they get two accounts—a billing account and a capital credit account. The capital credit account is specific to you and your spouse, if married. Regardless of how many times you move or how many billing accounts you may have, you have one capital credit account that stays with you. Each year OEC margins are allocated back to the members. Your share is deposited in your capital credit account for that year.

How are year-end margins allocated?

At the end of each year OEC divides the dollar value of that year’s margins by the amount of total revenue collected during the year. This is the “allocation factor.” The allocation factor is then multiplied by the amount of revenue each member contributed during that year. This is your share of the margins—or your capital credit allocation—for that year.

When do I get my capital credits?

Even though the cooperative allocates capital credits to members each year, the money is not paid out right away. The money is used for a number of years for the following purposes:

- to increase equity, giving the co-op more borrowing power
- to avoid borrowing money as much as possible
- to have reserves in case of an emergency

The board of directors reviews OEC’s financial condition annually and then decides whether to retire capital credits. The board’s goal is to keep capital credit retirements on a 20-year rotation, always retiring the oldest year.

How do I get my capital credits?

If the amount of your retirement in a given year is more than \$25, a check will be sent to the last valid address we have on file. If the amount is less than \$25 and you still purchase electricity from OEC, it will appear as a credit on your electric bill. If the amount is less than \$25 and you no longer purchase power from OEC, the amount goes into “no check status,” which means the money will be held by OEC until there is enough retired so that it is more than \$25. When the amount is more than \$25, a check will be sent to the last valid address.

What if I no longer have electric service with OEC?

If you move or no longer have electric service with Oconto Electric, it is important for us to know what your address is so that future disbursements can be properly mailed to you. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Oconto Electric service area. OEC will make a diligent effort to send your check.

What happens to the money when the member can’t be located?

Capital credits become “unclaimed” when OEC is unable to locate the member after three years. Unclaimed funds, as allowed by state law, are placed in an account with Federated Youth Foundation. The money in that account can only be used for education or charitable purposes. Annually OEC funds scholarships for member students pursuing higher education.

How much has Oconto Electric paid in total capital credits refunds since it began in 1937?

Over \$16 million.

Are capital credits paid out in any way besides a normal retirement?

There are certain conditions that allow capital credits to be paid out early but at their net present value. A person would not receive the money at full value because it is being retired much earlier than normal.

Currently, the criteria for paying out capital credits at the net present value include:

- An estate payout to the spouse or heirs of a deceased member
- For purchase of an electric water heater
- For purchase and installation of an electric heating system
- Farm efficiency improvements
- Business and commercial electrical efficiency improvements

If you would like to know more about capital credits, contact OEC at 1-800-472-8410.



**Fun and Food
FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY**

Registration cards for
door prizes will be
inserted in the July
electric bills

Capital credit checks will
be distributed for money
accrued in 1999

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

MEMBER APPRECIATION

PICNIC

Saturday, August 3 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

OCONTO ELECTRIC
OECO
COOPERATIVE

**Door
Prizes**

**Safety
Demo**

**Kid
Activities**



2019 EMPLOYEE CHARITY BUCKET RAFFLE

Tickets are \$1 each or

6 for \$5

15 for \$10

40 for \$20

All proceeds will be donated to

Oconto Falls Law Enforcement (Armored Vehicle)
and

Oconto County Commission on Aging, Inc.
(Home Delivered Meals Program)

Always Assume a Downed Power Line is Deadlly

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity. If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or getting near a live power line injures and kills.

Never approach an accident scene where a line is down or damaged. If you run toward the accident to help, you too could become a victim by entering the energized area.

Power lines can come down or sag close to the ground for a few reasons, including severe weather or damage due to a car accident. And a downed line isn't always visible. After severe weather, lines can lurk underneath water or debris.

Stay clear of all types of utility lines. Even if you think lines might be designated for telephone or cable service, they may have contact with damaged and energized power lines nearby. Safe Electricity and Oconto Electric Co-operative offer these additional safety reminders:

- Call 9-1-1 to report fallen or damaged power lines.
- Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking or making a humming noise to be live.

Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking or making a humming noise to be live.

- Do not attempt to move a downed line or anything it is touching with another object such as a stick or pole. Even materials that don't normally conduct electricity can do so if they are slightly wet.

- Do not step in water or walk in debris near a downed power line.
 - Stay at least 10 feet away from the downed power line.
 - Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line.
 - If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, do not attempt

to drive away or get out. Call for help and **STAY INSIDE THE VEHICLE** until utility crews say it is safe to get out. If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away to safety.

- Line properties can change: Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or back feed from backup generators.

Always consider all lines, regardless of the type, energized at deadly voltages. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

Happy 4th of July!

OEC's office and OEC's RadioShack store located on Highland Drive in Oconto Falls will be closed on Thursday, July 4.

GENERATOR Safety

Learn more at:



FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY:

- Make sure there is **nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on**. Use a **heavy-duty** extension cord to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Always operate the generator on a stable, dry surface **outside the home**—out and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- **Never** connect your portable generator to the home directly. This **can result in potentially deadly backfeed**, which happens when electricity is fed back through the electrical system onto power lines, creating a hazard for line workers and others.



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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: energy.gov





BUSINESS SHOWCASE

DIRT CITY MOTORPLEX



Photo courtesy of Amberella Photography & Design

The Dirt City Motorplex is a brand new motorsports facility located at the intersection of County Road A and U.S. Highway 141 in Lena. A group of local racers, business owners, and motor sports enthusiasts have come together to form the Lena Motor-sports Club.

The club is in the finishing stages of the off-road complex, but that didn't stop the SXS Sports UTV Race from hosting its Spring National Race at Dirt City in

May. The property will also feature 4x4 trails, a truck and tractor pulling track, and an RC track.



Dirty City Motorplex will have its first Dirt City Duel featuring some of the best sportsman off-road racing July 27–28. If it runs on dirt,

it's at Dirt City!

For more information find Dirt City Motorplex on Facebook or go to <https://dirtcitylmc.com>.

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The June account numbers belonged to Mike Devine, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and William Overman, Oconto.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor



Recipe Corner

Bacon Sriracha Potato Salad

3 lbs red potatoes
3-4 slices of bacon
2.5 TBSP white vinegar
1/4 tsp salt
3/4 cup quality mayo
1/4 cup sour cream
1.5 TBSP Sriracha plus extra to taste
1/4 cup chopped green onion
Paprika to taste

Peel potatoes and chop into 3/4-inch cubes. Place potatoes in a large pot and cover with cold water, about 1 inch above the potatoes. Set burner to high and bring water to a boil. While you wait fry the bacon. Once a rolling boil is reached, reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are fork tender. (approx. 8 minutes) Drain potatoes and move to a large mixing bowl. Add salt and vinegar and combine gently with a rubber spatula/bowl scraper. Allow to cool slightly, letting the potatoes sit for around 15 minutes. Combine mayo, sour cream, and Sriracha chili sauce in a small bowl. Once the potatoes have cooled a bit, fold in using the rubber spatula. If you'd like spicier spuds, feel free to add extra Sriracha to the mix. Top with crispy bacon, chopped green onion, and paprika and serve at room temperature. (Recipe from Jenn Laughlin, peasandcrayons.com)

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com or mail it to Oconto Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. If your recipe is printed, you will receive a gift.

