



Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/CEO

SOLAR PILOT PROJECT UNDERWAY

This past May, we mailed an unscientific survey to all Jackson Electric members to gauge interest in community and member-owned solar. The results from the survey have been reviewed, and from that, and further research, your board of directors has authorized

the implementation of a solar pilot project in 2018.

Based on the results, there is interest in solar energy. Nearly three-quarters of the respondents to this survey stated they have interest in Jackson Electric selling and installing a solar system at their residence. Slightly more than half stated they have interest in purchasing a panel if community solar were offered.

A separate entity to Jackson Electric will be formed, and will be selling and installing 4 kW and 8 kW solar arrays. As of the writing of this article, the name of the LLC has not been released. After evaluating the pros and cons of this business venture, it was decided to start with a pilot project. Starting with a pilot project, we feel this will help educate the LLC's employees about solar energy, fine-tune procedures, and help in understanding the components of installations before intro-

ducing this to the entire membership.

During this pilot project, we anticipate to learn more about solar energy by gathering data from the installed arrays. It is hoped that by the completion of this pilot project, we will have estimated paybacks to share with the membership. That is one question that was asked several times by members who responded to the survey.

...the components and installation for the arrays will be paid for by the member purchasing the project.

I want to point out that the components and installation for the arrays will be paid for by the member purchasing the product.

Those members who showed interest in purchasing and installing a solar array from Jackson Electric

on the survey will soon receive a letter stating the details of the pilot project. If you have interest in participating in this project, please contact our office. The pilot project will be limited to the first 15 members who commit.

If you have any questions regarding this business venture, please feel free to contact me.



Something New is Coming February 2018

**New billing statement
New online bill pay
Energy usage management
Mobile compatible
And more!**



As Jackson Electric transitions away from the current customer information system to the new system, please be aware of the following dates:

February 5, 2018 — final day to make an online payment through Bill4U.

February 8 - 9, 2018 — walk-in payments can be made at Jackson Electric's office, and will be processed manually. During this time, the customer information system will be unavailable for our customer service representatives to access.

February 12, 2018 — new and improved customer information system goes live.

Watch for updates in Jackson Electric's publications and your mailbox.



LOCAL SCHOOL, FOOD PROGRAM BENEFIT FROM CO-OP DONATIONS

Cooperative Principle #7: Concern for Community

Jackson Electric recently used Federated Youth Foundation funds and CoBank's Sharing Success program to give a \$2,000 donation each to the Blair-Taylor School District and the Friends Sharing Food organization.

A glass nature case is being built to create a 3-D visual display at the Blair-Taylor Elementary School. According to Jean Stenberg, coordinator for this project, "This nature case will spark the interest and curiosity of students and visitors to explore the natural world around them, and to plant the seed of respect for our environment. The driftless area (Paleozoic Plateau) of the Blair-Taylor School District is unique and will be celebrated with this remarkable showcase."

The Friends Sharing Food organization is a free food distribution program in Jackson County. It is managed by volunteers, and the program's food costs exceed \$4,000 each month. The Friends Sharing Food organization provides, on average, food to 900 people each month and 500 bags throughout the county each month for the Food for Kids program.

Jackson Electric uses Federated Youth Foundation funds to provide scholarships and monies to charitable or-

ganizations. This account is funded from Jackson Electric's unclaimed capital credits.

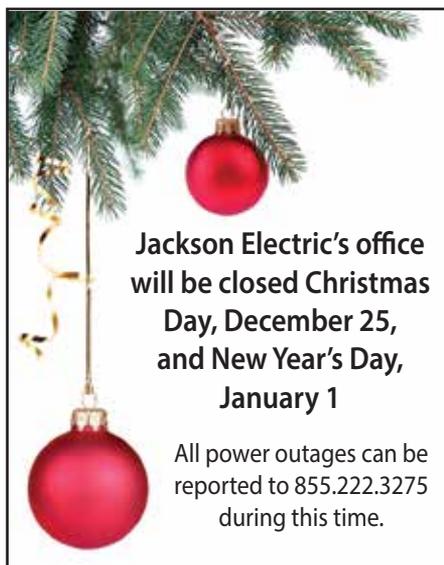
CoBank's Sharing Success program is designed to celebrate the vital role its

customers play in their communities.

According to CoBank's website, "This is one more way the bank creates value for its customers, by partnering with them to strengthen the communities they serve."



Above: Several of Jackson Electric's members' children attend the Blair-Taylor School District. Two of Jackson Electric's employees, along with their children who also attend school there, present a donation to Blair-Taylor Superintendent Jeff Eide and project coordinator Jean Stenberg, far right. Nature case artist Wava Jacobchick, front row, far left, was also present for the photo. Left: Directors Kristi Hanson, left, and Gary Woods present a donation to Friends Sharing Food board member Jill Clark.



Jackson Electric's office will be closed Christmas Day, December 25, and New Year's Day, January 1

All power outages can be reported to 855.222.3275 during this time.

OPERATING AN ELECTRIC SPACE HEATER = HIGHER ELECTRIC USAGE

Throughout the next three to four months, our office anticipates calls from members regarding high electric usage. For many, the culprit tends to be the use of a portable electric space heater.

Even though all electric space heaters are 100 percent efficient, they still use a considerable amount of electricity if used regularly. If you must, use an electric space heater for supplemental heat in a small area. They are not designed to heat your entire home. For an approximate operating cost of an electric space heater, use the following formula:

$$\text{Watts}/1,000 \times \$0.1130/\text{kWh} \times 8 \text{ hours of operation} = \text{cost}$$

For example, a 1,500-watt space heater operating eight hours a day for 30 days costs \$40.68 per month to operate.

There are more economical choices available to heat your home. Contact Jackson Electric to learn more about cost-effective electric heat options.

CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT CHECKS SOON TO BE IN YOUR MAILBOX

Cooperative Principle #3: Member Economic Participation

If you were a member of Jackson Electric Cooperative during a portion of the years 2000 and 2001, you may receive a capital credit retirement check in the mail. You're receiving this retirement check because you are more than a customer—you're part-owner (member) of the cooperative.

Cooperative members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance, and prosperity of Jackson Electric. When

financial conditions allow, every member gets a "piece of the pie." The graphic below shows how your membership pays you back.

Capital credits represent your ownership in Jackson Electric, and are one of the most unique and rewarding benefits you enjoy as a member.

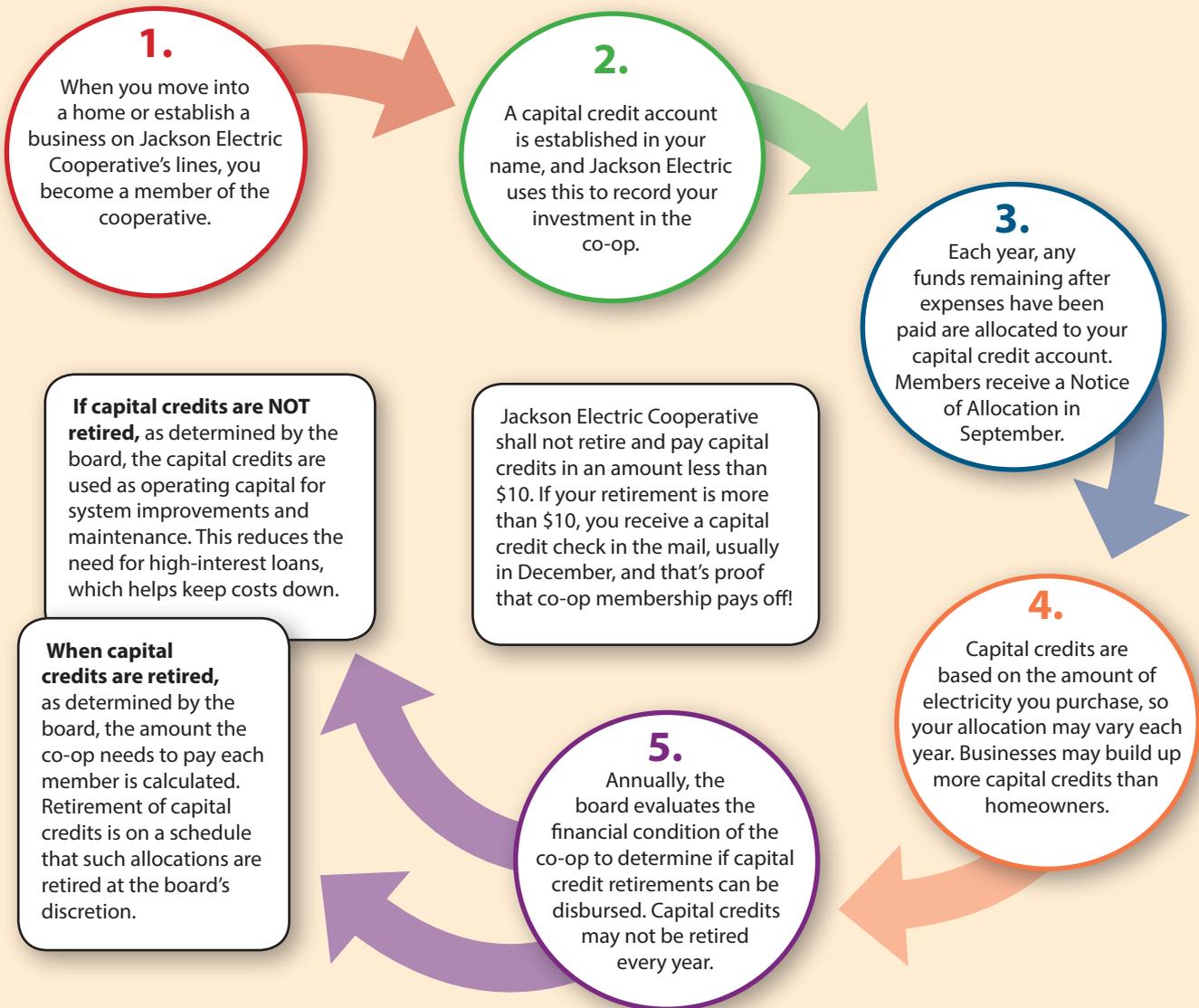
Capital Credit Account Reminders

If you move from Jackson Electric

Cooperative's service lines, please be sure to contact our office with your new address so we can continue to send to you any capital credit retirements you are eligible to receive in the future.

When a member passes away, the capital credit account is available for estate retirement. The representative of the estate should contact our office or go to jackelec.com to complete the required documentation.

How capital credits work:





PROJECT CHRISTMAS OF JACKSON COUNTY WISCONSIN, INC.

Jackson Electric Cooperative will once again be the site for Project Christmas. The public is invited to volunteer to help wrap gifts and box food items on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 12 at 6 p.m. – wrapping
- Thursday, December 14 at 6 p.m. – boxing
- Saturday, December 16 – delivery

Project Christmas is also accepting monetary donations. Those can be sent to Project Christmas, c/o Co-op Credit Union, P.O. Box 157, Black River Falls, WI 54615.



Project Christmas of Jackson County is an organization run with 100 percent volunteers and community donations.

More than 500 families in Jackson County received food boxes and gifts in 2016.

MEET YOUR DIRECTOR, BRIAN HUBER

Brian Huber, District 7 board representative, is a dairy and crop farmer from the Melrose area. When he's not doing farm work, Brian enjoys reading in his spare time. Asked what he thinks everyone should do at least once in their lifetime, Brian says, "Walk a mile in someone else's shoes. You may find out that their life is not as easy as you thought it was."



Keeping the price of electricity low while still providing great service to members is Brian's favorite part of being a board member. Brian is the chairman of the Information Technology Committee. As a board member, Brian says he is most proud of relocating the cooperative's office and warehouse to one location in a building that all our members can be proud of.

—Brandi Shramek, *Communications Intern*

WATER HEATER PRICES

Jackson Electric has the following water heaters in stock and available for purchase to its members:

- Rheem 50-gallon – \$415 plus tax
- Marathon 105-gallon – \$1,100 plus tax (\$400 rebate at the time of purchase with the installation of a load management receiver)

* *Water heater prices and rebates are subject to change without notice.*

Water heaters with a load management receiver continue to qualify for free parts and labor during the hours of 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on regular working days. Repairs done after-hours and on cooperative-recognized holidays are charged a \$150 service fee.

Reminder: Energy efficiency rebate applications are due by January 3, 2018. Funds are limited.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607

Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511

www.jackelec.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Jerry Huber, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Chris Curran, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner