

The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

What's Inside

- Budget Plan Enrollment
- Update Your Contact Info
- 2013 Capital Credit Allocation
- Join "Communities First"
- Annual Meeting Approaches

August 2014

SIGN UP FOR THE BUDGET PLAN!

While you can't predict Michigan's weather, you can count on PIE&G's Budget Plan to help keep your energy costs steady year-round. The Budget Plan lets you spread out your annual energy costs into equal monthly payments. It's a great way to help manage your household budget.

The Budget Plan* starts September 1 each year and runs through August 31.

We estimate your total annual energy bills for the coming year based on your previous 12 months. The annual total is averaged and divided into 11 equal payments. The 12th month (September) bill will include the difference if you used more than what you paid. If you used less and overpaid, you'll receive a credit in September.

If you are already enrolled in the Budget Plan and paid up, there is no need to take any action. Your enrollment will continue. **If you are enrolled in Auto Pay Plan, please review your September bill to insure sufficient funds are available to cover your reconciliation balance, which may be higher than your usual budget payment.**

**Eligibility requirements apply. Members participating in assistance programs, such as the Winter Protection and Shut-off Protection Plan, are not eligible for the Budget Plan.*

HOW CAN WE CONTACT YOU?

It is important that PIE&G can contact you from time to time by phone or mail regarding your account, to alert you to planned outages, maintenance work or repairs, or to confirm your service has been restored during weather related outages.

If you discontinued your home telephone land line and now use a cell

phone, or if your phone number or address has recently changed, please call us as soon as possible to update information so we can contact you during an emergency or when necessary.

SUMMER'S HERE! GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK

SUPER FAST

Speeds up to 12 Mbps

PROMPT & PROFESSIONAL Installation

RELIABLE

Customer Support 24/7

AFFORDABLE

Service for about \$2 a day

Kick off your summer with Exede High-Speed Internet and get super-fast surfing, music downloads, and movie and TV show streaming—all with **NO activation fee and a \$10.00 discount every month for 12 months.**

Don't miss out on the Internet service that delivers 140% of its advertised speed* and is backed with the reliability and support of NRTC Rural Broadband, the organization dedicated to providing technology solutions to rural communities across the country.

Call 888-256-8348 for member discount



Owned By Those We Serve . . . Locally Controlled . . . Committed to Community . . . Not For Profit

2013 CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION

Member-owners are assigned a credit of capital (sometimes called patronage capital) if the cooperative's revenues exceed expenses at year end. The assignment of this excess revenue or margin is called a "capital credit allocation". The allocation is in proportion to the amount of revenue a member has contributed to the cooperative through their energy purchases.

In 2013, PIE&G's electric operation produced a margin of \$2.02 million and our power supplier (Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative) allocated a margin of approximately \$1.76 million to PIE&G. These margins were then allocated to you, the member-owner, as a capital credit. In addition, PIE&G's natural gas division produced an overall margin of \$819,218. Your proportionate share of these combined capital credit allocations depend on whether you have electric, gas or both services and will be noted on your June, July or August statement.

These capital credit allocations will eventually be returned (or "retired") to members. Capital credits are retired at the discretion of the board of directors, when doing so will not adversely affect the financial condition of the co-op. Until then, these allocated, unretired margins represent a contribution of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative. This capital allows PIE&G to finance its operations – including new construction and system improvements – while reducing borrowing and interest expense until the capital is retired and repaid to members in later years.

How Can I Help My Community?

It's easy – just sign up for the PIE&G Communities First Fund! Your average cost is about 50 cents a month (or less than a dollar per year if billed annually). When members volunteer to "round up" their utility bill to the next whole dollar, small donations add up to make a big difference in northeast Michigan. Please consider participating in the PIE&G Communities First Fund by:

- Calling our Member Services Department at **1-800-423-6634**
- Enrolling by email at **billing@pieg.com**

YES, I want to help my community! Please call our Member Services Department at **1-800-423-6634** to enroll in the Communities First Fund.

DOUBLE UP How much can you save?

Why settle for one when you can have two? **Receive a \$150 Energy Optimization rebate** when you install a qualifying energy-efficient furnace. **Or, double up and get \$350** when you purchase an efficient furnace and central air conditioner together. With double deals, now is the time to save!

ENERGY TIP: An energy-efficient furnace with a variable speed motor cuts energy use by 16% per year.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

19831 M-68 Hwy • P.O. Box 308 • Onaway, MI 49765
989-733-8515 • 800-423-6634
www.pieg.com

GAS EMERGENCY ONLY 1-800-655-8565

We will gladly accept your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.



No additional charge for using your credit card.

Most natural gas rates and charges are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission. TWN, long distance phone service is not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

MARK THE DATE!

The PIE&G annual meeting is scheduled for October 24th at Posen High School. Your next issue of *Country Lines* will include your mail-in ballot, information on director candidates, and the annual report.

