



**Sussex Rural  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



P1 / Capital Credits  
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# Currents

64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461 . p: 973.875.5101 . f: 973.875.4114

December 2018

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



## YOU Get the Credit

It's time for you to get the credit —capital credits, that is— for helping build, sustain, and grow your local electric cooperative. This December, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is retiring more than \$800,000.00 to its members.

When you signed up to receive electric service from SREC, you became a member of an electric utility. When SREC closes its financial books at the end of each year, hopefully we have a little left over once all the bills have

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO  
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been paid and all the expenses have been taken into consideration. In the cooperative business, we call that a margin. An investor-owned utility would call that profit and this is where the big difference is between your cooperative and an investor-owned utility.

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# Capital Credits

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

Being part of a cooperative, you the members are the owners, so the margins are returned to you, instead of outside investors. The amount allocated back to each member is based on how much electricity they used in that year, and is paid back to the member later, in the form of a capital credit retirement.

The electric utility business requires large amounts of capital to operate and provide service. Electric cooperatives typically reinvest capital credits into the business operations. If a cooperative pays too many capital credits too quickly, then day-to-day cooperative working capital can be depleted, and the extra cost of borrowing new money would, of course, be passed on to you, the member. So, the funds help us keep a lid on rates, reduce the amount of money we need to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and covers emergency expenses.

**“Being part of a cooperative, you the members are the owners, so the margins are returned to you, instead of outside investors.”**

This December, SREC will retire \$600,000.00 for members that were on Cooperative lines in the years 1994 and 1995. Another \$200,000.00 will be retired for members on the lines in 2017. The credits reflect your contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years.

In the past, capital credits were issued in two separate retirements as bill credits. This year, for the first time, members will receive the capital credit retirements in one check which will be sent out to all eligible members. By receiving a check, instead of a bill credit, you can decide what to do with your money.

We also wanted to make sure our members received the checks during the holiday season, because who cannot use some extra money during this time of giving. We are hoping to continue to retire capital credits in this

manner for years to come as one more benefit of your cooperative membership.

Checks will be mailed out during mid-December so keep an eye out for your Capital Credit check from your Cooperative, Sussex Rural Electric.

From all of us at SREC, we wish you a blessed Holiday Season and an incredible New Year.

## Did You Know?

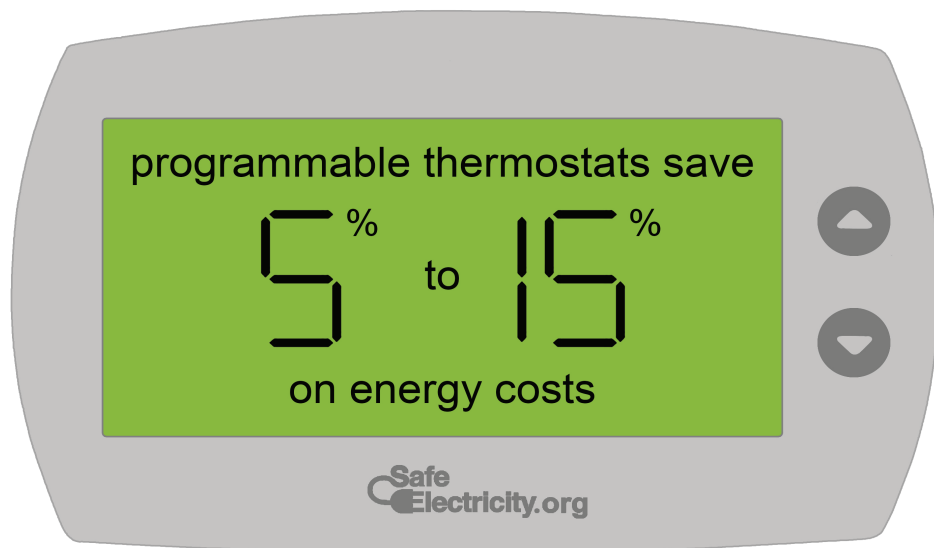
Electric cooperatives have retired \$15 billion to members since 1988 – \$1 billion in 2016 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation



Did you install the LED light bulbs you received? Don't forget, each bulb will save you approximately \$6.00 per year.



*research collected from the U.S. Department of Energy*

# Be Aware

By: Claudia Raffay  
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Crates of products arrive at U.S. ports every day. Along with the products, the crates sometimes carry unwanted stowaways. Invasive plant and insect species have become a real issue, affecting our homes, our communities and our environment. We all know of the stink bug and the emerald ash borer that have attacked crops and trees.

One of the latest invasive species to arrive from Asia is the spotted lanternfly, a brightly colored red and black moth-like insect that landed in Pennsylvania's Berks County around 2012. The spotted lanternfly threatens grapes, orchards and hardwood trees. State and federal officials want to stop it, and they've spent about \$20 million this year on research and eradication efforts.

The spotted lanternfly is known as a plant-hopper – they hop around and suck sap from just about anything, including trees, shrubs, and herbs. They lay their eggs on everything — furniture, rocks, toys, cars — which makes them easy to spread as the items can then transport the eggs across the country. Like the emerald ash borer, which accounts for a majority of the dead ash trees in our area, the lanternfly can also cause damage to trees which can fall and cause outages. The lanternfly is easy to kill with pesticides, but those chemicals will also kill all the good bugs.

Pennsylvania has established a spotted lanternfly program in hopes to eradicate or contain the problem. We should be aware of this issue as Pennsylvania's neighbor. The pictures above show different images of the lanternfly. If you want more information or want to report a sighting go to <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/the-threat/spotted-lanternfly/spotted-lanternfly>.



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKUP: Switches and Outlets

**Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?**  
→ That could indicate an unsafe wiring condition.

**Are any outlets or switches discolored?**  
→ It could mean a dangerous heat buildup.

**Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?**  
→ Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

## Electrical Safety Checklist

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

### SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| • <b>Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?</b><br>Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition. | YES NO |
| • <b>Are any outlets or switches discolored?</b><br>Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections. | YES NO |
| • <b>Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?</b><br>Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.                       | YES NO |

### CORDS

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| • <b>Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?</b><br>Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.   | YES NO |
| • <b>Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails?</b><br>Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard. | YES NO |
| • <b>Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?</b><br>Extension cords should only be used temporarily.   | YES NO |

### ELECTRIC PANEL

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| • <b>Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?</b><br>If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current. | YES NO |
| • <b>Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?</b><br>AFCIs provide greater fire protection. Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.      | YES NO |







## 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

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Contact Us Today!

Please be sure to mention this ad...

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# SREC RESOURCES, INC.

64 COUNTY ROUTE 639 SUSSEX, NJ 07461 NJ LICENSED ELEC CONTRACTOR # 03574  
A FULLY POWERED SUBSIDIARY OF SUSSEX RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



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For more information go to

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## SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations  
before you use them. Cracked or damaged  
sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can  
cause serious shock or start a fire.



Consider purchasing LED lights,  
which use less energy and run  
cooler than traditional  
incandescent lights.

Never mount or support light strings in a way  
that might damage the cord's insulation.



Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors,  
windows or under heavy furniture, which could  
damage the cord's insulation.

Always unplug electrical decorations  
before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor  
electrical decorations before  
leaving home or going to sleep.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

