



# PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION

OFFICE LOCATION: 4250 CERRILLOS ROAD, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://WWW.PCUONLINE.ORG) EMAIL: [PERMA@PCUONLINE.ORG](mailto:PERMA@PCUONLINE.ORG)

Established: May 18, 2000

June 2004

## Message from PCU Home Office

PCU is looking forward to some new technology upgrades at our Santa Fe Home Office. These changes will allow us to serve our members more efficiently and prepare us for future services that we plan on providing our members. Following is a brief description of the coming changes and what you can expect to see the next time you visit our offices.

Plans are in work to upgrade the Member Services Representative/Lobby workstation with a new computer and printer. In addition, our credit union software, FedComp will be updated to the Window's version, called "The Next Generation." Not only will this system allow us to be more efficient in processing members' transactions but it also prepares us for the future as we add new services to our credit union.

The initial investment for the new hardware and software is around \$13,000. If you or someone you know would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Permaculture Credit Union to help offset the cost of this new technology, send the donation to the following 501 (c3) on behalf of the PCU:

*Check made payable to: Permaculture Institute – PCU funds*

*Mail to: P.O. Box 29300, Santa Fe, NM 87592-9300*

### Your New Board of Directors for 2004-2005 are:

**Chairperson – Susan Coulter**

**Director – Ed McMillan**

**Vice Chairperson – Taylor Shelby**

**Director – Winona Nava**

**Treasurer – Donal S. Kinney**

**Director – Wesley Roe**

**Secretary – Sebia Hawkins**

**Director – James Stark**

**Director – Allan Sindelar**

### California Permaculture Credit Union Members – MEET Don Sarich

Our President and CEO will be in California in July attending several meetings.

Following is a list of dates, times and locations:

**Los Angeles:** Saturday, July 17, 10:00 A.M., Los Angeles EcoVillage

**Ojai (Meiners Oaks):** Saturday, July 17, 5:00 P.M., Dinner and Talk at the Farmer & The Cook Restaurant

**Santa Barbara:** Sunday, July 18, 1:00 P.M., Santa Barbara Downtown Public Central Library

**Pasadena:** Sunday, July 18, 6:00 P.M., Path to Freedom Sustainable Living Center

**San Diego:** Friday, July 23, 7:00 P.M., Church of the Brethren

For more information, contact the Santa Barbara Permaculture Network

Email: [sbpcnet@silcom.com](mailto:sbpcnet@silcom.com)

Phone: (805) 962-2571

[www.sbpermaculture.org](http://www.sbpermaculture.org)

### Attention: PCU MEMBERS

Members can borrow in person, by mail or by downloading an application from our web site. To begin the process, mail or fax your request to us with income information (e.g. pay stubs or tax returns). Remember, we currently process Vehicle loans, Share and Certificate Secured loans, and Signature loans in any state where our members reside.

## Credit Unions are Different

Did you know that your credit union is very different than a bank? When you walk into the Permaculture Credit Union lobby, the differences might not be obvious, but credit unions and banks have very different philosophies and structures. While both financial institutions may offer similar products and services, the similarities stop there. There are major differences in ownership, in interest rates, and in the service provided.

Did you know that:

- You own the credit union. Credit unions are member-owned not-for-profit financial cooperatives. More than 80 million members own 10,500 U.S. credit unions with combined assets of \$450 billion. Stockholders own banks (with combined assets of \$6.2 trillion). Banks make money for stockholders, not for customers. Credit unions use returns on investment to help keep rates low on money borrowed and high on your savings and to provide members with better service.
- Credit unions are the only democratically controlled financial institutions in the United States. You and other members elect a volunteer board of directors to oversee the credit union. The manager or president/CEO reports to this board. Bank directors are paid to make decisions that benefit stockholders, not customers.
- Credit unions often have lower rates on loans and higher returns on savings. Credit unions price loans, pay interest on funds you've deposited, and charge fees to provide you with high-quality, low-cost services. Banks price products and services to make a profit. You earn more on your savings at the credit union. And you save more on your loan rates at the credit union.
- It is part of the credit union mission to help educate members about finances. They provide publications like this newsletter to keep you advised of rates, loan sales, and financial trends that affect you. Permaculture Credit Union stresses education, providing materials and holding seminars on financial planning, car, and home buying to help you make informed buying decisions. Many banks simply advertise their rates and sell their services.

Because you're an owner of Permaculture Credit Union, you have a say in how we do business. Let us know how you think we're doing. We're always happy to hear from you!

## Automated Clearing House (ACH) Transactions *How can PCU members benefit?*

**Two types of ACH transactions that are very common and very efficient are Direct Deposit and Direct Payment. PCU members may read below to find out more about each type of transaction. Contact PCU to start processing your next ACH!**

### **Direct Deposit**

Direct Deposit is the electronic transfer of a payment from a company or organization into the checking or savings account of an employee, retiree, taxpayer, or shareholder.

#### *How it works*

- By completing a standard enrollment form, a person authorizes a company/organization to make a Direct Deposit payment into their account(s).
- The company/organization processes the live ACH transaction(s) by delivering an ACH file to its financial institution.
- The company/organization's financial institution processes the ACH file, extracting any transactions for accounts at its institution, and delivers the remaining transactions for distribution through the ACH Network one or two days prior to the Direct Deposit date.
- On or before the Direct Deposit date, the company/ organization's financial institution debits their account for the total amount of the Direct Deposit transactions that were on the ACH file.
- The financial institutions (PCU) that receive the Direct Deposit transactions credit the consumer's account(s) and report the transaction(s) on the consumer's monthly account statement(s).
- Companies and organizations should provide a paper or electronic advice of the Direct Deposit payment to the consumer. In the case of Direct Deposit of payroll the advice would include the same information the company provides on a paycheck stub.

### **Direct Payment**

Direct Payment is the electronic transfer of an authorized payment from a consumer's checking or savings account into the account of a biller, financing or investment company, or non-profit organization.

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*How it works*

- The consumer authorizes their company in writing to debit payments from his or her account, and provides their account information.
- The company processes the live ACH transactions by delivering an ACH file to the consumer's financial institution.
- The company's financial institution processes the ACH file, extracting any transactions for accounts at its institution and delivers the remaining transactions for distribution through the ACH Network one day prior to the Direct Payment date.
- The company's financial institution credits the company's account with the total amount of the Direct Payment transactions that were on the file on the same date the transactions are debited from the consumer's accounts.



**Attention: PCU Members**

**It's PCU's 4<sup>th</sup> Year of Operation.**

**To celebrate, we are offering a special loan rate to members.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Year Hybrid Loan Special  
(Purchase or Refinance a Hybrid Vehicle that gets 45 mpg or more).**

**Get Pre-Approved as soon as possible.**

**Special Rates for Hybrids as follows:**

- A+ Credit 4.25% APR\***
- A Credit 5.25% APR\***
- B Credit 7.25% APR\***
- C Credit 9.75% APR\***

**Offer good from 6-30-04 — 9-30-04**

**\* For qualifying members.  
Rates and terms subject to change.**

**PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION**

**RATES AND LOAN TYPES**

(Currently we can finance up to \$70,000 in loans per household.)

All rates subject to change.

Bring your vehicle loan home to PCU

**NEW & USED  
VEHICLE LOANS**

- A+ Credit 6.50% APR
- A Credit 7.50% APR
- B Credit 9.50% APR
- C Credit 12.25% APR

**Fuel Efficiency Discounts**

- Average MPG 35 or > .75% off APR
- Average MPG 45 or > 1.50% off APR
- Electric Vehicle 2.00% off APR
- Alternative Fueled Vehicle 1.00% off APR

**SECOND MORTGAGE LOANS**

	Up to 72 months	73 – 120 months
A+ Credit	6.25% APR	7.25% APR
A Credit	7.25% APR	8.25% APR
B Credit	8.25% APR	9.25% APR
C Credit	9.25% APR	10.25% APR

Up to 90% of appraised value,  
less the balance of your existing mortgage.

**SIGNATURE LOANS**

- A+ Credit 10.25% APR
  - A Credit 11.25% APR
  - B Credit 13.25% APR
  - C Credit 15.75% APR
- A+, A, B up to \$5,000, C up to \$3,000  
Up to 48 months

Bicycle Loan Discount:  
3.00% off APR

**SHARE AND CERTIFICATE SECURED LOANS**

3.00% APR + Share or Certificate Rate  
Up to 60 months



## Permaculture Credit Union

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Santa Fe, NM 87507

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Email: [PERMA@PCUONLINE.ORG](mailto:PERMA@PCUONLINE.ORG)

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
10:00am – 2:00pm

Loan Request  
Monday - Friday  
9:00am – 5:00pm

Or by appointment for member convenience.

### Management & Staff

Donald J. Sarich  
*President/CEO*  
Michelle Lowrie  
*Accounting Manager*  
Lucinda Sydow  
*Member Services Representative*

### Board of Directors

Susan Coulter – Chair  
Taylor Shelby – Vice-Chair  
Donal S. Kinney – Treasurer  
Sebia Hawkins – Secretary  
Ed McMillan – Director  
Winona Nava – Director  
Allan Sindelar – Director  
James Stark – Director  
Wesley Roe – Director

### Supervisory Committee

Carolyn Agard – Chair  
Nora Haskins – Member  
Amy Brown – Member  
Joseph Ellis – Member

Your savings insured to \$100,000

**NCUA**  
National Credit Union  
Administration  
a U.S. Government Agency

## Permaculture Credit Union Mission Statement

We pool the financial resources of the people who believe in the Ethics of Permaculture and strive to redirect those resources to Earth friendly and socially responsible loans and investments.

The **Permaculture Credit Union** promotes thrift among its members and provides credit at reasonable rates. It creates the opportunity for members to control the use of their money and contribute to the revitalization of their community and the planet.

### Attention Members:

The Permaculture Credit Union is temporarily not offering new share certificates. We will make certificates available again in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us toll free at 1-866-954-3479 or locally at 505-954-3479. Thank you for your understanding.

### Holiday Closings:

**Independence Day**  
Monday, July 5, 2004

**Labor Day**  
Monday, Sept. 6, 2004

**Columbus Day**  
Monday, Oct. 11, 2004

**For prompt delivery please mail all  
correspondence to:**

Permaculture CU  
PO BOX 29300  
Santa Fe, NM 87592-9300

### VISA Program Update

PCU has completed the final steps in implementing the new VISA Program. We have selected Illinois Credit Union League Service Corporation's program. They are completing their procedure to start our program which should take about 3 months.

If you are interested in applying immediately for the VISA card, members can e-mail or call us with your name (we can look up your address), and we will put you on our list of people to mail out applications to when the program is official. Non-members please e-mail or call us with your name and address, and we will send to you our application packet with the VISA application.

### Just A Reminder from the Supervisory Committee

PLEASE notify the Credit Union of any changes to your address or phone number. We want you to receive your statements and information about our services.



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