



POWER-GRAM

**January
2023**

Cloudcroft
575-682-2521
Alto
575-336-4550
Carrizozo
575-648-2352

www.ocec-inc.com

LOBBY HOURS
8 AM - 4 PM
Monday - Friday

**TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL**
1-800-548-4660

**FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION
OR TO PAY YOUR
BILL, CALL**
1-844-846-2695



A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Left: Photo by Mario Romero

Operation Round Up® Helps Many Local Organizations Each Year

Otero County Electric's Operation Round Up® Program has distributed more than \$774,000 to community-minded groups, organizations, and individuals in Otero & Lincoln Counties since its inception in 2012.

Operation Round Up® is a voluntary program in which members agree to have their utility bill "rounded up" to the next whole dollar amount. The extra money paid, which is really a donation, goes toward helping area non-profit organizations, school groups, fire departments, senior citizen groups, and individuals. The average annual contribution per member is around a mere \$6. That small amount may not sound like it could do much good, but when donations from all members are combined, Operation Roundup® can offer an immense amount of assistance throughout our communities.

Participation in Operation Round Up® is voluntary, but OCEC has an outstanding participation rate. Over 83% of members contribute to Operation Round Up® each month. Following is a list of some great organizations that have received funding from this charitable giving program in 2022.

Thanks to all members who participate in this fantastic community-minded program. Additional information on how to apply is available on the website at www.ocec-inc.com.

- Ski Apache Adaptive Sports - \$2500
- Hope Harbor - \$2500
- Otero County Fair Livestock Exhibitors - \$550
- Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce - \$2000
- Cloudcroft HS Technology Student Asso-

- ciation - \$2500
- Eddy County Fair Livestock Exhibitors - \$150
- Lincoln County Fair Livestock Exhibitors - \$3900
- Alamogordo HS Volleyball - \$2500
- Cloudcroft Football - \$2500
- Sacramento Mountain Historical Society - \$2500
- Capitan Tiger Booster Club - \$2500
- Tularosa FFA - \$2500
- Tularosa Wildcat Football - \$1200
- James Canyon Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary - \$2500
- Carrizozo Music, Inc. - \$1000
- Friends of Historic Lincoln - \$2500
- Mescalero Violence Against Women Program - \$2500
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Otero County - \$2500
- Carrizozo Women's Club - \$900
- Mescalero Apache School Robotics Team - \$2400
- Otero County 4-H Youth Development - \$500
- Pinon Extension Club - \$2500

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Place space heaters on hard, level surfaces.

Keep heaters at least 3 ft. away from children, pets and flammable materials.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs. Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores.

Source: energy.gov

Scholarship Opportunities Available

OCEC's Education Foundation started awarding scholarships to area students in 1989. Since its inception, more than \$1.4 million dollars have been awarded to deserving students attending a New Mexico university, college, or technical school.

The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for the first 2 semesters and increases to \$1,500 per semester for an additional six (6) semesters with verification that the required GPA is maintained and the student continues enrollment. To be eligible, the student must be an active member receiving electric service from Otero County Electric Cooperative.

Applications are available at any OCEC office, on our website, or from your school guidance counselor.

Don't wait. The deadline to apply is March 15.

There is also a scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) available to upcoming high school graduates who receive electric service from Otero County Electric Cooperative (OCEC) and will be attending a post-secondary school in the Fall 2023 semester. This scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of children of member-cooperative consumers and is administered by BEPC in conjunction with OCEC.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen who is planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year, or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school. Applications are available at your local OCEC office, from your school guidance counselor, or can be downloaded at www.ocec-inc.com.

Applications for the BEPC scholarship are due to OCEC by February 15, 2023.

Those interested in becoming an electric line worker can also get assistance with paying for their schooling if they enroll in the Electric Lineworker Pre-Apprentice program at CNM in Rio Rancho.

Details on all scholarships can be found by visiting our website at www.ocec-inc.com.

Vegetation Management Update

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

- James Canyon
- Cox Canyon
- High Rolls
- Hwy. 380

OCEC reminds members that you may see vehicles, ATVs and crew members from Rogers Tree Service cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and an OCEC contractor placard.

Portable Buildings for Sale

OCEC has two buildings at our Alto location that are available and will be sold to the highest bidder.

Removal of the buildings will be the sole responsibility of the winning bidder. Buildings must be removed by February 1, 2023.

Buildings may be seen by appointment only. To set up a time to view, contact Mark Martin at 575-336-4550.

Sealed bids may be turned in at the Alto Office at 1135 Hwy. 48, or mailed to OCEC, ATTN: Mark Martin, PO Box 1135, Alto, NM 88312. Bids must be received by 4 PM, January 25, 2023, to be considered.

Details regarding buildings are below:

Building 1—Kolton, all-steel construction with wooden floor, steel door, and one window. Size is approximately 20'(L) x 12' (W) x 8' (H). Shelving is included.

Building 2—Wood 2"x4" construction with corrugated metal siding and roof, wooden floor and steel door. Size is approximately 20'(L) x 12' (W) x 8' (H). Shelving is included.

