



San Bernard Electric Co-op

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

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December 02, 2025

SBEC retires more than \$1.7 million to members

It's time for you to get the credit —capital credits, that is— for helping build, sustain, and grow your local electric cooperative. This fall San Bernard Electric Cooperative, Inc. retires – or pays by bill credit – \$1,730,325 to 9,800 active and inactive members like you across portions of eight counties served by the co-op.

When you sign up to receive electric service from an electric cooperative, such as SBEC, you become a member-owner of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric cooperatives operate on an at-cost basis. So instead of returning leftover funds, known as margins, to folks who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, SBEC allocates and periodically retires capital credits (also called patronage dividends, patronage refunds, patronage capital, or equity capital) based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

This year, SBEC members from 1989 and 1990 will receive a percentage of capital credit retirements through bill credits on their December 2025 billing, reflecting their contribution of capital to and ownership of, the cooperative during those years. The percentages of capital credits retired for the aforementioned years are as follows:

Year	% of Year Retired	Amount
1989	100.00%	\$1,463,399.00
1990	17.00%	\$266,925.00

That may seem like a long time ago. However, those funds helped SBEC reduce the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and covered emergency expenses.

Inactive members or persons not currently purchasing their electricity from SBEC but who were members during the years of the capital credit retirement will be receiving a check for their capital credits. It is very important that SBEC has the current mailing address of all inactive members to ensure the delivery of the capital credit checks. To confirm or update your mailing address, please call SBEC at (979) 865-3171 or by email: info@sbec.org.

San Bernard Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an electric distribution cooperative formed in 1939 and currently serves over 35,000 meter locations in portions of Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Grimes, Harris, Lavaca, Montgomery, and Waller counties.