



Clearing crews work to remove danger trees and clear the rights of way throughout the service territory.

SEPT / OCT 2020

Board Retires \$1.4M in Capital Credits to Members

In their September meeting, the MEA Board of Directors voted to retire more than \$1.4 million in capital credits to members. Members who earned capital credits in 1987 will be receiving a payout this October. Capital credits are just one of many benefits of a nonprofit cooperative. When there are excess revenues or funds remaining after expenses have been paid, those funds are allocated to members through capital credits and are based on a member's usage. The Board can vote to retire capital credits and return the excess revenues to members. For members receiving a payout this winter, if the payout is less than \$25 it will be applied as a bill credit. For amounts over \$25 members will receive a check. For those who are no longer an MEA member but received capital credits in 1987 will receive a check. For more information about MEA capital credits, please visit: www.mea.coop/about-mea/capital-credits

Board Selects Dan Tucker as New At-Large Director

The Board of Directors confirmed member Dan Tucker of Wasilla as the new At-Large Director in their August Board meeting. After interviewing all 12 applicants for the open At-Large Board seat, the MEA Board of Directors selected Tucker to fill the vacant At-Large seat in a Special Meeting held in July. The At-Large seat was vacated when former Director Janet Kincaid retired from the Board in May after 12 years of service. The Board solicited applications in June for members that were interested in applying for the At-Large seat.

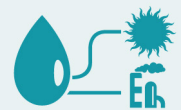


Tucker has been an MEA member for 43 years and originally came to Alaska when he was stationed here in the Air Force. Following his military service, Tucker served as a firefighter and worked in construction, building his own home in Wasilla. He has served as a volunteer on both MEA's Bylaw and Election Committees for several years.

Members Provide Feedback in Listening Session

In early September, MEA hosted a virtual learning and listening session for members on the topic of environmental stewardship including renewable energy, carbon reduction and collaborating with other Railbelt utilities for power efficiency. Members who attended the listening session heard from four panelists and then asked questions and provided feedback on the topics. The listening session is part of a strategic initiative established by MEA's Board of Directors to explore a carbon reduction and/or renewable energy strategy. The Board also set a strategic priority to engage with members in a more meaningful way. MEA may host additional learning and listening sessions in the future covering other topics provided by member feedback as well as focus group studies. If you didn't get the opportunity to attend our recent learning and listening session but would like to provide feedback or have a question, please send your inquiry to pr@mea.coop

MEA's CURRENT ENERGY PORTFOLIO



We use a mix of fossil fuel and renewable generation to meet the energy needs of our members.

11%

Roughly 11% of our power comes from renewable sources.



We have reduced carbon emissions by 23% since 2012 (metrics Ton of CO₂e/kWh).



Most power is produced with natural gas at our Eklutna Generation Station (EGS) powerplant.

3%

We are estimating a 3% reduction in fossil fuel generation in 2021 due to an increase in available hydro generation resources.



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Tips to Save Energy and Money

The month of October marks National Energy Awareness Month and MEA is providing members with ways they can save energy and money by conserving more energy. The biggest consumers of energy are heat and light, and by making these energy sources more efficient in your home or business you will likely see a big difference on your energy bills. Here are some Do's and Don'ts of energy saving tips to cut down your use and costs:

Do - Programmable Thermostat

You can save lots of energy and money by turning down your thermostat when you are away from your home or asleep. Installing a programmable thermostat will allow you to adjust the times you turn on your heating to a pre-set schedule. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a common misconception associated with thermostats is that the furnace works harder than normal to warm a space back up to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat was turned down. However, the lower the interior temperature, the slower there is heat loss so you save energy by not having your thermostat at a higher temperature.

Don't - Electric Heaters

Warming up any room or household with an electric space heater is going to use a ton of energy. Most portable electric heaters use at least 1,000 watts of energy. If we use a 1,000-watt electric heater with our current electric rates for 8 hours a day for 31 days (1 month) it will cost approximately \$50 on your electric bill.

Do - LED Lights

LED light bulbs use up to 80% less energy than incandescent lighting. LED's can also last up to 25,000 hours compared to 1,200 hours that an incandescent light bulb lasts. An LED bulb uses 8.8 watts of energy instead of 60-watts. When we calculate the energy cost of an LED bulb used for 8 hours a day for 31 days under our current rates, it costs 43 cents on your electric bill compared to an incandescent 60-watt bulb which costs \$2.96 on your bill. Now multiply that cost by how many light bulbs you have in your home or business!

Don't - Incandescent Lights

It's easy to grab a pack of incandescent lights at the store when it has a way cheaper price tag than the LED bulbs. In an incandescent bulb the emission of light is caused by heating a wire filament - this is why they use so much more energy than an LED bulb which has an electric current pass through a microchip to illuminate the light.

Do - Use appliances that are energy rated

From programmable coffee pots to cook tops, we have access to a variety of appliances these days. When buying appliances or products look for the ENERGY STAR® label to know that it provides the best energy efficiency. You can also visit www.energystar.gov to find lists of the most energy efficient products among appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, ceiling fans, electronics and much more.

Don't - Leave things on that use constant energy

Remember how we said heat is one of the biggest consumers of energy? While it's hard to beat the convenience of a programmable coffee pot that will stay on for four hours it can cut hard into your electric bill. With an average use of 900 watts, a 12-cup programmable coffee maker left on for four hours a day for 31 days under our current electric rates would be \$22.20 on your bill. You can reduce your energy use by pouring your coffee into a thermos once it has finished brewing and turning the coffee pot off.

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