



A MESSAGE FROM:

Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

How do capital credits work?

1

Rock Energy tracks how much energy you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.

**2**

Rock Energy completes financial matters and determines whether there is excess revenue (margins).

**3**

Rock Energy allocates margins to members as capital credits based on energy usage during the year.

**4**

When Rock Energy's financial condition permits, the board of directors decides to retire (pay) the capital credits.

**5**

Eligible members see their capital credits amount applied as a credit on their May bill.

CAPITAL CREDITS - GIVING BACK TO OUR MEMBERS

When you signed up for electric service with Rock Energy, you became a member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative, and if you take a close look at your May Rock Energy statement, you'll notice one of the many benefits of your co-op membership. Your May statement shows your beginning capital credit balance, your 2021 allocation, your 2021 retirement credit, as well as your ending capital credit balance.

In 2022, Rock Energy is distributing about \$1.2 million in capital credits to current members on their May statements, and about \$200,000 to past members. Since the co-op was founded 86 years ago, about \$25 million has been paid back to past and current members.

Because Rock Energy is a cooperative, it does not technically earn profits. As you pay your electric bill each month, Rock Energy uses that money to upgrade the system and repay associated indebtedness. Any revenues left over after covering Rock Energy's operating expenses (also known as margin) are allocated back to our members. These allocations are called capital credits.

You can think of it this way: *Capital credits are your piece of Rock Energy's success, both today and in the future.*

ALLOCATIONS

So, how does this whole process work? Well, each year, Rock Energy allocates the margins proportionally to each member based on their electric usage during that year. The next step is to determine how much to retire (pay) to eligible members.

The board of directors then reviews the retirement amount to ensure it aligns with Rock Energy's priorities and overall strategy.

After the board has determined the amount to retire, Rock Energy pays out capital credits to the members. Eligible members will see the capital credit amount on their May bill statement.

UNCLAIMED CREDITS

If a capital credit check is returned or not cashed, we publish your name in the unclaimed credits list at www.rock.coop/unclaimed. You can search the list of unclaimed credits and initiate a claim for any capital credits that may belong to you.

ROCK ENERGY CAPITAL CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

\$1.2 million (approx.)
to current members in 2022

\$200,000 (approx.)
to past members in 2022

\$25 million (approx.)
paid back since co-op started

SHE DID EVERYTHING RIGHT

Seventeen-year-old Mary Gehrig was driving home from a friend's house when a storm turned from average to angry.

The storm was not a problem during the first part of her drive, and she assumed it would stay that way during the half-hour ride home. "I've never really been afraid to drive in storms; I'm pretty good with them," she explained. "I've always been fascinated with thunder and lightning."

Unbeknownst to Mary, a stronger, more violent storm was about to erupt, and conditions grew worse than anyone had anticipated. The typically familiar and uneventful drive was neither of those things that June night.

Strong rotations formed and their herculean strength folded several metal transmission towers in half. Around 15 to 20 minutes into the drive, Mary's knuckles gripped the wheel as she struggled to see in front of her. During lightning flashes, she saw little white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines were across the road, in her path, and that they were anything but small.

"I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car

struck the object, which happened to be a high-voltage transmission power line lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

What happened next was life-changing — but in a good way. Mary picked up her phone and called her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay where she was, not get out of the car, and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did everything right," he said.

If Mary would have gotten out, which she admits she did consider doing at one point, her body could have become the path to ground for the stray voltage, and she could have been electrocuted. However, Mary stayed put and she escaped serious injury.

The Gehrig family is quick to credit everyone involved with her safe recovery, and they hope others will learn from her experience.

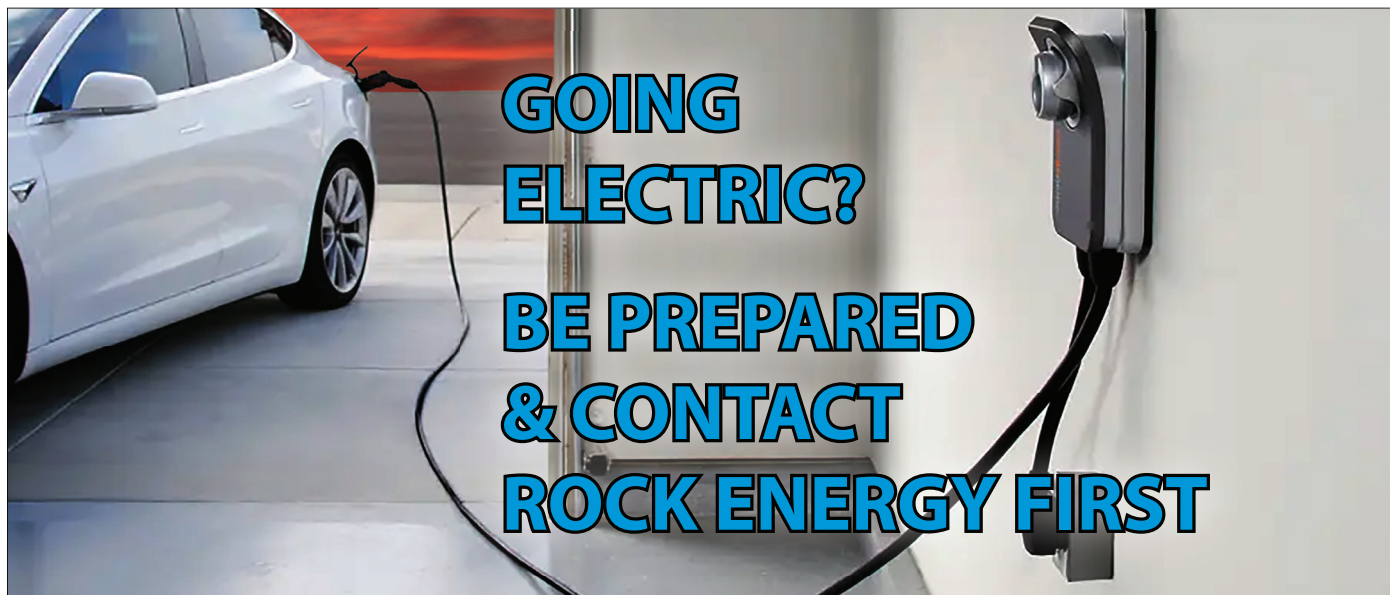
PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Mary's story is part of an extensive Public Safety Campaign driven by Safe Electricity.

For more information about Mary's story, including video interviews with the Gehrig family, additional photos, and a more in-depth article, visit the Safe Electricity web site at: www.SafeElectricity.org



Source: SafeElectricity.org



When it comes to buying a new Electric Vehicle (EV), a lot of drivers don't think about how to prepare their home for it. While EVs certainly have some benefits, one aspect that still requires a bit of preparation actually occurs before you ever receive your EV. Namely, when you buy a new EV, you want to make sure that your home is ready to charge it. While there are charging stations for EVs in the area, home charging will still be your primary method of charging your EV.

1. Contact Rock Energy Cooperative

If you are a Rock Energy Cooperative member, contact us after you've selected the EV you would like to purchase. We will guide you in the right direction when it comes to your electrical needs and services.

2. Decide on a Charging Type/Level

If you haven't already done research on types of EV chargers, go ahead and get started gathering information. Most home car charging systems fall into Level 1 or Level 2. Here's more information on the differences between the two levels:

- **LEVEL 1** EV charging uses a standard 120 volt outlet and often takes days to fully charge an electric car.
- **LEVEL 2** EV charging uses a 240 volt outlet and often takes several hours to fully charge an electric car. You can often get between 60-200 miles of range in just 20-30 minutes with Level 2 DC charging, though. For this reason, most people intermix daytime "top-off" charging with overnight charging.

3. Ready Your Garage

If you haven't cleaned out or organized your garage, now is the time to do that! Make sure that you get your garage ready for an EV before you take delivery. You may wish to clean out clutter first if your garage has been used as a storage space for a long time. This makes it easier for you to set up an electric vehicle charging station at your home.

4. Find Power Panel & Assess Consumption

The power panel in your home distributes electricity throughout the entire building. It should be rated for a maximum amount of current flow measured in Amperes. Most older existing homes have a 100 Amp power panel, while most new homes come with a 200 Amp panel. There should be an amperage rating printed on your main circuit breaker.

Next, you'll want to get a handle on how much electrical energy you consistently use in your house by performing a self-assessment of your electricity use before you install an EV charging system. You do not want to overload your electric distribution panel.

5. Hire an Electrician

Next, hire an electrician, as many of them are now very well trained on electric vehicle home charger systems, and the demand that it might have on your system. You can discuss your power consumption needs and anything related to adding an EV charging system. You can also have them install a dedicated 240-volt plug or add a hardwired circuit back to the power panel if needed. Usually this costs a couple of hundred dollars, but could be more if it's found that your power panel is not sufficient as-is and requires an upgrade. This is most common where older houses are concerned.

6. Buy Your Charger & Have it Installed

If you haven't already researched and purchased an electric vehicle home charger at this point, this would be the time to do so and have it professionally installed by the electrician of your choice.

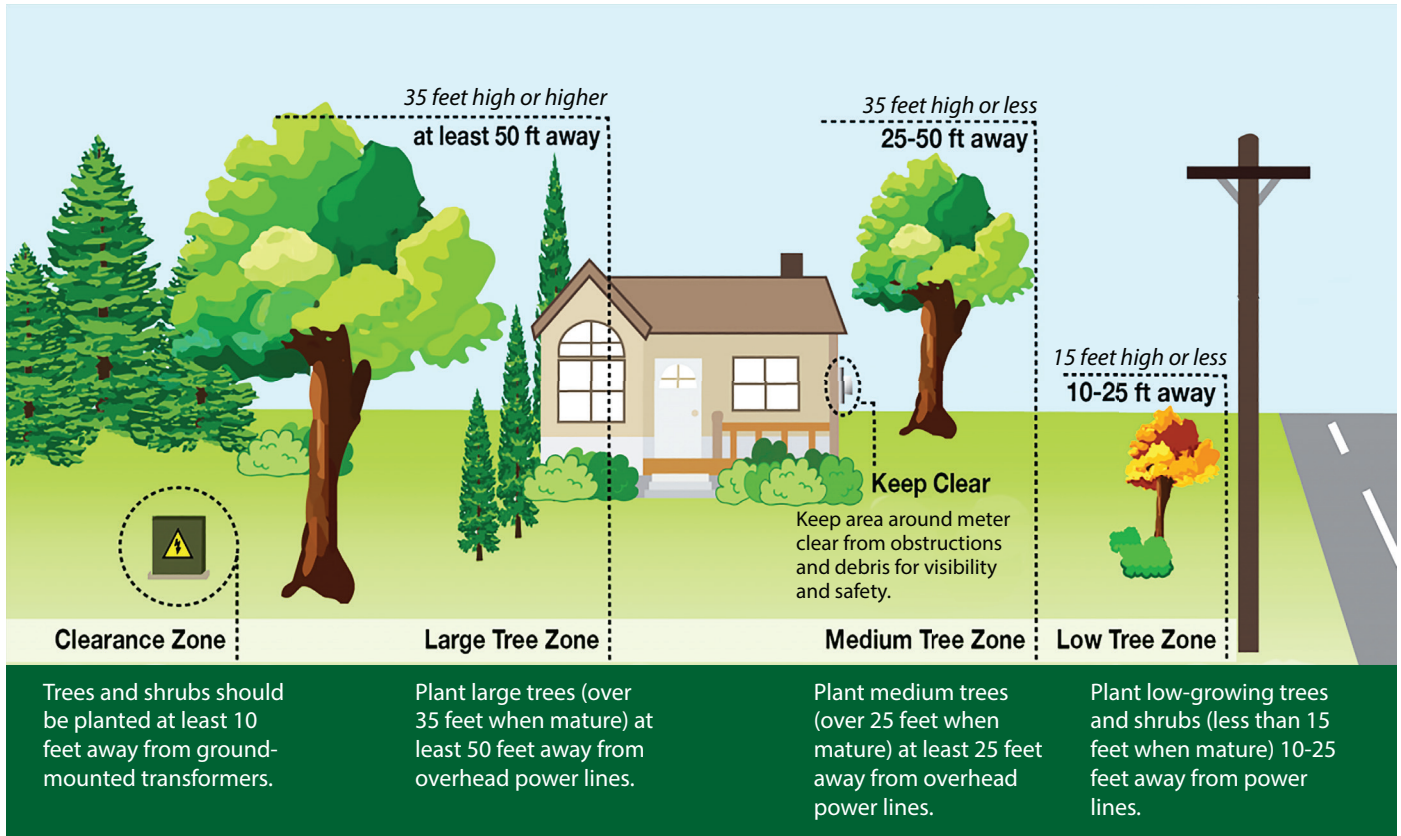
For more information, check out Rock Energy's new "Electric Vehicle" video. You can view the video on our web site at www.rock.coop/info-videos.

PLANTING THE RIGHT TREE, IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Before planting new trees to improve the look of your yard, you will need to keep a few things in mind. For instance, don't plant near underground utility services, because roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables, and wires. Also, keep areas around electric meters, transformers, or other electrical equipment free of

any vegetation that could limit utility service access. Below you will find a visual "Safety Guide" for planting near and around your home, power lines and transformers.

REMINDER: Before digging, always call 8-1-1 to have underground utility lines marked so that accidental contact, damage, and injuries can be avoided.



REC OFFICES CLOSED JULY 4

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 5. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend. Even though our offices are closed, crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage or natural gas leak, please call 866-752-4550.

Shane Larson, CEO

P.O. Box 1758, 2815 Kennedy Rd., Janesville, WI 53547

P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080

866-752-4550

Jonas Berberich, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936

Cool ideas for a hot summer

You've heard the expression, "some like it hot," but you don't want it to be hot in your home this summer. You can keep your home cool and reduce electric costs by abiding by these simple rules.

- ⚡ On the hottest days, turn your thermostat to a warmer setting.
- ⚡ Limit use of dishwashers, clothing dryers, ovens and basically anything that generates heat to the coolest parts of the day.
- ⚡ Use ceiling and box fans to make the most efficient use of your air conditioner.
- ⚡ Make sure your entire family understands how and why to conserve electricity.

For more energy efficient tips, call Rock Energy Cooperative.

*Electric cooperatives of Illinois ...
powerful solutions for more than 80 years.*

