



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

APPLY TO BE A 2025 YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE

OCEC proudly sponsors delegates to attend the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to visit Washington, D.C., for a week in June 2025.

OCEC began sponsoring students for the first time in 2017, but the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students from across the country to our nation's capital since 1950. This year OCEC will sponsor at least four (4) students to go on this unique trip to watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments, visit with U.S. Senators and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

Please encourage students you know to apply for this unique opportunity. Applications may be picked up at your local OCEC office, from your school guidance counselor or at www.ocec-inc.com.



OCEC's Cooperative Youth Tour Delegates pose outside the Nation's Capitol while on the Youth Tour in the summer of 2024.



OCEC offices will be closed November 28-29 to allow our employees time with their families during the Thanksgiving Holiday.

WINTER SEASON DISCONNECT MORATORIUM

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2024. To avoid potential disconnection of service please contact the Human Services Department at 800-283-4465, or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2024, through March 15, 2025, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2024.

Members of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at 888-427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.

UNAUTHORIZED WOOD COLLECTION

ATTENTION PLEASE!

When vegetation management crews clear rights-of-way, logs and debris are left on the property where they were cut. This wood belongs to the property owner, and you must get their permission to remove it. OCEC does not have the authority to allow others to take it.

Respect your neighbors and ensure you have proper authorization before taking any wood from land you do not own.



OCTOBER CALENDAR PHOTO submitted by Mario Romero

NOVEMBER 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

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

CONTRACT CREW UPDATES

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 High Rolls area

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.

Power Pole Inspections will be inspecting poles south of Alamogordo, including areas around Holloman, Boles Acres, and Oro Vista, for the next few months. Once they are done in this area, they will move to Cox Canyon. Please be aware that you may see them around OCEC lines performing their work.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Remember to set your home to vacation mode if you're heading out of town during the holiday season. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs, and gaming consoles.

Source: energy.gov

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at OCEC cares about your well-being. This month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

Safety first.

My family truly enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. Knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home gives us peace of mind. I also double-check the outside lights to ensure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'Tis the season for savings.

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. You can lower your bills by taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling make up most of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when family or friends are stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lighting options, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food—not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

From your friends at OCEC, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright!

