



# MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday  
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126  
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935

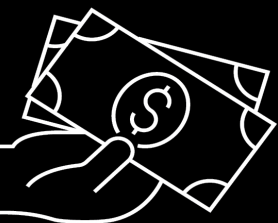
## CELEBRATING THE CO-OP DIFFERENCE:

### Capital Credits Return This Holiday Season

Your Midstate Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has evaluated the cooperative's financial health and is excited to announce the retirement of \$530,000 in capital credits. This month, members who purchased power in 2008 will receive their share of these refunds, based on how much they contributed to that year's margins.


As a not-for-profit cooperative, Midstate Electric operates at cost. Any excess revenue, known as margins, is allocated and eventually returned to members as capital credits. These margins are retained for a period to support operations and reduce the need for borrowing, which helps keep electricity costs down.

Receiving capital credit refunds is one of the many benefits of being part of an electric cooperative. It's a great way to share in the cooperative's success—and just in time for the holidays!

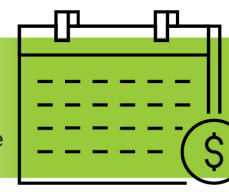


## HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK


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.

## *Congratulations Winners!*

### NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH WINNERS

To celebrate National Cooperative Month in October, we held a contest on our website for four lucky members to win a \$100 bill credit. This year's Co-op Month winners were:

- Jim Johnson
- Alan Day
- Jennifer Vincent
- Norman Hatcher Jr

### 13 DAYS OF THANKSGIVING WINNERS

Last month, we gave out 13 turkeys to lucky members who entered our "13 Days of Thanksgiving" contest. We hope our winners enjoyed their Thanksgiving turkeys! This year's winners were:

- Guy Freeman
- Minnie Gravitt
- Melissa Cooper
- Marlene Kroencke
- Denise Moore
- Edmund Larios
- Franklin Jones
- Su Euler
- Vanessa Pierce
- Dagny Forbragg
- Rebecca Sylvester
- Harold & Jean Denson
- Albert Thomas

### YOUTH TOUR OF WASHINGTON D.C.

High school sophomores and juniors are invited to apply for the opportunity to represent Midstate at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 15-22, 2025. This all-expenses-paid trip offers an unforgettable experience for students in our service area.

To apply, visit our website at <https://www.midstateelectric.coop/youth-tour>. For more information, call 541-536-7220.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, January 30, 2025.

## *Happy Holidays From Your Co-op Family!*

Warmest wishes for a joyful season filled with special moments and time with loved ones.

Please note that our office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2024, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in observance of the holidays. Our 24/7 outage line will remain open at 800-752-5935.



# ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways.

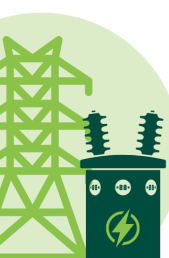
It can happen when wind causes trees or branches to fall into power lines or when ice buildup on wires causes the lines to sway and "gallop." When lightning strikes, transformers and other electric equipment can be affected.

Slick road conditions can also play a role when vehicles strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer and cause a disruption in service.

Please know that when the power does go out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:

## STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area



## STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines



## STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational



## STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and then service lines to properties



If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and deadly.

## Light Up The Season Contest

### SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

Show off your holiday light display and join our 2nd Annual *Light Up the Season Contest*! This year, we're thrilled to introduce our new community *Holiday Light Map*, making it easier for everyone to find and enjoy the dazzling light displays throughout our service area.

This interactive map will showcase the most impressive holiday displays, guiding neighbors and visitors to the brightest, most festive spots. Whether you're exploring rural roads or visiting from nearby towns, the map will ensure you experience the magic of the season.

Bring your creativity and holiday cheer—there's no set theme or restrictions! By entering the contest, you'll have a chance to win an electric bill credit and have your display featured on the map for the community to admire.

#### How to Enter:

1. Visit our website: [www.mse.coop/holidaylights](http://www.mse.coop/holidaylights).
2. Submit a photo or video of your holiday display.
3. Register your home to be included on our community Holiday Light Map.

WIN!

First Place: \$200  
Second Place: \$100  
Third Place: \$50

\*prizes are electric bill credits

We can't wait to see your holiday spirit light up the season!

**Light Contest Deadline:** December 12

**Winners Announced:** December 19

#### NEW DEMAND CHARGE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2025 BILLING

In response to rising costs from our power supplier, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), as well as significant increases in material and transportation expenses, Midstate is implementing a demand charge. A demand charge is a fee based on the highest level of electricity demand recorded during your billing cycle.

This adjustment is designed to better reflect the true cost of delivering power, based on the peak demand placed on our system, similar to how BPA bills Midstate. By introducing a demand charge instead of an increase to the kWh rate, the cost burden is shifted to high-demand users, rather than the entire membership.

For more information, please visit our website: [mse.coop/rate-structure](http://mse.coop/rate-structure)



Learn more at:



Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.

