



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*The power of human connections®*



April 2025

## Contact Us

**Office:**  
1102 Egret Drive  
P.O. Box 127  
Sibley, IA 51249

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Phone:**  
Local: 712-754-2519  
Toll Free: 888-754-2519

On evenings, weekends or holidays an answering service will accept power outage or emergency type calls only.

**Online:**  
osceolaelectric.com

## NEW! Take the Quiz

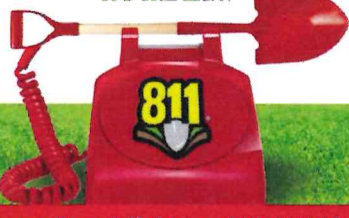
Read through the newsletter and submit the quiz on the back for a chance to win a \$10 bill credit.

## OEC Recipes

Submit your favorite Rhubarb Recipes for consideration to be printed in our May Newsletter. Submission deadline is April 20. Printed recipes are worth \$10 bill credit.

**CALL BEFORE  
YOU DIG**

IT'S THE LAW!



Iowa One Call: 811 or 800-292-8989

## Appreciate Lineworkers in April

Electric utility work is essential to our daily and modern lives. From powering our homes and schools to supporting our economy, electricity is a constant — until it's not.

That's when the true heroes step in. Line crews work directly with high-voltage power, often in severe weather and dangerous conditions, to maintain or restore service and safeguard communities from downed lines. Their vital role deserves more than a day of recognition — it deserves our ongoing gratitude.

It takes a special kind of person to be an electric lineworker.

Lineworkers are protectors of safety and keepers of comfort for our communities and beyond. Every day, they bring a spirit of service, unwavering focus and specialized knowledge to a job that demands both skill and heart. Their commitment to safety isn't just a requirement — it's a way of life.

So, to all the lineworkers out there, thank you for running toward electrical challenges when others step back. Thank you for your continuous training, hard work and dedication to keep us all safe. Thank you, Tommy, Lance, Louie, Judd and Keagan, for all you do to keep the lights on.

## 10 of the many reasons we appreciate lineworkers

- 1 They are expertly trained to work on power lines and equipment.
- 2 They are dedicated to safely and efficiently maintaining power.
- 3 They have a heart for service, always looking out for their communities.
- 4 They conquer heights without hesitation.
- 5 They prioritize safety every second of every day.
- 6 They answer the call — day or night — to restore power.
- 7 They endure it all: rain, shine and extreme weather conditions.
- 8 They go when they are needed, supporting communities nationwide when severe weather strikes.
- 9 They have each other's backs, and work together like family.
- 10 They power our lives and energize our communities!



Tommy Storey



Lance Groen



Robert Louis



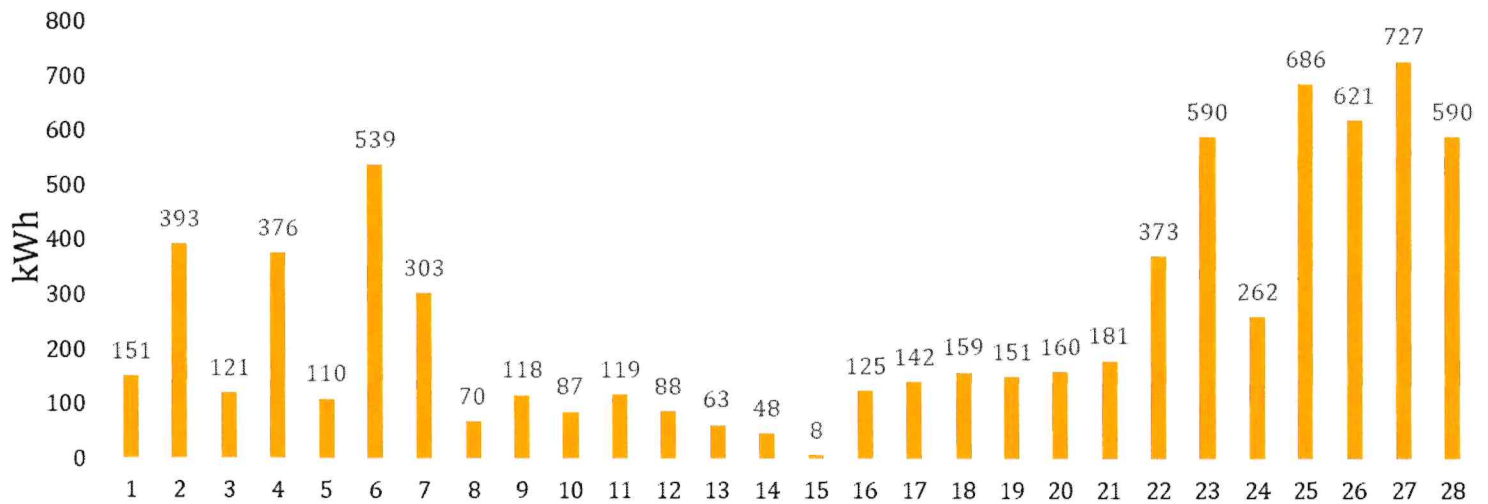
Judd Rosenboom



Keagan Van Westen



## February 2025 Solar Park Production



## Basin Bus Tour



If you've ever wondered about the source of electricity you won't want to miss this opportunity! As a cooperative member-owner, you have the chance to embark on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant the Coteau lignite mine and the Garrison Dam. This exciting bus tour is set for August 20-22.

Departure from Sibley to Bismarck, North Dakota is planned for August 20 with plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is August 21. Depart Bismarck, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take the elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace and enjoy the bus ride into the lignite open pit mine. In the evening enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River. The tour ends back in Sibley in the early evening of August 22.

This member only trip is \$150 per person. The fee includes the cost for the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat, and snacks.

Seats are limited. Reserve your spot today! Call Osceola Electric at 712-754-2519.

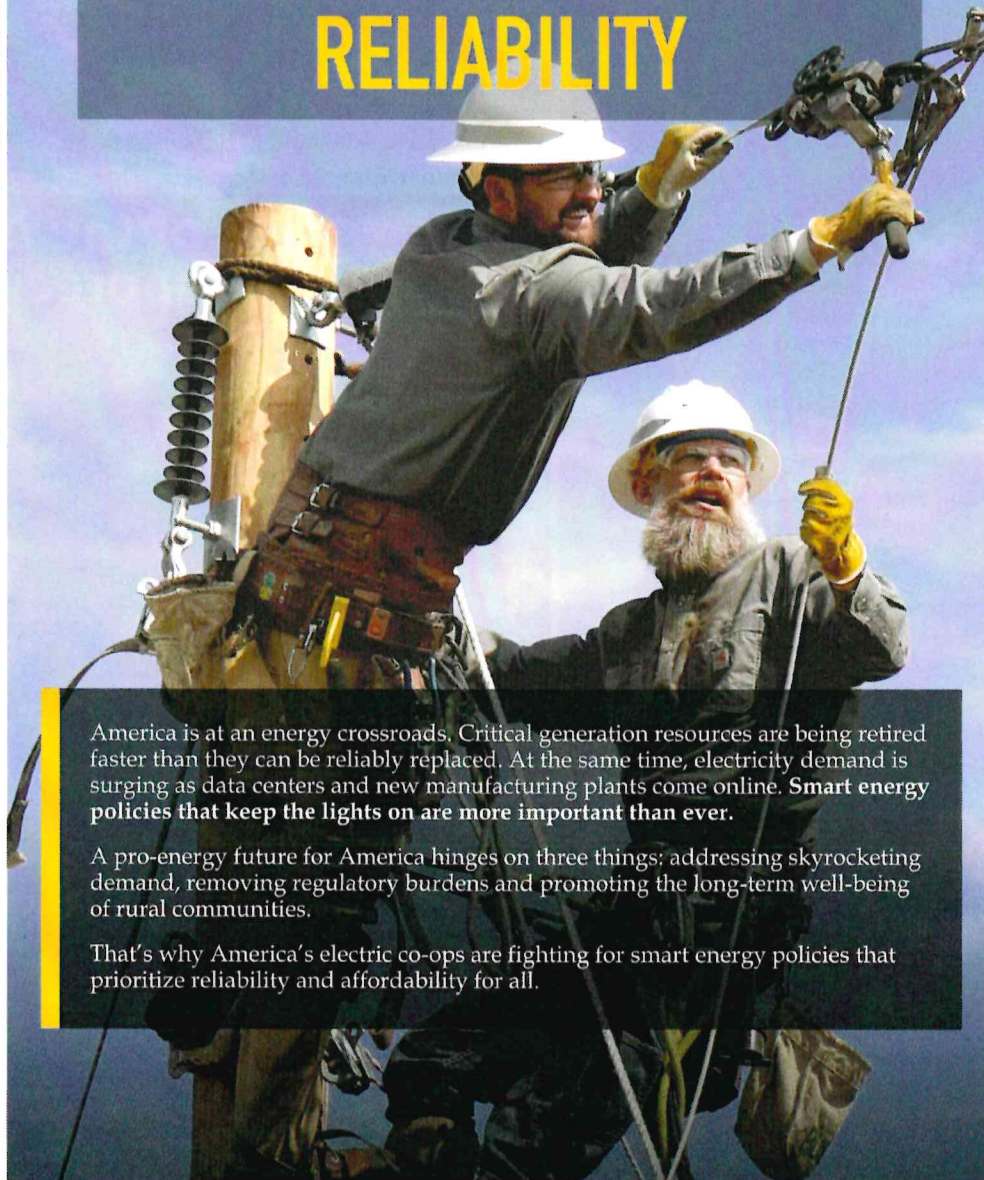
## America's Electric Cooperatives

# THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIABILITY

America is at an energy crossroads. Critical generation resources are being retired faster than they can be reliably replaced. At the same time, electricity demand is surging as data centers and new manufacturing plants come online. **Smart energy policies that keep the lights on are more important than ever.**

A pro-energy future for America hinges on three things: addressing skyrocketing demand, removing regulatory burdens and promoting the long-term well-being of rural communities.

That's why America's electric co-ops are fighting for smart energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all.





# Powering Lives, Empowering Communities:

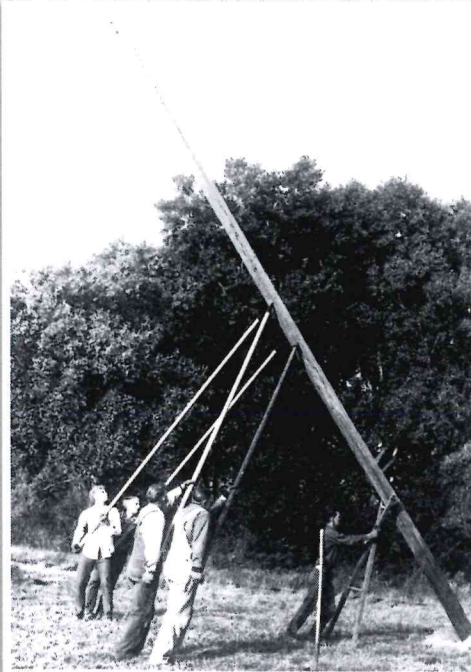
*The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives*  
Chapter 7: Out of the Darkness

100 years ago before electric cooperatives existed, there was an electric divide in America. 9 out of 10 city and town dwellers had access to electricity in the 1920s while 9 out of 10 rural citizens were left in the dark.

Life on the farm was difficult without electricity; there was no indoor plumbing or reliable refrigeration. Cooking, lighting, and heating homes without electricity was dangerous and inefficient. Household chores and farm work were laborious and time consuming.

The investor-owned utilities at that time didn't see the return on investment to build out miles of power lines and infrastructure to only reach a few farms. But a bright light was coming.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed that if private enterprise could not supply electricity to the people, then it was the



duty of the government to do so. He created the Rural Electrification

Administration (REA) in 1935 as part of the New Deal and the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 which provided official status to the REA as a lending agency to serve rural areas.

With federal financing ready to go, REA representatives traveled across the country to help rural citizens band together to form not-for-profit electric cooperatives in order to bring affordable, reliable electricity to their homesteads. By 1950, 80% of farms in America had access to electricity, and the percentage increased to 99% by 1960. Truth be told, nothing has improved the lives of rural Americans like electrification.

Iowa's electric cooperatives have a proud legacy that goes back generations. We have been owned by our members since the beginning, making us truly democratic organizations that are locally owned and governed.

## Warm Weather Brings Out Scammers

Your electric cooperative will never send anyone to your house to ask you if you need work done. And when someone does come for a legitimate reason, you'll see a uniform, a truck with the cooperative's logo on it and valid identification.

Springtime is scam season. Don't be surprised if you get telephone calls, uninvited visitors looking for work and loads of door hangers offering landscaping, roofing, painting and home-repair services.

Your best bet: Say no to all of them. If you need work done around your house, visit the website of the state agency responsible for licensing contractors or join a contractor referral network that recommends only contractors who are licensed, insured, bonded and experienced.

A few other tips:

- Be wary of contractors with out-of-state license plates or detachable, magnetic company signs on their trucks. These could be "travelers," who follow the warm weather from state to state and hire themselves out as home-improvement contractors. They're almost always unlicensed in your state, and if you discover a problem with their work later, they'll be long gone.
- Do not pay in cash, and do not pay up front. Instead, work out a payment schedule that allows you to pay in increments as the work is completed.
- Get bids from three reputable companies before you start. If you get

one offer that's way lower than the other two, something is probably amiss.

- Don't fall for these two lines: "I just finished a job at your neighbor's house and I'll give you a good price if you hire me today because I'm already in the neighborhood" or "I have leftover materials from a job I just did and I'll sell/install them here for a deep discount because I don't need them."

Hiring contractors can be expensive. Don't waste your money on one who's not licensed and legitimate.



## Two-prong Outlets Don't Have Grounding Wire

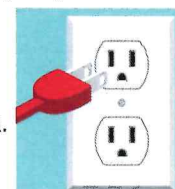
Most new appliances and electronics come with three-prong plugs. If your older house is equipped only with two-prong receptacles, you're probably using adapters with three-prong holes and two-prong plugs.

That will let you fit your plug into the outlet, but it's not necessarily safe. A better

solution is to replace your two-prong receptacles with three-prong models.

When you buy the replacement receptacles, choose models that include a ground-fault circuit interrupter. This will serve as a sort of "imitation" ground and can greatly eliminate the chance of an electric shock.

It's a good idea to use GFCI receptacles wherever you replace two-prong outlets in your house, but it's especially important in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry room and garage, where you use water and electricity in the same room.





# HELP KEEP LINEWORKERS SAFE

Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but their job involves working around high-voltage power lines in all kinds of weather conditions.

## DO YOUR PART TO HELP KEEP LINEWORKERS SAFE



Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet, which can cause voltage to back feed.



Workers need to efficiently and safely restore power when it goes out; please be patient.

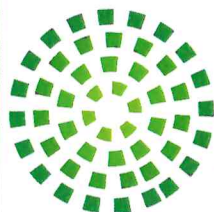


Do not post signs on a utility pole, especially with staples and nails, which can puncture protective gear.



Slow down and move over in utility work zones. Crowding workers can cause accidents.

Learn more: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.

## Winter Moratorium Ends

As the winter energy assistance disconnection moratorium ends on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Osceola Electric Cooperative member-owners who are behind on their electric payments are urged to contact us as soon as possible to work out payment options to avoid disconnection. OEC is willing to work with member-owners who have fallen behind on payments to find an agreeable solution; disconnection of service is always a last resort.

### Payment Plans

Those who have fallen behind on their accounts may be eligible to enter into a reasonable payment agreement with OEC to pay accumulated debt over time and maintain electric service. If you are past-due on your account, contact OEC immediately to discuss payment plan terms.

### Budget Billing

For member-owners with tight budgets, seasonally high electric bills can cause financial strife. OEC offers "levelized billing" or "budget billing" payment options which ensure consistent electric bills month-to-month, making it easier to

budget and anticipate. If your home usage fluctuates dramatically this is a great way to avoid those larger seasonal bills with changes in the weather. To enroll in this billing option, contact OEC. Call our office at 712-754-2519 or 888-754-2519.

### State of Iowa Resources

We also encourage anyone who has fallen behind on payments to contact the Iowa Department of Human Rights office at 515-281-0859 regarding eligibility for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time per year payment to assist with household heating costs for eligible households. LIHEAP funds are limited, with applications being accepted on a first come first serve basis at your local community action center from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> each year.



## OEC Quiz

Send in your completed quiz for your chance to win! Osceola Electric will draw 3 lucky members to receive \$10 credit towards their electric bill. Congratulations to last month's winners: Kennon Goedken, Merlyn Johnson, and Justin Nasers.

1. Lineworkers are dedicated to safely and efficiently maintaining \_\_\_\_\_.

2. True or False: Smart energy policies prioritize reliability and affordability for all.

3. To keep lineworkers safe slow down and \_\_\_\_\_ in utility work zones.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Operating Statistics

February	2024	2025
Billed consumers, farm	1,156	1,154
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	123	125
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,687,714	3,078,796
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	4,379,117	4,998,734
Average consumption, farm	2,325	2,668
Average Consumption, non-farm	35,602	39,990
Average statement, farm	\$265.19	\$298.49
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$2,731.73	\$3,054.66
Total minimum bills	19	21
Outage time per consumer—minutes	2 7/9	0
Energy efficiency added per KWH		.22
Annual Meeting		March 2026