Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®

August 2023

CONTACT US

Office:
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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

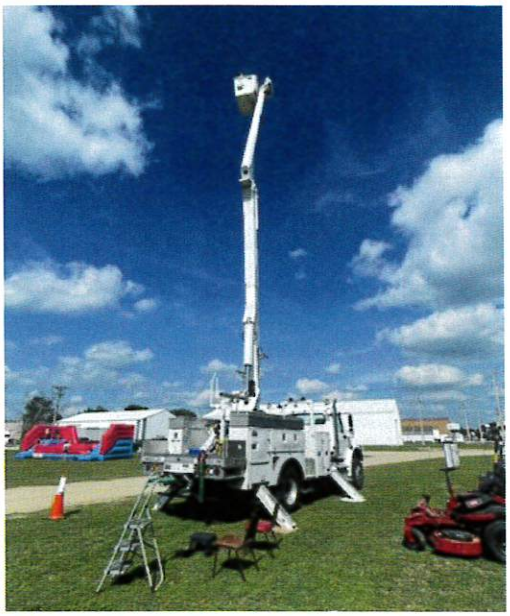
FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

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 Snack recipes for consideration to be printed in our September newsletter.
Submission deadline is August 20. Printed recipes are worth a $10 bill credit.

Osceola County Fair



Attendees of the Osceola County Fair had a chance to see the fair from a lineman's point of view. Osceola Electric Cooperative Linemen, Lance and Judd, offered bucket rides to Thursday night fairgoers. Proceeds from the bucket rides are donated to ATLAS of Osceola County. We were excited to support and participate in the Osceola County Fair once again.

Thank you to the Osceola County Fair Board and the volunteers for all the planning and preparation that makes the Osceola County Fair fun for all ages!

Pictured above is OEC Director and Fair Board member, Steve Voss, presenting an OEC matching funds check to the Osceola County Fair Board and Lance giving a view of the fair 55 feet up. **36871**

Osceola Electric Cooperative's power provider, L&O Power Cooperative, also took advantage of the Co-Bank matching funds program. L&O rotates the funds around to communities within the distribution cooperatives it serves. This year funds were presented to ATLAS of Osceola County.

ATLAS is a great asset to have in our community and we are thankful for the director and volunteers that make a positive impact in our county!

Pictured is General Manager, Jeff Ten Napel, presenting the donation to ATLAS Director, Josh Tangeman.

MEMBER APPRECIATION

Join us for the first annual Member Appreciation Supper. August 22 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the OEC office. Burgers grilled by the Melvin 313 Club with potato salad, and baked beans. Prizes will be drawn throughout the evening.

Each attending member will receive a $20 bill credit.

Teach Kids about Back-to-School Electric Safety

The beginning of a new school year seems like a good time to teach your children about electrical safety. Some bases to cover:

* Stay away from power lines and transformers at school or along the way.
* Same goes for electrical equipment on school property.
* Don't stick pens, pencils or other objects into electrical outlets. The Electrical Safety Foundation International reports that almost seven children a day are treated in hospitals for burns or electrical shocks because they tampered with wall outlets.
* Warn teens who are driving to slow down when they see utility crews working on the road.
* If an electrical power line is on the street, assume it is live and stay away from it.
* Don't plug too many electric devices into an electrical outlet or a power strip. Especially in an older dorm, the wiring isn't equipped for an overload. **3561**
* Extension cords are intended for temporary use only; don't plug one in and leave it there for the whole school year. **1913**

Best wishes to all the students and teachers as you begin the 2023-2024 school year!

Meter Testing

You may have seen the Chapman Metering van around the county recently. Each year Chapman Metering Technicians test a sixth of our system along with half of our multi-phase meters. This meter testing meets the requirements set forth by the Iowa Utilities Board.

The meter is pulled from the socket and tested on-site in the Chapman Metering Vehicle. A short outage occurs while the meter is tested. OEC receives a report on the testing of the meter under both light and heavy load conditions. Those tests are downloaded onto our computer system and tagged to that meter's history. Meters that don't pass the test are changed out and members are notified if any billing adjustments are needed.

Operating Statistics for June 2023

	2022	2023
Billed consumers, farm	1,140	1,148
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	109	122
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,492,707	2,512,836
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	2,425,923	6,354,416
Average consumption, farm	2,187	2,189
Average consumption, non-farm and others	22,256	52,085
Average statement, farm	$252.01	$251.80
Average statement, non-farm and others	$2,193.30	$3,929.05
Total minimum bills	19	29
Outage time per consumer—minutes	5 1/2	7 5/9
Energy efficiency added per KWH		0.00022
Annual meeting date	March 2024	

Factors That Impact Electricity Prices

Jeff TenNapel, General Manager

I was recently asked about what impacts electricity prices. We talked about how the daily cost of living seems to have increased across the board.

Just as inflation has impacted everything from the price of gasoline to the price of eggs, costs for the fuels required to produce electricity have also risen. This is a timely topic, so I wanted to help explain some of the factors that impact electricity prices (and energy bills).

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Osceola Electric Cooperative can manage, some of them you can impact and other factors are beyond our control. So, let me break it down.

There are four parts to your monthly electric bill: a facility charge, an electric consumption/kWh charge, Demand, and a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, lets unpack one piece at a time.

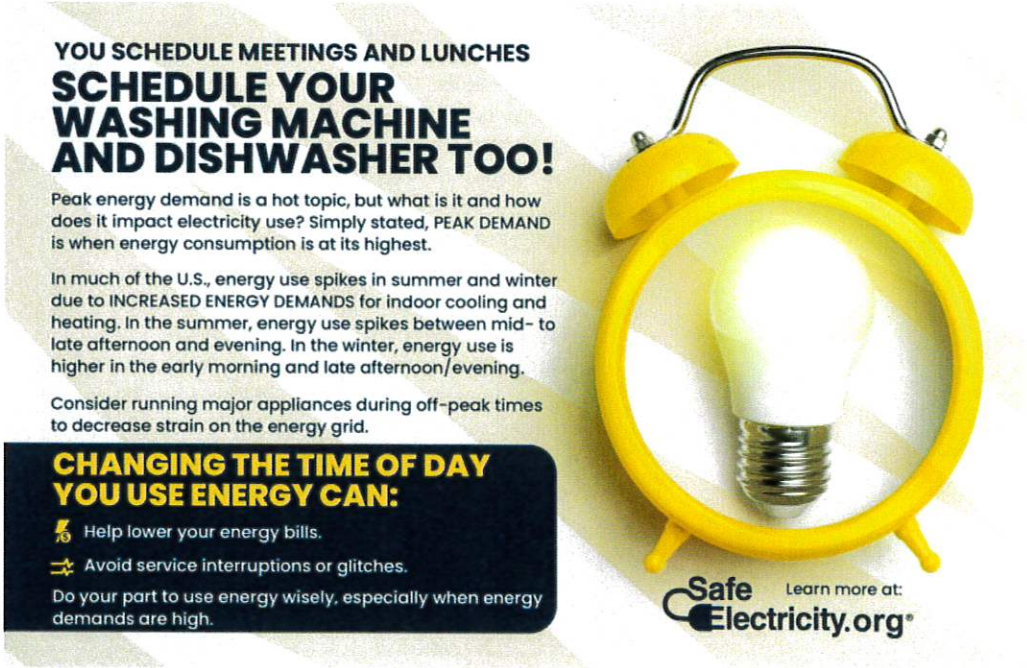
The first is a fixed monthly facility charge, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in OEC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. In order to ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local system, including power lines, substations and other necessary equipment. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. For example, the cost for a pad transformer (which is the green box on the yard) went from $1,385.00 in 2020 to $2,580.00 this year and wait times to receive this essential equipment could be as long as 15 weeks. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that the facility charge is the same for each class of member and the costs are shared equally across the membership.

Another component of your monthly bill is the electric consumption/kWh charge, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment run longer, which increases your home energy use. Regardless, energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reducing energy use. Your thermostat is a great place to start, so be sure to keep it close to 78 degrees during summer months.

Demand is a fairly new component added to all single-phase bills. While not all members see a charge in relation to Demand at this time it is important in showing the way electricity is used. Demand is measured in kilowatts (KW) and is the amount of power needed to supply every electrical device running at a specific point in time. As more appliances run simultaneously, your demand for power increases. The Demand reading on your bill reflects your peak demand for the month. Staggering the use of major appliances throughout the day reduces the demand for your location. Not all OEC members are billed Demand, but it does make up for 40% of OEC's wholesale power bill. Decreasing Demand will save OEC money, and that savings gets passed down to you, our members.

The last component of your bill is the PCA, which is the same amount for all co-op members. The PCA changes monthly based on the cost of power received from OEC wholesale power provider. The PCA covers fuel cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.

I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that impact electricity prices. While we can't control the weather or the rising costs of fuels, please know Osceola Electric Cooperative is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler?

To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Grain Bin Notice

Osceola 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.

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)

Osceola Electric 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 the cooperative office at 712-754-2519.

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.