

Midwest Energy, Inc. Current Comments

July 2023

Making energy work for YOU

Capital Credits Checks Being Mailed in July Credits Being Paid This Year Were Earned in 2003

As a member-owned cooperative, Midwest Energy refunds any excess margins (money left after all expenses have been paid) back to you, our members. These margins are returned on roughly a 20-year cycle. Credits paid by check this year were earned by electric customers back in 2003.

Customers should review their Capital Credits statement, which will appear on the upper right hand corner of their July or August bill.

This year, \$6.2 million in credits will be paid out in

the form of paper checks. Checks will be mailed to the last known address, so customers who move out of the area are encouraged to update their address with us.



Demand Toolkit, Calculator Now Available Online

Midwest Energy recently created a Demand Rates Toolkit on its website, to help customers better understand the new three-part rate structure adopted in January 2023.

The new rate structure includes a customer charge, an energy charge (measured in kilowatt hours - kWh) and a new component, the demand charge (measured in kilowatts - kW). This demand charge measures your "peak demand" or the 15-minute period where you are drawing the most kilowatts of electricity. Currently, the demand charge for residential customers is \$0 through 2023, but demand charges will be phased in starting January 2024. As the demand charge increases over the next three years, the energy charge will decrease, offsetting much (if not all) of your demand charge, resulting in

no overall increase for the average customer.

The toolkit, at www.demand-rates.mwenergy.com, explains demand rates, how demand is measured

each month, ways you can monitor your demand and save money, as well as answers frequently-asked questions about the new rates.

The site also contains an Energy Demand Calculator tool. This tool is helpful as it shows the typical demand of common household appliances. The calculator also allows users to switch between Summer or Winter demand periods, and toggle appliances on and off that they frequently use. You'll then enter in your average kWh, which can be found on each monthly bill, and the tool will calculate your demand and other charges, and present an estimated total bill.

VIEW POPULAR SUMMER APPLIANCES	
VIEW POPULAR WINTER APPLIANCES	
APPLIANCES	DEMAND
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Conditioner	4.00 kW
<input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump	5 kW
<input type="checkbox"/> Pool pump	5 kW
<input type="checkbox"/> Clothes Dryer	5 kW
<input type="checkbox"/> Washing Machine	5 kW
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric Oven	5 kW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electric Range	1.50 kW
<input type="checkbox"/> Dishwasher	5 kW
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LED Television	0.12 kW

The demand rate microsite answers common questions about demand rates, and contains a calculator that enables the user to toggle appliances on and off to get a sense of how stacking appliance use affects bills. Smoothing out appliance use over time lowers demand, and bills.



MidwestEnergy

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How\$mart® Promotes Energy Savings

Have an old heater that isn't working as efficiently as possible? Does it seem like your central A/C unit never stops running? Midwest Energy customers in good standing and current on utility payments may be able to upgrade these with help from the How\$mart program.

Here's how it works: a Midwest Energy energy auditor visits your home or business to find what systems need upgrading, and determines potential savings. You pick the insulation, heating/cooling or commercial lighting contractor from an approved list, upgrades are made,

and How\$mart pays up to 100% of the up-front cost! Repayment is then made through energy savings on your Midwest Energy bill plus



a small surcharge. The repayment is spread out over 15 years. The monthly surcharge is tied to the location/address. If the owner moves

or sells the property, the next owner would assume the surcharge after a required full disclosure of the payment. Customers can also pay the How\$mart principal balance in full with no penalty for early payoff.

Additional program details, as well as a list of approved contractors authorized to make How\$mart upgrades, can be found at www.mwenergy.com > Environmental > Energy Efficiency > How\$mart.

If you have questions or would like to set up your energy audit, please contact Jordan Staab at 1-800-222-3121.

Be Prepared for Storm Season: Make a Storm Kit

Storm season is upon us, and you don't want to be stuck without a plan. By preparing a storm kit, you can keep your household safe and comfortable in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Although rare, strong storms can severely damage the grid, causing outages that can last days. This is why having a plan is crucial. Here are some ideas of what to keep in your storm kit:

Water: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends storing at least one gallon of water per person per day for drinking and sanitation purposes. Store these bottles in a cool, dark place.



Food: Canned vegetables and soup, boxed cereal, peanut butter and other nonperishable foods



should also be a part of your kit. Avoid salty snacks or foods that will make you more thirsty. Store at least a three-day supply of food and replace expired items as needed.

Chargers: Having a full tank of gas in your car will enable you to recharge your cell phones and other electronic devices in your vehicle. A small solar-powered phone charger, or a backup battery, might be helpful.

First Aid Kit: Bandages, antibiotic ointments and other supplies are a must. If you take daily prescription medications, make sure you have enough in case the pharmacy

is closed.

Other Supplies: Keep a flashlight and warm blanket and/or sleeping bags for each family member. Have extra batteries to keep everything in working order.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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1-800-222-3121
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