



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*The power of human connections®*



July 2024

## 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 emergen-  
cy type calls only.

### Online:

osceolaelectric.com

## FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

Three account numbers are  
hidden within the  
newsletter. Notify us if you  
find your number and we'll  
credit your account \$5.  
Confirm your account  
number on the top of your  
statement. Account  
numbers must be yours to  
claim.

## OEC RECIPES

Submit your favorite Summer  
Vegetable Recipe for  
consideration to be printed in  
our August Newsletter.  
Submission deadline is July 20.  
Printed recipes are worth a \$10  
bill credit.

## We Invite You to Attend

# 2024 Member Appreciation

## August 27 from 5:00-7:00

## at the OEC office

## 1102 Egret Drive, Sibley

**Burgers**

**Potato Salad**

**Baked Beans**

**Bottled Water**

**Adult and Kid Prize Drawings**

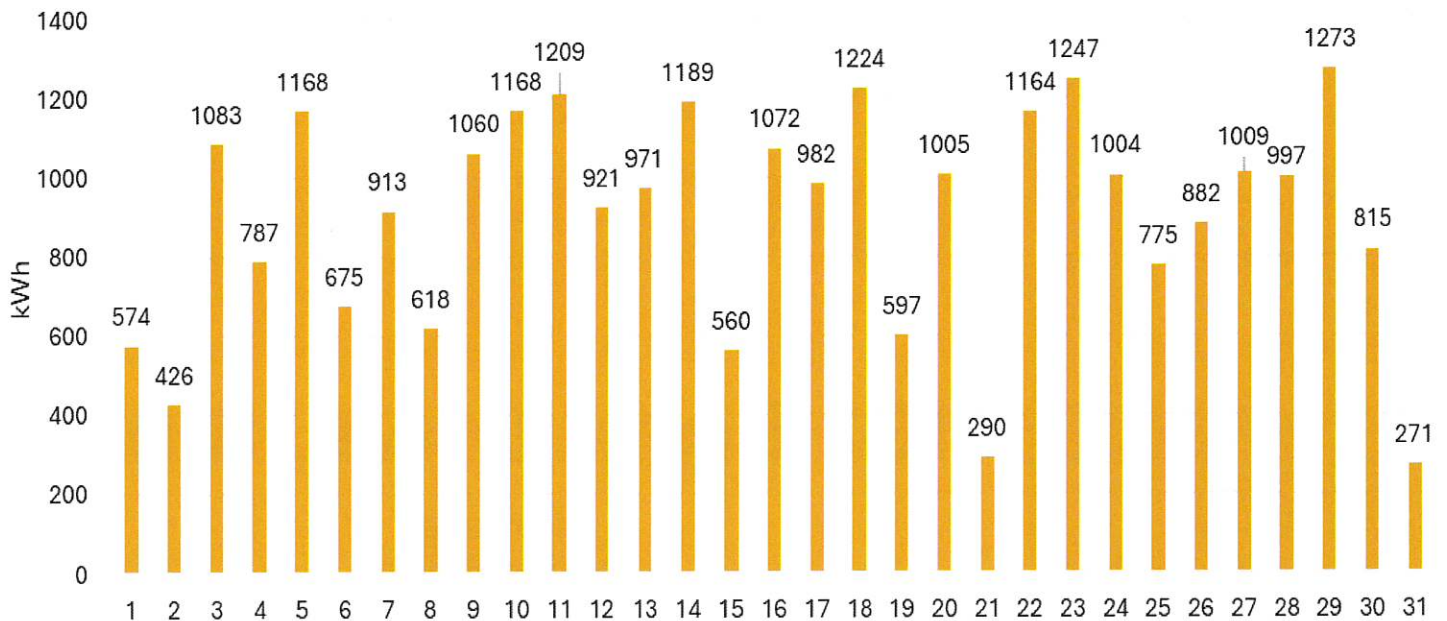
**\$20 Bill Credit at the Door**







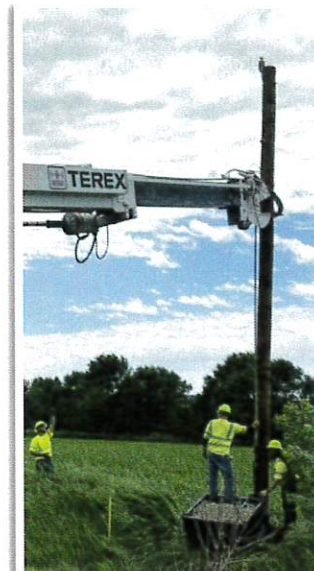
## May 2024 Solar Park Production



## Operating Statistics for May 2024

	2023	2024
Billed consumers, farm .....	1,149	1,155
Billed consumers, non-farm and others.....	121	122
Kilowatts sold, farm.....	2,205,522	2,240,962
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others.....	4,689,905	6,988,203
Average consumption, farm .....	1,920	1,940
Average consumption, non-farm and others .....	38,760	57,280
Average statement, farm.....	\$221.59	\$233.06
Average statement, non-farm and others.....	\$3,402.67	\$4,205.86
Total minimum bills.....	29	25
Outage time per consumer—minutes.....	0	11 5/6
Energy efficiency added per KWH .....		0.00022
Annual meeting date.....	March 2025	





## Manager's Report

### 2024 Construction

Osceola Electric Cooperative's 53 miles of FEMA construction will finish up later this summer. Highline Construction from Paynesville, MN was responsible for the overhead single and three phase construction. Loosbrock Digging from Lismore, MN was contracted to complete OEC's underground work. In addition, to FEMA work



**Jeff TenNapel,**  
**General Manager**

Loosbrock will be replacing 7 1/2 miles of three phase underground in the Melvin area.

OEC crews will be rebuilding single phase lines in Baker Township this summer. Pictures (above) show OEC crews setting poles. OEC borrowed L&O Power Cooperative's digger truck, which allowed the crew to reach work from the road and stay out of wet ditches due to the heavy spring rain.

Following this year's construction, OEC's overhead will be more than 95 percent replaced since 2015 and our three phase underground circuits will be from 1984 or newer.

### "All of the Above" Strategies

OEC's Regional Transmission Operator (RTO), Southwest Power Pool (SPP), is responsible for coordinating electric reliability in a 14-state area in the central United States. The SPP expects to have enough generation to meet energy demand despite higher regional

temperatures this summer. SPP's analysis considers factors such as historical and predicted future electricity use, weather forecasts, the variability of available wind energy, drought conditions and generation and transmission outages. SPP states: "There is a 90% probability of SPP serving all loads during summer peak usage hours".

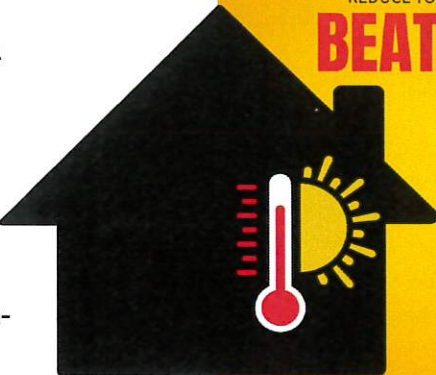
Concerns continue with retirements and EPA rules for coal and gas fired power plants. These types of generation are base load generation, meaning they are meant to run at a very high-capacity factor to keep the lights on. While both wind and solar assets play an important role, they are interruptible generation due to lack of wind or sunshine.

OEC, IAEC (Statewide Association) and Basin Electric will continue talking with legislators about the importance of coal and gas generation for reliable service and reasonable costs while being environmentally responsible. An "All of the Above" approach to keep the lights on.

**Have a SAFE summer with family and friends.**

REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USAGE TO HELP

## BEAT THE PEAK



- ☒ Turn off and unplug any unnecessary lights or electronics.
- ☒ Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out.
- ☒ Set your thermostat a few degrees higher.
- ☒ Wait to run the dishwasher or do laundry until late in the evening.

Safe  
Electricity.org



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source:  
[homesandgardens.com](http://homesandgardens.com)

## 'Summer' School: Lessons on Keeping Cool

School may be out for the summer, but here's a test: On a hot day, will setting the thermostat at a very low temperature cool your house faster?

If you answered yes, you're in need of summer school. Lowering the thermostat beyond the temperature you desire only makes your air conditioner run longer, not faster. You could end up paying more money for an uncomfortably chilly house.

Here are a few more lessons to add to your air conditioning know-how:

☼ Want to pay to be cool only when you're at home? Install a programmable thermostat, which lets you set the thermostat higher for hours when the house is empty, but lower during your at-home hours. It takes less energy to re-cool your home when you return than it does to keep it cool while you're gone.

☼ Set the thermostat at 78 degrees. You'll save about 15 percent on your cooling bill over a 72-degree setting, while remaining comfortable. **39981**

☼ Keep lamps and other heat-emitting devices—like TVs and large electronics—away from the thermostat. Such appliances can trick the thermostat into "thinking" the air is warmer than it really is so it should keep running when the house is already cool.

☼ The morning sun might help you wake up, but don't forget to close your curtains and window shades before you leave the house for the day to keep the sun's heat out.

☼ If you use room air conditioners, make sure they fit snugly into window frames, and close all heating ducts.

## Keep the Power on and the Fires Out

July is a month for camping trips and celebrating the nation's independence. What do the two have in common? Fire. Unsafe campfire practice and illegal fireworks can both lead to brushfires—and those brushfires can cause power outages.

Along with endless other safety concerns, heat from brushfires can damage electrical lines and equipment, causing major power problems. Even smoke and ash can cause a high-voltage transmission line to trip, leaving sections of the power grid without power.

Summer dryness increases the chance of wildfires, but so do unsafe practices. During

Fourth of July celebrations, use only legal fireworks and sparklers, and use them on concrete or pavement rather than dry grass. Never let children handle fireworks; they can burn!

When making a campfire, keep a bucket of water nearby to control a spreading fire. Make a fire pit surrounded by rocks, not wood, and clear away leaves and other flammable materials that quickly spread flame. Never leave a campsite with a burning fire. Quench the fire with water to ensure the damp ashes cannot re-light.

Keep the power going and the community safe by practicing fire safety this month.

# COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

### WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

### CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

### ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines. **3961**

### Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.