



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



December 2023

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

Holiday Office Hours

The OEC Office will close at 11:30 on December 22 & December 29, and will be closed December 25 & January 1 for Christmas and New Year's.

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. 21542

OEC RECIPES

Submit your favorite Muffin Recipe for consideration to be printed in our February Newsletter. Submission deadline is January 20. Printed recipes are worth a \$10 bill credit.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Staff: Robert Louis, Judd Rosenboom, Lance Groen, Tommy Storey, Mark Vander Pol, Sandy Heronimus, Kelly Slagter, and Jeff TenNapel.
22944 Not Pictured: Keagan Van Westen.



Board of Directors: Steve Voss, Adam Hoekstra, Dan Heilman, Jeff TenNapel—General Manager, Terrence Clark—President, Derek Ackerman—Vice President, and Dean Haspels—Secretary/Treasurer. Not Pictured: Doug Roth.

Osceola Electric Scholarship deadline has been set for January 26. See inside for details.

Member Recipe—Favorite Holiday Side Dish

Scalloped Oysters—Ardine Dillingham

1 pt oysters
1/2 cup butter-melted
dash pepper
1/4 cup oyster liquid
2 cups cracker crumbs
1/2 tsp salt
3/4 cup cream
1/4 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Drain oysters, saving the liquid.
 Combine crumbs, butter salt and pepper.
 Spread 1/3 of crumbs in greased 8 x 1 1/4 round pan. Cover with 1/2 oysters, 1/3 of crumbs, then remaining oysters.
 Combine cream, oyster liquid, & Worcestershire sauce and pour over oysters. Top with last of crumbs.
 Bake at 350° for 40 minutes.
 Makes 4 servings.
 I usually triple the recipe and bake for 1 hour.



College Scholarships Available

Osceola Electric Cooperative will award two \$1000 scholarships and three \$500 scholarships to the son or daughter of a current OEC member.



Students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational school in 2024

are encouraged to apply. **1053** The scholarships must be used for educational costs and the applicant shall be a citizen of the United States of America.

Assisting cooperative youth is one of the best ways the cooperative can make a positive difference in our communities. That is why OEC has committed itself to offering college scholarships for many years. Last year's recipients were August Jones—Harris-Lake Park, Matt Haken—Dordt

University, Vance Hayenga-Johnson—Minnesota West Community College, Jared Kruger—Sibley-Ocheyedan, and Jillian Van Diepen—Sibley-Ocheyedan.

The three \$500 scholarships will be provided directly by OEC and two \$1000 scholarships will be made available from L&O Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative respectively. L&O Power Cooperative serves as a power provider for OEC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative is the supplier of electricity to L&O. Todd Telesz, CEO and General Manager of Basin Electric states: "The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of the children of member cooperative consumers."

Students interested in applying for a scholarship can obtain applications from high school guidance counselors, OEC's website www.osceolaelectric.com or by contacting the OEC office. The Basin Electric Power Cooperative application is utilized for all five of the scholarships and the same guidelines apply to all five as well. Completed applications, including an essay, transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, and an applicant appraisal are to be returned to OEC. The due date is January 26, 2024.

Operating Statistics for October 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Billed consumers, farm.....	1,142	1,150
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	118	122
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,787,079	2,630,146
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	2,282,865	6,215,350
Average consumption, farm.....	2,441	2,287
Average consumption, non-farm and others.....	19,346	50,945
Average statement, farm	\$278.33	\$265.14
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$1,873.89	\$3,791.56
Total minimum bills.....	8	13
Outage time per consumer—minutes	1 2/3	14
Energy efficiency added per KWH.....		0.00022
Annual meeting date	March 2024	

Manager's Report



Jeff TenNapel,
General Manager

Annual Meeting – Voting on Term Limits

The Osceola Electric Cooperative Board of Directors will be requesting the membership to vote on extending term limits during the Annual Meeting voting on March 23, 2024. This would be a change in the Articles of Incorporation and would require sixty-six percent approval from voting members to pass.

OEC is proposing we add two additional three-year terms (six years). Currently, directors retire off the board after 12 years. This

proposed change in term limits will give directors 18 years before their required retirement. Directors will continue to be up for re-election every three years, that will not change.

Due to the complexity of electric cooperative business, your board adopted an education policy for directors in 2019. With this new policy directors must complete five – one day classes in Des Moines, Iowa to become a Certified Credentialed Director (CCD). These classes are taught by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This policy has paid great dividends, and as a result OEC's directors are more in tune with the ever-changing world we live in today. Your current directors, seeing the value firsthand, have exceeded the policy requirements, and have continued their education with NRECA. The next level is Board Leadership Credentials (BLC). OEC directors have invested their time and energy into becoming more valuable to the membership.

We are asking for an additional six years to take advantage of these men's dedication to the membership.

In upcoming newsletter articles, we will give more details and advantages about extending term limits.

2024 Rates

OEC board of directors and staff reviewed margins for 2023 and the draft budget for 2024. Increasing costs for material and special equipment (transformers) are a concern. OEC wholesale power supplier, L&O Power

Cooperative, raised rates to OEC the last four years. Due to the combination of material costs rising more than thirty percent and wholesale power costs rising, a modest rate increase is needed. Single phase customers will see a 2.6 percent increase, the lion's share of that increase will be in the facility charge. The current facility charge is \$32.50 and will be moving to \$36.50. The first 700 kWh charge will not change, but the last block of kWh's over 700 per month will increase from .083 cents per kWh to .0845 cents per kWh. OEC last increased single phase rates January of 2017. OEC board and staff have worked hard to keep rates as low as possible while still meeting our financial obligations. We have held rates down while increasing reliability and maintaining an aggressive construction rebuild. At the end of next year we will have more than ninety-seven percent of our single-phase line rebuilt since 2015.

Your board and staff will continue to keep your cooperative strong. This modest increase will bridge the next couple of years, our hope is costs will flatten or decrease slightly in the coming years.

2023 Construction

Osceola Electric Cooperative crews have been busy building or upgrading single and three-phase lines and services. Also, we have two contractors working on our FEMA mitigation projects. With the mild weather heading into Thanksgiving both overhead and underground projects are making very good progress. Mid-2024 all 53 miles will be completed. Most of the work will be in Harrison, Baker and Allison Townships. We would like to thank the membership for their understanding during the short outages needed to cutover the new overhead or underground lines. This final phase of construction will complete our 2015 long range construction plan, reaching the goals set almost 10 years ago of upgrading our single and three-phase system. OEC long range construction work plan is reviewed and updated annually.

Happy Holidays

Christmas and New Year's are special times of the year. Take the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. I wish everyone a Safe, Happy and Joyous Holiday Season.

Nominating Committee

Members of Osceola Electric Cooperative have an element of local control that many other utility consumers do not. Members can seek consideration as candidates for the position of Director in addition to nominating other members to be considered for the position of Director. Each member also has the right to vote on candidates at the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled March 23, 2024.

A nominating committee will be appointed by the Board of Directors in December and nominations will be sought shortly afterwards. Directors whose terms will expire in 2024 are Adam Hoekstra, Steve Voss, and Doug Roth. If you are interested in becoming a candidate or nominating another member to be a candidate for the position of Director, please mail nominees to Osceola Electric Cooperative, attn: Nominations Committee, PO Box 127, Sibley, IA 51249. To ensure consideration, letters must reach the Cooperative's office no later than December 31, 2023.

Additional nominations can be made by petition signed by any 15 or more members of the Cooperative and delivered to the Secretary no less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. A ballot listing the names of all persons so nominated will then be mailed to all members with the official notice of the Annual Meeting. Members can mail their marked ballots to the Cooperative's office or vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

2024 Osceola Electric Cooperative Energy Efficiency Rebates

Appliances

ENERGY STAR - Clothes Washer	\$ 100.00
ENERGY STAR - Refrigerators	\$ 50.00
ENERGY STAR - Freezers	\$ 50.00
ENERGY STAR - Dishwashers (w/electric water heater)	\$ 50.00
ENERGY STAR - Window Air Conditioner	\$ 25.00

Water Heater

Electric Water Heater - 50 gallon	\$ 250.00
Electric Water Heater - 85 gallon	\$ 300.00
Electric Water Heater - 105 gallon	\$ 350.00
Hybrid Heat Pump Electric Water Heater	\$ 500.00

To be eligible for rebate load control switch must be installed

Also, an additional \$4.00 per month billing credit if approved water heater has controller installed

Policy 3-6. Call for more details

Heating and Cooling - Residential (Home)

Geothermal Heat Pumps - per ton rebate w/\$5,000 max	\$1,000/per ton	Must be Energy Star	\$1,000.00
Replacement w/o wells	\$250/per ton		\$ 250.00
Air Source Heat Pumps - 14 SEER	With Out	\$ 800.00	With
Air Source Heat Pumps - 15 SEER	Electric	\$ 800.00	Electric
Air Source Heat Pumps - 16 & 17 SEER	Heat	\$ 800.00	Heat
Air Source Heat Pumps - 18 & UP SEER	Backup	\$ 800.00	Backup
			\$1,200.00
Policy 3-2A			
Mini Splits A/C Units			\$ 200.00

Space Heating - Shops

10 kW of less	\$ 300.00
11 kW or larger	\$ 500.00

Agriculture & Commercial & Industrial

Premium Motor Rebates - NEMA labeled Premium Efficiency or equivalent	
10 hp or less	\$ 50.00
11 hp or greater	\$ 250.00
Variable Speed Drive	\$ 75.00

Residential & Commercial Lighting

Per bulb rebate (based on fixture) on all Residential and Commercial Lighting	\$ 2.00
T8's and T5's - 4 ft tube lighting	
Example: If member purchases 4 - 6-bulb fixtures, rebate would be 4 x 6=24 24 x \$2 rebate = \$48.00	
LED fixture or bulb rebate - Residential and Commercial Lighting - call for details (10% of cost of bulb and or fixture)	
OR \$300.00/kW which ever is higher	
Dusk to Dawn lights 72 watt LED rebate - OEC stocks fixture	\$ 25.00

Residential - Insulation & Windows

Qualifying types of Insulation rebate \$500.00 or 50% (lessor of) per application - call office for details
 Qualifying Energy Efficient Window rebate \$25.00 per window - \$500.00 maximum - call office for details
 Exterior thermal door rebate - \$25.00 per door

Electric Vehicle Chargers

Level 2 - 240 volt, Must be hardwired and installed to local code. Make, model, s/n must be provided	
Energy Star certified. Can't back-feed into the system. Load Control Switch installed	\$ 750.00
50% of equipment with a max of \$750.00	

Other programs are available please contact Osceola Electric Cooperative for incentives or rebates