



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

A BALANCED TEAM OF RELIABILITY

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers, and some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that, too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy—if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team with different skills to handle various situations and scenarios. A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity—or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow. But creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.



MARCH CALENDAR PHOTO submitted by Aristeo Chavez

**MARCH
2024**

**CLOUDCROFT
575-682-2521**

**ALTO
575-336-4550**

**CARRIZOZO
575-648-2352**

**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**

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening. If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

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.

- o Glencoe
- o San Patricio
- o High Rolls
- o Tularosa
- o Weed
- o Perk 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.

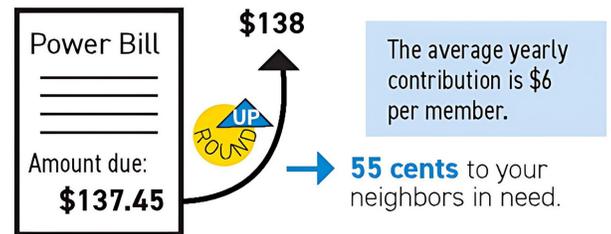
OPERATION ROUND UP HELPS COMMUNITY EACH YEAR



What is it?

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program that allows members to round up their monthly bills to help area nonprofit organizations, school groups, fire departments, senior citizen groups and individuals.

How does it work?



\$868,000

of Operation Round Up funds have been distributed to support groups, organizations and individuals in Otero and Lincoln counties since the program's inception in 2012.

More than **\$90,000** was raised and distributed through Otero County Electric's Operation Round Up Program in 2023.



Otero County Electric Cooperative has an outstanding member participation rate at 82%.



Thank you to all members who participate in this fantastic community-minded program.

- Cloudcroft FFA
- Cloudcroft High - Systems Go Program
- Cloudcroft High School TSA
- NRECA Cooperative Family Fund
- Eddy County Fair
- FIRST Robotics NM
- Flickinger Center
- Lincoln County Fair
- Mescalero Apache Schools STEM
- Otero Arts Inc.
- Otero County Fair
- Otero STEM
- Pinon Extension Club
- Hope Harbor
- ROAR Volleyball
- Timberon Neighborhood Watch
- Timberon Water & Sanitation
- Tularosa FFA
- Tularosa Middle and High School Robotics

Some organizations that received funding from this charitable giving program in 2023 are:

- Alamogordo FFA
- All Season Adaptive Sports
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Otero County
- Capitan FFA
- Capitan Senior Center
- Carrizozo Football
- Carrizozo Pickleball Association
- Carrizozo Women's Club
- Cloudcroft Girls Basketball
- Cloudcroft Lady Bears Volleyball
- Cloudcroft Middle School TSA
- Cloudcroft Schools PTO
- Cloudcroft United Methodist Church
- Cloudcroft High School Basketball
- Cloudcroft High School Management Prostart Team
- Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce