



PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION NEWSLETTER

ESTABLISHED MAY 18, 2000

APRIL 2009

Zero Emissions, Solar Power

By Norma and Alan Williamson

Because of our growing concerns over climate change back in the late 90's, we jumped at the chance to buy an all electric, battery powered vehicle. Luckily we lived in smoggy California, whose Air Resource Board passed the Zero Emissions Vehicle Mandate sometime in the 1990's. This mandate demanded that by 2003, 10% of all new vehicles sold in California had to have zero emissions. Unfortunately, the technology existed but not the political will, at least under the Bush Administration.

In March, 2003, the US Department of Justice, along with the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (which included General Motors, Ford Motor and Daimler Chrysler), sued the state of California and won. The court ruled in favor of the Bush administration, reiterating the opinion that only the federal government, not individual states, has jurisdiction over automotive miles per gallon. MPG is directly related to emissions levels. In other words, "gas guzzlers" emit more pollution (CO₂, nitrogen oxide, etc.) because they consume more

gasoline. Fuel efficient vehicles get more miles out of a gallon of gasoline, use less gasoline, therefore less emissions.

Needless to say, we were "crushed" by the court's ruling. When we bought our electric car, in December, 2002, we were ecstatic. We were encouraging everyone we knew



to go out and buy one and telling everyone we met, that "this was the ANSWER" to global warming/ climate change.

Three months later, the ZEV (zero emissions vehicle) mandate was killed in court. We initially leased our Toyota RAV4 EV from Toyota, but after one month of driving it, we fell in love with it (this was my first love affair with a car!) and changed our lease for a purchase. We realized

soon after, that we might as well support permaculture values instead of some multinational corporation like Toyota, and applied for a car loan from Permaculture Credit Union. Our original Toyota car loan was for \$39,000 and we received a \$9,000 rebate (\$3,000 per year for 3 years) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

We charge our EV from our 6 kW solar energy system on our rooftop. There is a natural synergy between photovoltaics (solar electric technology) and electric vehicles. This is often referred to as EV/PV. Every 100 miles we charge it in our garage, usually at night, while we sleep. It takes about 4 hours for a complete charge. The seven years that we've had our EV, we

haven't paid for electricity or for gasoline! We have also saved on car maintenance bills, since the only car expense has been the purchase of tires or brake shoes. Since electric vehicles have only 10% of the parts of an internal combustion engine, there are less problems associated with maintaining one. We estimate that we offset about 40,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

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New Offerings of Share & Share Certificate Accounts

As we celebrate the turning of the season, we would like to announce the growth of our share & share certificate options – some already in place and some new items we haven't offered before.

First we have a new share sub account, the PCU Emergency Share Account. This account will allow our members to save and be ready for an emergency. It earns a dividend that is paid monthly, and the rate is comparable to a money market account. This is our way of contributing to your proactive approach to saving for unknown future events. You can withdraw from this account up to four times per year with written documentation of each emergency.

We still offer our Charter Share Certificates that allow members to earn a lower rate to help us offer meaningful sustainable discounts on our loans. As this pool of funds increases, so does the funding to eco-friendly projects. Terms are for 12 or 24 months.

Finally, we have a PCU Equity Builder Share Certificate. Our members have requested this 0%,

60-month, share certificate to help PCU fulfill its mission even faster. It allows members to commit a portion of their surplus funds to help PCU expand its services, become more efficient and invest in technologies to make a lighter footprint on the earth.

I would like to thank all of our members who have helped create these unique accounts and we look forward to expanding them in the future to better serve our members.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Sarich
President/CEO

PCU Share and Certificate Rate Sheet (Rates Effective April 1, 2009)

Account Type	Min Balance	Rate	APY
Share	\$50.00	0.40%	0.40%
Mortgage Escrow Share Account	No Minimum	0.25%	0.25%
PCU Emergency Share Fund Account	No Minimum	1.40%	1.41%
3 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	0.50%	0.50%
6 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	0.75%	0.75%
12 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	1.00%	1.01%
24 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	1.25%	1.26%
36 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	1.50%	1.51%
48 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	1.75%	1.77%
60 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	2.00%	2.02%
Special Certificates			
18 Month Share Certificate	No Minimum	2.00%	2.02%
12 Month Charter Share Certificate	No Minimum	0.50%	0.50%
24 Month Charter Share Certificate	No Minimum	0.75%	0.75%
PCU Equity Builder Share Certificate	No Minimum	0.00%	0.00%



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Now is the perfect time to buy a battery electric car, since the Freedom Act of 2009, (S271) is offering incentives worth up to \$7,500 as a tax credit. We recommend the PV/EV lifestyle to anyone who is serious about combating global warming and who'd like to save money as well! Be sure to watch the documentary film, "Who Killed the Electric Car?" and check out Plug in America.com as well as EV World for more information on the new and exciting electric vehicles hitting the roads today!



Our latest Annual Report will be available in May on our website. If you would like us to send you a paper copy, please call or e-mail us at our office.

pcustaff@pcuonline.org
505-954-3479 or toll free 866-954-3479

COME ONE! COME ALL!

PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 16, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.

Location: The Commons

2300 West Alameda

Santa Fe, NM 87507

Turn down Camino Carlos Rael, go right in to parking lot, walk across the bridge and turn left to enter the common room.

Meet the Board and Staff of PCU
Refreshments!

KEEP US UPDATED

Returned statements cost us money. Please give us a call as soon as you have a change of address or phone number. Also let us know if you are going to be "temporarily away" so we can hold your mail or send it to an alternate address.

THANK YOU!

PRINCIPLED PEOPLE

What defines us as a credit union is not where we work or live, but the principles we hold in common. Tell us a story or give us an example of how you have implemented the principles of Permaculture in your decisions and your plans. We will print some of your stories in subsequent newsletters. Photos are welcome. Send everything to eileen@pcuonline.org. Subject to read: Attention Newsletter Editor.

In which institution are your savings the safest?

ATLANTA-CNNMoney.com recently polled its readers for their view on where is the safest place to put their savings. Credit unions were ranked No. 1 at 51%, ahead of other types of banks.

Source: CNNMoney.com



FINANCIALS: (All numbers are Year-to-Date totals)		March '09	2009 Year End Budget
Loans		\$3,855,243	\$3,898,458
Total Assets		\$3,898,983	\$5,154,340
Retained Earnings		\$276,461	\$325,696
Capital Ratio (Retained Earnings/Assets)	Maintain above 6%	7.09%	6.32%
Membership		970	1002
Total Income (Loans, Investments, Fees & Donations)		\$153,429	\$212,868
Total Expenses(Operation & Dividend Expenses)		\$85,996	\$209,378
Net Income or Loss		\$67,434	\$3,490



PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Permaculture Credit Union pools the financial resources of people who believe in the ethics of Permaculture—care of the earth, care of people, and reinvestment of surplus for the betterment of both. We apply those resources to earth-friendly and socially responsible loans and investments.

OFFICE LOCATION

4250 Cerrillos Rd., 2nd Floor,
Santa Fe, NM 87507

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 29300,
Santa Fe, NM 87592-9300
Toll Free: 1-866-954-3479
Phone: (505) 954-3479
Fax: (505) 424-1624

Web Site: WWW.PCUONLINE.ORG
Email: PCUSTAFF@PCUONLINE.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Wednesday 10:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday–Friday 10:00am – 5:30pm

LOAN REQUEST

During normal business hours
Or by appointment for member
convenience.

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Donald J. Sarich, President/CEO
Eileen Banashek, Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donal Kinney – Chair
Hugh Roberts – Vice Chair
Mary Lynn Collins – Secretary
Brendan Miller – Treasurer
Wesley Roe – Director
Arina Pittman – Director

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Carolyn Agard – Chair
Joseph Ellis – Member
Elizabeth Martin – Member



2009 HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 25

INDEPENDENCE DAY
FRIDAY, JULY 3

LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

COLUMBUS DAY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

USA PATRIOT ACT ANNUAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Member Identification Requirements

In accordance with Section 326 of the USA Patriot Act, applicants for new accounts are requested to provide current picture identification that verifies identity including name, address and other identifying information.

In some cases, identification will be requested for current members if original documentation was not obtained with the opening of the account. In all cases, protection of our members' identity and confidentiality is our pledge to you. We support all efforts to protect and maintain the security of our members and our country. This notice is being published as required by law.

PRIVACY POLICY

We do not disclose any nonpublic information about our members and former members to anyone except as permitted by law.

WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?

Send your thoughts to eileen@pcuonline.org. Subject to read Attention Newsletter Editor

“Creatively designed plans, in realms such as food, water, land, community, finance, urban life... And because these plans are based on actual observation of natural systems - in all their glorious complexity, ingenious interconnections, brilliant solutions, zero waste, satisfied needs, and fully utilized resources - they are self-sustaining and enriching to people and the earth.”

Carole Tashel is author of *Gardening the Southwest: How to care for your land while growing food, medicine and beauty*, and is involved with Eldorado's new community group, the Eldorado People's Cooperatives.

MEMBER SERVICES

We are currently financing up to \$375,000.00 in loans per household. All rates are subject to change without notice.

- NEW & USED VEHICLE LOANS
- MORTGAGE LOANS
(Land & Home Equity)
- BICYCLE LOAN DISCOUNT
- SIGNATURE LOANS
- SHARE & CERTIFICATE SECURED LOANS
- CREDIT CARDS
- STUDENT LOANS
- SUSTAINABILITY DISCOUNTS

We provide sustainability discounts for projects that are earth-friendly. The usual discount is .75% off our current loan rates. Call our office staff for details.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Have funds directly deposited into the PCU from your paycheck or other financial institution. Pay your bills by having funds directly transferred from your PCU account. Pay your PCU credit card with ease online.

MEMBER ALERT

DO NOT RESPOND to email scams that ask you for your account number, credit card number, and personal identification numbers. Email messages that ask for this type of information are fraudulent, and should be reported immediately.

This includes seemingly real notification from VISA Security and NCUA (National Credit Union Administration) requesting you to go to a website and log in. We will never contact you and ask for this information.