



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



November 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 emergency type calls only.

### Online:

osceolaelectric.com

## Patronage Payment & Allocation Notices

### HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

 <p><b>1</b> We track your business with us (energy use and paid bills) each month.</p>	 <p><b>2</b> We pay operating expenses throughout the year &amp; set aside any leftover revenue.</p>
 <p><b>3</b> When financial conditions allow, the board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to members.</p>	 <p><b>4</b> We send your allocation (share) of capital credits as a bill credit or check.</p>

When you signed up for electric service from Osceola Electric Cooperative, you became a member-consumer of a not-for-profit business. At the same time, you became an owner of the cooperative. As a result, anytime the cooperative has margins, they are allocated to the member-consumers and eventually retired.

Recently, OEC Board of Directors approved staff to pay \$150,221.15 back to our members. This year's retirement covers the remaining balance of 2009 and 31% of 2010 and comes from Osceola and L&O

categories. The amount of credit you receive is determined by the years you were a member, as well as the amount of energy you purchased during those years.

The member allocation notice, and patronage refund checks are printed on one form.

The top portion of the form is a snapshot of your Retirement Summary. This shows each member the amount of money in 3 categories: Co-op Allocation, L&O Allocation, and Basin Allocation.

The middle portion of the form is the 2023 Allocation Notice. The allocation is broken down into 3 categories that make up the total for the year.

The bottom portion of the form is the check to be cashed. Active members with patronage \$20 or less will receive a bill credit reflected on their November electric statement. **46591**

For those who have been members for less than 13 years a one-page Allocation Notice of 2023 Allocations will be mailed.

Checks and Allocation Notices are scheduled to be mailed in November.

## 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.

## 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 a \$10 bill credit.



## Understanding Energy Demand

Electric energy demand (measured in kilowatts or kW) is the amount of power needed to supply every electrical device running in your home at a specific point in time. Think about it like your Internet service. When one person streams a movie or television show on a device in your home, the stream works perfectly. But as additional people in your home attempt to stream video at the same time, more bandwidth is needed to accommodate everyone using the service.

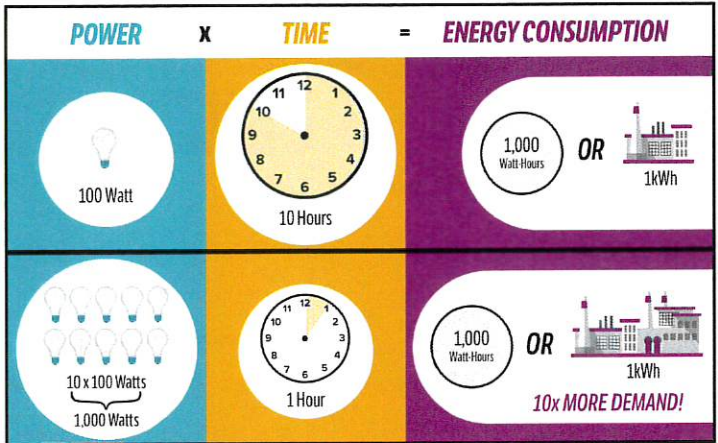
Electricity demand (kW) is similar. As more appliances in your home run simultaneously, your demand for power increases. For example, ten 100-watt light bulbs demand 1,000-watts (1 kilowatt) of electricity (10x100) to stay lit.

Certain appliances – such as HVAC units, electric ovens, and electric clothes dryers – demand significant power from the grid. The higher the demand for energy placed on Osceola Electric and its power supplier during peak times of the month, the higher the expenses are for your cooperative. This in turn drives up the cost for all members. **47545** That's why not running all of your electrical devices at the same time is important to minimize the Demand Charge from our power supplier.

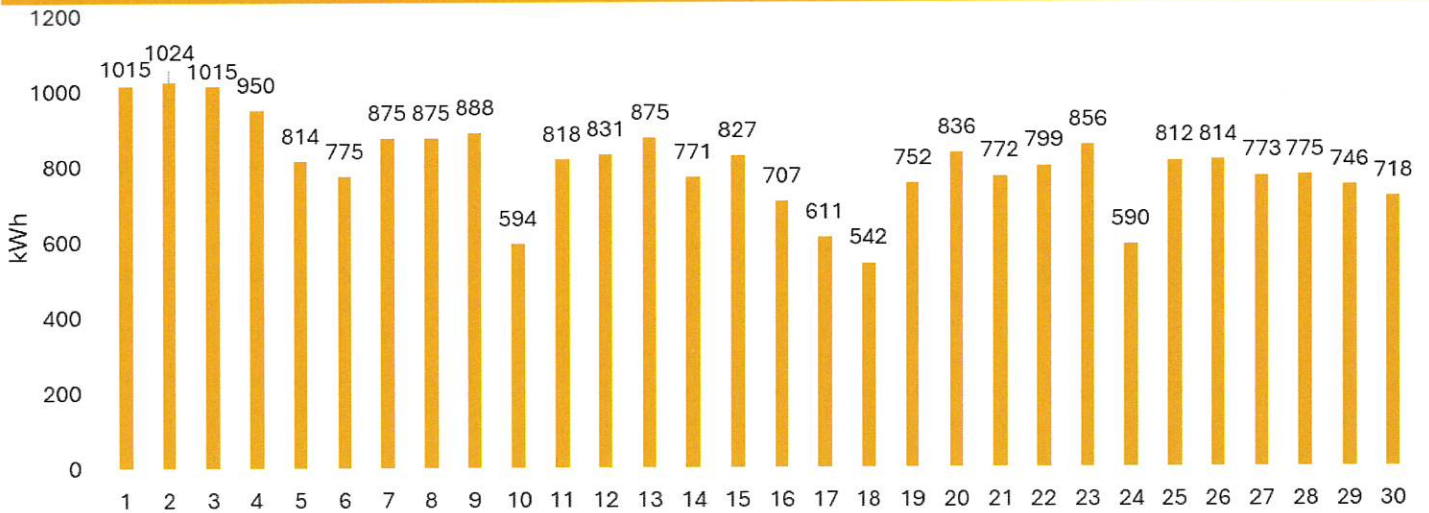
The Peak Demand window for Osceola Electric is generally

from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., when families return home from work or school, cook dinner, and use their appliances the most. Using electricity during this peak demand period often costs more for Osceola Electric and ultimately for you, our members.

The graphic below illustrates more demand requires more resources. Managing kW demand has a positive effect on the power grid.



## September 2024 Solar Park Production



## Operating Statistics for September 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Billed consumers, farm .....	1,148	1,153
Billed consumers, non-farm and others.....	121	123
Kilowatts sold, farm.....	2,362,195	2,434,844
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others .....	6,803,178	7,644,179
Average consumption, farm.....	2,058	2,112
Average consumption, non-farm and others .....	56,225	62,148
Average statement, farm.....	\$235.67	\$248.62
Average statement, non-farm and others.....	\$3,994.40	\$4,535.25
Total minimum bills .....	21	21
Outage time per consumer—minutes.....	5 2/9	8
Energy efficiency added per KWH .....		0.00022
Annual meeting date.....	March 2025	

## Manager's Report



**Jeff TenNapel,  
General Manager**

### FEMA Fall Construction

Earlier in the year Highline Construction crews from Paynesville, MN, began working in the county to complete the overhead portion of Osceola Electric Cooperative's two FEMA mitigation projects. Loosbrock Digging from Lismore, MN, completed the underground portions. In October, Highline crews came back to complete the cutovers from overhead to underground and retire overhead lines.

Beginning in 2015 OEC leveraged FEMA mitigation funding to complete 53 miles of construction. Following this round of projects OEC's overhead is more than 95 percent rebuilt with larger poles, aluminum wire, and shorter spans.

In the past nine years your board and staff have completed fifteen million dollars of construction projects while increasing our debt by only three million dollars.

We would like to thank our members for their cooperation and understanding during these extremely busy years. Talking with construction crews, they all speak to our accommodating, friendly members and the appreciation you expressed.

### OEC URD Construction

During this busy fall Loosbrock Digging completed eight miles of underground 3-phase, these miles replace 1978 to 1980 installed cable. Six miles were east of Melvin and south of May City in Baker & Harrison Townships. Two miles were installed east of Sibley in Viola & West Holman Townships. Also, a 3-phase mile of overhead was converted to underground for added services for Rural Water wells east of May City.



**Loosbrock Digging crews bore in the underground wire.**

### OEC Crews

OEC Crews have been busy this year installing new services, providing upgrades, and rebuilding a couple of miles of single-phase line. Crews have been busy on the six miles of the old "Bigelow" line and welcoming in nine new members which OEC has acquired – some rebuilding and retiring has and will take place this fall as we tie this three-phase line into our system.

### OEC Rates

The board and staff have been working on this issue since increases were announced this summer by both WAPA and Basin. Historically, OEC has had a two-part bill (service charge and energy charges). We have explored moving to a three-part bill (service charge, energy and demand charges). Today, OEC's wholesale power bill is fifty-seven percent energy and forth-three percent demand. Our larger customers have been billed demand since conception. Billing single-phase customers demand is not new and is becoming more the norm. Why? It is the fairest way to bill electrical usage. Everyone is charged for the energy they use (kWh charge or energy) and demand or stress they put on the system (kW charge or demand). The last three years we have been putting articles in this newsletter to inform members about demand and the stress it puts on OEC's electrical system. We will keep you updated on the decision the board and staff will make next month on future billing structures.

Harvest is in full swing; I would like to wish our local farmers, who feed the world, a successful and safe fall during this extremely busy time. I have seen and heard stories of kids and grandchildren riding with parents and grandparents in tractors and combines. It must be very rewarding seeing the next two or three generations working the land side by side. **BE SAFE**



**OEC linemen, work with Loosbrock Digging crews to tie in the services.**



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

## Recipe

### Slow Cooker Recipe

#### Barbecued Liver Denise Anderson

2-2 ½ lbs beef liver cut in ½ by 2 inch strips  
1 medium onion, thinly sliced  
1 tsp garlic salt  
¼ tsp pepper  
½ tsp paprika  
1 cup barbecue sauce

Combine all ingredients in crock-pot. Stir to blend well. Cover and cook on low 7-9 hours (high 2 ½-3 ½ hours)

## Powering Lives, Empowering Communities:

### The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives Chapter 3: Economic Engines of Progress

Electric cooperatives do more than just provide power. We also invest heavily in economic development efforts throughout rural Iowa.

For the five years ending in 2022, Iowa electric co-ops had an impressive impact of \$4.7 billion in economic development projects. These investments supported more than 7,300 jobs (retained, attracted or expanded) during that same time period.

Over a recent 5-year period, Iowa's electric cooperatives produced \$688 million in wages and salaries. We also generated self-employment income of almost \$232 million during that same time span.

Electric cooperatives have a long legacy of partnering with USDA Rural Development and USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Iowa's electric co-ops are proud to serve as intermediaries for USDA revolving loan funds, among other programs and projects. Just a few of the community projects Osceola Electric has assisted

with are Heartwood Heights, Hope Haven, Osceola County, and Osceola Regional Hospital.

Additionally, several Iowa electric co-ops have been instrumental in developing industrial speculative buildings to accommodate local business expansion and attract new businesses and jobs to their communities.

Osceola Electric Cooperative is also proud to partner with Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) for rural economic development support. Founded almost 40 years ago, IADG provides business and community project support on behalf of over 150 Iowa electric and telecommunications utilities. IADG has assisted with over 2,550 projects that have created or retained at least 62,000 jobs throughout the state.

Investing in economic development is one important way Osceola Electric Cooperative proudly supports the local communities we serve.

## Safety

At Osceola Electric Cooperative we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety. Each month OEC staff participate in safety training. Recent topics of safety were fire safety and prevention, emergency procedures, and pole top rescue.

Pictured OEC linemen participate in a pole top rescue scenario. In this safety simulation, linemen must climb the pole, secure a rope around a 150-pound dummy, lower it to the ground and begin lifesaving procedures. This rescue is just one part in the rigorous training linemen go through to ensure safety for all.

Also pictured OEC Billing Clerk, Sandy Heronimus proves her ability to use a fire extinguisher to put out a transformer fire.

