



Osceola Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



September 2026

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

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

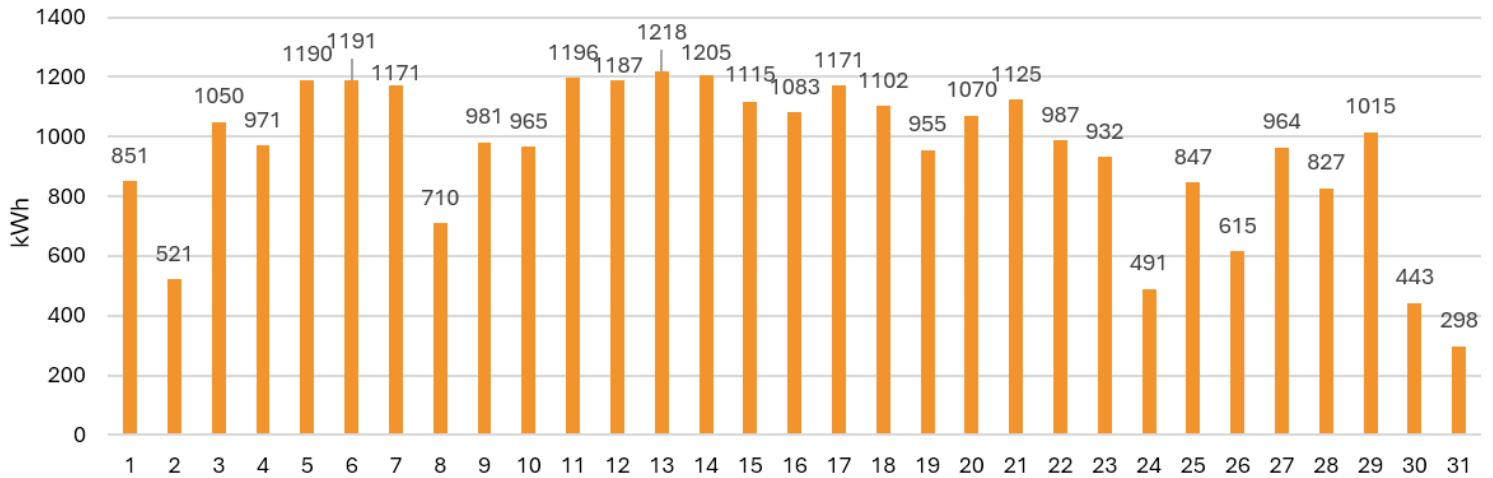
Submit your favorite Appetizer Recipes for consideration to be printed in our November Newsletter. Submission deadline is October 20. Printed recipes are worth \$10 bill credit.



**Thank you for attending
our 2026 Member
Appreciation Event!**



July Solar Park Production



Concern for Community



L & O Power Cooperative is a generation and transmission cooperative which provides wholesale electric power to rural electric cooperatives in Northwest Iowa and Southwest Minnesota. Each year L & O rotates funds to communities within the distribution cooperatives it serves. This year's funds were presented to ATLAS of Osceola County and Bright Beginnings of Osceola County.

We're grateful to have these organizations in our community!

Got a Dollar? Check Your Gasket

Your refrigerator is the ultimate kitchen workhorse—one of the only appliances in your home that has to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Because it never takes a break, even a tiny inefficiency can quietly add up on your monthly utility bill.

If you want to find out if your fridge is leaking expensive cold air into your kitchen, the easiest diagnostic tool is probably sitting right in your wallet. It's called the dollar bill test, and it takes less than ten seconds to do.

Step 1: Open your refrigerator door, place a crisp dollar bill or a slip of paper halfway across the rubber door gasket, and close the door tightly on it.

Step 2: Gently try to pull the dollar bill out.

If you feel a strong drag and the bill resists your pull, your magnetic seal is in great shape.

If the bill slips out easily with little to no resistance, your gasket is failing, and your fridge is working overtime to keep your food cold.

Repeat the test at several different points along the top, bottom and sides of both the fridge and freezer doors.

Before you call an appliance repair tech, try two easy fixes:

- Clean any accumulated dirt and grime off the seal with warm, soapy water. Then rub a very thin line of Vaseline along the hinge side of the gasket. This restores flexibility to the rubber and quickly improves the suction.
- If you notice a specific section of the seal is warped or bent out of shape, grab your hairdryer. On a low-heat setting, gently warm the warped area of the rubber. This softens the material, allowing you to easily mold it back into its correct, flat position with your fingers so it can grab the metal frame again.

No luck? You might need a new gasket.

Safety — Reliability — Affordability



Jeff TenNapel,
General Manager

Safety is Osceola Electric Cooperative's (OEC) first, core value. OEC's most valuable asset is our employees and their safety is a mandate from your Board of Directors. OEC has a

policy, Value Statement on Safety, it reads "OEC shall foster a culture of safety within the organization by training our employees to recognize risk, safeguard themselves, promote safe practices that protect OEC members and others".

Our linemen are in the elements every day, rain or shine, hot and humid, cold and windy. Restoring outages usually during inclement weather. In and out of ditches with grass knee deep hiding those holes that can't be seen. Slip, trips and falls could be a daily occurrence if safety practices are not followed.

Currently we are 2,622 days without a DART (days away, restricted, transferred from work) OSHA reportable. Your Board & CEO want our employees to return home

safely every day, we applaud our staff for taking safety seriously and following our safety procedures and programs.

Reliability – when you flip your light switch, our member owners expect the lights to shine. Most current data show OEC had the light on .9998 percent of the year, our power supplier was responsible for 45% of our down time. OEC will continue to work for that 4th 9.

OEC has invested back into the system to strengthen the backbone. The ice storm of April 2013 started the rebuilding process, OEC worked with FEMA and invested over 10 million dollars into rebuilding. 2015 through 2024 staff worked to replace over 100 miles of line. OEC worked with FEMA again in 2024, with mitigation dollars and replaced another 53 miles of line valued at 5 million dollars. The board and staff managed all this investment in plant while only increasing our long-term debt by 4 million dollars since 2013. Today our overhead system has been 97 percent rebuilt since 2015. OEC overhead lines are in great position for the next 30 years.

Affordability is still talked about in our boardroom monthly, your board and staff work tirelessly to keep costs as low as possible. Since COVID we have seen cost of material and equipment rise 40 to 60 percent, some of those costs have softened but are still elevated. I'm extremely pleased we have most of our overhead construction behind us as mentioned before.

Wholesale power continues to push costs, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has another rate increase for 2027 planned, following almost 20 percent increase in the last two years. We have been working to hold our costs down and passing on via rate increases only what is needed to meet our banking covenants.

Back to SAFETY – the students are back to school, please keep an eye out for our kids as they travel to and from school and sporting events. Harvest is soon approaching, please practice patience as large equipment is traveling from field to field, we are dependent on our agriculture community, help keep them safe. Be safe and have a great fall.



Know the Dew Point Before Leaving Windows Open at Night

When September nights turn from crispy to comfortably crisp, your first instinct might be to fling the windows open and let that cool breeze in. It feels like free air conditioning.

But doing this without checking the humidity can actually backfire. If the outdoor air is damp, you are inviting hidden moisture directly into your home. Overnight, your walls, wood floors and furniture will absorb that humidity like dry

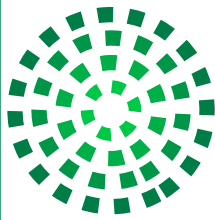
sponges.

The next day, as the sun warms the house, your air conditioner has to work twice as hard. An a/c unit does not just cool the air; it has to wring out all that water vapor first. Running a compressor to dehumidify your home is incredibly energy intensive.

To avoid this, use the dew point rule. Check your local weather app before opening the windows. If the dew point is

55 degrees or lower, the air is dry and comfortable. In that case, go ahead and open up after dark. If it is higher than 55, keep the windows shut.

When the dew point is low, you can practice "night flushing." Open the windows at night to pull in the dry, cool air. Then, shut everything tight early in the morning before the sun hits the walls. You will trap the cool air inside and keep the humidity out.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating/cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Dept. of Energy

DON'T GET OUT



If your machinery, vehicle or other **equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, DO NOT get out of your cab.** Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- **Call 9-1-1** and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- **Wait to exit** your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. **If you must get out:**

- **Make a solid jump out** without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.
- **Hop away as far as you can**, keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org

SafeElectricity.org

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: Judith Riemersma, Dan Kruger, & Ken Loerts.

1. True or False: This year L & O Power Cooperative presented funds to ATLAS of Osceola County and Bright Beginnings of Osceola County.
2. Single phase KW sold in July 2026 was _____.
3. OEC celebrated _____ days safe (DART).

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Operating Statistics

July	2025	2026
Billed consumers, single phase	1,155	1,155
Billed consumers, commercial	122	124
kWh sold, single phase	2,913,771	3,037,928
kWh sold, commercial	7,189,670	5,684,038
KW sold, single phase	11,871	11,950
KW sold, commercial	9,981	9,933
Average consumption, single phase	2,523	2,630
Average consumption, commercial	58,932	45,839
Average statement, single phase	\$309.92	\$348.07
Average statement, commercial	\$4,913.12	\$4,572.01
Outage time per consumer—minutes	16	4 3/4