



For Outages Please Call: 1-800-548-4660

Visit us at www.ocec-inc.com

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

February 2009

Cloudcroft, N.M. 575-682-2521

Alto, N.M. 575-336-4550

Carrizozo, N.M. 575-648-2352

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



Board Approves Touchstone Energy Membership

Our industry is changing. The way people purchase and use energy will change. Otero County Electric Cooperative intends to be at the forefront of these changes, because this is the best way to meet our member's expectations. We believe the resources available through the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand, combined with our local, state and regional involvement, position us well for the future.

We believe Touchstone Energy will provide new ways to communicate about the services and community investment OCEC provides while helping to reinforce the dedication we have to serving members with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Touchstone Energy will provide added professionalism in our communication efforts and helps level the playing field while we compete for the hearts and minds of you, our members young and old. The brand's resources help polish our message and give us credibility when we deal with our members and non-members who don't always understand who we are and how the cooperative way of doing business is valuable to them.

Key features of the Touchstone Energy Program are:

- ◆ **Online Kids Zone** — Younger coop members can have hours of fun and learn about electricity, electrical safety, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Kids also meet CFL Charlie, Touchstone Energy's energy efficiency mascot. CFL Charlie leads kids through the site, which features interactive games, coloring pages and tips for helping families create an energy efficient house. Coops are encouraged to integrate this resource into their own web sites.
- ◆ **Super Energy Saver Classroom Kits Featuring CFL Charlie** — CFL Charlie takes his energy efficiency message from the online Kids Zone into classrooms with the new "Super Energy Saver" classroom kits. The kits are designed for grades K-5 and can be ordered online. The kits are packed with materials that will teach kids how to become "Super Energy Savers" at home.
- ◆ **Online Energy Savings Applications** — Coop members can visit TouchstoneEnergySavers.com to access a set of online applications that point the way to a more energy efficient home. The applications include: Virtual House Tour; Water Heater energy Saver; Light Bulb Energy Saver; Online Home energy Audit.
- ◆ **Touchstone Energy Home Program** — Touchstone Energy cooperatives have adopted a set of standards to apply to both new and existing homes whose owners want to make them more energy efficient. To learn more visit TSEsavers.com.
- ◆ **Member Service Representative Energy Training Workshop** — This is a seven hour workshop to train MSRs to understand how electricity works, how bills are computed, how to answer commonly asked questions from members and how to give simple recommendations to help homeowners use energy more efficiently.
- ◆ **Other features** of the program include Residential Energy Auditing Workshop; Commercial energy Savings Guide; Small commercial Energy Auditing Workshop; and Lighting Audit Workshop.

Scholarships Available to Students

Otero County Electric Cooperative has available to it's member's children, scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. The \$1,000 scholarship is paid in increments of \$500 at the start of each semester.

Applications may be picked up at any of OCEC's offices or from the counselor at each school served by the Cooperative. Applications must be received no later than March 6, 2009.

The Rocky Mountain Electric League (RMEL) has available a scholarship to deserving and qualified students to pursue careers in engineering or curriculum related to the electric industry. Students from all parts of the RMEL service territory are encouraged to apply. Applications may be picked up from your counselor in OCEC's area or downloaded at www.RMEL.org by clicking on Foundation at the top of the page and then Scholarships. For further information on Scholarships provided by OCEC, please contact any cooperative office.

ONLINE CREDIT CARD PAYMENT NOW AVAILABLE

The long awaited E-Billing system for OCEC is now up and running for your use. This system will allow you to pay your bill online with a credit card. You will need to access OCEC's web page at www.ocec-inc.com and then click the E-Bill link in the top left of the home page to set up your account. Should you have questions, please ask at any OCEC office for assistance.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

To trim high heating costs, open draperies and shades on the south - facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill of cold windows.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Super Saver Bonus

Don't let the water run when you are brushing your teeth. You are not only wasting water, you are also using energy that could be saved!

OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 227

CLOUDCROFT, NEW MEXICO 88317

- Office hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. If service is interrupted, check your fuses and circuit breakers. If all your service is off, check with your neighbors.
- Report promptly if you think the trouble is on Otero County Electric Cooperative, Incorporated lines.
- When problem is on consumers side of the meter, the consumer will be charged for a false call for service.
- Please examine this bill carefully as it will be considered correct if we are not notified within 30 days.
- The statement enclosed does not include payments made after billing date.
- If you desire information on the use of electricity for any job, large or small, do not hesitate to call your Cooperative, come by the office, or write for information at any time.
- FOR EMERGENCIES OR POWER OUTAGES CALL (800) 548 - 4660.

Recipes Needed

Please mail or email your recipes to:

Clint Gardner
Mgr. of Member Services
Otero County Electric Coop.
P.O. Box 1135
Alto, New Mexico 88312
or
clintg@ote-coop.com

Send more than one if you'd like. We welcome all recipes and need as many as we can get to make it a successful cookbook. There will be a reminder each month in your Power-Gram.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

(This month's recipe was submitted by Molly Mason of Capitan)

This brings back so many childhood memories and by placing this recipe in the Power Gram this month, we're going to make it snow!

Thanks for the recipe and the memories Molly!

Snow Ice Cream

In a large bowl mix:

2 cups milk or cream
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 Tbsp. Vanilla

Stir together and add snow until firm.

This recipe makes about one gallon of Snow Ice Cream!

Enjoy!