



## January Bills to Reflect an Energy Credit

*by Steve Rau,  
Board president*

### AT ITS DECEMBER MEETING

the ECI REC Board of Directors approved a measure to return \$500,000 back to the Cooperative's members through an energy credit.

We are able to issue this credit because sales were higher than expected in 2014. The fact that the staff of our Cooperative did an outstanding job of managing 2014 expenses, which came in under budget, also contributed.

The Board chose the route of an energy credit rather than designating the excess toward patronage dividends. An energy credit is different than patronage dividends—money reaches members more quickly, and it's likely the Cooperative is still serving these members who contributed to the additional sales.

ECI REC members who received electric services from the Cooperative in 2014 will see an energy credit on their January bills (December usage). Look for the line item "2014 Energy Credit." The credited amount is figured based on revenues via each member's total electric bill for the year 2014.

Though circumstances for an energy credit do not occur annually, it is definitely something your Board of Directors will look closely at in years when year-end financials are similar to those we had in 2014.

In considering whether to give year-end energy credits, your Cooperative adheres to policies which govern financial goals that encompass long-term debt, equity, Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER), margin allocations, patronage dividends retirement, and more. When these financial targets are met within a given

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year, and the margins exceed those outlined in the Cooperative's policy, an energy credit is an option.

The 2014 energy credit is the largest in the Cooperative's history. The last time ECI REC's Board approved an energy credit for members was in 2004, and the amount credited back was \$350,000. In both 1997 and 1999, \$200,000 was returned to members through energy credits. 

## YOUR BOARD

Board District 11 - Jeff Elliott

Board District 12 - Chris Sackett

Board District 13 - Allen Albers

Board District 15 - Bill Frazier

Board District 17 - Burt S. Byers

(2014/2015 Vice President)

Board District 21 - Don Shonka

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(2014/2015 Secretary/Treasurer)

Board District 24 - Lloyd Bathen

Board District 26 - Steve Rau

(2014/2015 President)

Board District 27 - Ryan Kress

(2014/2015 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)

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# 7 cooperative principles

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Members' economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community