



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*The power of human connections®*



October 2025

## Contact Us

### Office:

1102 Egret Drive  
P.O. Box 127  
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

## 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 Rice Casserole Recipe for consideration to be printed in our November Newsletter. Submission deadline is October 20. Printed recipes are worth \$10 bill credit.

**Osceola Electric  
Cooperative  
will be closed  
November 11  
In honor of**

**VETERANS  
DAY**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

## Powered by Purpose



**Jeff TenNapel,**  
General Manager

In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As the GM of Osceola Electric Cooperative, I see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we know how much rising prices affect families

and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, OEC crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, or partnering with volunteer organizations, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought—it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

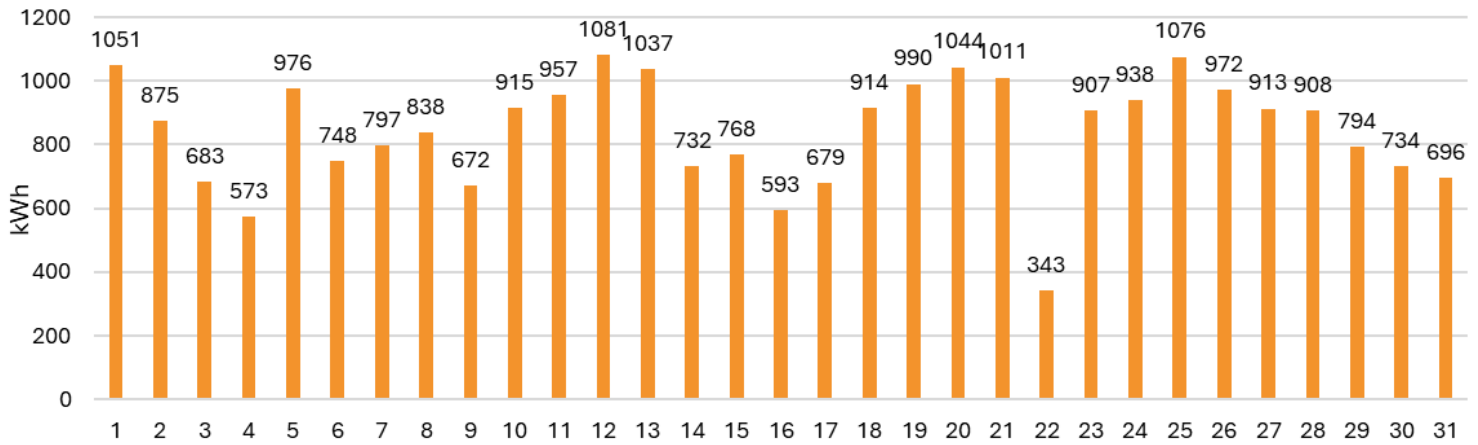
That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer—you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.



## August 2025 Solar Park Production



### Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 07/01/2024-06/30/2025

Osceola County: building, poles, & wire	\$38,333.00
O'Brien County: poles & wire	\$91.00
Lyon County: poles & wire	\$126.00
Dickinson County: poles & wire	\$189.00
<b>Total Taxes Paid</b>	<b>\$38,739.00</b>

### Convenient Ways to Pay

Did you know OEC offers Auto Pay as a convenient way to pay your electric bill? Download the ACH Form at [osceolaelectric.com](http://osceolaelectric.com) or call the office, we'd be happy to mail one out and even include a return envelope.

You can also pay your bill online. Scan the QR Code to access our Web Portal or download the Mobile App.



### 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.

You may make a one-time contribution or you may select to contribute monthly with an amount automatically added to your monthly electric bill. If you participate in a matching fund program please provide

that information as well. Even a dollar a month pledge will help. To participate in the RECare program please fill out and mail in the consumer authorization form.

## RECare Customer Authorization Form

RECare is a voluntary energy assistance program that offers funds to local families who need assistance with their winter heating bills or in weatherization of homes of low income consumers of Osceola Electric Cooperative.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

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

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

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

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

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Mail the completed authorization form to: Osceola Electric RECare, PO Box 127, Sibley, IA, 51249.

Or Email to: [info@osceolaelectric.com](mailto:info@osceolaelectric.com)

## Driving Behind Farm Equipment: Do Your Part



Fall harvest is a busy time. Farmers and workers have big equipment on the road. Navigating

roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

Hundreds of farmers and agricultural workers die from work-related injuries each year. Transportation incidents, which include tractor overturns, are often the leading cause of death.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment operators:

- Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
- Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
- Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
- Take care at railroad crossings.
- Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
- Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
- Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
- Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
- Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto drivers:

- Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
- Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
- When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
- Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
- Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
- Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
- Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
- Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
- Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.

For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org).

# 7 Co-op Principles



## OPEN & VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to everyone who is able to use their services and is willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.



## DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.



## MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperatives.



## AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are independent, self-help organizations controlled by their members.



## EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.



## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.



## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.



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## Basin Bus Tour

Members of Osceola Electric Cooperative recently embarked on an educational journey to Bismarck North Dakota to tour electric generation facilities.

This years tours included the Antelope Valley Station and the Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine. Tours of these facilities deepened members' understanding of how energy reaches them.

Members also enjoyed stops at the Terry Redlin Art Center, the Jamestown Big Buffalo and Fort Mandan. The big tour day wrapped up with a relaxing supper cruise on the Missouri River.

Watch future Newsletters to find out the next tour dates and how you can attend!





# 2025-2026 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**  
October 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026
- **All other households:**  
November 1, 2025 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.**

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

The 2025-2026 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

### INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$31,300
2	\$42,300
3	\$53,300
4	\$64,300
5	\$75,300
6	\$86,300
7	\$97,300
8	\$108,300

For households with more than eight members,  
add \$11,000 for each additional member.

## IOEC Quiz

Send in your completed quiz for your chance to win!  
IOEC will draw 3 members to receive \$10 credit towards their electric bill. Congratulations to last month's winners: Doug Hensch, Lynette Nelson, & Robert Keller

1. OEC and co-ops across the country celebrate National Co-op Month in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. OEC will be closed November \_\_\_\_\_ in observation of Veteran's Day.
3. OEC offers \_\_\_\_\_ as a convenient way to pay your electric bill.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Operating Statistics

### August

	2024	2025
Billed consumers, farm	1,154	1,148
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	123	126
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,886,441	2,672,273
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	7,566,473	7,476,040
Average consumption, farm	2,501	2,328
Average Consumption, non-farm	61,516	59,334
Average statement, farm	285	291
Average statement, non-farm and others	4,608	4,732
Total minimum bills	19	18
Outage time per consumer—minutes	1 1/6	9 4/9
Annual Meeting	March 2026	