



Welcome to the new year! We have all heard that this is the best time of year to revisit your financial plan and budget out the year to make sure you achieve your financial goals. The way you handle your finances is a personal choice. The decisions you make about them change over time and may differ from your friends' or your parents'. Still, there are some broad guidelines that may help you get better control on your financial plans.

Budget

Start by comparing your income to your current expenses. Create a spreadsheet so you can clearly see how much money you bring in and how much you spend. If money is tight, use this spreadsheet to see which non-essential expenses you can cut back on.

Reduce Debt

Watch how you use credit cards. If you can't pay off the balances in full each month, you are overspending. To avoid high interest

payments, try to live at or below your means and curb your credit card usage. This will not only decrease your debt but help you to qualify for lower interest credit cards and loans.

Save for Emergencies

How much should you be saving in an emergency fund? Financial experts suggest putting three to six months' take-home pay in a savings account. That can take time to build up, and you may need to raid your account even while you're adding to it. Still, if you consistently put aside at least 5% of your take-home pay, using payroll deduction, you'll reach your goal.

Create a Nest Egg

If your employer offers a 401(k), put a percentage into your 401(k) that equals what your employer will match. Anything less and you're actually giving up free money. Ideally, contribute the maximum your employer allows into your 401(k). Can't swing that much while you're saving for your child's future education expenses? Keep this in mind: You can borrow to meet higher education expenses, but you can't borrow for retirement expenses.

If your employer doesn't offer a 401(k) or you are self-employed, look at other options, like a traditional IRA, a Roth, or a Simplified Employee Pension IRA.

Get Adequate Insurance

Buying good insurance for your health, car, and home (or renters' insurance), is a good investment. It will protect your finances from high medical costs, damages due to car accidents, and against losses to your personal property.

We want to help you become financially fit. **Contact us to learn about the services available to help you meet your financial goals.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oswego Hometown Expo

February 25, 2023

9:00am - 3:00pm

ECU's Annual Meeting

March 22, 2023

Administrative Office (Baseline Rd.), 3pm.

Community Shred Event in partnership with the Village of Montgomery

May 13, 2023

9:00am - 12:00pm

10 Civic Center Dr., Montgomery, IL

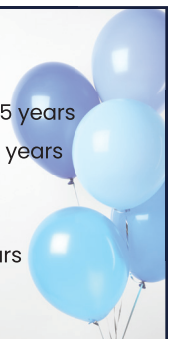
PRIVACY NOTICE

For your reference, Earthmover Credit Union will never contact you in any form requesting your personal or account information. If you ever receive a request for your account and/or personal information, please disregard the request and do not submit any of your information. If you believe you have submitted your information to a scammer, please contact us immediately at **630.844.4950**.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

- **Sasha Escareno**, Call Center Representative, 5 years
- **Melissa Vargas**, Consumer Loan Associate, 5 years
- **Janel Cabadas**, VP of Marketing & Business Development, 15 years
- **Sharon Charbauski**, Staff Accountant, 35 years

Congratulations on a job well done!





COMMUNITY GIVEBACK

We were at it again this year.

This year we worked throughout the year fulfilling wishlists for many local non-profit organizations. The work many of these organizations do are critical for our community. We appreciate from the bottom of our hearts the work all these wonderful organizations do day in and day out. We were very excited to donate \$20,000 between these organizations: Heses House, Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry, Kendall County Community Food Pantry, Mutual Ground, Community Cares, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Marklund, Lazarus House, Equine Dreams, 3:11 Project, Living Well Cancer Resource Center, A Journey Home Dog Rescue, Go with the Flow, and Anderson Humane.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2022

Earthgivers raised \$11,444.84 in 2022!

We ended the year raising \$2,766.67 for Keegan Harrington and \$1,383.00 for the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. We also fulfilled children's Christmas wishes by participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree and the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots. Earthgivers would like to thank the support of our members and community. Without your support, helping these deserving families would not be possible. Here's to a fabulous 2023!

SAVE TO WIN

**Save Money While
Earning Chances to
Win Cash Prizes!**

Earthmover Credit Union wants to reward our members for saving more of their hard-earned money, and we can't think of a better way than with more cash. When you participate in Save to Win certificate of deposit, every time you make a savings deposit of just \$25, you'll be entered in the monthly and quarterly prize drawings – and best of all, **it's free!**

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- In observance of
New Year's Day
Monday, January 2, 2023
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 16, 2023
- Presidents' Day
Monday, February 20, 2023

MINIMUM BALANCE CHANGE

When you review your savings balances here moving forward, you will notice that your par value or minimum balance maintained in your savings account have been reduced from \$25 to \$5. The minimum balance for our minor accounts have also been reduced to \$5. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at **630.844.4950**.

OSWEGO OFFICE
2205 Baseline Road
Oswego, IL 60543

OGDEN HILL
1260 Ogden Avenue
Montgomery, IL 60538

AURORA OFFICE
1735 N. Farnsworth Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505

N. AURORA OFFICE
1037 W. Orchard Road
N. Aurora, IL 60542

YORKVILLE OFFICE
1008 N. Bridge Street
Yorkville, IL 60560

630.844.4950 • www.earthmovercu.com



YOUR SAVINGS INSURED TO \$250,000 PER ACCOUNT
AMERICAN SHARE INSURANCE
By members' choice, this institution is not federally insured.

ONCE A MEMBER,
ALWAYS A MEMBER

