



POWER-GRAM

**April
2023**

Clondcroft
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 Jake Chesney

Line Crews Recognized This Month

Otero County Electric Cooperative was established in 1939 and has been committed to our members ever since. We are committed not only to our members but also to our linemen and the work they do. OCEC employs twenty lineworkers who serve diverse communities and a large service territory.

Day in and day out, rain or shine, these lineworkers leave their families to go out and perform one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. Without complaining, they do this to keep your lights on and keep you comfortable in all types of weather.

You see our trucks in your communities every day with the Otero County Electric emblem. The next time you do, please consider waving or telling them thank you for the job they do. Most of us may not realize how dependent we are on them until the lights go out.

In 1941 Otero County Electric Cooperative served 76 miles of line. Today, we serve 20,370 electric meters across 2,827 miles of line in Otero, Lincoln, Chaves, and Socorro counties. Our crews cover this large territory continuously to make sure our members' needs are met.

National Lineworker Appreciation Day is recognized in April. If you see a lineman this month, please say hello and thank them for their service.

OCEC thanks our dedicated line crew!

- * JD Brown – Equipment Operator
- * Matt Chavez – Journeyman Lineman
- * Nick Chavez – Journeyman Lineman
- * Jake Chesney – Apprentice Lineman
- * Rayce Collins – Journeyman Lineman
- * Janscen Davis - Equipment Operator
- * Tanner Dean – Journeyman Lineman
- * Colton Gililland—Equipment Operator
- * John Gillen – Journeyman Lineman
- * Ryan Guevara – Journeyman Lineman
- * Garrett Hacker – Journeyman Lineman
- * Chris Hughes – Journeyman Lineman
- * Jude Otero – Journeyman Lineman
- * Marco Ramirez – Apprentice Lineman
- * Isaiah Salazar – Apprentice Lineman
- * Sam Sanchez – Journeyman Lineman
- * Baylee Sanderson – Apprentice Lineman
- * Kenny Vega – Apprentice Lineman
- * James Vigil – Equipment Operator
- * David Webb - Apprentice Lineman



CELEBRATE
the Power Behind Your Power.
Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov

Operations on Alert with Red Flag Warnings

As winds begin to pick up, red-flag warnings will be issued and OCEC will put into effect fire prevention procedures. Reclosers will be set to non-reclose so breakers operate and lines stay open at the first sign of a fault to help reduce the risk of a fire being started by electrical equipment.

This precautionary measure will rely more heavily on line patrol by operations personnel and less on automated equipment, but does come with some consequences – outages may last longer and more members could be affected. OCEC asks everyone to be patient when the longer outages occur, but hope you understand that the benefits of the extra patrol time far outweigh the risks.



Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



APRIL is NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH!

Be sure to call for locates before planting trees, installing sprinkler systems, or tackling other Spring improvement projects around your home.

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.

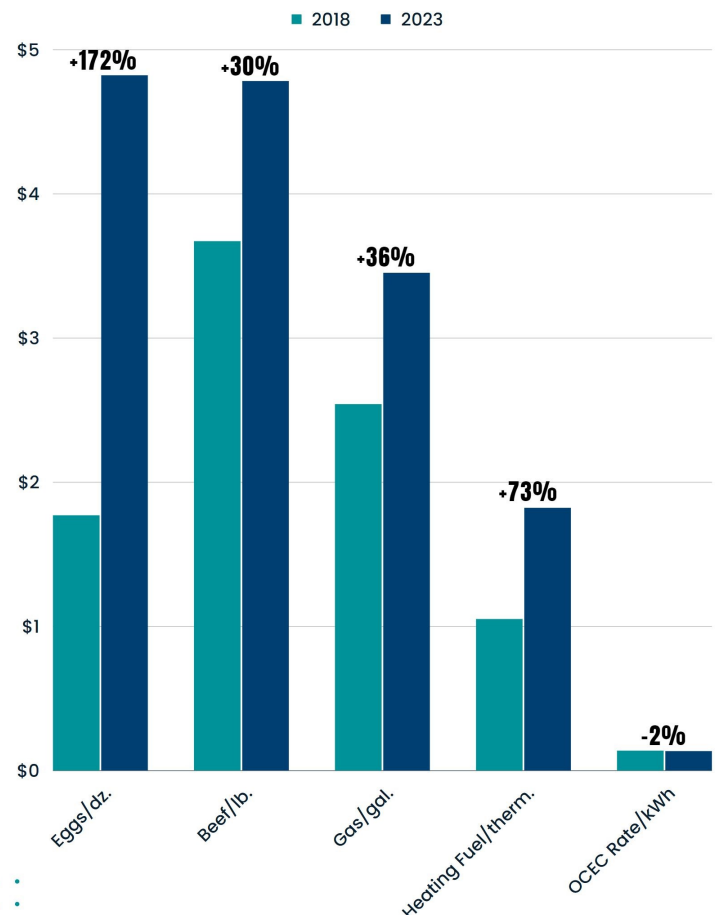
- Hondo
- Mescalero
- Alto
- James Canyon

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.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2018-2023



Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics – Consumer Price Index & OCEC Rates