



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*The power of human connections®*



April 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 Bar Recipe for consideration to be printed in our May Newsletter. Submission deadline is April 20. Printed recipes are worth a \$10 bill credit.

## Basin Tour

Seats are available on the 2024 Basin Tour, see inside for details!

## Celebrate Linemen April 8



Linemen: Keagan Van Westen, Judd Rosenboom, Tommy Storey, Robert Louis, and Lance Groen

At Osceola Electric Cooperative we have 5 linemen that work rain or shine, often in challenging conditions to ensure you have reliable electricity. While we are thankful for the work they do each and every day, we recognize April 8 as Lineman Appreciation Day!

Linemen are ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. They work near high-voltage electricity often in storms with rain, wind, extreme heat and cold, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to fast-moving traffic. Loading heavy materials, climbing poles and getting in and out of buckets makes the job physically demanding.

Linemen receive continuous training to stay mindful of safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

Osceola Electric Cooperative **25710** and our employees are members of this community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off too. So, you can trust that we are doing our best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible—so you can get back to normal life.

The linemen at Osceola Electric Cooperative have all worked to build a culture of trust, teamwork and service. They depend on the person beside them in life-or-death circumstances.

Thank you Tommy, Louie, Lance, Judd and Keagan for your hard work and dedication to Osceola Electric and our members!

## Osceola Electric Revolving Loan Fund



Osceola Electric Cooperative has played an active role in the development of rural northwest Iowa. Through our board and staff, OEC provides not only leadership but financial participation in economic and community development. With the creation of a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), OEC seeks to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to the long-term improvement in the economy, including job creation and retention, diversification of the economy, and improving the education and skills of the rural workforce.

Bow Tie Auto Repair LLC recently received funds to aid in opening a second location in Sibley.

## Seats Available for the Basin Bus Tour

If you've ever wondered about the source of electricity you won't want to miss this opportunity! **46922** As a cooperative member-owner, you have the chance to embark on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine and the Garrison Dam. This exciting bus tour is set for June 12-14.

Departure from Sibley to Bismarck, North Dakota is planned for June 12 with plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is June 13. Depart Bismarck, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take the elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace and enjoy the bus ride into the lignite open pit mine.

In the evening enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River. The tour ends back in Sibley in the early evening of June 14.

This member only trip is \$150 per person. The fee includes the cost for the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat, and snacks.

Seats are limited. Osceola Electric shares the tour bus with two other co-ops. Reserve your spot today! Call Osceola Electric at 712-754-2519.



## Operating Statistics for February 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Billed consumers, farm.....	1,146	1,156
Billed consumers, non-farm and others .....	120	123
Kilowatts sold, farm .....	3,042,616	2,687,714
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others .....	2,230,712	4,379,117
Average consumption, farm.....	2,655	2,325
Average consumption, non-farm and others.....	18,589	35,602
Average statement, farm .....	\$263.01	\$265.19
Average statement, non-farm and others .....	\$1,583.75	\$2,731.73
Total minimum bills.....	24	19
Outage time per consumer—minutes .....	4 2/7	2 7/9
Energy efficiency added per KWH.....		0.00022
Annual meeting date .....	March 2025	

## REC Day on the Hill

### Iowa's rural electric cooperatives advocate for power reliability during 2024 "REC Day on the Hill"

The sun was shining on more than 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives (RECs) as they convened at the Iowa Capitol on March 12 to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event.

"Our annual advocacy day at the capitol is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowans and rural economic development," remarked Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

Osceola Electric Cooperative General Manager, Jeff TenNapel, joined the statewide efforts where advocates asked elected officials to ensure reliable electric service for Iowans by supporting an "all-of-the-above" electric generation strategy. Specifically, Iowa's electric cooperatives believe it's time to update the state's 2001 advanced ratemaking principles (ARPs) to stipulate an all-of-the-above approach and include nuclear and energy storage technologies.

Also related to reliability, advocates talked with their legislators about Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) and the potential pitfalls of requiring Iowa utilities to file IRPs as part of contested case proceedings before the Iowa Utilities Board. IRPs will increase administrative and legal fees which must ultimately be paid by ratepayers. In other states, IRPs have served as a pathway to the premature closure of carbon-based power generation facilities which negatively impacts electric reliability.

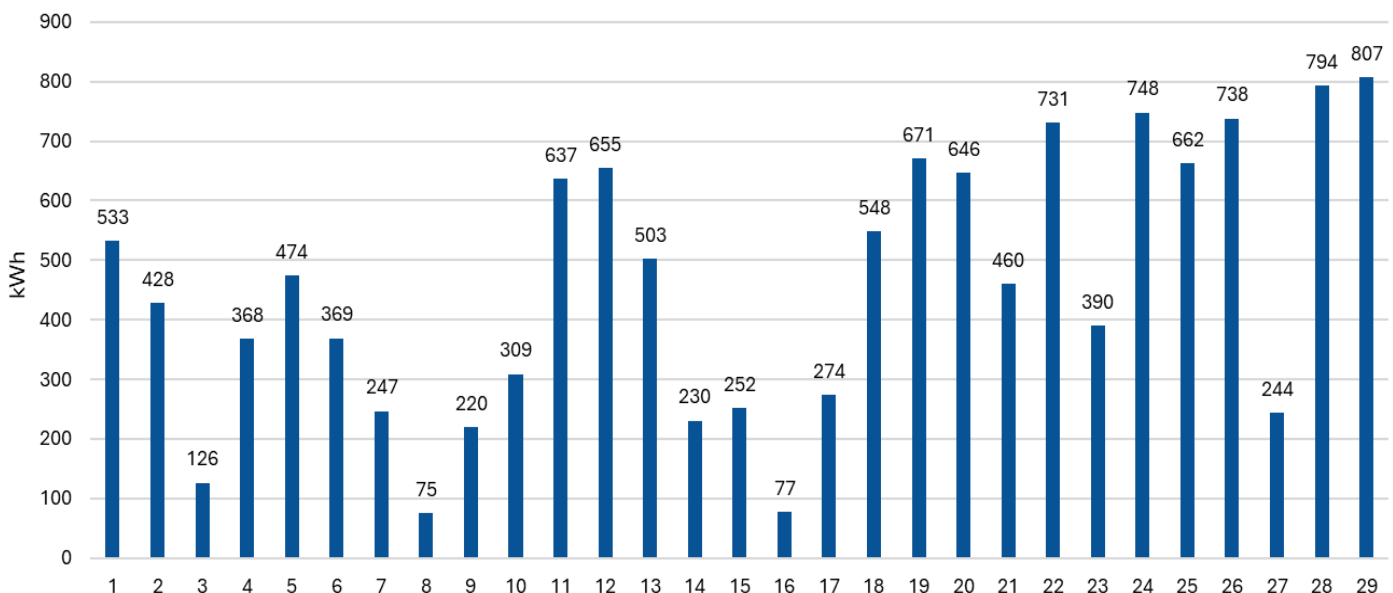


Additionally, co-op representatives discussed the issue of "right of first refusal" which allows incumbent, established utilities to have the first option to construct, maintain and operate electric transmission projects. Iowa's electric co-ops are best prepared to respond locally to weather-related outages because we have a proven track record of restoring power quickly and safely.

During the advocacy event, representatives educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model, which includes local ownership, democratic governance and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, digital metering advancements, investments in technology, safety innovations, energy efficiency efforts and vegetation management work.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa's electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at [www.iaruralpower.org](http://www.iaruralpower.org).

## February 2024 Solar Park Production



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Winter Moratorium Ends

As the winter energy assistance disconnection moratorium ends on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Osceola Electric Cooperative member-owners who are behind on their electric payments are urged to contact us as soon as possible to work out payment options to avoid disconnection. OEC is willing to work with member-owners who have fallen behind on payments to find an agreeable solution; disconnection of service is always a last resort.

### Payment Plans

Those who have fallen behind on their accounts may be eligible to enter into a reasonable payment agreement with OEC to pay accumulated debt over time and maintain electric service. If you are past-due on your account, contact OEC immediately to discuss payment plan terms.

### Budget Billing

For member-owners with tight budgets, seasonally high electric bills can cause financial strife. OEC offers "levelized billing" or "budget billing" payment options which ensure consistent electric bills month-to-month, making it easier to budget and anticipate. If your home usage fluctuates dramatically this is a great way to avoid those larger seasonal bills with changes in the weather. To enroll in this billing option, contact OEC. Call our office at 712-754-2519 or 888-754-2519.

### State of Iowa Resources

We also encourage anyone who has fallen behind on payments to contact the Iowa Department of Human Rights office at 515-281-0859 regarding eligibility for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time per year payment to assist with household heating costs for eligible households. LIHEAP funds are limited, with applications being accepted on a first come first serve basis at your local community action center from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> each year.



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## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: [call811.com](http://call811.com)

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.

