



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



February 2025

Contact Us

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Sibley, IA 51249

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

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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.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be March 22, 2025 at the OEC office from 8-10. Official ballots will be mailed in March.

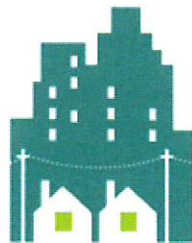
Powering Lives, Empowering Communities:

*The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives
Chapter 6: Doing More with Less*

Iowa's electric cooperatives serve primarily rural areas with sparse populations, meaning we literally cover more ground than other types of utilities.

The realities of these numbers mean that Iowa's electric co-ops must maintain more infrastructure with significantly less revenue per mile compared to other electric utilities.

To accomplish this task, co-ops structure rates and fees to recover costs and partner with other cooperatives and organizations to create efficiencies of scale for supplies, insurance, financing, technology solutions and more. For example, many of Iowa's electric cooperatives provide employee benefits through the Hawkeye Insurance Association and a health care plan managed by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.



MUNICIPALITIES

58

Average meters served per one mile of line.

\$131,000

Revenue generated per one mile of line.



15%

Percentage of Iowan's served.

ELECTRIC CO-OPS

4

Average meters served per one mile of line.

\$10,800

Revenue generated per one mile of line.



15%

Percentage of Iowan's served.

INVESTOR-OWNED

28

Average meters served per one mile of line.

\$85,000

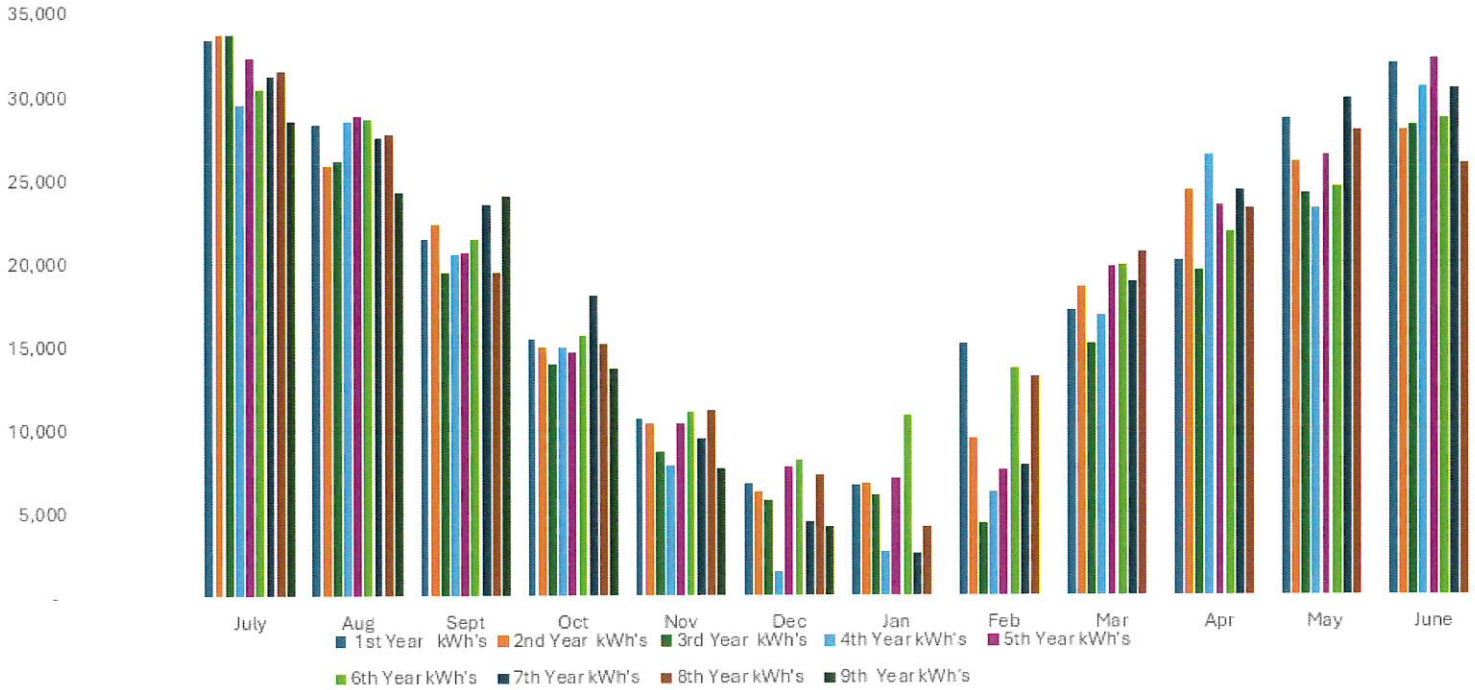
Revenue generated per one mile of line.



70%

Percentage of Iowan's served.

Sterler Community Solar Park Update



The Osceola Electric Cooperative member owned Sterler Community Solar Park, is a 147-kilowatt solar facility built in 2016. This past year, the solar park produced a total of 217,599 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, a 4 percent decrease in production compared to 2023. Figuring the average home consumes around 1,500 kWh per month, the solar park produced enough energy to power 12 homes for an entire year.

Impact of Winter Snowfall on Production

One of the primary factors contributing to the decrease in solar production in 2024 was the impact of snowfall during the winter months. Snow accumulation on the solar panels can block sunlight, reducing their ability to generate electricity. This seasonal effect is common in areas with

colder climates, and while snow eventually melts, it can still lead to a reduction in energy output during the peak of winter.

Capacity Factor: A Measure of Efficiency

The park's capacity factor was approximately 11 percent in 2024. While an 11 percent capacity factor is typical for solar energy projects, especially in areas where weather patterns can cause interruptions, it's a reminder of the intermittent nature of solar energy.

The performance of Sterler Community Solar Park in 2024 reinforces the importance of an "All of the Above" energy strategy. As climate change and shifting weather patterns create new challenges, relying on a diversified energy mix becomes essential for ensuring a reliable and resilient power grid. Solar energy is a

critical piece of the puzzle, but it must be complemented by other energy sources like wind, natural gas, hydroelectric, and battery storage to address the fluctuating availability of solar power, especially in winter months.

The "All of the Above" approach encourages communities to explore all available energy solutions, ensuring that power is consistently available, even when solar or other renewable sources may be temporarily unavailable.

As we move into 2025, Sterler Community Solar Park will remain a vital part of Osceola Electric Cooperative's renewable energy landscape, helping to build a more sustainable and energy-secure future.



Annual Meeting

The director appointed Nominating Committee met January 3, 2025 to discuss candidates to run for the Osceola Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Candidates were needed for Area/District 1 and 2.

Thank you to members: Steve Voss, Mike Earll, Ron Jacobs, Kyle Mc Carter, Scott Hulstein, Jeff Kohn, and Chris Wynia for taking the time to contact candidates and submit names for the ballot.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on March 22, 2025, at the Osceola Electric Cooperative office. This come and go meeting starts at 8:00 am with announcement of election results at 9:00 am. Members who wish to drop off ballots must do so prior to 9:00 am.

Watch for details this summer about our Annual Member Appreciation Event.

Nominating Committee Appointed

In compliance with the by-laws of the cooperative, the board of directors has appointed the following members to act as the nominating committee for the selection of nominees for directors of this cooperative to be elected at the annual meeting of the cooperative to be held March 22, 2025.

Steve Voss

1124 Highway 59
Sibley, IA 51249

Mike Earll

5716 115th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Scott Hulstein

5929 230th Street
Melvin, IA 51350

Chris Wynia

5010 120th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Ron Jacobs

2228 Tanager Ave
Melvin, IA 51350

Kyle Mc Carter

6136 230th Street
Melvin, IA 51350

Jeff Kohn

7069 210th Street
Harris, IA 51345

FROM ARTICLE 1

Section 1. Qualification and Obligations.

Any person, firm, corporation or body politic may become a member in the Cooperative by: (a) paying the membership fee hereinafter specified; (b) agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified and (c) agreeing to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative and these by-laws and any amendments thereto and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the board of directors, provided, however, that no person, firm, corporation or body politic shall become a membership by the board of directors or the members. At each meeting of the members held subsequent to the expiration of a period of six (6) months from the date of incorporation of the Cooperative. All applications received more that (90) days prior to such meeting and which have not been accepted by the board of directors shall be submitted by the board of directors to such meeting of the members and subject to compliance by the applicant with the conditions set forth in subdivision (a), (b) and (c) of this section. Such application for membership may be accepted by a vote of the members at such meeting. The secretary shall give any such applicant at least ten (10) days prior notice of the date of the members' meeting to which his application will be submitted and such applicant may be present and heard at the meeting. No person, firm, corporation of body politic may own more than one (1) membership in the Cooperative.

FROM ARTICLE II

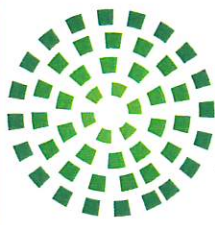
Section 5. Voting. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present, all questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon at such meetings in person or by mail, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative, or these by-laws. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership they shall jointly be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members.

Section 6. Voting by Mail. Any members who is absent from any annual or special meeting of the members may vote by mail upon any motion or resolution to be acted upon at any such meeting with respect to an amendment to the articles of incorporation or the by-laws. Or any action submitted pursuant to the resolution adopted by the board of directors or by petition of not less than ten per centum (10%) of the members. The secretary shall enclose with the notice of such meeting an exact copy of such motion or resolution to be acted upon and such absent members shall express his vote thereon in writing "yes" or "no" on each such motion or resolution in the space provided therefore and enclose each copy as marked in a sealed envelope bearing his name and addressed to the Secretary. When such written vote so enclosed is received by mail from an absent member it shall be accepted and counted as a vote of such absent member at such meeting. Any member who is absent from any meeting provided for in Section I or Article II for the election of directors by ballot as hereinafter provided in these by-laws. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and absent from any annual or special meeting of the members they shall jointly be entitled to vote by mail as provided in this section. The failure of any such absent member to receive a copy of any such motion or resolution or ballot shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

FROM ARTICLE III

Section 3. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, no less than thirty (30) days nor more than one hundred (100) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which directors

are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) no more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation of the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty-two (32) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures no less than twenty-five (25) days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list is posted. A ballot marked "Ballot of Directors" containing the names of all the nominees as posted. Stating the residence of each shall be mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition. Such statement of the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section. Any member who is absent from any such meeting may vote by marking on the ballot an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing his name addressed to the Secretary. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any absent members it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such absent member at such meeting. The member may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and are absent from any such meeting they may vote by mail for directors by jointly marking and enclosing the ballot hereinabove provided for. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

Source: energy.gov

Cinnamon Coffee Cake by Sharon Habben

- 1 pkg yellow cake mix
- 1 small pkg instant vanilla pudding
- 3/4 cup oil
- 3/4 cup water
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp butter flavoring

- Cinnamon Mixture:
- 1 tsp cinnamon
 - 1/3 cup white sugar
 - 1/3 cup brown sugar



Mix first 4 ingredients, add eggs one at a time and flavoring. Beat 3-4 minutes pour half into a greased 9X13 pan. Sprinkle 1/2 the cinnamon mixture on top of batter. Add the rest of the batter and sprinkle with remaining cinnamon mixture. Bake for 30 minutes at 350°.

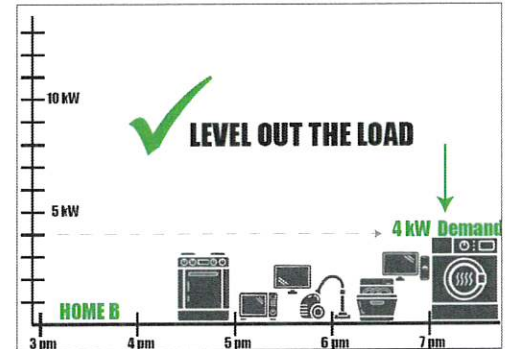
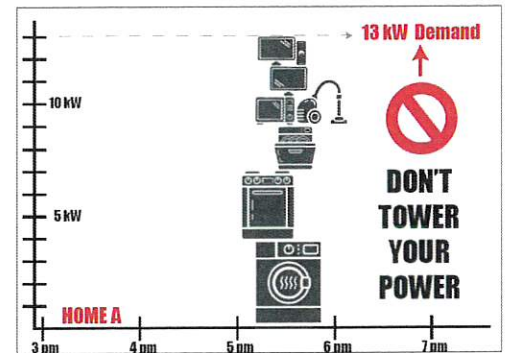
Don't Tower Your Power

Demand is the maximum amount of power (kW) drawn for any given time interval during the billing period at your location. As you use more electricity simultaneously the demand increases. The meter captures the highest demand at your location each month averaged from a 15-minute interval. This demand is listed on your monthly bill and charged according to your rate class. Once the billing cycle is processed the demand is reset and the meter captures the next months information.

This month you'll notice a charge associated with the "DEMAND" line item on your bill. To reduce your demand charge, consider adjusting your appliance usage. Spreading out the use of major appliances rather than running them all at the same time can help reduce your demand. The timer option on many appliances can be a useful tool to schedule appliances to run when you're not home.

The image to the right shows Home A using the appliances simultaneously creating a

much higher demand (kW). If they were both charged \$2.00/kW for demand, Home A would be charged \$26.00 and Home B would only be charged \$8.00.



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: Donna Bootsma, Jeff Hiveley, and John Haspels.

1. The 2024 Osceola Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be _____.
2. True or False: The solar park produced enough energy to power 12 average homes for a year.
3. Electric Co-ops serve _____ percent of Iowans.

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Operating Statistics

December	2023	2024
Billed consumers, farm	1,150	1,154
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	123	125
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,787,450	3,213,432
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	4,976,555	5,908,740
Average consumption, farm	2,424	2,785
Average Consumption, non-farm	40,460	47,270
Average statement, farm	\$267.61	\$312.57
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$2,782.38	\$3,926.20
Total minimum bills	23	14
Outage time per consumer—minutes	5 7/9	0
Energy efficiency added per KWH		.22
Annual Meeting		March 2025