

# CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

## 45<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year Receiving Benefits from Your Cooperative



*Tim Stewart*  
CEO / General Manager

It is my privilege, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to announce that the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved a \$668,119.33 capital credit retirement to be made this year. This marks the 45<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that a capital credit retirement has been made, totaling in excess of \$15,662,000 being returned to the membership since inception.

As a rural electric cooperative member, you are part owner of Clark Electric Cooperative. Basically, you've pooled your money with thousands of other members and created equity for your

rural electric cooperative to buy electricity and provide services at an affordable cost.

As a locally owned business, Clark Electric Cooperative is committed to the people, businesses, and communities we serve. Because we are member owned and operated, one of the fundamental principles we follow is a commitment to returning your investment. This is done in the form of capital credits. Since Clark Electric Cooperative operates on a not-for-profit basis, we return margins to members and former members through the capital credit allocation and retirement process. The amount returned is in relation to the individual member's transactions with the cooperative. Capital credits are returned to cooperative members on a rotating schedule. Currently the cooperative is retiring 4 percent of our allocated capital and applying that amount against the oldest capital credits assigned to the members. This retirement will affect the cooperative's capital credits assigned in 1986 and 1987 and the Dairyland Power Cooperative capital credits assigned for 1984.

### How Do I Participate in Load Management ?

#### **Water Heater**

*Participation in the program is easy. If you have an electric water and use at least 400 kwh per month, you qualify for the water heater program. Cooperative personnel will install the load management device to manage the operation of the water heater during peak periods. The cooperative will credit your account \$4 per month (\$48 per year) for allowing the device to be installed.*

#### **Electric Heating**

*Clark Electric Cooperative offers a number of controlled electric heating strategies, including Dual Fuel, Storage Heating, and Controlled Electric Heat & Air Conditioning. To participate in these programs, the member will provide for separate metering for the controllable loads and have an automatic backup source capable of providing heat to the structure during extended control periods. The base rate for controlled electric heat is 4.35 cents per kwh. For more specific program details on these and other programs, contact our business office.*

### Load Management Helps Reduce Costs

I would like to spend the rest of this month's article discussing load management and the important role that load management plays in controlling costs for all of our members.

The Dairyland Power Cooperative's load management system is an extremely valuable tool in curtailing load during peak periods. By allowing a load control device to be installed on your electric water heater, electric heating system, air conditioning systems, or other large controllable loads, you can help control increasing generation and transmission costs. DPC estimates that in 2007, the load management program realized savings in excess of \$10,000,000 systemwide. Clark Electric Cooperative members saved an estimated \$322,000 over what costs would have been without the program. ■

*Tim Stewart*  
CEO / General Manager



The Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation recently awarded \$37,500 to 30 different community-based projects located throughout the Clark Electric Cooperative service area. Tim Stewart, chief executive officer of Clark Electric Cooperative and one of the trustees of the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation, indicated that “The purpose of the ACE-Community Commitment Foundation is to support programs and events that enrich the lives of people of Clark County and the surrounding area communities. Our mission is to invest in the future of the Clark County area by helping create opportunity for philanthropy and community enrichment. We are pleased to be a part of these community enrichment programs.”

The ACE-Community Commitment Foundation



Highground General Manager Kirk Rodman receives an Adler Clark Community Commitment Foundation check from Clark Electric CEO Tim Stewart. They're holding an artist's rendition of the current project.

was established in 2004 by Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc. to strengthen local communities by aiding not-for-profit and community organizations' projects that will enhance the quality of life in this area. To date, the foundation has awarded \$103,500 for community enrichment projects. ■

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

### Local Emergency Responders Receive Training

Fighting fires and working at car accidents are dangerous enough for First Responders, but add electricity to that mess and the work becomes even more dangerous. The key to handling these emergencies safely is training. Clark Electric believes it's important to train not just our kids about electrical safety, but professionals as well. Clark Electric has a high-voltage electric demonstration unit which is used to teach area children in the local schools.

In January, Director of Member Services John Knox and Director of Operations Mike Ruff took the high-voltage demonstration to a different group. The Clark County Emergency Services Association, which is made up of firefighters, EMTs, sheriff's deputies, and local police departments from around Clark County, was given a different version of the demonstration that was adapted for First Responders.

Knox said, “Training is always important; our linemen are always training to be safe. The First Responders from our communities are always training too. It's important that we share our knowledge so they understand what we are doing so they can do their job safely until we get there to turn the power off.” ■



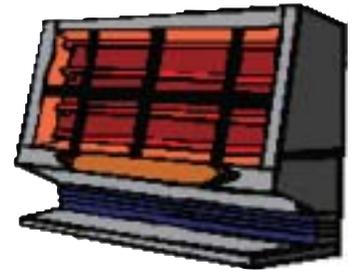
Director of Operations Mike Ruff (right) describes the dangers of electricity to area firefighters.

## Increased Electrical Usage?

Every year during the winter months we get calls from members who are concerned because their electric usage has increased. Almost everyone's energy usage increases during the winter, and there are many reasons for the extra usage...

- Holiday lighting has increased tremendously over the past 5 to 10 years. All the icicle lights and other decorative lighting are beautiful to see; however, with all the extra lighting comes the expense of operation. Because we receive our electric bill after the holiday season, we sometimes forget how many days and nights the holiday lights were kept on. While it's true the miniature light bulbs so widely used now consume less electricity per bulb, there are many more bulbs per strand and more strands in use in most homes. You may want to consider switching to LED holiday lights, which greatly reduce your energy consumption.
- In addition to the extra lighting during the holiday season, there is often more company visiting and children home from school. This usually means more baking, cooking, watching TV, playing video games and using the computer, lights, showers, and of course, laundry, especially if you have college kids at home for the holidays. This, like the holiday lighting, adds to our electric usage.
- One of the biggest increases in winter electric usage comes from the use of electric space heaters, heat tapes, and heat lamps. Do you have any? How often do you use them? Not only are they used in milkhouses, but often they are used in basements, garages, entryways, and other cold rooms in the house. While space heaters may be necessary to keep pipes or rooms from freezing, they can significantly increase your monthly electric usage.
- Another item that is often overlooked in the winter is the use of engine block heaters. It's not uncommon to have an engine heater plugged in on several tractors, cars, or trucks, and they are often plugged in most of the night and day. Just one 1,000-watt heater used every day can easily add \$30 or more to your electric bill each month.
- There are other reasons for increased electric usage in the winter. Furnace blowers run longer in colder weather, and heaters in livestock waterers may have been on for most of the billing period. We know that some people have heated water dishes for their pets, and the freezing weather makes the heating elements in the dish operate longer.

We know it's easy to forget about all the different electrical items you may have used during the previous month. However, before calling us about any increased electric usage, please take a few minutes to think about what may have caused it. If you still have questions or concerns about your usage, please contact us. We have a booklet, "Use Energy Wisely," with other useful energy-saving tips. You can find this information on our website, [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com). The booklet also has a chart so you can record your own meter readings, which can be very helpful in tracking down the reason(s) for increased usage.



Can't wait for the booklet? Here are a few simple ways you can cut back on your energy usage and bring your energy bills back down:

- Reduce your water heater temperature from 140 degrees to 120 degrees. Moving to the lower setting can lead to appreciable savings. It may also reduce the risk of scalding a small child.
- Clean or replace furnace filters whenever they get dirty. Your furnace may generate much more heat after a simple cleaning and filter change.
- Install a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts your thermostat set point back at night and during the day when no one is at home.
- Open drapes on your home's south-facing windows during the day to let the solar heat in. Close drapes at night to help keep the cold out.
- Remember this simple rule: When you leave a room, turn off the lights.



Wise usage of electricity is important to us at Clark Electric Cooperative. Understanding where and how you use your electricity is important to you. Together, we can use our electricity wisely and efficiently while keeping cost down now and into the future. ■

# HUNTING DOWN VAMPIRE ELECTRONICS

## Scott Gates

Most homes these days never quite shut down for the night. Although lamps may be off, dark rooms are typically spotted with tiny red and green lights of appliances and the glow of digital clocks.

All of those little lights, clocks, and seemingly “sleeping” appliances, however, are using more electricity than most would think. Sometimes called vampire electronics, these devices suck up 5 percent of all energy used in the United States and cost consumers more than \$3 billion every year.

For the average homeowner, vampire electronics can add 20 percent to monthly electric bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To trim this excess energy use, you need to know where these vampires reside and keep them in check.

Take a closer look at appliances around your home. Those that use remote controls, such as TVs, DVD players, ceiling fans, and stereos, are suspect. Any digital displays, such as microwave and coffee machine clocks, are working against your electric bill. And many of those chargers around the house — those that keep cell phones, power tools, and MP3 players at the ready — constantly draw power when plugged in.

Unplugging these vampires effectively drives a stake into their

energy-consuming hearts. Power strips provide another way to thwart them. Simply plug appliances into a power strip and switch it off when those appliances aren't being used.

In addition, unplug any battery-operated electronic device once

charged. You wouldn't walk away from a flowing water hose, after all, and you certainly don't want to keep feeding those vampires. More information can about energy efficiency can be found on our website and click the various links to those areas. ■

## Spotting Vampire Electronics

Many devices constantly draw power while plugged in, which can quickly add up on monthly electric bills. Keep an eye out for the following clues as to what should be unplugged when not in use:

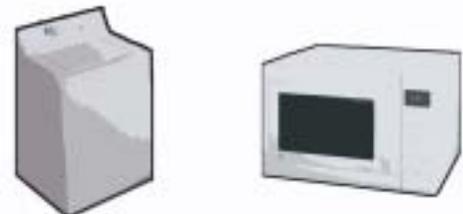
### External power supplies *Computers, printers*



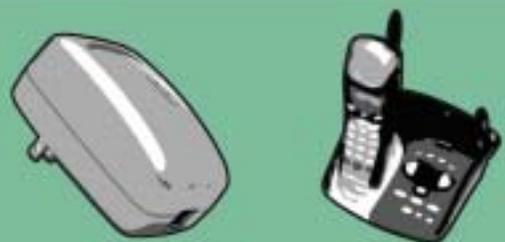
### Remote controls *Window AC units, TVs, DVD players*



### Digital displays *Washing machines, microwaves, VCRs*



### Rechargeable batteries *Battery chargers, cordless telephones, power tools*



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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