



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



July 2025

Contact Us

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

Online:

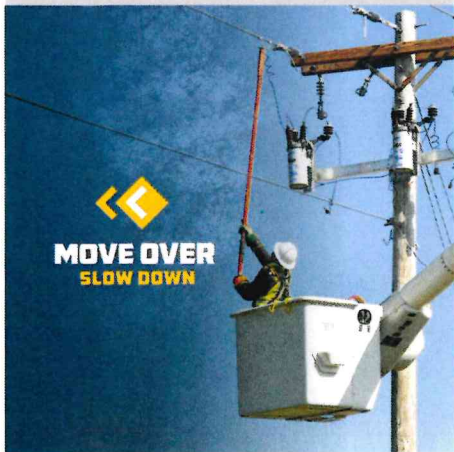
osceolaelectric.com

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 Fajita Recipe for consideration to be printed in our August Newsletter. Submission deadline is July 20. Printed recipes are worth \$10 bill credit.



Culture of Care



Jeff TenNapel,
General Manager

There are a lot of things to pay attention to when driving. Iowa winter driving is a challenge with snow or black ice; caution is always in the forefront of drivers minds. Summer is no picnic either. Farming is in full swing April – October, road construction causes delays and vacation traffic makes the roads even busier.

Iowa's Move-Over law has been on the books since 2002. It requires Iowa motorists to change lanes or slow down (if changing lanes is not possible) when approaching a vehicle on the shoulder displaying flashing lights.

Osceola Electric Cooperative's linemen work along the road daily. That is possibly the most dangerous part of the job and yes, they work with high-voltage overhead and underground lines.

On Thursday, April 24 four utility workers were killed and two severely injured on the roadside doing power work for Carolina Power. A dump truck driver ran a stop sign and hit six people, continuing on to hit an occupied bucket truck, and eventually crashing into a ditch. There are no words to express the sadness I felt reading about this horrible incident.

While we don't know the details of what

led to the crash, it serves as a stark reminder that those who work on the roadside are often in danger. OEC employees routinely work roadside and are witness to drivers who don't even notice they are there despite flashing lights, safety cones and signs.

Please Take the Time. Every Time! Slow down near roadside work zones. Give yourself extra time to travel and expect and plan for delays during construction months. Please keep your eyes on the road, not on phones checking messages or texting. It can wait – that text is not worth someone's life.

There is nothing more important to us than safety. It isn't a program, it isn't a campaign, it isn't even a strategy. It's a culture – a culture that is ingrained in each of our employees. We work to live that culture every day and share it with YOU, our members. At the end of the day, our safety culture is centered around caring for others.

Please join our culture of care and be vigilant as you pass through roadside work zones. OEC employee lives are on the line.

Member Appreciation Supper

Keep August 11 open for our 3rd Annual Member Appreciation Supper. The meal will be served from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We also plan to highlight and assist members with downloading our new Osceola Electric Mobile App. Prizes will be drawn for both current members and young future members.

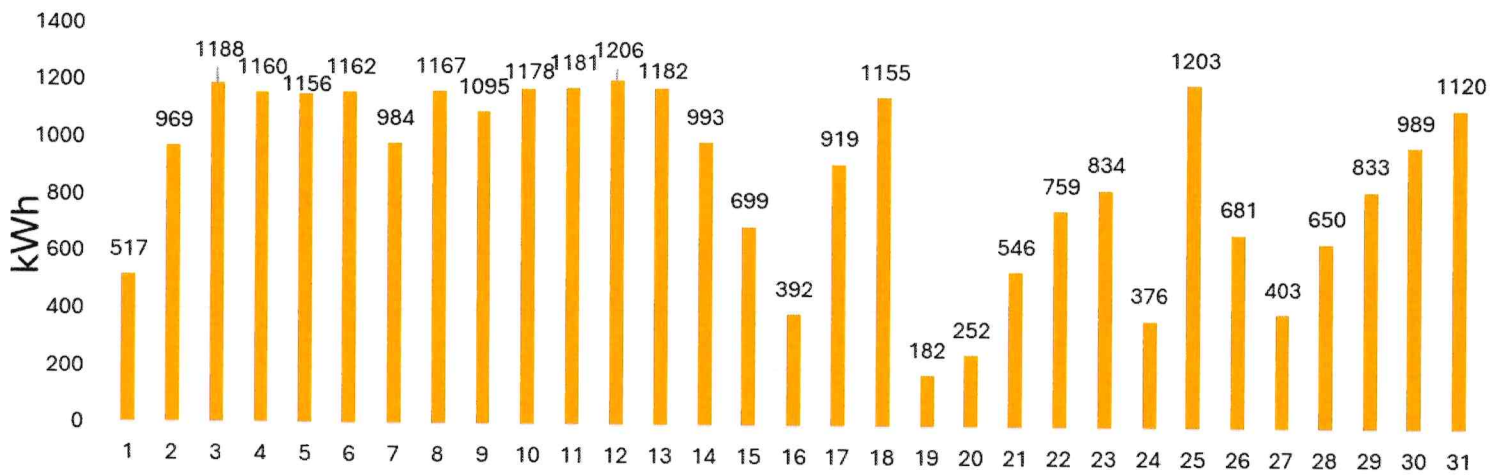
Please have a fun, and **SAFE** summer!

TAKE THE TIME. EVERY TIME.

1. Hands on the wheel
2. Eyes on the road
3. Slow down near utility work zones



May 2025 Solar Park Production

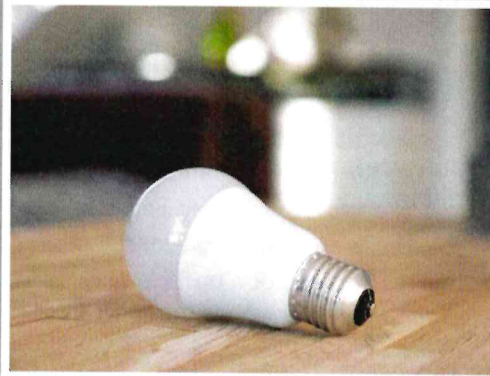


Be Smart With Lighting on Long Summer Days

Summer brings longer days and more natural light, but that doesn't mean your lighting habits can't affect your energy use. Efficient lighting choices and smarter habits can help you take full advantage of daylight while minimizing electricity costs.

Make the most of your summer lighting. Here's how:

- Use daylight whenever possible. Open curtains or blinds during the morning and early evening.
- If you're still using old incandescent light bulbs, replace them with LEDs, which use up to 80% less energy and last longer.



- Install dimmer switches or motion sensors to reduce wasted light in unused spaces.

- Encourage kids to turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Use outdoor solar lights or energy-efficient landscape lighting for evening illumination.
- Keep light fixtures and bulbs clean to ensure maximum brightness and efficiency.

Small changes in lighting can lead to noticeable reductions in energy use, especially when lights stay on longer during family-filled summer days. Smart lighting doesn't just save energy—it creates a more comfortable, better-lit home environment.

Do Your Own Summer Energy Audit

A do-it-yourself home energy audit is a great way to identify where your home is losing power—and discover simple fixes that can save you money. Here's how to get started:

- Check for air leaks: Inspect windows, doors and attic hatches for drafts. If you find any gaps, seal them with weatherstripping or caulk to prevent cool air from escaping.
- Inspect attic insulation. Proper insulation helps keep your home cool in summer and warm in winter. If the insulation is sparse or uneven, it may be time to add more to keep your home comfortable and energy efficient.
- Review your lighting. Replace any leftover incandescent bulbs in your

home fixtures with energy-efficient LEDs. These use up to 80% less energy and last longer, saving you money in the long run.

- Evaluate your appliances. Older appliances consume more energy. If your fridge, washer or air conditioner is outdated, it might be time to upgrade to a more energy-efficient model.
- Track your energy use. Ask your electric cooperative about smart meters or online tools that let you monitor your energy consumption. This can help you identify patterns and areas to improve.

By completing a simple energy audit this summer, you can reduce energy waste and

set yourself up for year-round savings. For a more in-depth evaluation, consider scheduling a professional energy audit.



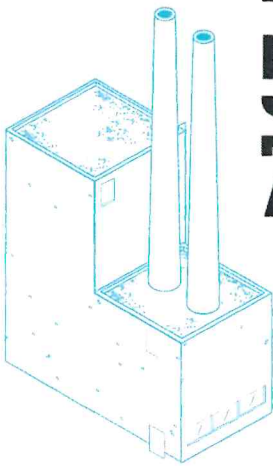
The Power Gap

Third in a series

Increases in data centers, electrification, new manufacturing and other facets of the economy are expected to drive up U.S. peak demand for electricity by more than 38 gigawatts over the next four years. While meeting that demand will likely require a combination of new power plants, grid upgrades, energy storage and demand management, here's a look at how much generation would be needed to fill the gap.

Firm Power

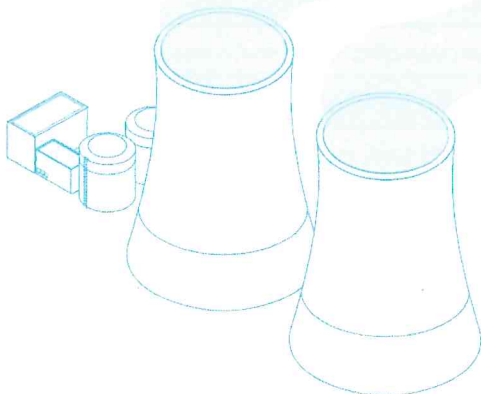
Fossil Fuel Plants



50 average-sized coal plants
75 average gas plants

Nuclear

38 average nuclear plants

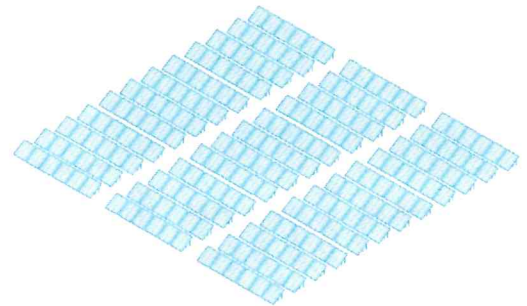


Intermittent Power

Solar

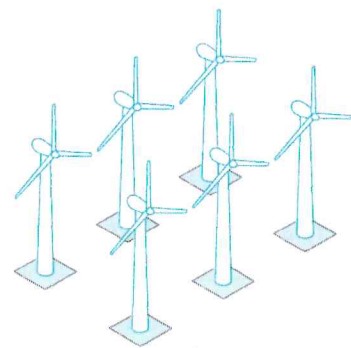
127,000,000 solar panels*

At ~6 acres per megawatt, this would require 228,000 acres (or 356 square miles) of land.

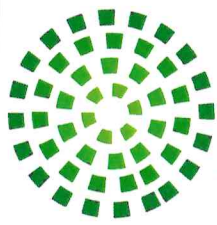


Wind

15,000 modern wind turbines*



* Low capacity factor for solar (15-30%) and wind (30-40%) means facilities would need to be significantly overbuilt and incorporate large amounts of storage to preserve reliability.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: *energy.gov*

August 2025

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Save the Date!

Mark August 11, 2025 on the calendar for Osceola Electric Cooperative's 3rd Annual Member Appreciation Supper.

Have supper on us and enjoy an evening of fellowship and prizes at the Osceola Electric Cooperative Office. Burgers will be served from 5 pm to 7 pm as a thank you for your membership!

Honoring 15 Years of Service

At Osceola Electric Cooperative, we believe our strength lies in the dedication and hard work of our employees.

Recently, Line Crew Leader, Lance Groen celebrated 15 years of commitment to safety, reliability, and teamwork as a valued employee at OEC.

Since joining our cooperative in 2010, Lance has answered the call when the lights go out, often working in challenging weather and hazardous conditions to restore service quickly.



Congratulations, Lance—we look forward to celebrating even more accomplishments along the way!

Coming Soon!

OEC Web Portal and Mobile App

- >Online Bill Payments
- >Convenient and Secure
- >Easy to Use
- >Easy Account Management Tools

- >View Usage
- >View Statements
- >View Past Payments



Manage your utilities
the way you want
**anytime,
anywhere.**

OEC Quiz

Send in your completed quiz for your chance to win!
OEC will draw 3 members to receive \$10 credit towards their electric bill. Congratulations to last month's winners: Maurice Heilman, Judith Dau, & Doug Fischer.

- The Member Appreciation Supper will be held August _____, 2025 from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm.
- 127,000,000 solar panels would require _____ square miles of land.
- The Solar Park produced _____ kWh on the 12th of May.

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Operating Statistics

May

	2024	2025
Billed consumers, farm	1,115	1,152
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	122	125
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,240,962	2,181,172
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	6,988,203	5,331,599
Average consumption, farm	1,940	1,893
Average Consumption, non-farm	57,280	42,652
Average statement, farm	\$233.06	\$241.61
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$4,205.86	\$3,485.18
Total minimum bills	25	19
Outage time per consumer—minutes	11 5/6	1/2
Annual Meeting	March 2026	