



POWER-GRAM

September
2023



A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Left: Photo by Kelli Pruett

Cludcroft

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**

COME & JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS AFTERNOON



MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER**

22



**CLOUDCROFT
HEADQUARTERS
404 BURRO AVENUE**

11:00AM - 2:00PM

**HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
GIVEAWAYS
TEST-DRIVE AN EV
VISIT WITH EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES**



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment. Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills

Source: energy.gov

Budget Billing

The cooperative offers a convenient budget payment plan to residential customers. The plan has a set monthly payment which is based on the member's actual usage for the previous twelve months.

In order to qualify for the budget payment plan, you must have no outstanding or delinquent amounts owed. The set budget amount is reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly based on current usage trends.

You may choose to terminate the plan at any time by notifying us and paying the balance on the account. The Cooperative may remove a member from the plan should they continuously fail to pay the budget amount each month, thereby falling into delinquent status.

Contact our office today if you are interested in Budget Billing.

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.

- Alto – Lincoln Hills & Eagle Creek Road area
- Cloudcroft
- 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.

Be a Responsible Sportsman

September starts the beginning of hunting season in New Mexico. It's during this time of year that electric cooperatives can experience outages attributed to careless people shooting at power equipment such as insulators, utility poles, power line, transmission towers and transformers.

The majority of hunters and shooting enthusiasts are responsible when enjoying their shooting sport and at the same time, respect the property of others. However, there is a small minority that don't understand that shooting at power facilities and related equipment is vandalism.

This type of vandalism is very dangerous. Not only can someone be injured by a stray bullet, but a resulting power outage presents risks to electric co-op personnel who must repair the damage and to the members who may depend on life-supporting equipment.

When out hunting or participating in other firearm related sports, please check your target area carefully and respect the property of others. If there's anything but your game or target in your sights, don't pull the trigger. And, remember to always ask landowners before accessing private property.

Stay safe and enjoy the great outdoors!

IF YOU COME INTO CONTACT WITH A POWER LINE:



STAY IN THE VEHICLE
CALL 911

IF YOU MUST EXIT THE VEHICLE:



JUMP AWAY – DON'T TOUCH THE VEHICLE AND GROUND AT THE SAME TIME

LAND WITH BOTH FEET AT THE SAME TIME



HOP OR SHUFFLE AT LEAST 30 FEET AWAY

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