



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



February 2026

Contact Us

Office:

1102 Egret Drive
P.O. Box 127
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

Take the Quiz

Read through the newsletter and submit the quiz on the back for a chance to win a \$10 bill credit. You can also email your answers to info@osceolaelectric.com

OEC Recipes

Submit your favorite Bread Pudding Recipe for consideration to be printed in our May Newsletter. Submission deadline is April 20. Printed recipes are worth \$10 bill credit.

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on March 21, 2026, at the Osceola Electric Cooperative office.

Celebrating Sandy



For many years Osceola Electric Cooperative members could depend on accuracy, commitment and sincere care from OEC Billing Clerk Sandy Heronimus.

"After 38 years of service, Sandy

Heronimus, our longtime Office Assistant, Billing Supervisor, and Customer Service Representative, is retiring on March 6, 2026. Her dedication, integrity, and genuine care

for the cooperative community will be greatly missed." Said Jeff TenNapel, GM/CEO

From technology advances, to locations changes Sandy experienced a lot in her time at OEC. Sandy's responsibilities reached far beyond processing the bills. She's taken care of our members in more ways than we can count and her work ethic set a high standard for those who follow.

"We extend our sincerest appreciation to Sandy for her significant contribution in helping to shape OEC into what it is today, and we wish her all the best on her well-earned retirement." Commented Jeff TenNapel.

Please join us as we extend our gratitude to Sandy and wish her the very best!

Directors' Achievements

Congratulations to Dan Heilman, Doug Roth, and Lindsay Watterson on completing the necessary classes to earn their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) award. Congratulations to Terrence Clark and Dean Haspels on receiving their Director Gold Credential.



Our National Rural Electric Association's (NRECA) Director Education Program consists of three levels for directors to continually build on their community and industry knowledge. The 3 levels are: CCD, BLC, and Director Gold. The core courses include: Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning, and Financial Decision-Making. These courses are offered through the Iowa Electric Cooperative Association in Des Moines.

Eight years ago the OEC Board of Directors implemented a training policy requiring newly elected directors to obtain their CCD to be eligible to run for their third term.



Osceola Electric is fortunate to have directors that are committed to understanding their responsibilities, and prepared to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.

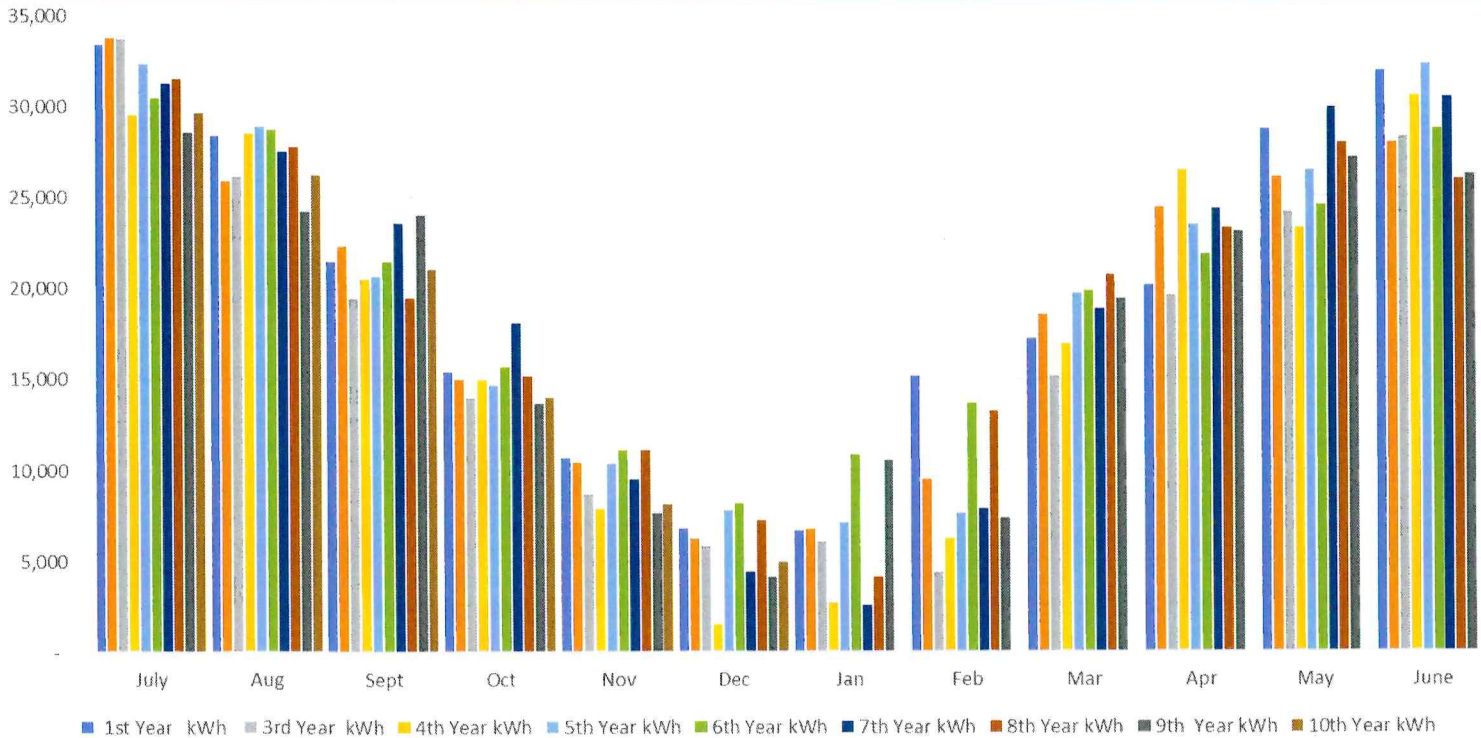


▲ **Director Gold**
CCD + BLC + 3 Additional Credits
from BLC Courses (every 2 years)

▲ **Board Leadership Certificate**
CCD + 10 Course Credits from
Specialty Areas

▲ **Credentialed Cooperative Director**
5 Core Courses

Sterler Community Solar Park Update



The Osceola Electric Cooperative member owned Sterler Community Solar Park, is a 147-kilowatt solar facility built in 2016. This past year, the solar park produced a total of 217,797 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, a 1 percent increase in production compared to 2024. Figuring the average home consumes around 1,500 kWh per month, the solar park produced enough energy to power 12 homes for an entire year.

Impact of Winter Snowfall on Production

Snowfall has a large impact on production in the winter months. Snow accumulation on the solar panels can block sunlight, reducing their ability to generate electricity. This seasonal effect is common in areas with colder climates, and while

snow eventually melts, it can still lead to a reduction in energy output during the peak of winter.

Capacity Factor: A Measure of Efficiency

The park's capacity factor was approximately 11 percent in 2025. While an 11 percent capacity factor is typical for solar energy projects, especially in areas where weather patterns can cause interruptions, it's a reminder of the intermittent nature of solar energy.

The performance of Sterler Community Solar Park in 2025 reinforces the importance of an "All of the Above" energy strategy. As climate change and shifting weather patterns create new challenges, relying on a diversified energy mix becomes essential for ensuring a

reliable and resilient power grid. Solar energy is a critical piece of the puzzle, but it must be complemented by other energy sources like wind, natural gas, hydroelectric, and battery storage to address the fluctuating availability of solar power, especially in winter months.

The "All of the Above" approach encourages communities to explore all available energy solutions, ensuring that power is consistently available, even when solar or other renewable sources may be temporarily unavailable. As we move into 2026, Sterler Community Solar Park will remain a vital part of Osceola Electric Cooperative's renewable energy landscape, helping to build a more sustainable and energy secure future.

Annual Meeting

The director appointed Nominating Committee met January 9, 2026 to discuss candidates to run for the Osceola Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Candidates were needed for Area/District 6 and 7.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee Members for taking the time to contact candidates and submit names for the ballot.

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on March 21, 2026, at the Osceola Electric Cooperative office.

This come and go meeting starts at 8:00 am with announcement of election results at 9:00 am. Members who wish to drop off ballots must do so prior to 9:00 am.

Watch for details this summer about our 3rd Annual Member Appreciation Event.

Nominating Committee Members:
John Haspels, Mark Wynja, Ron Jacobs,
Steve Voss, Kyle Mc Carter
Not pictured: Alvin Van Wyk,
and Steve Swenson



Nominating Committee Appointed

In compliance with the by-laws of the cooperative, the board of directors has appointed the following members to act as the nominating committee for the selection of nominees for directors of this cooperative to be elected at the annual meeting of the cooperative to be held March 22, 2025.

Steve Voss
1124 Highway 59
Sibley, IA 51249

Ron Jacobs
2228 Tanager Ave
Melvin, IA 51350

Mark Wynja
2272 Taft Ave
Melvin, IA 51350

Kyle Mc Carter
6136 230th Street
Melvin, IA 51350

John Haspels
2467 Vine Ave
Hartley, IA 51350

Alvin Van Wyk
1870 Van Buren Ave
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

Steve Swenson
6437 200th Street
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

FROM ARTICLE 1

Section 1. Qualification and Obligations.

Any person, firm, corporation or body politic may become a member in the Cooperative by: (a) paying the membership fee hereinafter specified; (b) agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified and (c) agreeing to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative and these by-laws and any amendments thereto and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the board of directors, provided, however, that no person, firm, corporation or body politic shall become a membership by the board of directors or the members. At each meeting of the members held subsequent to the expiration of a period of six (6) months from the date of incorporation of the Cooperative. All applications received more than (90) days prior to such meeting and which have not been accepted by the board of directors shall be submitted by the board of directors to such meeting of the members and subject to compliance by the applicant with the conditions set forth in subdivision (a), (b) and (c) of this section. Such application for membership may be accepted by a vote of the members at such meeting. The secretary shall give any such applicant at least ten (10) days prior notice of the date of the members' meeting to which his application will be submitted and such applicant may be present and heard at the meeting. No person, firm, corporation or body politic may own more than one (1) membership in the Cooperative.

FROM ARTICLE II

Section 5. Voting. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present, all questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon at such meetings in person or by mail, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative, or these by-laws. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership they shall jointly be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members.

Section 6. Voting by Mail. Any members who is absent from any annual or special meeting of the members may vote by mail upon any motion or resolution to be acted upon at any such meeting with respect to an amendment to the articles of incorporation or the by-laws. Or any action submitted pursuant to the resolution adopted by the board of directors or by petition of not less than ten per centum (10%) of the members. The secretary shall enclose with the notice of such meeting an exact copy of such motion or resolution to be acted upon and such absent members shall express his vote thereon in writing "yes" or "no" on each such motion or resolution in the space provided therefore and enclose each copy as marked in a sealed envelope bearing his name and addressed to the Secretary. When such written vote so enclosed is received by mail from an absent member it shall be accepted and counted as a vote of such absent member at such meeting. Any member who is absent from any meeting provided for in Section I or Article II for the election of directors by ballot as hereinafter provided in these by-laws. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and absent from any annual or special meeting of the members they shall jointly be entitled to vote by mail as provided in this section. The failure of any such absent member to receive a copy of any such motion or resolution or ballot shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

FROM ARTICLE III

Section 3. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, no less than thirty (30) days nor more than one hundred (100) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which directors

are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) no more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation of the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty-two (32) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures no less than twenty-five (25) days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list is posted. A ballot marked "Ballot of Directors" containing the names of all the nominees as posted. Stating the residence of each shall be mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition. Such statement of the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section. Any member who is absent from any such meeting may vote by marking on the ballot an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing his name addressed to the Secretary. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any absent members it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such absent member at such meeting. The member may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and are absent from any such meeting they may vote by mail for directors by jointly marking and enclosing the ballot hereinabove provided for. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Enrolling in autodraft payments with your utility provider can help prevent certain types of utility bill scams. If a scammer contacts you with fake disconnection threats, you can rest easy knowing your bill is paid automatically through a pre-arranged, secure channel. Autodraft payments also eliminate the risk of exposing checks and personal banking info through the mail. If your utility offers autodraft payments, consider enrolling to stay on track and avoid certain scams.

Source: AARP



Download an ACH Form at osceolaelectric.com or call the office to get signed up for automatic payments.



Source: Energystar.gov

About 90% of the energy used by washing machines goes to heating the water.

Save on energy costs by using cold or warm water.



Member Recipe

Cowboy Quiche

By: Laura Vander Meulen

- 1 unbaked deep dish pie crust
- 1 lg onion sliced
- 2 tbsp butter
- 8 slices of bacon or 1 lb sausage cooked
- 8 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups half & half
- salt & pepper to taste
- 2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese



Fry the onions in butter until brown. Set aside. Fry the bacon in bite size pieces & set aside when chewy and crispy. Whip the eggs with half & half salt & pepper then add the onions bacon & cheese. Pour into pie crust. Bake at 400° 40-45 minutes covered with foil and another 10-15 minutes uncovered until set & golden brown. Let it sit 10 minutes before serving.

Artwork on Display



Osceola Electric is partnering with local artists from Sibley-Ocheyedan to brighten up the office.

First grade teacher, Mrs. Heitritter implemented a plan to showcase elementary artwork at various locations throughout the community. Each month the art on display will be switched out with a new piece.

In December and January we enjoyed a festive Christmas scene from 4th grade artist, Makynlee.

Thank you to the teachers and students at Sibley-Ocheyedan for sharing their talents!

IOEC Quiz

Send in your completed quiz for your chance to win! IOEC will draw 3 members to receive \$10 credit towards their electric bill. Congratulations to last month's winners: Bill Hibbing, Julie Stahly, & Loran Anderson

1. _____ is one of the levels of the NRECA Director Education Program.
2. The 2025 Annual Meeting will be _____.
3. The Osceola Electric Cooperative member owned Sterler Community Solar Park, is a 147-kilowatt solar facility built in _____.

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Operating Statistics

December

	2024	2025
Billed consumers, farm	1,154	1,150
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	125	128
Kilowatts sold, farm	3,213,432	3,266,424
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	5,908,740	5,831,036
Average consumption, farm	2,785	2,838
Average Consumption, non-farm	47,270	45,555
Average statement, farm	312.57	325.86
Average statement, non-farm and others	3,926.20	3,397.14
Total minimum bills	14	12
Outage time per consumer—minutes	0	1 3/4
Annual Meeting	March 21, 2026	