



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU SAVE

When summer heats up, electric bills tend to increase as air conditioners work overtime, driving up home energy consumption. OCEC is your local not-for-profit electricity provider, and we are committed to helping you beat the heat without breaking the bank.

As the temperatures rise over the next few months, we want to inform you about a range of energy-saving offerings designed specifically for you. You can manage your summer energy consumption and costs by taking advantage of these programs and services.

Budget Billing

When you sign up for budget billing, your energy bill is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of use. With budget billing, your monthly energy costs are easier to budget and manage, especially during seasonal fluctuations when bills tend to increase based on the weather. Budget billing is a great option for anyone on a fixed income or those with highly variable seasonal needs.

Home Energy Audit

OCEC's energy advisors can conduct a free energy audit of your home to identify areas where energy is wasted and provide recommendations on improving efficiency and lowering your monthly bills. Often, this audit can be done remotely just by reviewing usage reports and talking about the appliances in your home and your usage habits. Online tools are also available through SmartHub. This gives members access to data regarding your electric usage, allowing you to monitor your energy consumption.

Rebate Program

When you make upgrades or purchases to reduce home energy use, those smart decisions should be rewarded. OCEC offers rebates on energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling equipment and more. Visit www.ocec-inc.com/energy-efficiency-program to learn about our rebate program and how you can receive cash back for making smart energy choices.

Curb Usage During Peak Demand Periods

Shifting electric use to periods of lower demand (also known as off-peak times) can help your co-op keep rates lower. Adjusting your electric use to off-peak hours helps OCEC avoid peak demand charges, and those savings can be passed on to you.

You Have the Power

Small actions combined can have a big impact on summer energy bills.

The best way to lower energy use during summer months is to raise the thermostat to the highest setting that's comfortable. Ceiling fans can also help you feel cooler, but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. On warm summer nights, fire up the grill to keep additional heat out of the kitchen. Remember to change air filters often so your cooling system doesn't have to work harder than necessary.

Don't let energy bills ruin your summer fun. OCEC is here to help you manage your energy use, whether through efficiency programs and services or energy-saving advice from our local energy advisors.

Contact us to learn more about practical strategies to lower your use, trim your bills, and make this summer a breeze for you and your wallet. Call 1-800-548-4660 or email memberservices@ote-coop.com.



**RAISE THE
THERMOSTAT
A FEW DEGREES**

To save on cooling costs.

APRIL CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by Garrett Hacker

**MAY
2025**

**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 

2025 OCEC LONG ROPE SAFETY AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

Otero County Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that the winner of OCEC's 2025 Long Rope Safety Award is Tanner Dean. Tanner is a journeyman lineman working out of the Cloudcroft Service Center. He has been a dedicated employee of OCEC since October 2019, with a combined total of 8 years' experience as a line worker, including previous employment in the field.

The Long Rope Safety Award is dedicated to all linemen in New Mexico who have been killed or injured on the job. It is presented to someone with a positive attitude toward training, communication, and safe work habits who demonstrates a culture of safety in a challenging industry.

Tanner's nomination at the co-op level puts him in the running for the state Long Rope Award, where he will be judged alongside winners from other electric cooperatives across New Mexico.

In their nominations, colleagues praised Tanner for his unwavering commitment to safety, noting, "His attention to detail ensures everyone on the job is aware of potential hazards," and "He inspires us all to maintain high safety standards." Another peer remarked, "His leadership in promoting safety practices makes a significant difference in reducing risks for our team."

Congratulations to Tanner Dean for this outstanding achievement! Your dedication to safety sets a remarkable standard for all of us at Otero County Electric Cooperative.



Cade Standifer (left), Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, announced Tanner Dean (right) as OCEC's 2025 Long Rope Safety Award winner at the April employee safety meeting in Cloudcroft. OCEC is proud of Tanner's commitment to safety on the job. Keep up the good work!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home. When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

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 Hwy. 70 from Apache Summit to Hondo Valley
- o Hwy. 380 between Hondo & Capitan
- o Cloudcroft
- o James Canyon
- o Weed
- o Sacramento

We kindly ask for your cooperation when you see crews working to keep these areas clear. This task plays a vital role in reducing fire hazards and ensuring consistent power delivery to members.

