

IN A CO-OP, EVERY MEMBER GETS A PIECE OF THE PIE

Please note that your capital credit allocation notice was printed on your November billing statement.

As a not-for-profit organization, Bayfield Electric Cooperative (BEC) distributes any margins from each year to our members in the form of capital credits. The capital credits represent your ownership in the cooperative.

Capital Credit FAQs

Can I use capital credits to pay my bill? Capital credits cannot be used to pay your current electric bill. However, in the month of May, the board elects to retire capital credit refunds. Active members will receive theirs as a bill credit on their June bill.

When will I receive the funds that are listed on the allocation notice? Currently BEC is on a 26-year rotation of distributing capital credits. Most years, BEC has employed a disbursement strategy in which members who have had outstanding capital credits for the longest period have received payments. This year, all capital credits through 1995-1996 and a portion of 1997 were retired and returned to members from that time. Current

members receive a bill credit and inactive members receive a check in the mail.

If I move off of BEC lines, do I forfeit all of my capital credits? No. Capital credits are yours to keep, even if you are no longer receiving service from BEC. This is why it is important for you to notify us if your address or phone number information changes.

If someone doesn't claim their capital credit money, does BEC just keep it? No. Capital credit money cannot be retained by BEC for operational or capital expenditures. Unclaimed capital credit money is transferred to the Federated Youth Foundation to be used for scholarships and charitable donations. A member may opt to donate their funds to the Federated Youth Foundation instead of receiving theirs as well.

What happens if someone passes away before they have received all of their capital credit funds? The member's heirs are eligible to receive any remaining capital credit funds. Heirs will need to provide BEC with documentation verifying their claim to the funds. In order to assist the member's heirs in closing the account, BEC gives the option of either adhering to the regular capital credit retirement schedule, receiving a special one-time payout at a discounted rate, or donating the funds to the Federated Youth Foundation.

How can I learn more about capital credits? BEC is always happy to answer any questions you may have. You can call 715-372-4287 and talk to someone or go to www.bayfieldelectric.com and check out the capital credits page.

Allocation vs. Retirement

Allocation – Your share of the amount of any excess funds being given back to our members added to your capital credit balance (October).

Retirement – Actual amount you receive back as a capital credit refund. This amount is a percentage of your total capital credit balance (June).

FIVE WAYS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

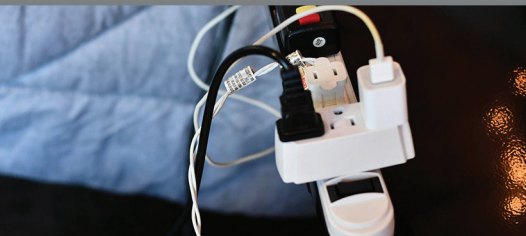
As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.



1 Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2 Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords, or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...



3 Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4 Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.



5 Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces, and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

Bayfield Electric Cooperative wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season.



LOAD CONTROL SYSTEMS TO BE TESTED NOVEMBER 15

Please be advised that the 2023 Winter Preparedness Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Accounts is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function.

During the test, residential Interruptible Heat load classes (2, 2W, & 4B) will be controlled as follows:

Time	Control Status
6:55 a.m.	Control start
7:00 a.m.	All loads interrupted (2,2W,4B)
10:00 a.m.	Class 2, 2W, and 4B begin diversified restoral
10:30 a.m.	Class 4B loads fully restored
11:00 a.m.	Class 2 and 2W loads fully restored

Not sure what to gift for the holidays? **BEC Gift Certificates are available!**

We all know someone who seems to have everything. If you have such a person on your holiday shopping list and they're on Bayfield Electric's lines, consider a gift certificate for their electric bill!

Call our billing department to learn how to obtain a gift certificate.



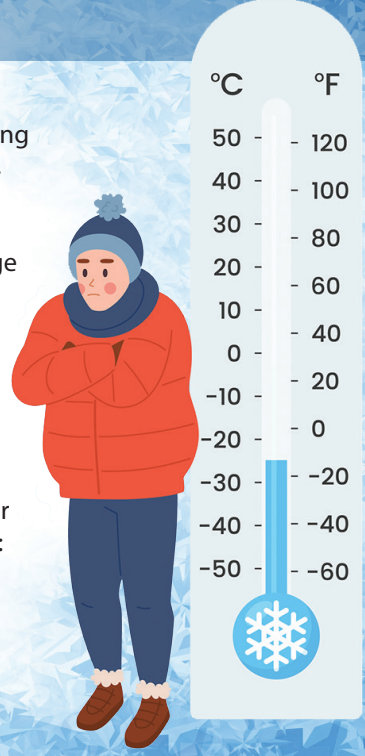
BE ALERT FOR PEAK ALERTS

Winter is upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost.

The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 5 and 10 p.m. on these cold winter days. This helps Bayfield Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and the savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help save a substantial amount.

On these coldest days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcast on our website, www.bayfieldelectric.com, and on the following radio stations:

- **WATW 1400 AM**
- **WNXR 107.3 FM**
- **WBSZ 93.3 FM**
- **WJJ4 96.7 FM**



STAY SAFE OUT ON THE

HUNT

Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.



Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.

Always implement firearm safety techniques.



Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



Carry a first aid kit.

Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Check tree stands regularly for stability.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Learn more at:



SEASONAL REMINDER FOR SNOWBIRDS

If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time this winter, remember to make billing arrangements while you are away. Bayfield Electric has a couple of options to offer:

- Automatic checking/savings withdrawals or credit/debit card payments.
- Online payments, readings, account management and daily/monthly power use available through Smart Hub at our website, www.bayfieldelectric.com, or download the Smart Hub App available for both Android and iOS users.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers, and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Billing date: November 10, 2023

October Usage

Gross Due after November 30, 2023

Disconnect November 15, 2023

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Amanda Kavajecz, Editor



Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
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