



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



June 2023

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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.

2023 Scholarship Winners

"Concern for the Community" is just one of the Seven Cooperative Principals Osceola Electric Cooperative strives to put into practice. We believe in investing in the education of our youth and are proud to announce the winners of the 2023 Scholarships. Once again, we had numerous qualified applicants. Thank you to all who applied and thank you to our scholarship judges for the time and effort they put in!

Congratulations August, Matt, Jared, Jillian, and Vance! Best Wishes to the entire class of 2023 as you enter the workforce or continue your education!



August Jones

Harris-Lake Park High School
Basin Scholarship



Matt Haken

Dordt University
L&O Scholarship



Jared Kruger

Sibley-Ocheyedan High School
OEC Scholarship



Jillian Van Diepen

Sibley-Ocheyedan High School
OEC Scholarship



Vance Hayenga-Johnson

Minnesota West Community College
OEC Scholarship

Have A Safe Father's Day

Keep Father's Day happy by keeping Dad safe, even as he tries out his new electric gifts.

Warn your dad that home repairs can be a dangerous undertaking when electricity gets involved, so he needs to use care with electrical equipment and steer clear of power lines.

A bit of common sense and caution while working outside this spring and summer can keep everyone safe. Some tips:

- A ladder—even a wooden one—can cause a fatal shock if it touches a power line.
- Inspect power tools and cords for frayed or broken wires and cracked cases before plugging them in.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when you're not using them. Store them out of reach of children.

- Wait for things to dry off before working outdoors after it rains. Even damp grass can be dangerous when using electricity.

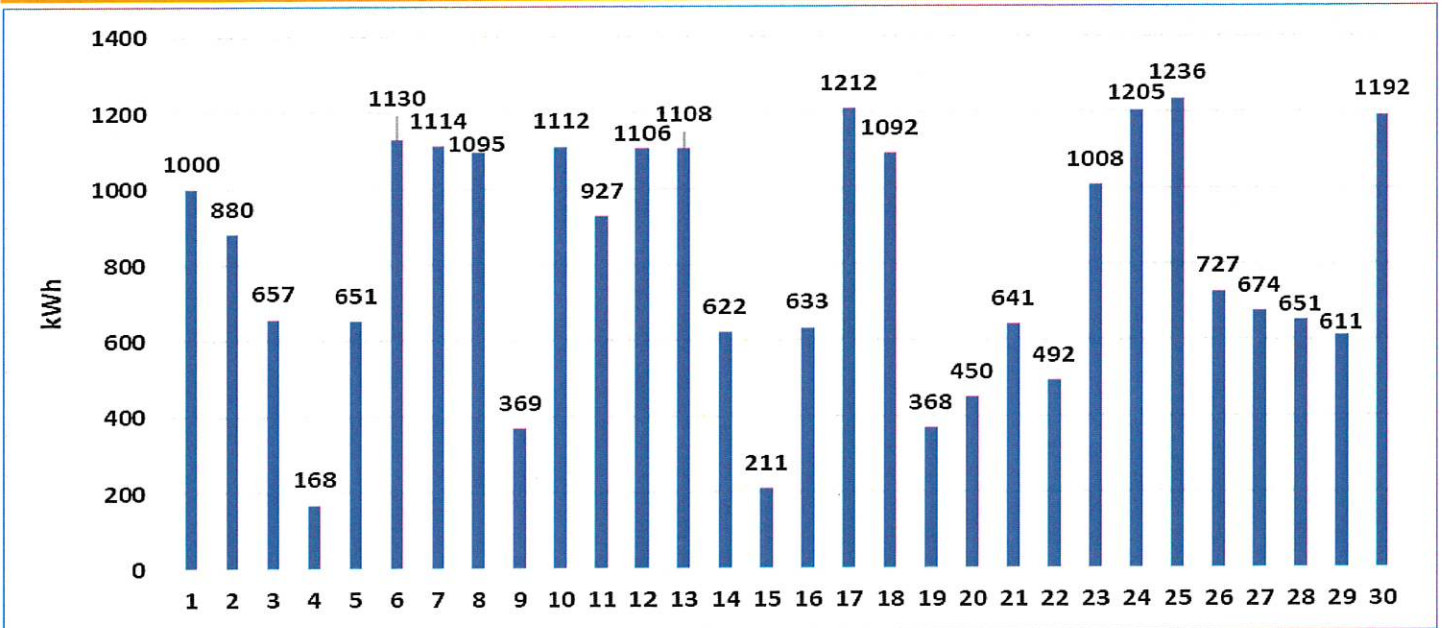
- When carrying ladders, aluminum siding, poles and other long objects, look up!

More than 20 percent of people who die in electricity-related home repair accidents have touched a power line with a ladder or building material.

- Keep your projects at least 10 feet away from power lines. **702**



April 2023 Solar Park Production



Operating Statistics for April 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Billed consumers, farm	1,138	1,147
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	110	121
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,460,282	2,344,084
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	1,829,392	3,074,439
Average consumption, farm.....	2,162	2,044
Average consumption, non-farm and others.....	16,631	25,409
Average statement, farm	\$234.84	\$229.68
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$1,700.39	\$2,404.51
Total minimum bills.....	18	24
Outage time per consumer—minutes	2/3	0
Energy efficiency added per KWH.....		0.00022
Annual meeting date	March 2024	

Manager's Report

"All of the Above" ensures reliability of power



**Jeff Ten Napel,
General Manager**

The energy industry is full of controversy these days. It's easy to find headlines about "Not in my Backyard" or concerns about power supply.

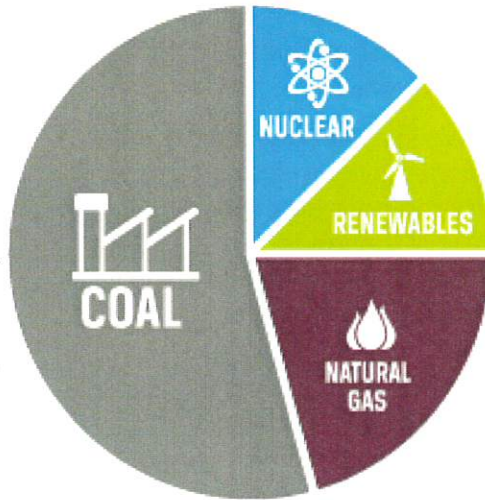
For example, residents are demanding that county supervisors put a hold on utility scale wind and solar projects due to concerns that farmland may be taken out of production or that these projects may impact property values. Transmission projects are being challenged by special interest groups and residents, too. Recently, I read natural gas prices could double this summer. One of these issues by itself is challenging, but facing all of these disputes at once is putting pressure on power suppliers. The end result will be higher costs of power for everyone.

These problems are not unique to Iowa; the same issues are popping up across the country.

Now we are seeing Regional Transmission Operators (RTO) warning of possible power shortages (rolling brownouts) during summer peak days. As of this printing, OEC's RTO, Southwest Power Pool, has not forecasted

rolling brownouts but is concerned about shortages of power supply in the near future.

I have been proudly working for member-owned electric cooperatives for thirty-five years and Iowa electrical cooperatives in coordination with our statewide association (IAEC) have been educating our members, legislators, and communities about the importance of "All of the Above" strategies to ensure reliable power.



The concept of "All of the Above" was pulled from a newsletter article printed eight years ago. And the electric industry has made great progress in adding renewable energy sources to the fuel mix in recent years. The pie chart today would cut coal resources by adding more wind solar and battery assets as an energy resource.

Today, OEC purchases 75% of our power from Basin Electric Power

Cooperative and 25% from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Basin's energy portfolio consists of 40% coal, 30% wind & hydro, 19% natural gas and the balance market purchases. WAPA is 100 % hydro power. Together, OEC wholesale power is around 50% green.

We all agree that wind and solar are playing a much larger roll today and into the future, but to avoid rolling brownouts and other electrical issues we must maintain and continue to fight for "All of the Above" strategies. Wind and solar are intermittent sources of power and we must have dispatchable sources of power generation like coal and natural gas in place to keep the lights on when the wind stops blowing and the sun stops shining. As technology advances in battery storage continue to improve, renewable sources of intermittent power will be able to be stored and deployed as needed, but we're not there yet.

OEC, being a part of the Basin cooperative system, will fight to keep our remaining clean coal fired power plants in service until they have reached their effective lives, which works well with our mission statement – "To provide our members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible".

Have a SAFE summer with family and friends!



Nominate a local volunteer and they could win \$2,500 for their charity!

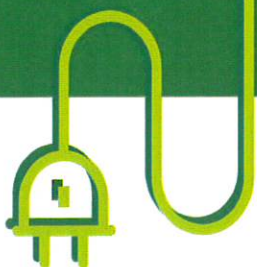
Contest entries accepted at IowaShineTheLight.com during the month of June



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

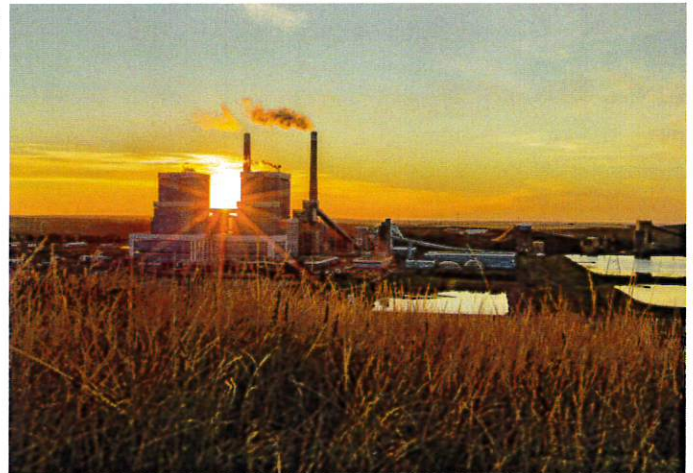
Source: Dept. of Energy



Basin Bus Tour

Plans continue for the 2023 Basin Bus Tour. This year's tour of the Basin Power Cooperative facilities in North Dakota will take place August 9-11. **46960** Osceola Electric Cooperative sponsors this trip for our members to see how electricity is produced. This year's itinerary includes: a rest stop at the Terry Redlin Art Center, tour of the Garrison Dam, Antelope Valley Station tour, Coteau Freedom Mine, Peaking plant tour at Deer Creek Station, and a Riverboat/supper cruise.

We join with two other electric cooperatives to make this trip possible. The cost of the trip is \$150 per person and includes transportation, 2 nights lodging, meals, and tour fees. This trip is for OEC members only and seating is limited, please call 712-754-2519 to reserve your spot!



Member Recipe

Rhubarb Jelly

6 cups rhubarb
4 cups sugar
1 large pkg frozen strawberries
(about 4 cups fresh strawberries)
2 sm pkg strawberry jello

Boil rhubarb and sugar for 5 minutes. Then add in strawberries. Cook 15 minutes more and stir in jello. Place in jars and seal.

Danielle Nasers

Home Safety Awareness

Celebrate Home Safety Awareness Month with a quick electrical check

June is Home Safety Awareness Month, **3300** and a good time to check for all kinds of accidents-waiting-to-happen in your home, especially when electricity is involved.

Start with a self-audit of your home—something you should turn into an annual ritual. Check that all of your appliances are still in working order by turning them on and off, listening to the sound of the motor (is it “normal?”) and inspecting their cords and plugs for damage.

Some more quick tips:

- Replace appliances whose cords are frayed or worn. You can't fix those.
- Resolve to buy new appliances that have the thumbs-up from an independent testing laboratory like UL.
- Choose light bulbs with the correct wattage for each lamp and overhead light fixture. You'll find the maximum safe wattage imprinted on the fixture.
- Get those electrical cords out from under your carpets! Covering cords can cause them to overheat and start a fire.
- Put your extension cords away. They're not meant for everyday use.
- Install waterproof covers on your outdoor outlets.