



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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LPEA board votes to retire \$4 million in Capital Credits to members

DURANGO, Colo. – The La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board of Directors voted at its meeting today to retire \$4 million in Capital Credits to LPEA members. Credits from 1996, 1997, and 1998 are being retired, so members with LPEA accounts during those years will see their share of LPEA’s margins (based on electric use) as a bill credit or check in November.

This retirement is in addition to the [\\$1.5 million](#) retired in July to pass the benefits of Tri-State’s 2% rate reduction directly to LPEA members. Since its incorporation in 1939, LPEA has returned close to \$85 million in Capital Credits to its members.

“We give cash back to our members each year just before the holiday season because that’s when members need it the most,” said LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock. “The return of Capital Credits is just one of the many ways electric co-ops like LPEA are different from investor-owned utilities. When our members pay their electric bills, they are also investing in the cooperative. We enjoy being able to return any margins on that investment to our members annually.”

LPEA is a not-for-profit utility delivering electric services to its members at cost. As such, any payments made by members over what is needed to provide their electric service are placed into a Capital Credit account in each member’s name. When LPEA is financially able, those Capital Credits are returned to members. The dollars become “unclaimed” after three years when LPEA cannot locate members deserving of the refund and are then reinvested in our community through LPEA's various [grant programs](#).

The decision to issue Capital Credits and the amount refunded is determined by the LPEA Board of Directors on an annual basis, as financial circumstances permit. This year, the board elected to retire Capital Credits using the “first in, first out” (FIFO) method, which returns the capital investment of LPEA’s oldest members. More details on Capital Credits can be found at lpea.coop/capital-credit-refunds.

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 34,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.

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