



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Otero County Electric (OCEC) is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For OCEC, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including OCEC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- Open and Voluntary Membership: Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- Democratic Member Control: Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- Members' Economic Participation: Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. This

happens through paying your energy bills.

- Autonomy and Independence: Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- Education, Training and Information: Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- Concern for Community: All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve.

HELP US CELEBRATE!
DROP BY YOUR LOCAL
OCEC OFFICES ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
FOR CANDY, COOKIES &
GIVEAWAYS
OCTOBER IS NATIONAL
COOP MONTH



OCTOBER CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by Adam Raulerson

**OCTOBER
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**
1-855-940-3957

WWW.OCEC-INC.COM

4 SIGNS YOUR HOUSE IS HAUNTED —OR WASTING ENERGY

Is your house being visited by spirits or energy waste? Here are four common signs of paranormal activity that could also have a 'normal' explanation — like energy-wasting home maintenance issues.

1 COLD SPOTS
You may be feeling a paranormal presence, but uneven temperatures around a home often mean poor insulation.

2 LIGHTS FLICKERING ON AND OFF
Sure, some ghost could be messing with you, but maybe it's just time to change some lightbulbs.

3 STRANGE RATTLING OR BANGING NOISES
While such noises may sound frightening, the issue could be merely loose ductwork connections or some other HVAC system issue.

4 CURTAINS MOVING AT NIGHT
Any apparitions may be causing those curtains to sway, but more likely it's air leaking through the window.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

So, should you hold a séance or hire a contractor? Let's start with this world:

Hire a qualified professional to ensure that your home is properly insulated.

Switch out older lightbulbs with high-efficiency LEDs, which also last longer.

Have your HVAC system inspected by a qualified professional.

Check for gaps or cracks in windows and seal them with caulk.

If you've done all this and you're still hearing weird noises or experiencing strange phenomena, maybe it's time to call in a paranormal investigator.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

Source: 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.

- o Mescalero Summit area
- o Toboggan Canyon & Chippeway
- o South Fork Fire burn scar

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.

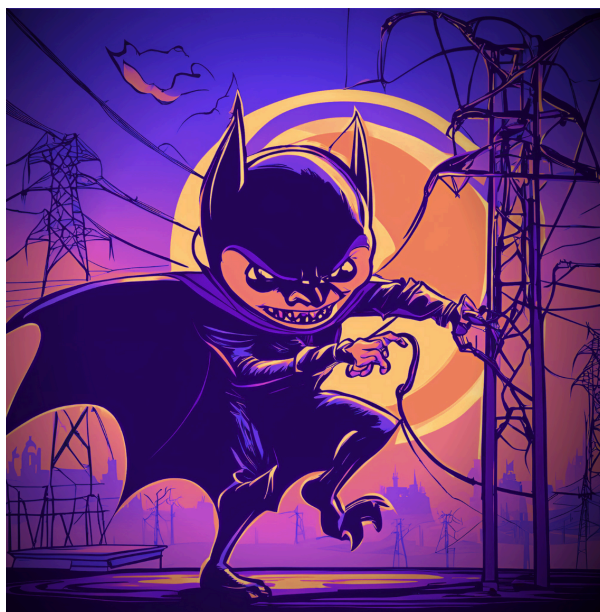
PVT also has contractors working on broadband expansion to their lines in multiple areas.

DON'T LET MONEY GET SUCKED OUT OF YOUR WALLET

Ghouls, goblins, and ghosts might be scary, but they aren't nearly as scary as a high electric bill. There may be electronics in your home sucking power out of your outlets and money out of your wallet, even when they aren't in use. Televisions, computers, DVD players, cable boxes with DVR, cell phone chargers, printers, and game consoles are just a few of the culprits that unknowingly suck energy. Over time, the cost adds up.

Here are some tips to help you stop energy vampires in your home:

- When possible, unplug electronics that you are not using.
- Plug electronics into a power strip and turn the power strip off when items are not in use.
- Purchase smart power strips for your computers and televisions. These devices sense when the computer or television is sleeping or off. The smart strip cuts off power to related electronics, such as DVD players, video game consoles, and printers.
- Buy low-standby products. Most Energy Star-endorsed products draw smaller than average amounts of electricity when turned off.
- Avoid electronics with unnecessary features as these might use more energy.



ENERGY VAMPIRES Top Offenders

- TVs
- Home computers
- Video game consoles
- Surround sound systems
- Cell phone and tablet chargers