

FirstDraft



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A BETTER CREDIT CARD



AT A BETTER RATE!

Recently passed federal credit card legislation brings sweeping changes to the industry. It will make cards more transparent and easier for consumers to understand, including stripping away unfair business practices such as penalty fees, unannounced random rate hikes, limitations on over-the-limit fees and more.

Unfortunately, the new regulations will also make credit cards more costly for many users and more inaccessible to lower-income families. Industry analysts predict the return of higher annual fees, fewer rewards cards and the possibility that bills will be payable immediately rather than after the typical month-long grace period.

The new norm has always been our norm!

CFCU has not had to make any changes to our credit card program to be compliant with the new law. That's because we've never engaged in any of the unfair practices that led to the reform. Our Classic and Platinum Visa have always offered some of the lowest interest rates you'll find anywhere, with no annual fee options, 25-day grace period and other useful benefits — **No catches, no strings attached!**

Isn't it time you transferred your higher balances over to CFCU?

Save with our

9.79% apr*

VISA BALANCE TRANSFER

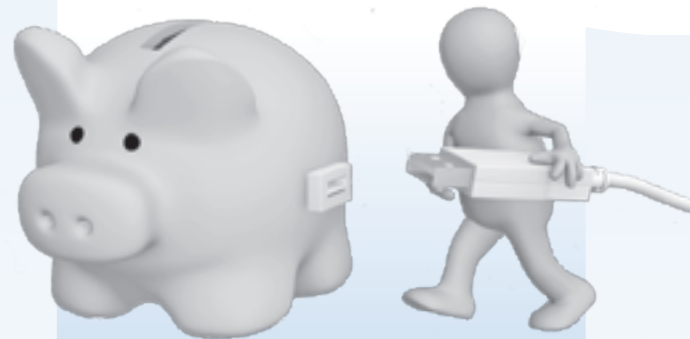
For the life of the transfer, you'll pay a low 9.79% APR. And you'll benefit from our lower Classic and Platinum Visa Card rates on new purchases, as well.

For more information or to apply, call 607-257-8500, log onto www.mycfcu.com or visit any branch.

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 9.79% Annual Percentage Rate is good for the life of the transfer from another credit card only. Balance transfers will be treated as cash advances according to the terms set forth in the CFCU VISA Credit Card Agreement. All other terms of the CFCU VISA Agreement continue to apply.



Equal Opportunity Lender • This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.



Make credit work for you

Credit is a tool most of us need and use. Unfortunately it's getting a bad rap during the current recession. In fact, there are many smart and defensible reasons to use credit. For example, borrowing for an education will repay you many times over. Virtually no one can afford to buy a house with cash, and you'll need wheels to get to work, recreate and travel. Credit comes in pretty handy for all these purposes.


In your early adult years and at many other times in life, you simply need things your income can't totally pay for. Credit helps smooth out this mismatch between your needs and your income over your life span. The key is to use it wisely.

The recession finds many people in a particularly bad spot because they've been using credit, but not building savings. In effect, they've used credit as a substitute for savings. That's why building an emergency cushion equal to several months of expenses is so important. The easiest way to start building such a fund is by using direct deposit with automatic transfers at your Credit Union. Just call or visit any branch for help setting up such a savings plan.

HOME EQUITY LOANS — Smart financing for those fall projects

It seems hard to think about fall maintenance and home improvement when it's still warm and sunny outside. But a little advanced planning and investment spending now can save big money when temperatures drop. Here are five fall home improvement projects that can pay for themselves quickly through energy savings:

- 1. Furnace maintenance and thermostat upgrade** — Fall is the time to get your furnace ready for winter with new filters and programmable thermostat. As a furnace ages, it loses efficiency, so consider upgrading to a new energy-efficient model.
- 2. Replace windows that are more than 10 years old** — Windows are the pathways for the greatest heat loss in your home. What's more, new windows greatly improve your home's resale value.
- 3. Increase insulation** — If you can't afford to insulate your entire house, adding another layer to the attic alone can provide significant energy savings.
- 4. Insulate pipes and water heater** — The best way to deal with frozen pipes is to keep them from freezing in the first place. In addition, insulating your water heater will improve efficiency. If you have an older unit, it might be time for a new one.
- 5. Other winterization and energy improvements** — Caulk around drafty windows and doors and upgrade your house to CFL light bulbs. It's also important to have your chimney cleaned periodically to help prevent fire risk.



For those bigger projects, a **CFCU Home Equity Loan** is a smart choice. You'll benefit from low Credit Union rates, tax-deductible interest* and no closing cost options.

Now rates as low as
4.99% APR[†]

*Consult your tax adviser.

†APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Restrictions apply. Call CFCU for details.

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Beginning in July, the government-funded Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS), or more commonly "Cash for Clunkers," originally set aside \$1 billion in vouchers for consumers trading in old cars for new, more fuel efficient models. The program was scheduled to run through November 1, 2009, but because of its popularity funds ran out quickly. At time of publication, it looked like the government would be adding another \$2 billion in funding.

Used car purchases are not included in this program. Vouchers are only available on new vehicles priced at \$45,000 or less. Leased vehicles also qualify so long as the lease is for at least five years. Here are some of the other program basics:

All trade-in vehicles must...

- Have been manufactured in the last 25 years;
- Have a combined city/highway fuel economy of 18 mpg or less (except work trucks);
- Have been insured and registered to the current owner for the full year before trade-in;
- Be in drivable condition.

In addition to the 18 mpg maximum fuel efficiency on the trade-in, the new vehicle must meet certain minimum fuel efficiency standards. The value of the voucher (either \$3,500 or \$4,500) depends on the overall anticipated mileage improvement. You can check the program's official government Web site (cars.gov) for more information, as well as an explanation of vehicle types and fuel efficiency specifics.

And don't forget, you can make your "Cash for Clunkers" transaction even sweeter by arranging low-cost vehicle financing from CFCU before you hit the lot!



STAFF MOVES

Congratulations Beth Putnam
*Senior Vice President
Branch Administration*

Beth recently graduated from the CUNA Management School with honors. The rigorous three-year program is presented in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Business. Successful completion of the CUNA Management School is recognized throughout the credit union movement as an honor and mark of accomplishment. **Well done, Beth!**

CREDIT UNIONS are different

From the outside, a credit union may look a little like a bank. But in reality, we're a special kind of financial institution. Every now and then, it's good to remind members of our unique differences.

The biggest factor that sets us apart is we're a cooperative, which means every member is an owner. Since we're a not-for-profit business and our board

members are volunteers you elect, our cost of doing business is lower. This translates into higher dividends when you save and lower interest rates when you borrow; lower fees on our full range of services; and extra attention. We watch out for our members' financial well-being. It's that people helping people spirit we were founded on.