



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Hancock-Wood Electric board approves \$3 million capital credit return to members

On this December electric bill, you may notice a credit listed on your bill. Because Hancock-Wood Electric operates at cost, we give money back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders. The board voted to return approximately \$3,011,000 in capital credits to the members of the co-op.

Hancock-Wood is not for profit, so any funds left over after bills have been paid, infrastructure built, and an emergency fund established goes into capital credits accounts for each co-op member. Then, when your board of directors determines the co-op is in good financial shape, this capital is returned to you, either as a check or bill credit. How much money you get back depends on how much electricity you used.

Capital credits refunds are to you what dividends are to stockholders at for-profit companies. Only we don't aim to make a profit. Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible. That way, more of your money stays in your pocket — up front. You and others who receive electricity from us are the owners. Of course, being an owner doesn't mean you can drive to a substation and take home a transformer or borrow a spool of wire. Those assets are owned collectively by everyone who has signed up for electric service. A portion of the electric bill you pay each month, in fact, goes into building the distribution infrastructure — poles, wires, and substations — that brings you a steady supply of power. Cooperatives follow a unique consumer-focused business model led by a set of seven principles.

The third cooperative principle, "Members' Economic Participation," requires all of us to chip in a bit on our monthly bill to keep Hancock-Wood in good shape. Your cooperative conducts business locally. Investments we make in infrastructure don't profit someone in an area far away; benefits stay right here in our community.

In short, you are receiving a vital resource, electricity, from a business owned and operated by you, your friends, and your neighbors. Working together, we provide you with the highest level of service we can while striving to keep your electric bills affordable.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

Co-op members enjoy Fall Bingo

Thank you to all the members who joined us for our Fall Bingo event in October! Be on the lookout for our Spring Bingo event next year.



We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Our offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays.

MAKE YOUR MARK!



A week of building memories, skills, leadership,
and friendships that will last a lifetime!

Experience the trip of a lifetime with Youth Tour!

- Explore Washington, D.C., through historic monuments, world-class museums, and visits with elected officials.
- Build leadership skills and discover how you can make your mark on the future.
- Connect with students from across the country and form friendships that last a lifetime, all sponsored by Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative.
- **Deadline to apply is February 13, 2026**

Learn more about applying at
<https://hwe.coop/youth-tour-program>

MAKE YOUR MARK!



Seniors can apply for our 2026 Scholarship Program

The Children of Members Scholarship program is available to any high school seniors whose parents are current Hancock-Wood Electric members.



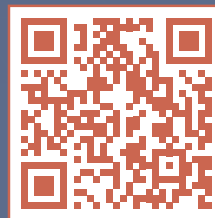
The following awards will be granted for the 2026 program:

- 1st place: \$3,500
- 2nd place: \$3,000
- Five honorable mentions: \$2,000 each

Deadline to apply: Feb. 9, 2026

To apply, visit our website www.hwe.coop
or call our office for more information.

Scan to download an
application today!



CONTACT

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WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

online, dropbox, office, by phone, or
automatic bill pay

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop

Members First! 
**HANCOCK-WOOD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 