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



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

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

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 24-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 2002 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 also opt to donate their funds to the Federated Youth Foundation instead of receiving them.

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).



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.



SNOWBIRDS SEASONAL REMINDER

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 SmartHub on our website www.bayfieldelectric.com or download the SmartHub App available for both Android and iOS users.

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 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on these cold winter days. This helps Bayfield Electric save on our wholesale power bill, which is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, the amount saved can be substantial.

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

- WATW 1400 AM
- WBSZ 93.3 FM
- WNXR 107.3 FM
- WJJH 96.7 FM

SERVE UP ENERGY SAVINGS ALONG WITH YOUR FEAST



There are many ways to save money in the kitchen. Follow these tips from the Department of Energy to gobble up savings along with your turkey:

Turkey Talk

Don't buy a turkey that's bigger than you need for your group. A smaller turkey takes less time to cook and saves energy. It's also not necessary to preheat the oven when slow roasting a turkey for several hours. You can also often turn down the temperature on your thermostat a few degrees while the turkey is cooking because the oven will add heat to your home, especially in the kitchen area.

Overdone Appliances

Many side dishes can be prepared in smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens, which use less energy than a large stove or oven. In addition, some side dishes can be cooked right along with the turkey, reducing oven use.

Dish up Savings

Take advantage of your dishwasher. An Energy Star-certified dishwasher uses less than half as much energy as washing dishes by hand and uses less water. Even an older model can be used more efficiently if you're mindful of washing only full loads and letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

Fight the Phantoms

Halloween may be over, but you should still be alert for any energy vampires in your kitchen. These are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves, and toaster ovens. One home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to $100–$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

CEO MESSAGE

Congratulations to the Winners Who Helped Celebrate Co-op Month

In celebration of National Co-op Month, Bayfield Electric Cooperative randomly drew member accounts and contacted 20 winners to receive a $30 bill credit. Congratulations to the winners and thank you!

We use hotline demonstrations to help you, the members, better visualize the power of your electricity. Live demonstrations allow for discussion and observations which leads to increased self-awareness and understanding of how an electrical system works. It also increases awareness of dangerous situations and how to recognize and avoid them. As providers of safe and reliable electricity, we have the responsibility to educate our community. If you or someone you know is part of an organization that would like to see a hotline demonstration, give us a call! We have conducted demonstrations for many schools and fire departments, and we would love to spread the knowledge. Our office number is 715-372-4287.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Billing date:
November 10, 2026
October usage
Gross due after
November 30, 2026
Disconnect day:
November 16, 2026

Christopher Kopel, CEO

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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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