



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



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

OEC Scholarships

OEC awards 5 scholarships to sons or daughters of current members. For more information visit our website or see your high school counselor. The application deadline is January 26.

Vote in the Upcoming Annual Meeting

In January 2019, Osceola Electric Cooperative Board of Directors established a Director Education Policy. This policy noted the complexity of the electric cooperative industry and the value of classes offered by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). NRECA has three tiers of education for directors, Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and Director Gold Credential (DGC).

The Director Education Policy states a newly elected director must take the 5 classes to obtain their CCD status within 6 years to continue serving OEC as a director.

Currently, board members: Terrence Clark, Derek Ackerman, Dean Haspels and Adam Hoekstra have received their CCD certificate. Dean has completed the BLC classes and Terrence, Derek and Adam are scheduled to receive their BLC in 2024. Newer directors, Daniel Heilman and Doug Roth, have completed one class in both the CCD and BLC tier.

Each of these classes are 6 to 8 hours and are held in Des Moines along with other electric cooperative directors. The courses equip co-op directors to better understand and manage key issues in the electric utility industry through dialog

participation and case study situations.

Under the current term limits (four three-year terms) a director could complete their BLC during their third term, by taking two classes a year, leaving just one more term before they retire off the board.

OEC is asking the membership to vote to extend term limits to 18 years, which would add two three-year terms. Directors will continue to run for re-election every three years, following current election rotations. OEC believes allowing your dedicated and educated directors to serve an additional 6 years would be a wise commitment to the future of your co-op.

CCD: Credentialed Cooperative Director

Must complete the following 5 classes:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision - Making

BLC: Board Leadership Certificate

Must complete 10 from a larger pool of classes to select from. Classes OEC directors have taken include:

- Rate Making Strategies and Policy Decisions
- Ethics and Governance
- Increasing Influence and Building Board Consensus
- Your Board's Culture: It's Impact on Effectiveness
- How to Evaluate and Improve Board Performance
- The Evolution of Electric Cooperative Power Supply
- Cybersecurity: The Board's Oversight Role
- Boardroom Challenges: Connecting Theory to Action
- Road to Resilience: A Directors Responsibility
- Electric Vehicles: Strategy & Policy Considerations

DGC: Director Gold Credential

on going classes following the BLC

Welcome Keagan

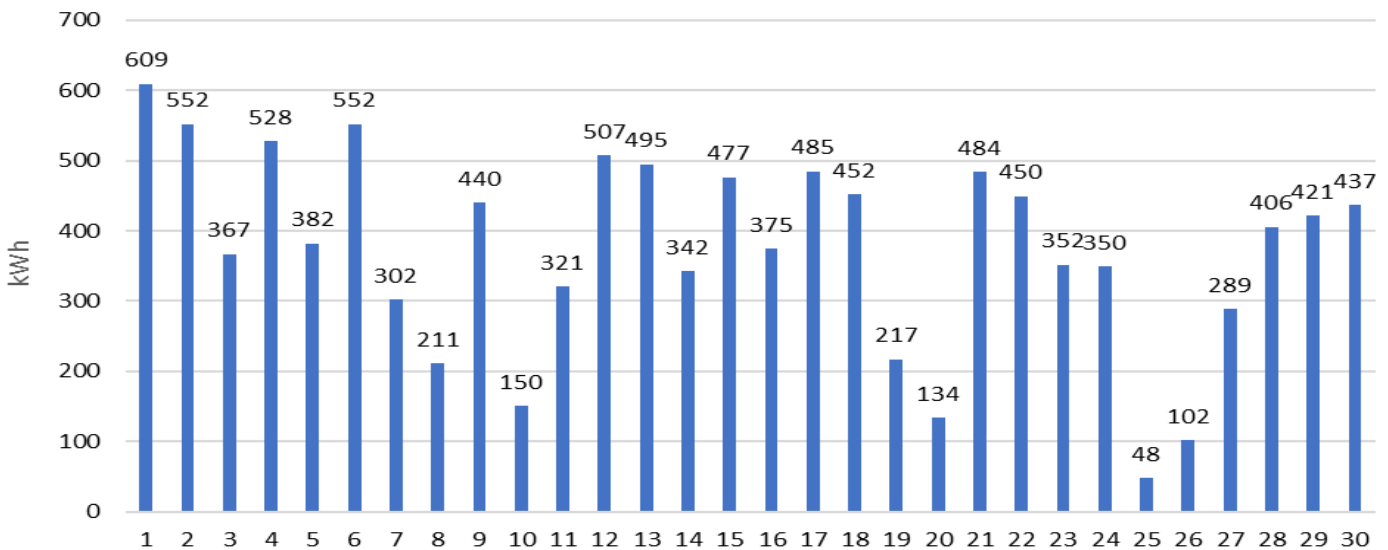
Keagan Van Westen recently joined Osceola Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman.

Keagan received his Power Line Construction & Maintenance Diploma from Mitchell Tech, in South Dakota. The course material and fieldwork included: application and theory of distribution and transmission of electrical power, digger derrick truck operation, setting poles, climbing poles, installation of transformers, metering for overhead and underground distribution systems. Previously Keagan worked for a boring crew out of Spirit Lake. Keagan began at OEC in October to help finish fall construction work and was hired on full time in December.

Welcome to Osceola Electric, Keagan!



November 2023 Solar Production

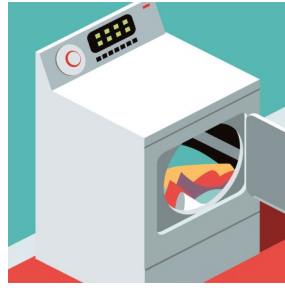


Operating Statistics for November 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Billed consumers, farm.....	1,145	1,148
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	119	123
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,701,025	2,744,743
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	2,152,573	5,770,912
Average consumption, farm.....	2,359	2,391
Average consumption, non-farm and others.....	18,089	46,918
Average statement, farm	\$264.56	\$276.90
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$1,764.13	\$3,405.22
Total minimum bills.....	10	10
Outage time per consumer—minutes	2/5	2 1/9
Energy efficiency added per KWH.....		0.00022
Annual meeting date	March 2024	

Time of Use Matters

Did you know you can help your electric co-op by simply glancing at the clock? The key to that help is a term used in the energy industry called “time of use.”



Electricity follows the basic economic laws of supply and demand—when a lot of people want something, it’s expensive; when they don’t, it’s cheaper. Energy is more expensive during certain times of the day because more people are using it.

Behind that statement, there’s a story of a complex industry that’s changing as fast as digital technology. The role you play can be as simple as washing and drying your clothes a couple hours later than usual. Why would you want to do that? One reason has to do with the fact that as a co-op member **11880**, you and your neighbors own your electric cooperative.

Peak Times for Power

Paying attention to times of energy use can translate to real dollars. To understand that, it helps to go to the basics of time of use, which involves the routines of our daily life. Allison Hamilton, senior principal

for markets and rates at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, explains it this way:

“People wake up in the morning, they turn on their coffee makers, they take showers, they get ready to go to work, they go to work, then all the computers and buildings are powering up, and there’s this peak demand for electricity that has to be met. The infrastructure has to be there to serve that demand. Then later in the day, people go home, turn on their lights, cook supper, start the wash, eventually go to bed, and then they aren’t using as much power, but there still needs to be the infrastructure there for the next morning when they get up and start all over.”

Your electric **24081** co-op pays more for electricity during those morning and evening energy rush hours in two ways: either by having a power plant there to make sure enough electricity is available, or by actually paying more to purchase electricity from another utility with excess power at the time. And those peaks in energy use get even higher when it’s especially hot or cold outside, as air conditioners or heaters use extra power.

So, you can help level out that pattern of energy peaks and valleys by simply adjusting when and how you use electricity.

BEST BETS FOR

Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren’t using them.

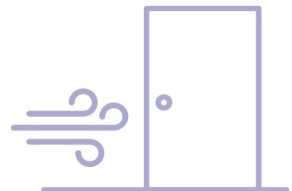


MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



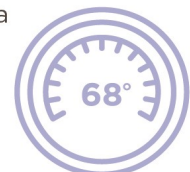
USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



Invest in Energy Savings

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov



An investment that can lead to a big return for your family is the same one that will cut your home's energy use.

If you want to invest in energy efficiency this year, consider:

Replacing older windows, especially if they are single-pane models.

Old windows are barely better for your home's comfort—or your energy bills—than windows that stay open all the time. Invest in double-pane windows with low-emissivity (low-e) coatings on the glass, which will keep the cold outdoors and your comfortable, heated air

inside where it belongs. The U.S. Department of Energy **1251** estimates that they typically lose up to 50% less energy than older versions.

Installing a programmable thermostat.

If you're still trying to remember to turn the heat down every night at bedtime, up again when you wake up, and down again before you leave the house for work in the morning, you're probably overheating your house. A programmable thermostat will do all the adjusting for you—according to your preferences.

WINTER SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Did you know most home fires happen during colder months? Play it safe this winter season.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



A	P	I	R	P	A	J	G	F	W	D	C	Q	T	W
U	L	B	S	G	W	N	N	P	T	S	A	T	A	T
R	L	A	Y	P	J	I	U	Q	P	Q	N	G	E	O
C	T	W	R	Y	J	D	X	A	R	X	D	B	L	Z
J	F	T	P	M	K	G	C	I	B	T	L	T	C	F
X	B	K	Y	Z	S	E	M	B	Q	G	E	B	D	B
G	B	W	B	Z	H	K	T	Z	H	J	H	R	M	X
C	V	X	J	E	B	X	S	X	B	Q	C	K	V	A
V	I	M	A	B	O	K	A	T	C	S	I	K	F	E
X	Y	T	Q	Y	K	J	S	F	N	Q	V	T	J	W
L	E	V	J	A	N	V	U	W	C	B	A	P	A	W
R	T	R	E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	S	O
W	Z	B	K	R	Y	X	S	B	V	A	Q	O	U	E
S	D	R	O	C	N	O	I	S	N	E	T	X	E	P
I	F	J	R	W	K	J	B	Q	P	U	B	D	T	Z

Never overload electrical outlets with too many **electronics**.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide **alarms** every month.

Never leave a **candle** burning in an empty room.

Keep flammable items at least three feet away from a **space heater**.

Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Damaged or frayed cords should be thrown away.