



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



October 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

## 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 Slow Cooker Recipes for consideration to be printed in our November Newsletter. Submission deadline is October 20. Printed recipes are worth a \$10 bill credit.

## Powering Lives, Empowering Communities:

*The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives  
Chapter 2: Empowering Communities*

For over 85 years, electric cooperatives have contributed greatly to the local communities we serve by providing stable careers, paying taxes, returning surplus capital to members and investing in student programs.

Electric cooperatives directly support almost 2,000 full-time jobs in Iowa. These jobs offer Iowans dependable careers with competitive wages and benefits in an exciting industry. Many co-op employees choose to raise families in small-town environments and are actively involved in their communities.

Collectively, Iowa's electric cooperatives pay almost \$29 million in local and state taxes each year. These taxes help fund local emergency services, road maintenance, healthcare and public schools throughout the area.

Because electric co-ops are member owned, our members build equity in the local co-op each year based on their electric use. Surplus capital is returned to members over time when local boards determine it is

financially feasible. To date, Iowans have received more than \$300 million in retired capital credits from their electric cooperatives.

We invest in the next generation Iowans through several educational and leadership development programs for students. Over the past 65 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sent more than 2,500 students from Iowa high schools to Washington, D.C., for the annual Youth Tour program. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, students learn more about their role as American citizens and the cooperative business model. Electric co-ops also support local students through college scholarships and internships.



## Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 07/01/2023-06/30/2024

Osceola County: building, poles, & wire	\$38,644.00
O'Brien County: poles & wire	\$92.00
Lyon County: poles & wire	\$122.00
Dickinson County: poles & wire	\$197.00
<b>Total Taxes Paid</b>	<b>\$39,055.00</b>



## Understanding Peak Demand

Electricity use doesn't remain consistent throughout the day, week, or even month. During times of extremely heavy usage – think hot summer weekday afternoons, when air conditioning units are working their hardest or cold winter mornings when members turn up their heaters to get ready for work or school – a peak system demand occurs.

Peak demand is the amount of capacity required during a thirty minute average when OEC's distribution system experiences the highest demand for power. In addition to being billed for the amount of electricity our members use our power provider, L & O Power Cooperative, also bills OEC each month for this peak demand.

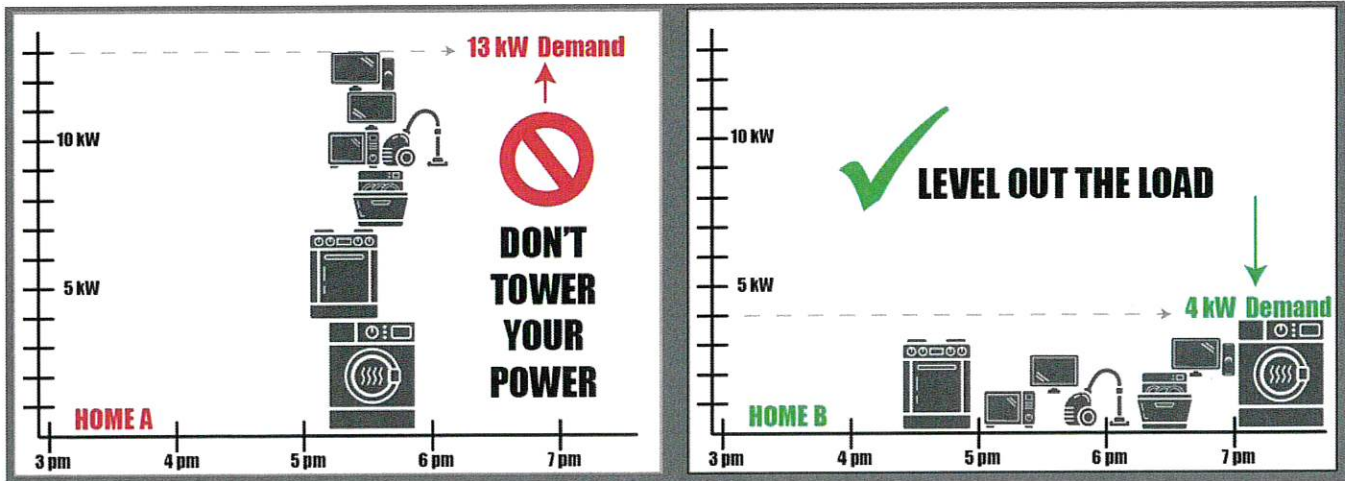
Think of it this way. Imagine a big city highway during rush hour. The highway needs to be large enough for all the cars that are traveling to work to get to their destination in a reasonable amount of time. After studying regular traffic patterns, the engineers build the highway with four or six lanes going each direction. In the mornings and afternoons every lane is filled, and traffic may still be slow. During the night or mid-day, the roads are less congested, but the highway still needs to have the ability to hold all the traffic during peak usage periods. The same is needed for peak electrical usage.

### Why is peak demand important?

Peak demand is important for OEC members to understand, because helping reduce the cooperative's demand saves you money. When OEC can reduce our demand, we purchase less electricity during the peak pricing periods when the cost is significantly higher. Kilowatts purchased during non-peak hours are sold to OEC at a lower price resulting in savings that are passed on to you, our member-owners, in the form of more stable rates. **46700**

### How can you help?

Members can help control costs by monitoring not only how much electricity you use, but when you use it. **3533** Tools, such as programable thermostats and delayed start features on washers, dryers, and dishwashers, make these changes easy. By shifting summer usage to the cooler morning and late evening hours and winter usage to the middle of the day and late evening hours, your reduced demand will enable us to purchase a greater percentage of our needed power at a lower rate. By working together, OEC members can help control costs, keeping rates affordable now and into the future.



## Operating Statistics for August 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Billed consumers, farm .....	1,148	1,154
Billed consumers, non-farm and others.....	122	123
Kilowatts sold, farm.....	2,910,774	2,886,441
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others.....	6,917,512	7,566,473
Average consumption, farm.....	2,536	2,501
Average consumption, non-farm and others .....	56,701	61,516
Average statement, farm.....	\$278.32	\$284.64
Average statement, non-farm and others.....	\$4,056.04	\$4,607.84
Total minimum bills.....	27	19
Outage time per consumer—minutes.....	3 4/9	1 1/6
Energy efficiency added per KWH .....		0.00022
Annual meeting date.....	March 2025	



## Grain Bin Notice

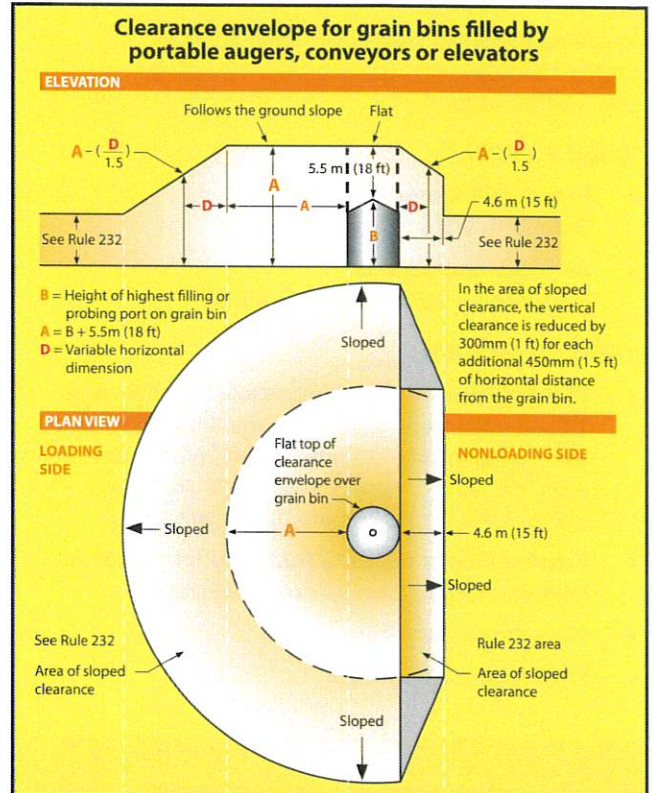
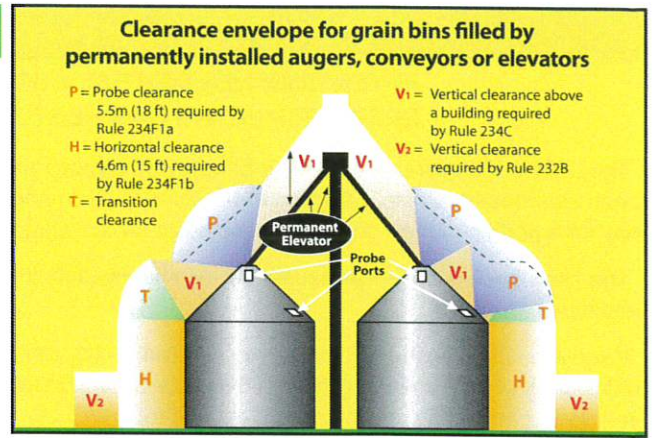
The electric cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

The attachment shows a drawing of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact your electric cooperative.

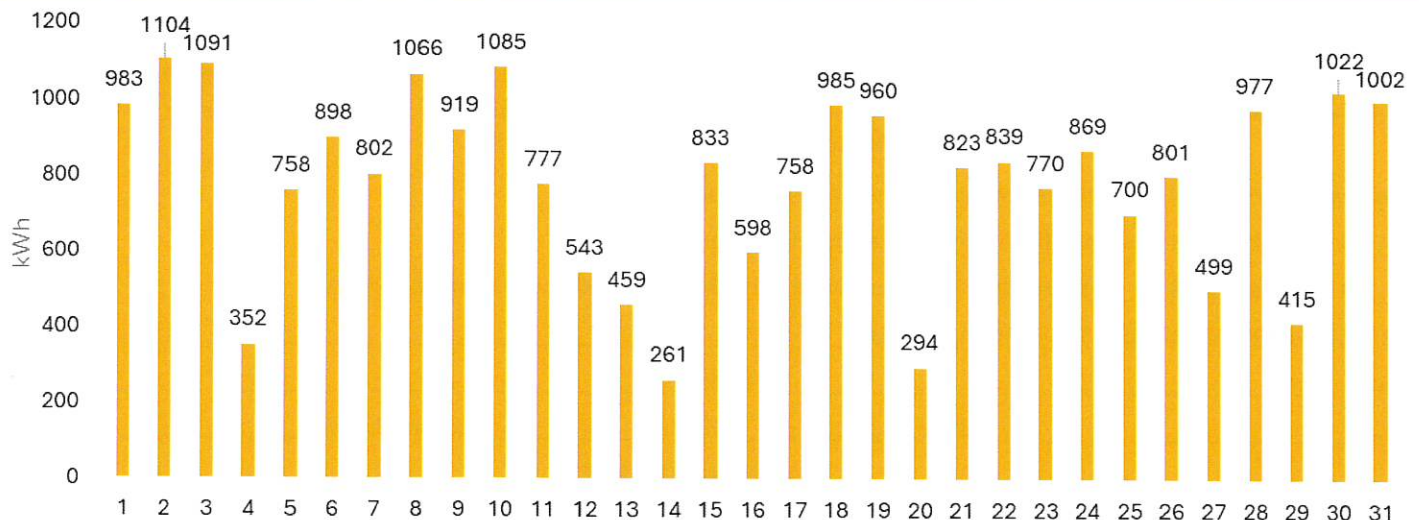
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

The cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call your local electric cooperative.

*Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.*



## August 2024 Solar Park Production





# 2024-2025 Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program

## ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply you can **Dial 2-1-1**, visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap> to locate and contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP  
Iowa Department of Health & Human Services  
Capitol Complex  
Des Moines, IA 50319

### WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**  
October 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025
- **All other households:**  
November 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

### WHAT TO PROVIDE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

### WAGE EARNERS:

Please provide copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

### FIXED INCOME:

This income may include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please provide copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please provide a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

**Note - Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed above may be required for eligibility determination**

### INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$30,120
2	\$40,880
3	\$51,640
4	\$62,400
5	\$73,160
6	\$83,920
7	\$94,680
8	\$105,440

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,760 for each additional member.

## RECare

RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in home weatherization for low income consumers of OEC.

To participate in the RECare program please fill out and mail in the consumer authorization form. You may make a one-time contribution or you may select to contribute monthly with an amount automatically added to your monthly electric bill. **30142** If you participate in a matching fund program please provide that information as well. Even a dollar a month pledge will help.

### Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be billed monthly.

My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to: RECare

Osceola Electric Cooperative, INC., P.O. Box 127, Sibley, IA 51249-0127