



POWER-GRAM

June
2023

Cloudfcroft
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

Capital Credit Allocations

How much of Otero County Electric Cooperative's margins from last year will YOU receive? Your June 2023 electric bill lists the amount allocated to your capital credit account based on last year's margins. The information will appear on the left-hand side of the bill, above the kWh Usage History.

As an OCEC member, you have a share of the earnings of your not-for-profit electric cooperative. The allocation reflected on the bill represents your share of the operating margins (excess of income over expenses) realized by your cooperative for the year indicated. The margins are allocated to all members who received electric service from the cooperative in proportion to the amount each member paid for electric service.

The money represented by members' capital credits (also known as patronage capital) is used by your co-op to repay long-term debt, maintain reserves for the financing of plant replacements, storm damage, and other contingencies. Because patronage capital is used in this manner, it is not refunded immediately. Instead, the amount of capital credits is recorded on an account established in your

name and made a permanent part of the cooperative's records. Should the Board of Trustees determine that a refund of patronage capital credits be made, they will be refunded in accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative. This year, OCEC will retire Capital Credits for most of the unretired amount from 1998, refunding \$814,734 to members receiving allocations in that year. Capital credit refund checks will be available at the Annual Meeting in August for those in attendance. Checks that are not picked up at the meeting will be mailed shortly thereafter.

Should you discontinue service in the future, it is extremely important to keep your address updated with OCEC. This will ensure that you receive future allocation information and retirement checks if/when capital credits are refunded. Any unclaimed Capital Credit refunds are eventually escheated into the Otero County Electric Education Foundation, which provides educational scholarships for members and their dependents.

Capital credit allocations shown on your statement can not be applied to your energy bills.



**For account balance or
to pay by phone, call
toll free,
1-844-846-2695**

2023 Election Information

There are three (3) positions on the Otero County Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees that are up for election. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held **Saturday, August 5, 2023** in the Cloudcroft High School Gymnasium in Cloudcroft, NM.

Trustees holding positions expiring in 2023 are listed below. Those elected for these positions will serve a **3-year term ending in 2026**.

Cheri Hass—Central District
Kenny Blazer—Southwest District
Bill Bird—Northeast District

Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws states:

SECTION 3. Nominations. Nominations for Trustees to be elected shall be by Petition signed by fifteen or more members acting together, and who are bona fide residents of the district for which the nomination is made. The Petition shall be filed not less than twenty-five (25) days or more than forty-five (45) days before the date of the Meeting of the Members in which Trustees are to be elected. Nominations for the position of Trustee from the floor, at the annual Meeting of Members, is not allowed.

The secretary shall include with the notice of the meeting, at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates. Notwithstanding anything contained in this SECTION, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this SECTION shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of Trustee.

Petition forms are available for pickup in any of our local offices in Cloudcroft, Alto or Carrizozo or downloaded on our website. According to the dates outlined in the by-laws, petitions **will only be accepted between Wednesday, June 21, 2023 and Tuesday, July 11, 2022**. Completed petitions may be turned in at any OCEC office.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Saturday, August 5, 2023

The poster features a hand holding a megaphone on the left side, set against a background of blue and yellow geometric shapes.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Your laundry room is a great place to start if you want to save energy this summer. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

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.

- Timberon
- Chippeway
- Angus Hill
- Alto

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.



Tips to Save Energy in the Laundry Room

- Wash clothes in cold water.
- Wash full loads when possible.
- Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle.
- Use wool or rubber dryer balls to improve the drying cycle.
- Separate heavier fabrics from lightweight items.

The infographic features a central illustration of a washing machine and dryer. The tips are presented in colorful circles around the machine.