



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



October 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.

## Celebrate Cooperatives in October

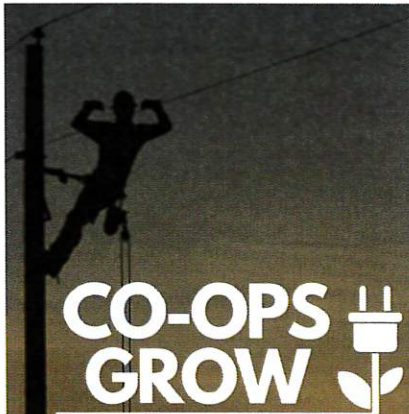
Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.


A co-op exists solely to provide high-quality service at the lowest possible price for its member-owners. Electric co-ops are locally owned and governed, which ensures that they are always focused on community needs and local priorities. Member ownership also guarantees every account holder has a voice in co-op business, which is governed by an elected board of directors who are also members. The board makes decisions to accommodate the best interests of the membership and local directors have a personal investment in assuring the cooperative in meeting the needs of the community.

When Osceola Electric Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month we are really celebrating you! After all OEC wouldn't exist without you, our members.

### Seven Cooperative Principles

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community



**CO-OPS GROW** 

**COMMUNITIES**

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

## Iowa Electric Cooperative Living Winners



Congratulations to the Van Meeterens, the winners of the August *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* Editor's Choice Contest. The Van Meeterens won an Amazon Fire Smart TV **10132** by entering the contest online.

Be sure to read this month's edition for articles on energy efficiency, safety, rural economic development and your chance at winning the editor's choice contest!



## Safety

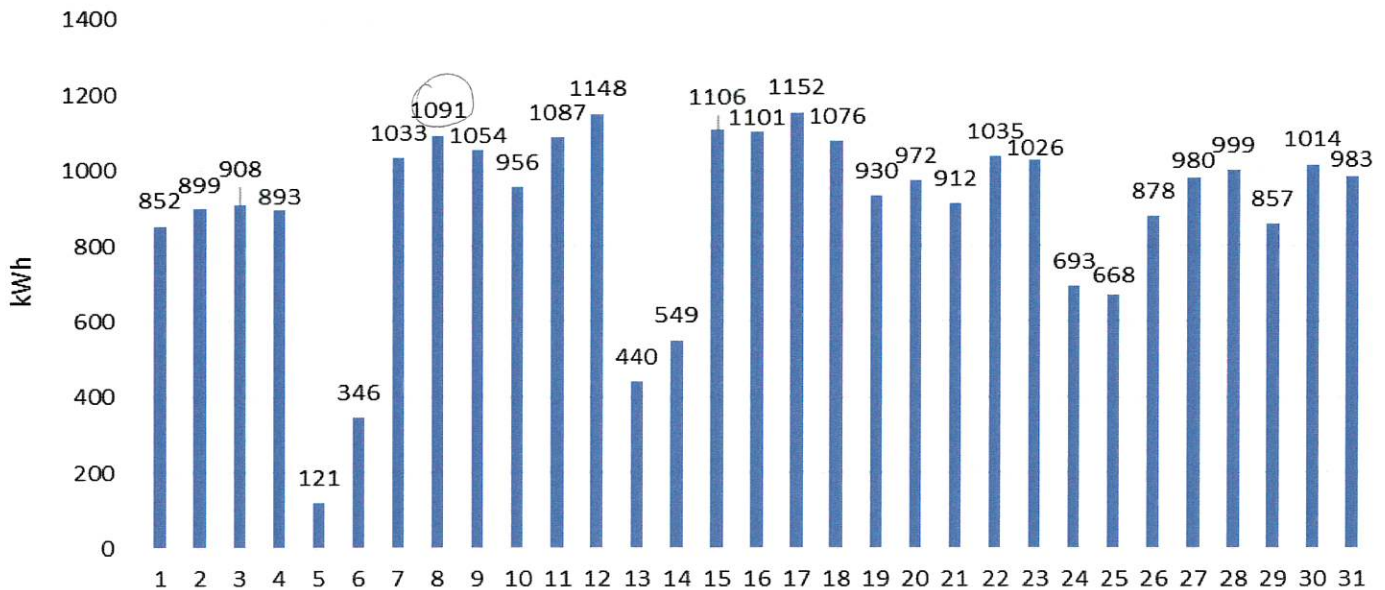


Osceola Electric Cooperative follows safety programs to ensure the well-being of our employees, our members, and the communities we serve.

This past month employees participated in an exercise to earn their skid steer certification. In this exercise the operator must pick a basketball up off a cone, balance it on the forks while maneuvering between cones to dump the ball in the bin on the other side. Other topics covered were fire extinguisher refresher, safe driving, and spill prevention. Safety shares are also discussed at each safety meeting.



## August 2023 Solar Production



## Operating Statistics for August 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Billed consumers, farm .....	1,141	1,148
Billed consumers, non-farm and others .....	114	122
Kilowatts sold, farm .....	2,760,330	2,910,774
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others .....	2,762,213	6,917,512
Average consumption, farm .....	2,419	2,536
Average consumption, non-farm and others .....	24,230	56,701
Average statement, farm .....	\$269.61	\$278.32
Average statement, non-farm and others .....	\$2,217.19	\$4,056.04
Total minimum bills .....	24	27
Outage time per consumer—minutes .....	9 7/8	3 4/9
Energy efficiency added per KWH .....		0.00022
Annual meeting date .....	March 2024	<b>23781</b>



# Manager's Report



**Jeff Ten Napel,  
General Manager**

## Fall Construction

Highline Construction crews from Paynesville, MN have been working in the county for a couple months and have made good progress. We hope for another couple of months of construction before ground conditions change.

Osceola Electric crews are working with Highline Construction to prepare for the new three-phase line (cutting over services), Following the completion of the new FEMA funded line.

In October Loosbrock Digging will begin plowing three-phase lines. If old man winter holds off, we are planning on eight-and-a-half miles. All these miles will be replacing overhead lines that are more than 50 years old.

Three-and-a-half miles will be on Silver Avenue from 180th Street to A34. Four-and-a-half miles will start on Warbler Avenue and 200th Street and finish up south of May City. The final mile-and-a-half will tie our Allison substation to Business Corner. This new feeder will give OEC multiple connection points for back feeding if needed, for maintenance, outages, or storm issues.

OEC has taken advantage of two programs FEMA offers, Public Assistance (following storms) and Mitigation Funding. These funds have allowed us to retire dozens of miles of 1950 to 1960 vintage three-phase overhead lines and convert them to underground. In doing so we have rebuilt the backbone of our system and increased reliability. **42395**

OEC crews have rebuilt more than 50 miles of both single and three-phase overhead lines using our new construction spec's—large poles, shorter spans, and aluminum conductor since 2015.



Highline putting the finishing touches on the new four-mile three-phase line east of Business Corner.



OEC crews working to cut over services.



**The OEC office  
will be closed  
November 10 in  
observation of  
VETERANS  
DAY**

★ ★  
WE STAND UNITED IN GRATITUDE

Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 07/01/2022-06/30/2023	
Osceola County building, poles, wires	\$34,072.00
O'Brien County poles & wires	\$90.00
Lyon County poles & wires	\$136.00
Dickinson County poles & wires	\$161.00
<b>Total Taxes Payable</b>	<b>\$34,459.00</b>



## 2023-2024 Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: Dept. of Energy

The 2023-2024 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, **Dial 2-1-1**, or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency, or write to: **LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.**

### How to Apply for LIHEAP

#### WHEN TO APPLY

- ≡ Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled October 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024
- ≡ All other households November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

#### WHAT TO TAKE

- ≡ Proof of Income (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- ≡ Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- ≡ Most recent heat bill
- ≡ Most recent electric bill

#### WAGE EARNERS

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

#### FIXED INCOME

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

#### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS

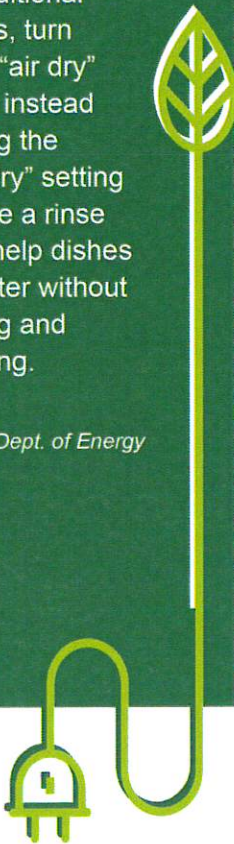
Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

*If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.*

#### INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.



RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in home weatherization for low income consumers of OEC. You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly contribution automatically added to your monthly electric bill. If you participate in a matching fund program please provide that information as well. Even a dollar a month pledge will help.

#### Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be billed monthly.

My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to: RECare  
Osceola Electric Cooperative, INC., P.O. Box 127, Sibley, IA 51249-0127