

As a MEMBER, **YOU** get the credit!

When you signed up to receive electric service from Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), you became a member and owner of the co-op. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their investors (stockholders), electric cooperatives, like SEC, return these funds back to their members in the form of “capital credits.”

Last month, your cooperative paid out over \$540,000.00 in capital credits to both current and former members. This amount was for capital credits that were allocated for the year 1993. All members who received electric service during 1993 were included in this allocation.

Current and eligible cooperative members received their refund as a credit on their January electric bill (a bill insert explaining capital credits was included). Members no longer being served by the cooperative received their refund amount in the form of a check mailed to the most recent address on file. After discontinuing service, former members should always update the cooperative with their current mailing address to ensure delivery of future capital credit checks.

What are capital credits?

SEC uses its margins (money left after all expenses have been paid) for capital investments, such as building or replacing power lines, substations, and other electric system improvements. After being used as working capital, the remaining money is returned to the members in the form of capital credits.

The money left over represents each co-op member’s share or equity in the cooperative and is then allocated to the members in proportion to the dollar amount of electricity used during that time. Capital credits are paid out as the cooperative’s financial condition permits, which is determined by the SEC Board of Directors. As of 2021, your cooperative has paid back over \$6 million to members in capital credit retirements.

Remember you are not just a customer ...

YOU are a MEMBER and OWNER of



Shelby Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

If you have questions concerning capital credits, or anything else related to your cooperative membership, please give us a call at 800-677-2612 or 217-774-3986.

Unpacking the different types of electric cars

The electric car movement is gaining speed. Offering many benefits to both owners and the environment, driving an electric car emits 54 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions per mile than the average new gasoline car. Moreover, the cost of “fueling” an electric vehicle averages \$1.20 per gallon, which is much less than the average cost of a gallon of regular gasoline.

With more than 1.5 million electric cars currently operating in the U.S., electric car sales are forecasted to surpass 3.5 million per year by 2030. Not all electric cars operate the same way. Four main types of electric cars exist on the roads today.

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) are the type of electric car that have been on the market the longest. HEVs include a small battery pack that is not charged by plugging into a receptacle, but rather the batteries in hybrids are charged by the internal combustion engine and/or the braking process. HEVs function as battery-assisted vehicles and are not powered solely by batteries at any given time. Many HEVs are touted to average around 50 mpg for both city and highway.



Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) (also known as EVs) do not rely on any gasoline to power the vehicle and have zero tailpipe emissions. EV operators simply plug their vehicles into their home electric grid or a public charging station to charge. BEVs also generate electricity from braking as a secondary energy source. Unfortunately, EVs are somewhat limited in how far they can last on a single charge. Most EVs have all-electric ranges of 80 to 100 miles, while a few have ranges up to 250 miles. On longer road trips, EVs rely on the availability of charging stations, which are sometimes difficult to find. Depending on the model, it may take anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours to recharge a vehicle.

Plug-in Hybrid EVs run on both battery power and gasoline and have much smaller battery packs than BEVs. The all-battery range in these vehicles is typically between five and 30 miles. The internal combustion engine is responsible for anything beyond that.

Plug-in hybrids effectively reduce operator emissions for short trips around town, and longer trips are powered by gasoline.

Range Extender Hybrid EVs (REHs) function the same as plug-in hybrids, but have higher battery ranges due to design differences. Examples include the BMWi3 and the discontinued Chevrolet Volt. Some REHs run more than 50 miles on a single charge. In addition to battery power, they also feature a traditional internal combustion engine with some models maintaining more than 40 miles per gallon once the battery is drained.

It is worth noting that EV battery ranges can vary depending on weather conditions. For example, cars must work harder to run in colder temperatures and using the defrost or heat decreases the range. Home charging times depend on how you charge at home (120 volts versus 240 volts). These are just a few caveats you will want to consider when shopping for an electric vehicle.



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Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Do you smart hub?

SmartHub is the Swiss Army knife of apps that can be utilized from your personal computer and smart devices. Visit shelbyelectric.coop or download it from your app store to check out all of the handy resources it offers.

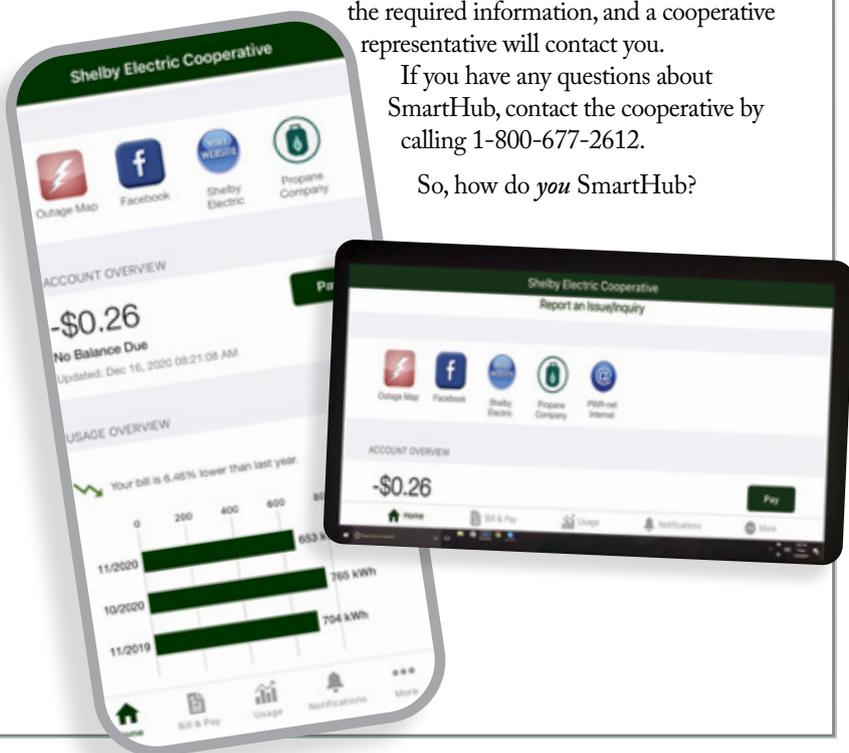
From the app's home screen, you may choose to read notifications from Shelby Electric Cooperative, view and pay your bill, or analyze your electricity use. You can also report an outage, view the co-op's outage map, or link to the co-op's website and social media pages all with a few taps from your fingertips.

"Notifications" on the SmartHub website link will allow you to choose the items you wish to be notified about, such as when your bill is available, if an outage is planned for your location, and even when the power has been restored! Some members choose to be notified when their credit card used for automatic payment is due to expire and also receive payment confirmation. Just sign in, click on the "Notifications" tab, and select "Manage Contacts." After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text, or both, go to "Manage Notifications" and choose to receive outage alerts, as well as any other messages. If you have not set up an account yet, you can do this from the same SmartHub web link.

The "My Usage" button will allow you to explore the kilowatt hours used each week, current and previous billing periods, or annually. For added convenience, you can select the "Contact Us" button, choose a topic, enter the required information, and a cooperative representative will contact you.

If you have any questions about SmartHub, contact the cooperative by calling 1-800-677-2612.

So, how do *you* SmartHub?



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.



Source: www.energy.gov

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and the Home Office

Does your home “office” closely resemble a kitchen or bedroom? With more employees working from home and students learning remotely, whether permanently or temporarily, the need for a functional home office has increased. Even the eagerly anticipated snow day (by students, not parents) may have become a victim of COVID-19. An Education Week survey found that 39 percent of schools have converted snow days to remote learning days, with another 32 percent considering making the change.

Many people have evaluated their homes for ways to increase work productivity. A home office may have suddenly become more important than a dining room or spare bedroom. Essential items such as a desk or table, computer, and storage are obvious needs for a home office, even if it is used only for paying bills and keeping the household organized. The following items could be just as essential but overlooked because they are not as noticeable.

UPS — No, not the brown delivery service. UPS also stands for uninterruptible power supply. Power blinks happen. No one wants to be writing their concluding paragraph, taking a test, or putting their final numbers into a spreadsheet when a blink occurs, wiping out any unsaved work. This can be prevented with a UPS. These external devices can keep your essential electronics powered in case of a power loss, providing the opportunity to save your work. Additionally, if your router and modem are plugged into a UPS, you can maintain wireless connectivity.

Research the type of UPS needed for your home office. A standby UPS automatically switches to the battery when it detects a power



failure. A line-interactive UPS regulates changes in voltage (surges or lags) to help protect electronics.

Power strip *with surge protection* — A power strip with surge protection will add to your outlet capacity plus protect pricier electronics. If lightning or other issues cause a power surge, the power strip will take the surge and not your computer. Replace the strip if you know you have had a power-surge event, as it may have been damaged. Depending on your home office needs, features to look for include smart technology, always-on outlets, one on/off switch for other outlets, and USB charging ports.

Good lighting — Natural lighting is great but may be a challenge to come by this time of year. Light bulbs with “bright” or “daylight” as their color hue are good choices for an office or school setting. In a virtual or video meeting, do not have the light (natural or manufactured) behind you as it will create a dark silhouette.

Hopefully these tips will not only help save your data and electronics, but your sanity as well. Maybe even working on your taxes will not seem quite so bad. Okay — that is a bit of a stretch even for “smart” electronics.

*~Marla Foor, Communication Specialist
Sources: Techhive.com, Inc.com*