



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



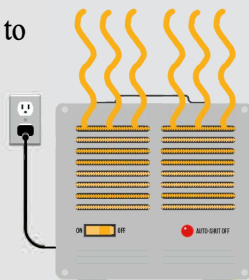
Currents

CONTENTS

- P1** / Capital Credit Season
- P2** / Medical Alert Program
- P3** / Concern for Community
- P4** / Don't Be Left Out in the Cold

WATTS UP?

If you need to use a space heater to keep warm this winter, use caution.



Space heaters left running can become a fire hazard. Be sure to make use of any safety features offered by your heater, such as an automatic shutoff option, and keep your space heater at least three feet away from other objects to prevent potential fires.

For weekly fun facts on energy efficiency, electric safety, and more, follow us on social media and look out for #WattsUpWednesday!



@sussexrec



@SussexREC

CURRENTS is published monthly by
Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative
64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461
p: 973.875.5101 f: 973.875.4114
website: www.sussexrec.com
email: currents@sussexrec.com

Our Board of Directors

Chairman	-	Jack Haggerty, Jr.
Vice Chairman	-	William Kovach
Sec./Treasurer	-	Raymond Cordts
Barbara Miller		Thomas Madsen
Ronald Dupont		Brad Sparta
Michael Hopkins		Joseph Barca
President & CEO	-	Christopher P. Reese



Capital Credit Season

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO
contactthceo@sussexrec.com

This holiday season, take a look in your mailbox for a gift from your electric cooperative—and there are no supply chain delays with this gift, either!

As has become tradition at this time of year, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative sends its members their capital credit checks just in time for the holidays. We hope that this extra money in your pocket can come in handy during a time when you may be spending more money on presents, decorations, and elaborate meals.

This year, we will be retiring a total of \$800,000 – approximately \$386,000 from the year 2003 and \$414,000 from the year 2020. This will be spread out across a total of 13,000 checks sent to members and former members who lived on our lines during these years. If you're one of the 90% of our active members that fit into this category, you can expect a check to arrive soon!

This money is your share of the profits from these specific years, based on the amount of electricity you purchased from us during that time. Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit entity owned by those it serves—members like you. Because of this, when a profit is made, we invest that money into our system before eventually “retiring” these funds and reimbursing our members for their shares.

It is very important to us that each and every member cashes the check that is sent to them this December. Whether the capital credit check you receive is a high amount of money or a lower amount, it is your money that you are entitled to thanks to your membership in your Co-op, so we encourage you to cash that check. Each year when we retire capital credits, there is a sizeable percentage of members that never cash their checks. Don't miss out on a chance at extra money in your pocket!

Capital credit retirements were previously done in the form of a bill credit, but starting in 2018 we have sent this money in the form of a check. Some of you may ask: why spend extra money printing checks and mailing them? We think receiving a physical check truly shows one of the unique values that comes with being a cooperative member. It also



>> CONT. PAGE TWO

Capital Credit Season

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

empowers our members to spend this money on whatever they want, not just their electric bills!

56% of our active membership has lived on our lines dating back to 2003 and we have been very consistent at retiring capital credits to our members each year, so we hope that most members have grown familiar with how capital credits work. Regardless of this, we understand that this is a very unique practice among utilities so explanation is sometimes needed. We are always happy to explain the process. The below infographic explains how capital credits are allocated, retired, and distributed. Another step-by-step explanation is available at www.sussexrec.com/capital-credits.

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK



Once again, I encourage all members who receive a capital credit check to cash it! Keep in mind, you may still have capital credits allocated to you for your years of membership even if you move away from our system. If the time comes when you must end your service with us, please keep us updated with a new mailing address where we can send any future capital credit checks.

As Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative enters its 85th year of operation, our commitment to our members remains as strong as ever. We have remained dedicated to our mission of providing the highest quality of service at the lowest possible cost. As a not-for-profit cooperative, capital credits are an integral part of the service we provide our member-owners. I sincerely hope that this gift from us at SREC helps to bring a little extra cheer to your holidays. 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. Thank you for helping build, sustain, and grow your Cooperative!

Chris

Medical Alert Program

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

Preparedness for power outages is key, especially during winter months. There are many members living on our lines who rely on a steady, uninterrupted flow of power to keep their essential 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 electric-powered 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 this 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 or 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. You will find the enrollment form and all the details you need to know about the program there.



Concern for Community

By: Claudia Raffay, Director of Marketing & Member Services
craffay@sussexrec.com

In November of 1936, over 150 interested farmers from Sussex and Warren Counties attended a meeting at the courthouse in Newton to learn about the Rural Electrification Act. By March 27 the next year, the Sussex County Rural Electrification Committee received an REA loan of \$134K which was used to construct rural electric lines and bring power to 248 rural homes in Sussex County. Then finally, on July 8, 1937, the first trickles of electricity flowed to members of the newly formed Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative. This short history lesson illustrates how SREC, like other electric cooperatives, was formed by its community, for its community. Because of the efforts of these first members, cooperatives have met the needs of their members and remained rooted in these communities they serve.

At Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative we abide by Seven Cooperative Principles, which were spotlighted in last month's issue of Currents. In my position as Director of Marketing and Member Services, I concentrate heavily on the seventh of these principles, "Concern for Community." Here at SREC, we take pride in our variety of outreach programs, which include school and scout education programs, Youth Tour, electric safety demonstrations, a variety of college scholarships, and more. Under the banner of "SREC and Me," we use our positioning in our local ecosystem to be an active participant and supporter of this community.



These programs are incredibly valuable not just because of the impact they have on the individuals in our community that they support, but also because they let us connect with you, our member-owners, and create a culture of understanding about electric cooperatives like SREC. The more we connect with you, the more we learn about your needs and can better meet them. The more you get to know us, the more you'll learn about the integral role you play in this cooperative.

Our participation in community events helps us maintain this connection. Whether we are at a Trunk-or-Treat event or awarding a trade school/college scholarship, SREC is proud to be an active part of this community. These events are also an excellent opportunity for SREC staff to meet face-to-face with our members, answer questions about our service, and form relationships with the members we serve.



We also donate to several charities and nonprofit organizations throughout the year. Common recipients of our philanthropic efforts are the various local fire companies that protect the wellbeing of our community and its people. Being an electric utility, we understand how hard it is to leave in the middle of the night or on a holiday to meet an emergency head-on, leaving family and the safety of home to accomplish an important task. We also know that it is often a thankless job.

As a thank you to every person that volunteers their time to our local fire companies, whether it be fighting fires or responding to emergency medical calls, SREC donates \$1,000 to all the volunteer fire companies that protect and serve our members. A total of \$10,000 is donated to the following volunteer fire houses that serve the SREC territory: Frankford Township FD, Hardyston Township FD, Highland Lakes FD, Lafayette Township FD, McAfee FD, Pochuck Valley FD, Beemerville FD, Colesville FD, Vernon FD, and Sussex FD.

>> CONT. PAGE FOUR

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.





DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD!

Thousands of people suffered unimaginable losses due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Moratoriums were set to provide relief to those in need of assistance. As the moratorium comes to an end, hundreds of members are desperately behind in their utility bills and risk power interruption if not paid in full. Don't be left out in the cold, assistance is available!

Sussex Rural Electric offers assistance programs, levelized billing, and payment arrangements.

Help exists outside of the Cooperative as well.

Several organizations and other resources may be able to offer you assistance.

Call our office at 973-875-5101 or

go to sussexrec.com/assist

for more information and links to organizations who may be able to help.

SREC WILL WORK WITH YOU!



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Concern for Community

>> CONT. FROM PAGE THREE



Out of all of our charitable efforts, one of my favorite donation programs is our Employee Directed Giving Program because it gives individual employees choice in which charities they can

support with help from the Co-op. The Employee Directed Giving Program allows employees who choose to participate the option to donate \$52, deducted across multiple paychecks, to a local 501c3 organization of their choice, with SREC not just matching that amount, but contributing enough to bring the total donation to \$250.

Through this program, this year more than \$3,000 was donated to local 501c3 organizations that each have a direct impact on our community. The following organizations received donations from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative employees in amounts of \$250 - \$1,000: Father John's Animal House, Family Promise of Sussex County, OSCAR, Sussex Help Center Food Pantry, SCARC, Summer Blossoms 4H Club, Inspire Sports Camp, Beemerville Fire Department, the Avian Wildlife Center, the Kyle McCann Scholarship Fund, High Point Regional High School's Theatre Department, Cycle for Survival MSK Cancer, Sandyston Township VFD, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, Sussex Fire Department, and the VFW.

Our Concern for Community is an integral part of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's identity. As a local-focused, member-owned organization, we want to help support this community beyond meeting the need for reliable, affordable electric service. Our board of directors are all members and many of our employees live locally, so the needs of the community are our needs as well. Working together with all of you, the members we serve, we will continue to be a catalyst for good.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING:

TAKE OUR MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY

[WWW.SUSSEXREC.COM/SURVEYS](https://www.sussexrec.com/surveys)

