




**Sussex Rural  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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# Currents

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[www.sussexrec.com](http://www.sussexrec.com)



**Sussex Rural  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

*HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS*



## Cashing the Check

As long-time members know, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative likes to cap off each year with a special gift to our members: money back through capital credits. Capital credits are a special perk that **ONLY** members of electric cooperatives like Sussex Rural can receive.

This year, we will be retiring \$600,000 total - \$300,000 for members on our lines in 2003, \$150,000 for members from 2018, and \$150,000 for members from

2019. We will be sending out about 13,000 checks total to members from these years based on the amount of electricity they used in those years. Splitting this year's capital credit retirements between these years means both older and newer members will be able to look forward to a check arriving in their mailboxes very soon.

We split it this way to accomplish two things: to retire the oldest credits on our books (from 2003)

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and to make sure as many active members (2018/19) as possible receive capital credit checks so that they can realize the benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative.

The distribution this year means that over 90% of our active members will receive a check, with 57% active members still on our lines dating back to 2003!

# HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Unlike investor-owned utilities, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that returns its profits, or "margins," back to its members! As a member, you are a part-owner of the co-op who is entitled to receiving money back through Capital Credit Retirements. **Here's how they work:**



## Cashing the Check

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For those unfamiliar with how capital credits work, I'll provide a brief explanation. At a basic level, capital credits work like this: as a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, any profits or "margins" that Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative accumulates are meant to be returned to our members. Before we do this, we reinvest some of these margins into system maintenance and upgrades to keep rates low while ensuring reliable service. During this time, we carefully track and record how much is allocated to each member for each year of membership to ensure that everyone receives the correct amount when the time comes to issue capital credit checks.

Each year, our Board of Directors reviews the financial condition of the Cooperative. If it is determined that the Co-op is in a good position to retire capital credits for a certain year, each member who lived on our lines in that year receives a capital credit check! Even members who have moved away from our lines will receive a capital credit check for the years they were members, as long as they keep us informed of their new address. We keep a list of accounts, closed and open, which have unclaimed capital credits on file. If you think you or someone you know may have missed a check and may be owed capital credits, visit [www.sussexrec.com/unclaimed](http://www.sussexrec.com/unclaimed) to check this list.

Timing our capital credit retirements with the end of the year allows us to provide our members with a nice little "gift" during a time of year when our members may be spending more money on presents, decorations, and meals. We think of it as our way of sending our members some holiday cheer.

Of course, capital credits only translate to extra money in your pocket if you cash your check. Each year, we find that there is a sizeable percentage of members with

capital credits owed to them that never cash their checks! Yes, we know some of these checks can be small amounts for those of you with a partial year of usage or a low amount of usage in the particular year. We're sure to cap the minimum check to be at least \$10.00 - who wouldn't stop to pick up a \$10 laying on the ground? If your allocation is less than \$10, we leave it on your account until a subsequent year's allocation brings your accumulated total above the \$10 minimum and you'll receive your check that year.

As part-owners and investors in your local electric cooperative, this is your money that's owed to you, so please do cash your check when you receive it. It's a shame to see our members leave this money on the table. Please, be sure to take advantage of this benefit of membership which most utility customers don't get to experience.

At the end of a difficult year like 2020, I'm hoping these capital credit checks can be put to good use. Members of Sussex Rural Electric

Cooperative are more than just customers, and capital credits are one of our best ways of expressing that.

On behalf of myself, our Board of Directors, and everyone here at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, we wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season. And remember, cash that check!





# Do You Qualify For Medical Alerts?

By: Steve Sokolowski, Marketing Associate  
ssokolowski@sussexrec.com

As winter approaches, preparedness for power outages is key. Many members living on our lines rely on a steady, uninterrupted flow of power to keep their medical equipment running. We encourage these members to have a back-up plan for when outages strike. A standby generator or an alternate location likely to have electric service can make all the difference when your medical equipment needs to be powered.

Our members' health and safety is a foremost priority to us at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative. We highly encourage all members whose health needs necessitate medical equipment to sign up for our Medical Alert Program. If you or another member of your household fall into one or more of the following categories, we highly encourage you to enroll in our Medical Alert Program:

- You make use of life-sustaining equipment (ex. respirator, dialysis machine) in your home
- You make use of equipment that is not life-sustaining (ex. CPAP machine) but meets a serious medical need
- You are the caretaker of a member of SREC who makes use of medical equipment in their home

Enrolled members will receive advanced notice of planned outages (those scheduled by the Co-op so our crews can safely perform upgrades and maintenance on our utility equipment). This notice should give these members time to enact any back-up plans they have to keep power flowing to their medical devices. While we cannot provide notice of unplanned outages, we find that any notice we can give during winter months is critical in keeping our members with medical needs safe and healthy.

If you qualify, please visit our website at [www.sussexrec.com/medalert](http://www.sussexrec.com/medalert). You will find the enrollment form and all the details you need to know about the program there.



## Did You Know?

By: Steve Sokolowski, Marketing Associate

Members who follow us on social media may be familiar with #MondayMoneySavers, the weekly energy-saving tips that we share with our community every Monday. We have had a tip go up on our Facebook and Twitter pages every week throughout 2019 and 2020. As we move on to 2021, we've decided to broaden the kind of information that we share with our members.



### #WATTS UP WEDNESDAY

**Water conducts electricity, but snow does not. Liquid water conducts electricity because of moving ions found in small impurities in the water. Regardless, you should always avoid downed power lines, even in the snow - once the snow melts, risk of electrocution becomes high.**



Starting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, we will begin sharing more varied facts under the moniker #WattsUpWednesday. Each Wednesday, we will share more diverse tidbits of electricity-focused information.

Some of these tips may help you save energy, and others may help save your life! #WattsUpWednesday posts will encompass energy efficiency and electric safety, as well as topics like the science behind electricity, the job of lineworkers, rural electrification, electric co-ops like Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, and more! If there are any topics that you might like explored leave a comment on a #WattsUpWednesday post!



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# Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.

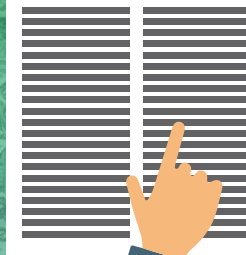


# DO WE OWE YOU MONEY?

Check our list:  
[sussexrec.com/unclaimed](http://sussexrec.com/unclaimed)



Unclaimed  
Capital Credits



## When The World Is Counting On You, Count On SREC Resources



Snow and ice can wreak havoc on utility systems and a major storm can mean hours without power. This doesn't mean you have to miss your production schedule. Protect your workshop or home with a Cummins automatic emergency generator from SREC Resources

- Carry all of a typical home's load.
- Automatic transfer for worry free operation day or night.
- Very quiet, neighbor-friendly.
- Commercial quality construction for years of dependable service.
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# SREC RESOURCES, INC.

64 COUNTY ROUTE 639 SUSSEX NJ 07461 NJ LICENSED ELEC CONTRACTOR # 15975A  
A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF SUSSEX RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



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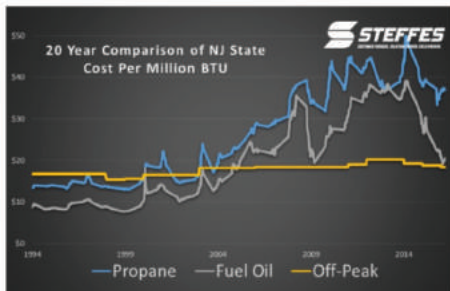
It's not magic, it's ETS!

## Electric Thermal Storage Heating

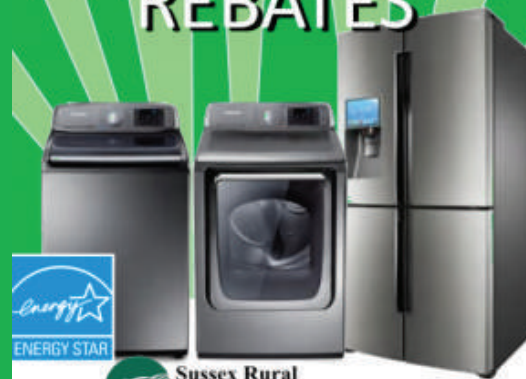
The "magic" of the cost effectiveness of  
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) is the ability to store heat during  
off-peak billing hours for use during higher priced on-peak billing hours.

A variety of furnace sizes are available  
to fit your home ranging from  
19.2kW—45.6kW.

For more information go to  
[www.sussexrec.com](http://www.sussexrec.com) or  
call 973.875.5101



## APPLIANCE REBATES



Sussex Rural  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
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**\$50.00 Rebate for Appliances**  
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