

# CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

58th consecutive year of benefits from your cooperative

Demonstrating the third Cooperative Principle



Tim Stewart,  
CEO/Manager

It is my privilege to announce that the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved a \$1,180,400 capital credit general retirement to be made in January 2021. This marks the 58th consecutive year that a capital credit retirement has been made totaling in excess of \$27,971,900 being returned to the membership.

As a rural electric cooperative member, you are part owner of Clark Electric Cooperative. Basically, you've pooled money (through paying your electric bill) with thousands of other members and created equity for your rural electric cooperative to deliver you electricity and to provide services at an affordable cost.

As a locally owned business, Clark Electric Cooperative is committed to the people, businesses, and communities we serve. As we are member owned, operated, and not-for-profit utility, one of the fundamental principles we follow is a commitment to returning excess revenues. This is done in the form of capital credits. Since Clark Electric Cooperative operates on a not-for-profit basis, we return margins to members and



former members through the capital credit allocation and retirement process. The amount returned is in relation to the individual member's transactions with the cooperative. Capital credits are returned to cooperative members on a rotating schedule. Currently the cooperative is retiring 4.35% of our allocated capital and applying that amount against the oldest capital credits assigned to the members. This retirement will affect the cooperative's capital credits assigned in 1998 and 1999 and the Dairyland Power Cooperative capital credits assigned for 1992, 1993, and 1994.

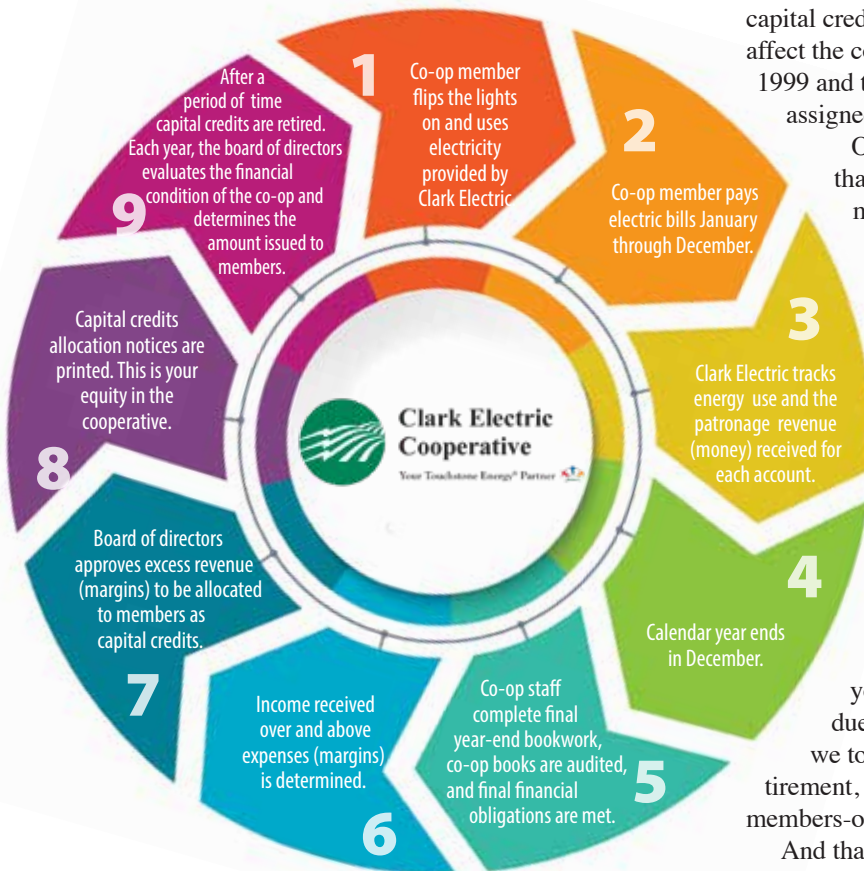
Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible. We don't aim to maximize profits like investor-owned utilities do.

This way, more of your money stays in your pocket—up front. In short, you are receiving a vital resource, electricity, from a business owned and operated by you, your friends, and neighbors. Working together, we provide you with the highest level of service we can while striving to keep your electric bills affordable—the best possible service at the best possible price.

## More Good News

You may have noticed that you have been receiving a credit on your electric bill lately. I am glad to report that those credits have totaled in excess of \$600,000 off the bills, thereby reducing your total cost. At a time when people are struggling due to COVID-19 any reduction is a positive. When we total these credits plus this year's capital credit retirement, we have a total of \$1,780,400 being returned to our members-owners.

And that's the Cooperative Difference! *(Continued next page)*



MY CO-OP



## Clark Electric Cooperative offers easy, affordable way to invest in solar energy

As I have reported in past articles, the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved the construction of a 53.3 kW solar garden, which is located adjacent to the cooperative's headquarters facility just west of Greenwood. The solar garden became operational in July 2015 and I am pleased to report that on a year-to-date basis, the output of the array is meeting projections.

This community solar project provides members the opportunity to purchase local renewable energy through a cooperative program. This in turn allows members to take more control of their power choices. Through aggregation, we are able to offer a highly competitive solar product to our membership.

The community garden is designed for those members interested in an affordable option to purchase renewable solar energy. Members have the opportunity to purchase a subscription unit and receive credit equal to their share of the array's output on their electric bill.

By utilizing a solar garden approach, issues such as inadequate space for solar panels near your home, too many trees that would block the sun at your residence, cost of a small PV

array, installing panels on your rooftop, insurance, interconnection of the PV system to the grid, and unsightly panels at your residence all go away. In addition, all operations and maintenance issues would be handled by Clark Electric Cooperative. Any residential/seasonal member, regardless of whether you own or rent your home and where you live, who pays a monthly electric bill to Clark Electric Cooperative could be a potential candidate for participating in the community solar project.

### How do I participate?

It's easy. Just give us a call and request a Subscription Agreement and a listing of Frequently Asked Questions. Sign and indicate how many participation units you would like to buy. Return the signed agreement, along with a payment of \$714.40 per subscription unit. Once the unit(s) are paid for, there are no fees assessed to you during the life of the agreement (19 years). You will start getting credits to offset your electric bill beginning with the month after you sign up. We still have a limited number of Subscription Units left but when they are gone, they're gone. You can also go to our website at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com) for information on the Solar Garden Project and see the actual array in real time.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Clark Electric Cooperative is once again offering a scholarship opportunity to graduating students from participating high schools in our service area. One \$1,000 scholarship will be available for a student from each school or group of schools in our service area.

To be considered for the scholarship, the student's parent or legal guardian must be a member of Clark Electric Cooperative and currently receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative.

The Clark Electric Cooperative scholarship program began in 1995, and since its inception we have provided more than \$239,000 in scholarships to area students. An independent scholarship committee judges the applicants based upon merit.

Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principals; furthering the education of our area youth is another. Clark Electric is proud to help these fine young people meet their educational goals.

Applications are available from your high school counselor, online at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com), and at our office located at 1209 W Dall-Berg Rd., Greenwood.



*These scholarships are financed through the Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Program, which is funded from unclaimed capital credits. Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) is a non-profit charitable foundation serving cooperatives across Wisconsin.*

**All applications must be returned to the cooperative office by 5 p.m. Monday, March 8, 2021**

### Schools Eligible for Scholarship Consideration

Abbotsford High School, Colby High School, Granton High School, Greenwood High School, Loyal High School, Neillsville High School, Owen-Withee High School, Spencer High School, Thorp High School, Stanley High School.

### One Scholarship Between These Grouped Schools:

#### Group 1

Stratford High School, Columbus High School, Osseo-Fairchild High School, Abbotsford Christian Academy

#### Group 2

Marshfield Senior High School, Medford High School, Gilman High School, Pittsville High School, Home School Student

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, at 715-267-7958 or 1-800-272-6188.

## ACE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$35,950 TO COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation recently awarded \$35,950 to 23 different community-based projects located throughout the Clark Electric Cooperative service area. Some of this year’s awards helped fund Area Food Pantries, Christmas Wish Program, Literacy Programs, AED’s, Senior Center Projects and County K-9 Units.

Tim Stewart, chief executive officer of Clark Electric Cooperative and one of the trustees of the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation, indicated that “The purpose of the ACE-Community Commitment Foundation is to support programs and events which enrich the lives of people of Clark County and the surrounding area communities. Our mission is to invest in the future of the Clark County area by helping create opportunity for philanthropy and community enrichment. We are pleased to be a part of these community enrichment programs.”

The ACE-Community Commitment Foundation was established in 2004 by Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc., to strengthen local communities by aiding not-for-profit and community organizations in funding projects that will enhance the quality of life of residents of this area. To date, the foundation has awarded \$ 578,710 for community enrichment projects.

Clark Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit electric utility that serves 9,300 members in Clark, Chippewa, Jackson, Marathon, Taylor, and Wood counties.

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MY CO-OP

**Winter got your Electric Bill on the Rise?**

Shorter Days  
 Christmas Lights  
 Increased Electronics Usage  
 Colder Temperatures

**Don't get snowballed with winter bills!**

See how much energy you're using with SmartHub's electric usage graphs. Other great SmartHub features include online bill pay, text and email notifications, autopay, and more.

smart hub

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

Source: The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)



# FIVE EASY WAYS TO STAY COZY THIS WINTER

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth like a regular throw or blanket cannot.



Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric

blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.

2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. Open all curtains, drapes, and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.

4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin, and improve sleep.



5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

**THE HEATING SEASON IS HERE!**

**GEOTHERMAL**

*When COMFORT Matters*

Looking for an efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly heating and cooling system? A geothermal heat pump is the greenest system available. Geothermal systems don't emit carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or other greenhouse gasses that can be harmful to the environment or, more importantly, your family. Save money and rest easy knowing your family will be comfortable and safe.

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**2021**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Clark Electric's office will be closed on Friday, January 1.  
Have a safe and happy holiday weekend!

## Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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