

E L E C - O - N E W S

Upshur Rural Electric will be closed on Friday, December 25 for Christmas and on Friday, January 1 for New Year's Day.



On behalf of the Board of Directors and Employees of Upshur Rural Electric, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Retirement of Capital Credits this Month

The Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation Board of Directors is pleased to announce the retirement of over \$1,754,597 in capital credits to the members and a refund check will be mailed in early December.

After all operating costs have been paid for the fiscal year by URECC, any money left over is returned to the members in the form of capital credits. In other business organizations, the left over money would be called profit. Because URECC is a not-for-profit business, the proper term is "margins". Capital credits are each member's share of URECC's margins in proportion to the amount paid for electricity. In other words, they represent your share of equity or ownership in the cooperative. However, capital credits are not cash in the bank. Your balance of capital credits is used to meet URECC's capital improvement and expansion needs before seeking additional loan funds and paying interest on these borrowed funds. They are invested in the poles, wires, transformers, plant and equipment that provide you with electric service. Your capital credits are used wisely to keep the cost of electricity as low as possible and the quality of your service as high as possible. Once these goals are met, the decision to retire capital credits is made by the URECC Board of Directors.

We now have a Facebook page! Go check it out and like us!



Winter Preparation Tips

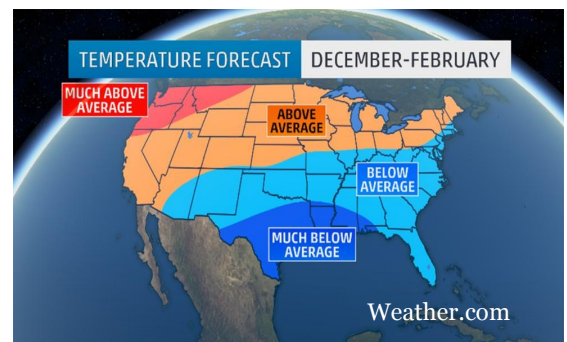
According to the National Weather Service, the effects from a strong El Nino are likely to cause us to have a colder than normal winter. The map below from The Weather Channel shows our area could experience “much below average” temperatures.

With the chance of an extreme winter approaching, we wanted to give you a few reminders to help us all cut back on our electricity usage and get us through a potentially rough winter season.

1. Caulk and seal all openings into the house including around all windows and doors.
2. Make sure your heating system is operating efficiently. Replace furnace filters regularly as needed.
3. Consider increasing your insulation up to R-38 to reduce heating costs by 5-25% if your ceiling is scantily insulated.
4. Cover drafty windows on the inside with clear plastic sheeting to help reduce infiltration of the cold air.
5. Adjust the thermostat as low as possible. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat down 10-15 degrees.
6. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees F.
7. Wrap your electric hot water tank with jacket insulation. This is especially valuable for older water heaters with little internal insulation.
8. Shorten your showers. Showers can account for 2/3 of your water heating costs.
9. Change out incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent or LED lights.
10. Unplug electronics that continue to use electricity even when they are switched “off”.



To help with the possibility of a ‘high bill’ season, we would encourage our members to download our SmartHub App. The app will help you monitor your electricity usage day by day.



Budget Billing

Budget Billing is another tool for our members who qualify to use to help with high bills during extreme weather conditions. Budget Billing helps members budget for their electric bills by averaging their payments on a monthly basis. It helps absorb the highs and lows of summer and winter. Contact a Member Service Representative at 903.843.2536 or 800.259.2536 or you can look up the details on Budget Billing by going to our website at www.URECC.coop, click on the “About Us” tab, click on “Reports & Forms” then select “Budget Billing”.