

DECEMBER 2024

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MERRY
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



FROM
ENERGIZE
CREDIT UNION

LOAN RATES

LOAN	APR*	TERM
Tornado Shelter	5.00%	60 mos.
Emergency Generator	5.00%	60 mos.
Autos*	6.50%	84 mos.
Computer	12.00%	24 mos.
Other Collateral	8.00%	
Christmas	12.00%	12 mos.
Signature	13.00%	36 mos.
Secured Share	Sh +1%	N/A
Secured CD	CD + 1%	N/A

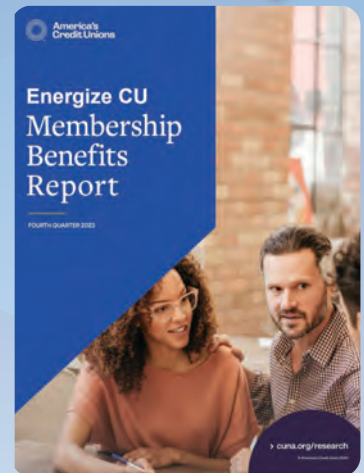
ENERGIZE

CREDIT UNION

Members Save Money!

ENERGIZE CREDIT UNION

Members expect a good deal from their Credit Union. America's Credit Unions analysis found Energize Members saved \$152,136 compared to Oklahoma Banks, due to better Rates and less Fees. With the current economic climate, Energize Members know they can trust and rely on their Credit Union to give them financial value.



CUNA Report 2023

Energize

Loan Rate vs. Banks	-\$28,689
Deposit Yield vs. Banks	+\$146,327
Lower Fees	+\$34,498
Total	+\$152,136

Energize operates efficiently and maintains low overhead for the benefit of member-owners. Compare these operational ratios to the average peer Credit Union (www.ncua.gov) in 2023:

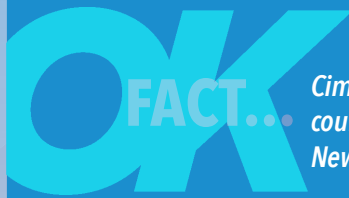
	ECU	AVG CU
Avg Loan Rate Charged	4.58%	5.25%
Avg Dep Rate Paid	1.18%	1.42%
Fees / Assets	.17%	.44%
Op Exp / Assets	2.84%	2.51%
Delq Loans	0.64%	0.83%
Loan to Assets	80.50%	71.01%

Founded in 1967 as a member-owned financial cooperative, Energize serves over 3,400 Members at Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperatives of Oklahoma. For more information on Energize or services please visit www.Energize.Coop.



5-STAR ENERGIZE CREDIT UNION
WHERE MEMBERS MAKE GREAT OWNERS





Cimarron County, located in the Oklahoma Panhandle, is the only county in the U.S. bordered by 4 separate states - Texas, New Mexico, Colorado & Kansas.



Making Cents: How to Choose the Right Budgeting Tool

Connect with your Financial Institution

Before you deep dive into the digital marketplace, first connect with your financial institution and find out what budgeting resources they provide. Beyond basic banking platforms, your institution may also offer a budgeting app, credit score monitoring, debt management tools, financial counseling, investment tools, and savings goal calculators. Even if you don't download a mobile app, chances are you'll unlock benefits you weren't aware of—win, win!

Prioritize Accordingly

There are many financial apps designed to make money management stress-free, but regardless of what budgeting tool you choose, consider the following features:

1. Affordability

Before you commit to a paid subscription, take the time to research budgeting apps that are free or that offer a free trial period to find out whether the functionality is worth the spend. Many apps offer free features (like goal setting) with the option to upgrade later if you want to unlock additional features.

2. Security

Given the sensitive nature of financial information, security is essential when choosing a budgeting app. Ensure that the app employs enhanced security protections such as encryption, multi-factor authentication, and regular updates and notifications to protect your financial data from any unauthorized access.

3. Methodology

While some apps use the traditional envelope system, others focus on zero-based budgeting. Choose one that aligns with your preferred approach. Unsure what the best approach might be? Opt for an app that offers flexibility, allowing you to experiment with different methods until you find the one that works best for you.

4. Interface

User-friendly, intuitive design ensures that you can navigate the app effortlessly, saving you time and frustration. Look for apps that allow you to quickly input transactions, set budgets, and track your spending without a steep learning curve. Some apps even offer interactive tutorials to guide you through the setup process.

5. Goal Setting

Creating and reaching financial goals for yourself is the reason most of us budget in the first place! Support this aspect of your financial story by choosing an app that allows you to set goals, whether it's saving up for a milestone purchase or paying off credit card debt. The app should monitor your progress and let you edit your goals when your circumstances change.

Get Connected

Choosing the right budgeting tool is a proactive step toward gaining control over your finances, but you don't have to decide alone. If you want to better understand your current budget, explore free resources, or connect with a certified financial expert, our partners at GreenPath Financial Wellness are ready to support you.

This article is shared by our partners at GreenPath Financial Wellness, a trusted national non-profit. They can help you with strategies to pay down debt, create a sustainable budget, and connect to free financial courses designed to build a healthy financial foundation year-round. To learn more, visit our website at www.energize.coop.

Out & About

This past quarter Energize staff members had the opportunity to participate in *Shoot for the Nations!*

We love every opportunity that we get to interact with and serve our members!



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