



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



January 2025

Contact Us

Office:

1102 Egret Drive
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 Coffee Cake Recipes for consideration to be printed in our February Newsletter. Submission deadline is January 20. Printed recipes are worth \$10 bill credit.

**OEC Scholarship
deadline is
January 24, 2025.
See inside for
details.**



Manager's Report

Hapy New Year - 2025



Jeff TenNapel,
General Manager

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope your time with family and friends was safe and enjoyable as you celebrated Christmas and New Year's Day.

2025 Rate Change

You will notice with next month's electric statement; Osceola Electric Cooperative will begin billing single phase members for demand (kW). Your Board and staff worked on this new three-part rate for several months before the decision was made. Billing demand gives you, the member, the power to control a part of your monthly billing. Think of demand (kW) as a high-water mark. Every month as you use electricity, your demand (kW) rises. The control members have is when they run their appliances. OEC has shared several newsletter articles talking about stacking appliances (running all at the same time) vs staggering the load (running one at a time). The easiest way to save on demand (kW) is to schedule those appliances

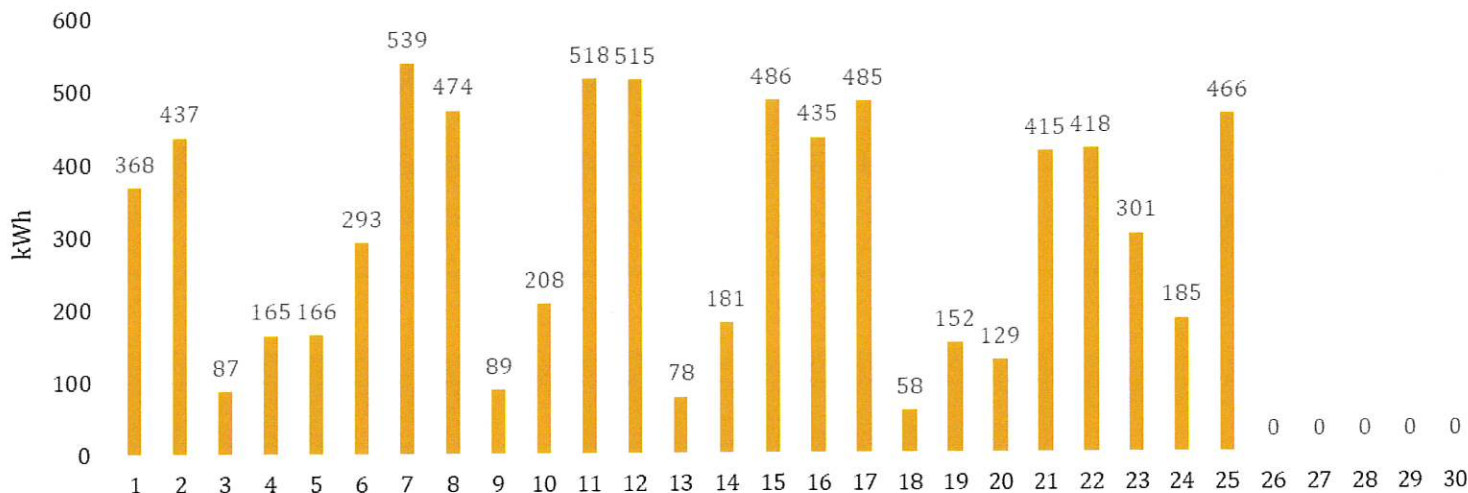
with timers to run when no one is home or later in the evening. For example: supper is a busy time the oven is cooking the evening meal (2 kW), kids are coming home from school activities, the hot water heater is running (4.5 kW), a load or two of clothes runs through the washing machine and dryer (2 kW), and the dishwasher quickly runs before supper (2 kW). That totals 10.5 kW in a short time frame. We understand that everyone's lives are busy but if you can move a couple of those appliances to a different hour of the day you can save 3 to 5 kW. Today the demand (kW) charge is very low in comparison to what OEC pays for demand (kW), but we wanted to start out slow.

OEC's wholesale rate increase from WAPA and Basin Electric Cooperative for 2025 via L&O Power Cooperative was 4.3 percent for energy (kWh) and 16.1 percent for demand (kW). We already know that WAPA will have wholesale power increases of 7 percent for 2026.

OEC appreciates your understanding, no one likes rate increases. Your Board and staff have worked to keep expenses as low as possible, but wholesale power is 70 percent of OEC's expenses.

Again, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous NEW YEAR.

November 2024 Solar Park Production

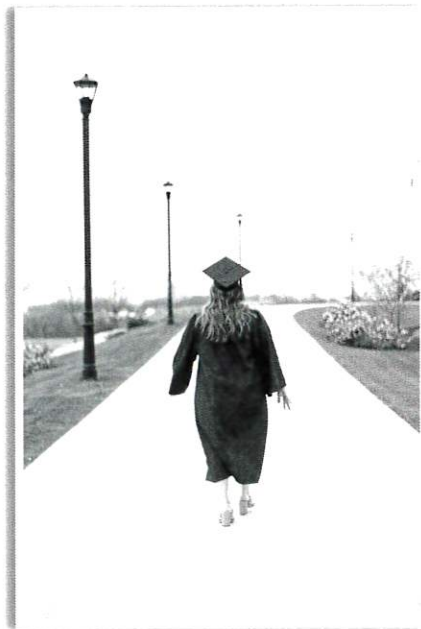


Collage Scholarships Available

Osceola Electric Cooperative will award two \$1000 scholarships and three \$500 scholarships to the son or daughter of a current OEC member. Students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full time graduate or

undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational school in 2025 are encouraged to apply. The scholarships must be used for educational costs and the applicant shall be a citizen of the United States of America.

Power Cooperative serves as a power provider for OEC and Basin Electric Cooperative is the supplier of electricity to L&O. Todd Brickhouse, CEO and General Manger of Basin Electric states: "The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of the children of member cooperative consumers."



Assisting cooperative youth is one of the best ways the cooperative can make a positive difference in our communities. That is why OEC has committed itself to offering college scholarships for many years. Last year's recipients were Natasha Bremer, Karissa Hulstein, Owen Hayenga-Johnson, Cambrie Krikke, and Vance Hayenga-Johnson.

The three \$500 scholarships will be provided directly by OEC and two \$1000 scholarships will be made available from L&O Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative respectively. L&O

Students interested in applying for a scholarship can obtain applications from high school guidance counselors, OEC's website osceolaelectric.com or by contacting the OEC office. The Basin Electric Power Cooperative application is utilized for all five of the scholarships and the same guidelines apply to all five as well. Completed applications, including an essay, transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, and an applicant appraisal are to be returned to OEC. The due date is January 24, 2025.

Store Holiday Decorations Safely

The presents are unwrapped and company has gone home. What did you do with your holiday decorations?

If you shoved them into a damp garage, you might want to find another place for them. The best storage places for heirloom ornaments and electric lights are dry.

A few other storage tips:

- ◆ Inspect your decorations before packing them away for another year. Toss any that are damaged, especially those that have electric cords.
- ◆ Store your boxes out of reach of children and pets, and away from heat sources.
- ◆ Create a system for logically organizing your decorations so you won't have to search for them next year. For example, group fireplace decorations in one box;
- ◆ Store ornaments in another; wreaths in a third.
- ◆ Store cloth decorations in sealable bags so moths and other bugs don't get to them over the summer.
- ◆ If your storage space is brightly lit, consider protecting your decorations by putting them in fabric bags. Items can lose their color if they're exposed to too much light while in storage.

2025 Osceola Electric Cooperative Energy Efficiency Rebates

Appliances

ENERGY STAR - Clothes Washer	\$ 100.00
ENERGY STAR - Refrigerators	\$ 50.00
ENERGY STAR - Freezers	\$ 50.00
ENERGY STAR - Dishwashers (w/electric water heater)	\$ 50.00
ENERGY STAR - Window Air Conditioner	\$ 25.00

Water Heater

Electric Water Heater - 50 gallon	\$ 250.00
Electric Water Heater - 85 gallon	\$ 300.00
Electric Water Heater - 105 gallon	\$ 350.00
Hybrid Heat Pump Electric Water Heater	\$ 500.00

To be eligible for rebate load control switch must be installed

Also, an additional \$4.00 per month billing credit if approved water heater has controller installed

Policy 3-6. Call for more details

Heating and Cooling - Residential (Home)

Geothermal Heat Pumps - per ton rebate w/\$5,000 max	\$1,000/per ton	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$1,000.00
Replacement w/o wells	\$250/per ton		\$ 250.00
Air Source Heat Pumps - 14 SEER	With Out	\$ 800.00	With
Air Source Heat Pumps - 15 SEER	Electric	\$ 800.00	Electric
Air Source Heat Pumps - 16 & 17 SEER	Heat	\$ 800.00	Heat
Air Source Heat Pumps - 18 & UP SEER	Backup	\$ 800.00	Backup
Policy 3-2A			\$1,200.00
Mini Splits A/C Units			\$ 200.00

Space Heating - Shops

10 kW of less	\$ 300.00
11 kW or larger	\$ 500.00

Agriculture & Commercial & Industrial

Premium Motor Rebates - NEMA labeled Premium Efficiency or equivalent	
10 hp or less	\$ 50.00
11 hp or greater	\$ 250.00
Variable Speed Drive	\$ 75.00

Residential & Commercial Lighting

Per bulb rebate (based on fixture) on all Residential and Commercial Lighting	\$ 2.00
T8's and T5's - 4 ft tube lighting	
Example: If member purchases 4 - 6-bulb fixtures, rebate would be 4 x 6=24 24 x \$2 rebate = \$48.00	
LED fixture or bulb rebate - Residential and Commercial Lighting - call for details (10% of cost of bulb and or fixture)	
OR \$300.00/kW which ever is higher	
Dusk to Dawn lights 72 watt LED rebate - OEC stocks fixture	\$ 25.00

Residential - Insulation & Windows

Qualifying types of Insulation rebate \$500.00 or 50% (lessor of) per application - call office for details
 Qualifying Energy Efficient Window rebate \$25.00 per window - \$500.00 maximum - call office for details
 Exterior thermal door rebate - \$25.00 per door

Electric Vehicle Chargers

Level 2 - 240 volt, Must be hardwired and installed to local code. Make, model, s/n must be provided	
Can't back-feed into the system. Load Control Switch installed	\$ 750.00
50% of equipment with a max of \$750.00	

Other programs are available please contact Osceola Electric Cooperative for incentives or rebates



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Powering Lives, Empowering Communities:

The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives
Chapter 5: Ensuring Reliability

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: *energy.gov*

Reliable electricity is our daily priority. Sustaining a resilient electric distribution system requires extensive planning with ongoing maintenance, inspections and system upgrades.

Iowa's electric co-ops proactively test poles for possible deterioration and adhere to aggressive vegetation management plans to reduce outages and minimize damage to infrastructure.

During the past 10 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have kept the lights on 99.96% of the time despite blizzards, ice storms, derechos, tornadoes or other extreme weather events. The average member served by an Iowa electric co-op experiences 1 outage per year, lasting approximately 138 minutes.

If a co-op does experience extensive outages, they work with neighboring co-ops for mutual aid to restore power to members as quickly and safely as possible.

A recent threat to reliability comes from misguided federal energy policy, which prioritizes intermittent sources of power like solar and wind over dispatchable sources like coal and natural gas.

Iowa's electric cooperatives believe in a diverse power generation strategy to ensure reliability. Our "all-of-the-above" generation portfolios include dispatchable sources of power because we can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. Learn more about this issue at www.VoicesForCooperativePower.com.



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.

- Osceola Electric Cooperative will award _____ \$1000 and _____ \$500 scholarships to the son or daughter of a current OEC member.
- The rebate for an Energy Star Rated dishwasher is \$_____.
- Osceola Electric's wholesale power is _____ percent of OEC's expenses.

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Operating Statistics

November	2023	2024
Billed consumers, farm	1,150	1,154
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	122	124
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,630,146	2,736,235
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	6,215,350	7,657,435
Average consumption, farm	2,287	2,371
Average Consumption, non-farm	50,945	61,754
Average statement, farm	\$265.14	\$280.57
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$3,791.56	\$4,591.28
Total minimum bills	13	14
Outage time per consumer—minutes	14	5/9
Energy efficiency added per KWH		.22
Annual Meeting		March 2025