

## Hancock-Wood Electric board approves \$3 million capital credit return to members

On this December electric bill, you may notice a credit listed on your bill. Because Hancock-Wood Electric operates at cost, we give money back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders. The board voted to return approximately \$3 million in capital credits to the members of the co-op.

Hancock-Wood is not for profit, so any funds left over after bills have been paid, infrastructure built, and an emergency fund established goes into capital credits accounts for each co-op member. Then, when your board of directors determines the co-op is in good financial shape, this capital is returned to you, either as a check or bill credit. How much money you get back depends on how much electricity you used. Capital credits refunds are to you what dividends are to stockholders at for-profit companies. Only we don't aim to make a profit. Our goal

is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible. That way, more of your money stays in your pocket — up front. You and others who receive electricity from us are the owners. Of course, being an owner doesn't mean you can drive to a substation and take home a transformer or borrow a spool of wire. Those assets are owned collectively by everyone who has signed up for electric service. A portion of the electric bill you pay each month, in fact, goes into building the distribution infrastructure — poles, wires, and substations — that brings you a steady supply of power.

In short, you are receiving a vital resource, electricity, from a business owned and operated by you, your friends, and your neighbors. Working together, we provide you with the highest level of service we can while striving to keep your electric bills affordable.

## Apply for Scholarship and Youth Tour Programs

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative is active in supporting our younger members. We offer two opportunities for high school students. The Children of Members scholarships are awarded to seven high school seniors who's parents are current HWE members. The Youth Tour program gives juniors or sophomore students of HWE members a chance to see Washington D.C. on this free trip each June. HWE selects four students to participate in this trip where they join the other co-op students from all over the country in Washington D.C. for an educational and fun experience. More information for both the scholarship program and Youth Tour can be found on our website [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop).

**HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC'S  
OFFICE IS CLOSED ON DEC. 24  
AND 25 AND JAN. 1**

MERRY  
**Christmas**  
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