

FEC POWER

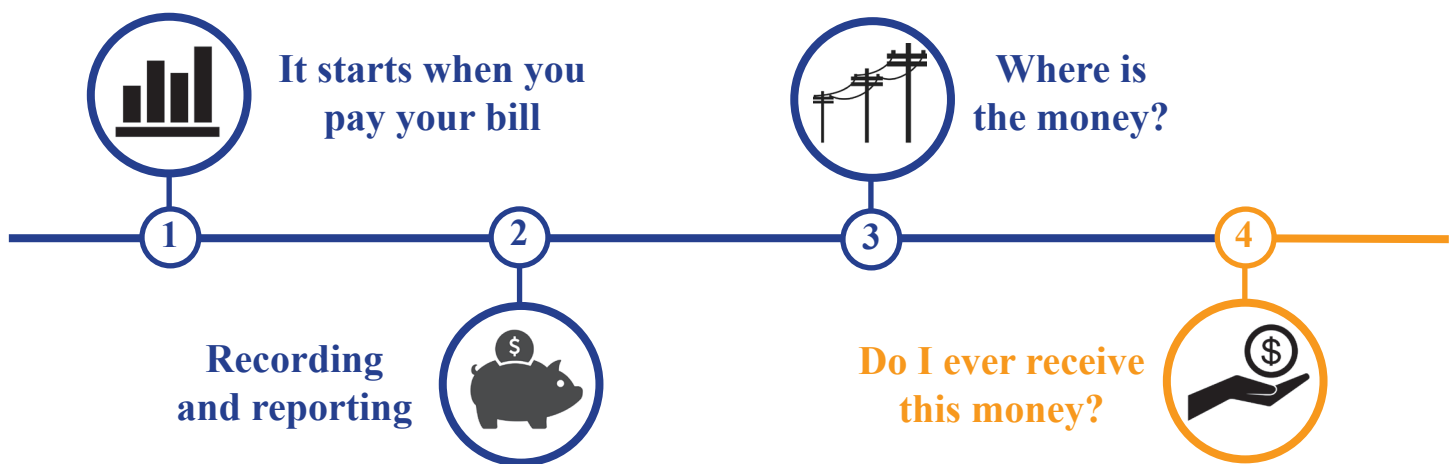
Source

Vol. 29 No. 1/2

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer



You've Heard the Terms: Capital Credit Allocations, Capital Credits, Patronage Capital Refunds, etc. - What's the Difference?



1. It starts when you pay your bill

Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) tracks how much electricity you use and pay for throughout the year. Each payment you make is your contribution to the day-to-day operational costs of your electric cooperative.

2. Recording and reporting

Like all companies, at the end of each year we calculate our annual margin (profit). But because we are a cooperative, we divide this margin proportionally by the amount of electricity each member uses throughout the year and report to each of you what your share is. This is called a Capital Credit Allocation.

3. Where's the money?

The money – called Capital Credits – is invested in equipment and manpower needed to meet the current and growing demand for electricity.

4. Do I ever receive this money?

You do! This process is called retirement. Each year, FEC's Board of Trustees reviews the cooperative's finances, and when our financial condition permits, the Board decides to retire (pay) Capital Credits in the form of Patronage Capital Refunds to our members based on their allocated share. Over the past five years, FEC has returned over \$9.8 million in Patronage Capital Refunds to our members.

FEC recently mailed Capital Credit Allocation notices (see number 2). Keep in mind, this is your share of

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Manager's Message...



Antonio Sanchez, Jr., CEO

2024 Legislative Session 56th Legislature

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by and we're now in 2024! It seems the older we get; the faster time passes by. Now that we've gotten through the recent holidays, it's time to focus on the 2024 Legislative Session (56th Legislature) and the bills that will be introduced. As you may recall, even numbered years are our shorter, 30-day sessions and odd numbered years are our longer, 60-day sessions. This year's session opens at noon on January 16th and closes at noon on February 15th. The shorter sessions are typically focused on budgetary purposes but there will most likely be some of last year's bills show back up again that were not successful in getting passed. As far as the budget is concerned, Legislative Finance Committee staff experts indicate that the growth in the state's economy is now slowing down. In 2021, revenues were just over \$8 billion. By fiscal year 2024, they're forecasted to be almost \$12 billion. This infusion of money was generated by the oil and gas industry and federal funds during COVID.



It's too early to know for certain what to expect since the pre-filing of bills occurs during the time period between January 2nd and January 12th. It's not out of the ordinary to see bills introduced that address several things that may not even be related, all under one bill due to time constraints. Therefore, using the key word search on the NM Legislature website can be a handy feature. Preliminary discussions amongst electric and telephone cooperatives, internet service providers and broadband providers, have involved the potential use of electric cooperative poles for extending broadband into rural NM. The term most commonly used for this is "joint use." There is quite a bit of funding available through the federal government for this effort. Therefore, we're keeping our eyes and ears open to make sure our members are not taken advantage of with regard to easements and make ready costs for this expansion.

I would like to encourage you to reach out to your Farmers' Electric Cooperative service territory legislators and let them know how much they're appreciated. Take the opportunity to bend their ear and voice any concerns you have about bills that will affect you and your loved ones. Most importantly, pray for them to make decisions that are for the betterment of our way of life here in the electric cooperative world and the communities we live in and raise our families.

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POWER SOURCE

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We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve your electric power needs

**"After Hours"
Outage Reporting:
(800) 445-8541**

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Clovis
(575) 762-4466
Fort Sumner
(575) 355-2291
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(575) 472-3971

Scholarship Applications Available Now

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or by going online to www.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 1, 2024!

This year there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Again, both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.



The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals.

Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2023, the foundation has awarded 1,505 scholarships totaling \$1,184,730.

Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2023. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2023 through March 15, 2024, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Protección contra la interrupción de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2023. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexión. Favor de ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465, Su servicio no será desconectado el 15 de Noviembre del 2023 a 15 de Marzo del 2024 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

Annual Meeting!

SAVE THE DATE

We look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held in House, New Mexico at the House High School gym. Prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the business meeting.

Because Farmers' Electric is locally-owned and operated, your involvement is crucial. Mark your calendar today and plan to attend the Annual Meeting of your electric cooperative.

Youth Tour Application Packets Available Now!



**Deadline for
complete applications
is February 1, 2024**

Go to fecnm.org and hover over the "Community" tab. When you see the drop-down menu, click on "Youth Tour." There you will find the application. It is a downloadable Word document.

This is a trip of a lifetime opportunity!

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margins that have you accumulated over time (years) as a cooperative member. Again, this money is invested in equipment and manpower to replace aging poles, build new line, maintain substations, improve power quality, etc.

This spring, if it is deemed to be a good financial decision by the FEC Board of Trustees, FEC will retire or pay Capital Credits to our members (see number 4). This will only be a portion of the amount shown on your Allocation notices. We try and pay Capital Credits in at least a 35-year rotation period. For example, using a 35-year rotation period as a goal, a cooperative would return Capital Credits allocated in 1989 in 2024. That being said, because of the sound financial condition of your cooperative over the years, in 2023, all members of record in 1997 had received their Capital Credits allocated through that year. That puts us nine years ahead of our goal.

New Mexico One-Call Center
www.nmonecall.org
 or call 811



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

This is a free service

Need Help with Your Home Heating Bills?



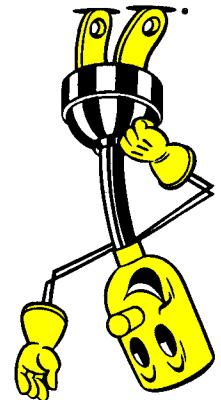
The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides assistance with paying heating costs in the winter months to qualifying individuals and families.

Applications are now being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as funds are available. Businesses are excluded from receiving benefits.

LIHEAP is not administered by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, but rather through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is operated by the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD).

The amount of financial help available varies based on income, the number of people in a household, and other factors. LIHEAP eligibility is determined by and through the application process by HSD.

According to HSD, the program is designed to lower the energy burden for low-income New Mexico households that pay a disproportional amount of their income for home energy costs. Contact your local HSD field office to apply or for more information, printable applications and facts on LIHEAP can be found at: www.hsd.state.nm.us/lookingforassistance/low_income_home_energy_assistance_program/



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