



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



November 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

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 Holiday Side Dish for consideration to be printed in our December newsletter. Submission deadline is December 20. Printed recipes are worth a \$10 bill credit.

Patronage Payment & Allocation Notices

When you signed up for electric service from Osceola Electric Cooperative, you became a member-consumer of a not-for-profit business. At the same time, you became an owner of the cooperative. As a result, anytime the cooperative has margins, they are allocated to the member-consumers and eventually retired.

Recently, OEC Board of Directors approved staff to pay \$150,586.35 back to our members. This year's retirement covers the remaining balance of 2008 and 26% of 2009. The amount of credit you receive is determined by the years you were a member, as well as the amount of energy you purchased during those years.

The member allocation notice, and patronage refund checks are printed on one form.

The top portion of the form is a snapshot of your Retirement Summary. This shows each member the amount of money in 3 categories: Co-op Allocation, L & O Allocation, and Basin Allocation.

The middle portion of the form is the 2022 allocation notice. The allocation is broken down into 3 categories that make up the total for the year.



The bottom portion of the form is the check to be cashed. Active members with patronage \$20 or less will receive a bill credit reflected on their November electric statement.

For those who have been members for less than 13 years **2750** a one-page Allocation Notice of 2022 allocations will be mailed.

Checks and allocation notices are scheduled to be mailed out in November.

Happy Thanksgiving

Osceola Electric Cooperative will be closed November 23 & 24 in observation of Thanksgiving.

We're thankful for you, the members we serve.



Understanding Peak Demand

Electricity use doesn't remain consistent throughout the day, week, or even month. During times of extremely heavy usage – think hot summer afternoons, when air conditioning units are working their hardest or cold winter mornings when members turn up their heaters to get ready for work or school – a peak system demand occurs.

Peak demand is the amount of capacity required during a thirty-minute average when OEC's distribution system experiences the highest demand for power. In addition to being billed for the amount of electricity our members use our power provider, L & O Power Cooperative, also bills OEC each month for this peak demand.

Think of it this way. Imagine a big city highway during rush hour. The highway needs to be large enough for all the cars that are traveling to work to get to their destination in a reasonable amount of time. After studying regular traffic patterns, the engineers build the highway with four or six lanes going each direction. In the mornings and afternoons every lane is filled, and traffic may still be slow. During the night or mid-day, the roads are less congested, but the highway still needs to have the ability to hold all the traffic during peak usage periods. The same is needed for peak electrical usage.

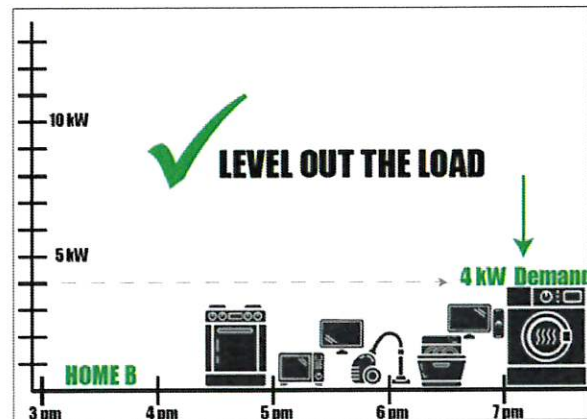
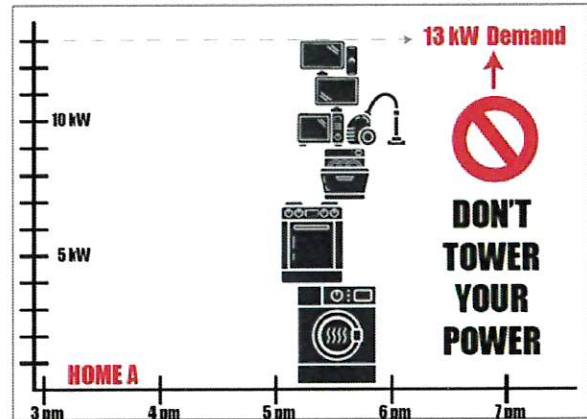
Why is peak demand important?

Peak demand is important for OEC members to understand, because helping reduce the cooperative's demand saves you money. When OEC can reduce our demand, we purchase less electricity during the peak pricing periods when the cost is significantly higher. Kilowatts purchased during non-peak hours are sold to OEC **25771** at a lower price resulting in savings that are passed on to you, our member-owners, in the form of more stable rates.

How can you help?

Members can help control costs by monitoring not only

how much electricity you use, but when you use it. Tools, such as programable thermostats and delayed start features on washers, dryers, and dishwashers, make these changes easy. By shifting summer usage to the cooler morning and late evening hours and winter usage to the middle of the day and late evening hours, your reduced demand will enable us to purchase a greater percentage of our needed power at a lower rate. By working together, OEC members can help control costs, keeping rates affordable now and into the future.



Operating Statistics for September 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Billed consumers, farm	1,141	1,148
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	114	121
Kilowatts sold, farm	2,330,657	2,362,195
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	2,369,652	6,803,178
Average consumption, farm.....	2,043	2,058
Average consumption, non-farm and others.....	20,786	56,225
Average statement, farm	\$230.95	\$235.67
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$1,930.45	\$3,994.40
Total minimum bills.....	21	21
Outage time per consumer—minutes	10	5 2/9
Energy efficiency added per KWH.....		0.00022
Annual meeting date	March 2024	

Deck the Halls Safely

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Safe Electricity offers several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw light or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least ten feet from power lines.
- Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's).
- Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical

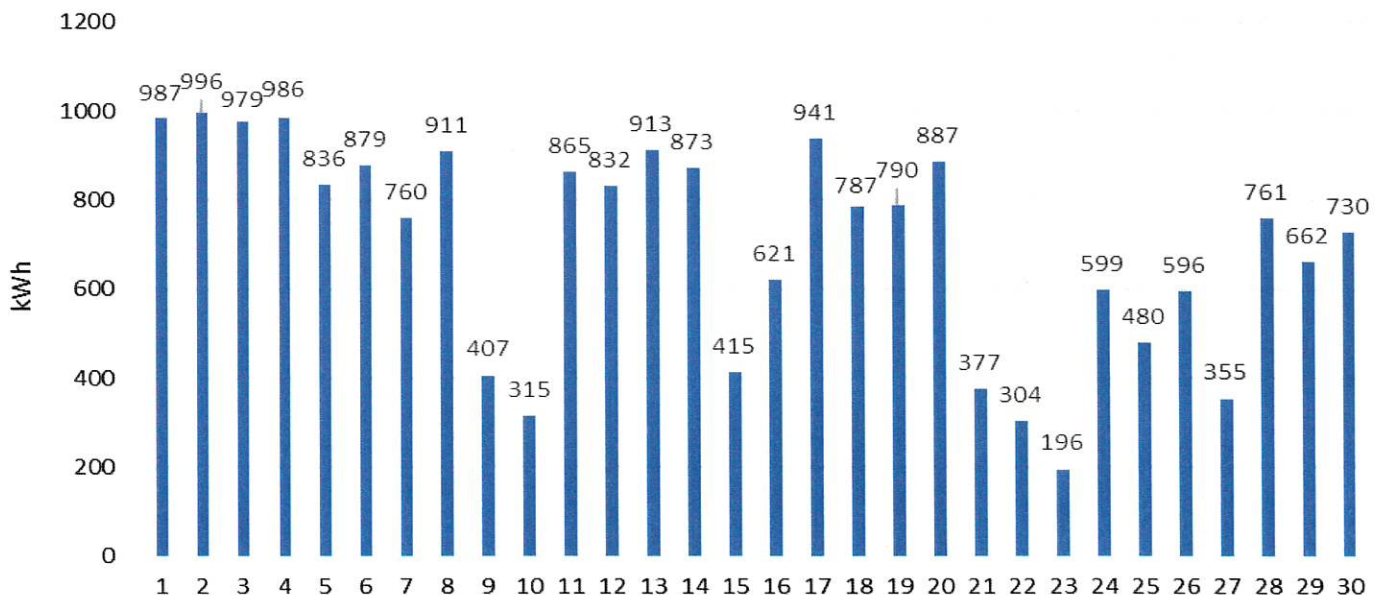


- cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Do not attached cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place to use caution. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and radiators; water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn lights off before you go to sleep. Use a timer to help.

Safe Electricity wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on holiday safety tips visit, SafeElectricity.org.

September 2023 Solar Production



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Pole Top Rescue Practice

An emergency that is unique to the electric utility industry is injury or medical emergency while working high off the ground.

In October, Osceola Electric Cooperative staff participated in training to ensure quick and calm action in a situation where a lineman is incapacitated atop a power pole. **30036**



In this pole top rescue exercise linemen climb the pole, secure a rope around a 150-pound dummy, and return safely to the ground for appropriate medical attention.

Osceola Electric is proud of our employees and the important work they do each day to provide safe, reliable electricity to our members.

FALL SAFETY WORD SEARCH



Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But Fall also brings greater risks of home fires and electrical hazards.

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

Adults should always stay in the **kitchen** while food is **cooking**.

Smoke alarms should be tested monthly to ensure they're working properly. **Batteries** should be replaced every year or right away if the alarm starts to chirp.

Candles should never be left burning when someone isn't in the room.

Keep flammable items away from the **stove**, **toaster** and other cooking **appliances**.

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S	M	C	K	J	P	M	H	G	X	V	O	B	P	S
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R	B	I	X	T	F	O	A	T	K	H	C	U	L	N
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