Osceola Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

November 2026

Office:
1102 Egret Drive
PO Box 127
Sibley, IA 51249

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

Phone:
712-754-2519
Toll Free: 888-754-2519

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

Online:
www.osceolaelectric.com

Annual Meeting: March 2027

Take the Quiz

Read through the newsletter and submit the quiz on the back for a chance to win a $10 bill credit. You can also email your answers to info@osceolaelectric.com

OEC Recipes

Submit your favorite Breakfast Recipe for consideration to be printed in our February Newsletter. Submission deadline is January 20. Printed Recipes are worth $10 bill credit.

Safety at OEC

In October, Osceola Electric Cooperative staff participated in training to ensure quick and calm action in a situation where a lineman is incapacitated atop a power pole.

In this pole top rescue exercise linemen climb the pole, secure a rope around a 150-pound dummy, and return safely to the ground to give appropriate medical attention.

Meanwhile, the office staff practiced answering mayday calls and rehearsed making a call to emergency services to get an ambulance in route if needed.

Safety is critical to Osceola Electric Cooperative's operation and is an integral part of our daily routine. These monthly safety meetings allow time to discuss important topics and be prepared.

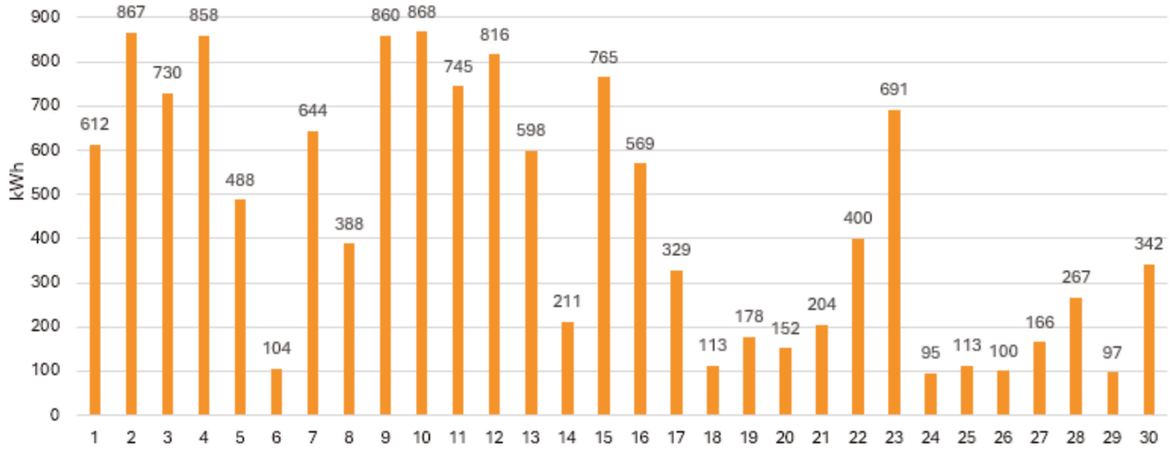
Pictured below Keagan used the bucket to set up the dummy for the rescue, and Judd proved his ability to climb the pole and lower the dummy to safety.







September 2026 Solar Production



Holiday Cooking: Save Energy in the Kitchen

During the holiday season, you may spend more time cooking, baking and prepping for family and friends. A few small changes can help you save energy, lower utility costs and keep your kitchen running efficiently.

Saving energy in the kitchen starts with using the right appliance for the job, keeping equipment in good condition and making simple changes to everyday cooking habits.



Cooking and prep

- **Use small appliances when possible.** Choose an air fryer, microwave, slow cooker or toaster oven for small meals or side dishes. They often use less energy than a full-size oven.
- **Keep the stove top clean.** Clean burners and surfaces help heat transfer evenly.
- **Match the pan to the burner.** Using a small pan on a large burner wastes heat. Choose a burner that closely matches the size of the pan.
- **Cover pots and pans.** Lids keep heat inside, help water boil faster and allow food to cook evenly at lower settings.
- **Keep the oven door closed.** Use the oven light instead of opening the door to check on food. Opening the door lets heat escape and makes the oven work harder.
- **Thaw frozen foods ahead of time.** Move frozen foods to the refrigerator in advance to avoid microwave defrosting.
- **Cook more at once.** Bake multiple dishes together when possible and make larger portions to freeze for later.
- **Cut food into small pieces.** Small pieces of vegetables and meat cook faster and more evenly than large ones.
- **Skip the self-cleaning cycle.** Use it sparingly, since it requires very high heat and uses extra energy.
- **Turn down the thermostat while cooking.** Cooking and baking can warm your home quickly, especially when guests are gathered.

Refrigeration

- **Let leftovers cool slightly.** Allow hot foods to cool before refrigerating (but do not leave them out too long). This keeps your refrigerator from working harder to cool warm food.
- **Check the door seal.** Make sure the refrigerator door closes tightly. Test the seal by closing the door on a dollar bill. If it slides out easily, the gasket may need to be replaced.
- **Prevent frost buildup.** Too much frost can make the freezer work harder to maintain the right temperature.
- **Keep it full, but not crowded.** Refrigerators work best when cold air can circulate.

Dish Washing

- **Run full loads.** Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it to make the most of each cycle.
- **Skip heated dry.** Use the air-dry or eco-mode setting to dry dishes while reducing energy use.

Small changes in how you cook, cool and clean up can help save energy, no matter the season.

Manager's Report



Jeff TenNapel,
General Manager

Osceola Electric Cooperative's (OEC) wholesale power providers, L&O Power Cooperative, wheels power to OEC from Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) and Western Area Power Association (WAPA) hydro power. In September, the BEPC Board of Directors authorized a rate increase for 2027, this will be the third increase since 2025. As of the printing of this publication we know BEPC is increasing rates by 7.8 percent. L&O is also looking at increasing costs another 1 to 2 percent, those costs are not yet known.

Since 2020 OEC Board and Staff has chosen to keep rate increases as minimal as possible, while still meeting banking ratios. So, we have found ourselves chasing wholesale increases vs increasing OEC rate at a larger number and growing into the wholesale increases over a number of years. In having this philosophy along with BEPC, L&O and WAPA increasing wholesale rates almost 30 percent in the last three years OEC finds itself doing annual increases. Unfortunately, here we are again.

The current Administration is helping coal, natural gas and is working to accelerate nuclear power, which is not yet financially viable because of BEPC's ample supply of coal and natural gas. However, it takes time to unwind policies from prior Administrations.

These complicated issues involve a number of moving parts, many of which we have talked about in previous newsletters.

Wind and solar has a place and is a valuable part of the "All the Above" campaign regarding generation sources, but they are not 24/7 generation and need to be backed up with coal or natural gas. We have had Administrations, in the past, with the thought that these sources could carry the whole load. Factoring in today's technology, battery costs and availability, wind and solar can not carry the whole load. This has put the country behind in building generation with concrete and steel in the ground.

To add to those challenges we are seeing growth in artificial intelligence (AI), data centers and crypto mining at historical measures.

Transmission is also behind on capacity and working to build out new lines. They are meeting headwinds with the "not in my backyard" movement. Also, costs have doubled for building materials since 2020.

BEPC is growing at 150 megawatts (MW) per year, which has led BEPC to build the Bison Power Plant, a 1.5 gigawatt (GW) natural gas fired power plant. Plans are to have half of Bison up and running in 2029 and the balance in early 2030's. Bison Power Plant will help increase demand and energy production under BEPC control to its membership.

The reality is that there is no single cause behind the increase in wholesale power costs – it's the result of a combination of market forces, policy decisions, infrastructure needs and changing patterns of electricity use. While we can't control these external pressures your cooperative leaders will continue working to manage costs, advocate for an "All the Above" balanced energy mix and make strategic investments that protect both reliability and affordability for our members.

The Cooperative Family's mission remains the same as it has always been: to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Yes, the challenges may be different and greater today than in the past, but our commitment to serving rural Iowa will not change.

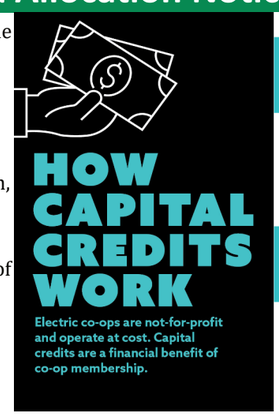
Patronage Payment & Allocation Notices

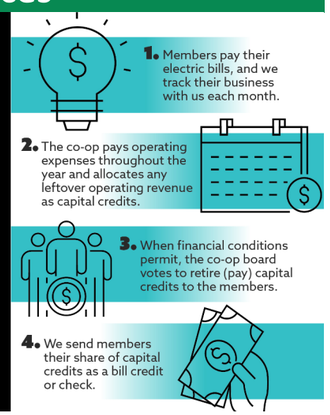
When you signed up for electric service from Osceola Electric Cooperative, you became a member-consumer of a not-for-profit business. At the same time, you became an owner of the cooperative. As a result, anytime the cooperative has margins, they are allocated to the member-consumers and eventually retired.

Recently, OEC Board of Directors approved staff to pay $150,025.29 back to our members. This year's retirement covers the remaining balance of 2011, 2012, and 49% of 2013 and comes from the OEC bucket. 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 buckets: OEC Allocation, L&O Allocation, and Basin Allocation.





The middle portion of the form is the 2025 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.

For those who have been members for less than 13 years a one-page Allocation Notice of 2025 Allocations will be mailed.

Patronage payments and Allocation Notices are scheduled to be mailed in November.

Thinking About Plug-In Solar?



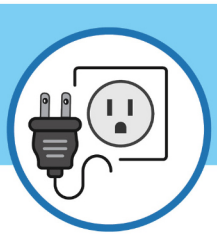
Looks Simple

Plug-in solar systems are marketed as DIY products that plug into a standard wall outlet to help reduce your electric bill.

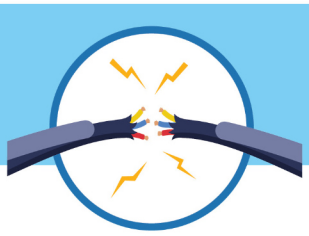
What You Should Know

Plug-in solar systems may look simple, but they come with important safety and financial considerations.

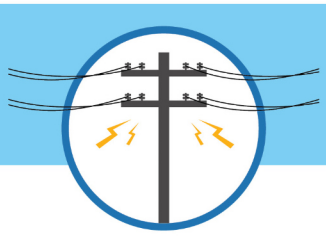
Important Considerations Before You Buy:



1. Your home's electrical wiring may not be suitable for plug-in solar. Systems must be connected to a GFCI outlet on a dedicated circuit.



2. Improper installation or use may overheat wiring causing shock or fire hazards.



3. Electricity can flow back onto power lines if the panels aren't properly managed, creating dangerous shock hazards for lineworkers.



4. Solar panels continue producing electricity in sunlight. An unplugged system could still be energized.



5. Plug-in solar systems do not require professional installation, making it important to keep safety in mind.



6. Plug-in solar systems can cost $500-$1,000+ but may only save 40-80 cents per day, depending on conditions.

Cheeseball
by Brenda Mattheis



2 pkg cream cheese (softened)

1 small yellow onion

1/2 tsp garlic salt

12 oz cheddar cheese

2 tbs Worcestershire sauce

Mix, form into a ball and refrigerate. Serve with crackers.

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: Michael Bosma, Richard Rudlaff, and Steve Laverman.

1. When cooking, the pan should be matched to the size of the _____.
2. If plug-in solar is installed incorrectly it can cause a _____ or _____.
3. Getting an incapacitated lineman down from a pole is called _____ _____ _____.

Name: _____

Account #:_____

Operating Statistics

September	2025	2026
Single Phase Consumers	1,153	1,156
Commercial Consumers	124	123
kWh Sold, Single Phase	2,292,952	2,369,657
kWh Sold, Commercial	7,288,796	4,809,725
KW Sold, Single Phase	11,091	10,953
KW Sold, Commercial	9,929	9,898
Average Single Phase Consumption	1,989	2,050
Average Commercial Consumption	58,781	39,103
Average Single Phase Statement	$262.58	$292.11
Average Commercial Statement	$4,762.19	$4,036.17
Outage Time Per Member	1/2	5 4/7