

Members reap co-op benefits through capital credits



Chris Fettes

COASTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CEO & EXECUTIVE VP CHRIS FETTES

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It’s a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like Coastal Electric are deeply rooted in giving back to their local communities year-round.

Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the members we’re proud to serve. You help us power that purpose. Coastal Electric Cooperative’s Operation Round Up

program is made possible through members’ participation in “rounding up” electric bills to the next dollar amount. Your generous contributions help less fortunate families in our community and support local charitable organizations and community services.

Another way Coastal Electric Cooperative gives back is by investing in tomorrow’s leaders. Through presentations at schools, scholarship opportunities, Learners Today Leaders Tomorrow and the Washington Youth Tour pro-

gram, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.


As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due—to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because Coastal Electric Cooperative operates

at cost, we give money back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

Here’s how capital credits work:


Coastal Electric Cooperative members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills, and we track their business with the co-op over time. Coastal Electric pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is leftover, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the co-op’s board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members.

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How capital credits work


Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.




1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.



2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.



3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.



4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

Cooperative Sportsmanship Award

Friday, Oct. 18, was a special night at Richmond Hill High School. Not only was it the last football game played in Wildcat Stadium, but it was also the night Richmond Hill was awarded a Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award.

Presented by Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO Chris Fettes to Athletic Director and Assistant Principal Stacy Bennett, this award recognizes high schools that demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship and ethical conduct in all sports throughout the school year.

“Sportsmanship is not only about how you play the game, but also how you treat others,” says Fettes. “We are honored to support this award celebrating high schools that foster a culture of respect, fairness and responsibility among students, coaches, parents and spectators. This school and others being recognized are setting positive examples for their communities and the future of our state.”

Georgia’s electric membership cooperatives have presented this award annually since 2006 to deserving high schools across the



state to recognize positive behavior in athletics, because it reflects electric co-ops’ values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.



Capital credits benefits, *Continued from page 20A*

This year, Coastal Electric Cooperative will retire over \$2.6 million to members who received service in 2008 and 2009. Checks will be mailed in December to everyone receiving more than \$25 in capital credits. Amounts less than \$25 will be delivered in the form of bill credits.

To date, Coastal Electric Cooperative has returned nearly

\$16 million to our members.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one aspect that sets cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you’re more than a cus-

tomers. This holiday season, we hope you’re proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at Coastal Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.

To learn more about capital credits, visit www.CoastalElectric.Coop/capital-credits.

Coming in February

Starting in February 2025, Coastal Electric Cooperative members will see an upgrade to the interfaces they use to interact with the co-op online.

While cooperative staff is busy making big changes to the co-op's

data management systems, the primary differences for members will be:

- Saving time with easy payment options to avoid late fees and service interruptions.
- Accessing information you need

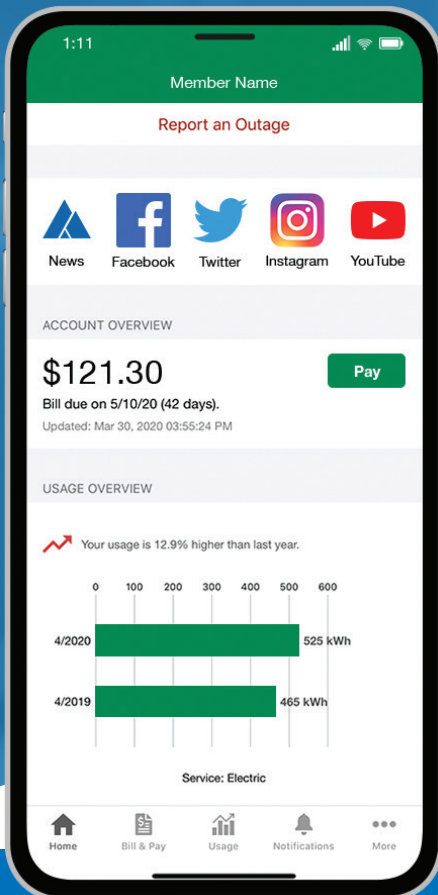
to make the right decisions about your account.

- Taking control and make decisions that can help reduce your bill.
- Instantly accessing your bill, the eco-friendly way.



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Merry Christmas to all ...



... and to all peace and light!

We want our members to always know we are here to bring warmth, safety and service to you and your loved ones now and into the coming year.

Happy holidays from all of us at



www.CoastalElectric.coop

(800) 421-2343

Coastal Electric Cooperative will be closed for the holidays: Nov. 28-29, Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1, 2025.

