



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

WINTER STORM RESTORATION: A WEEK OF GRIT, TEAMWORK, AND PROGRESS

Electric lawn and garden equipment continues to grow in popularity—and for good reason. Today's electric tools offer reliable performance, convenience, and long-term savings. Even better, Otero County Electric Cooperative (OCEC) offers rebates that make switching to electric outdoor equipment more affordable for our members.

Rebates are available for both corded and cordless electric equipment, including lawn mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, snow blowers, and power washers. With these incentives, upgrading your outdoor equipment can be a smart investment for both your home and your wallet.

While some people still prefer traditional gas-powered equipment, modern electric tools offer several advantages:

- Less maintenance – No spark plugs, fuel filters, or oil changes required
- Easy to maneuver – Typically lighter than gas-powered equipment, making them easier to handle around tight corners and throughout your yard
- Environmentally friendly – A cleaner alternative that produces no exhaust emissions
- Quieter operation – Reduced noise helps keep your yard work from disturbing neighbors

Electric outdoor equipment has come a long way in recent years. Battery technology now provides longer run times and strong performance, making these tools a practical choice for many household tasks. By choosing electric equipment, you can enjoy dependable power while reducing maintenance and noise.

If you are considering upgrading your outdoor tools, now is a great time to take advantage of OCEC's Energy Efficiency Program rebates. After purchasing eligible equipment, simply complete and submit a rebate application to receive your incentive.

Additional rebates from our power supplier, Tri-State, may also be available. Applications will be evaluated and submitted to Tri-State by OCEC staff for all eligible items. Payment to members will be issued upon approval.

To learn more about our Energy Efficiency Program and other rebates available to OCEC members, visit our website.



MARCH CALENDAR PHOTO submitted by James Vigil

**MARCH
2026**

**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

Rebates for Electric Outdoor Lawn Equipment

<p>1  Push Mower or Snow Blower 25% of the purchase price, up to \$150. • Valid for equipment with a 36-volt minimum battery system.</p>	<p>2  Riding Mower 25% of the purchase price, up to \$1,000. • Valid for equipment with a 36-volt minimum battery system.</p>	<p>3  Electric Chainsaw 25% of the purchase price, up to \$100.</p>
<p>4  Trimmer, Pruner, Blower or Power Washer 25% of purchase price, up to \$50.</p>	<p>5  How to Claim Submit your receipt and a completed application form to your OCEC to receive your rebate.</p>	

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Crews trimming trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently working in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

- o Alto
- o Timberon

We want to 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.

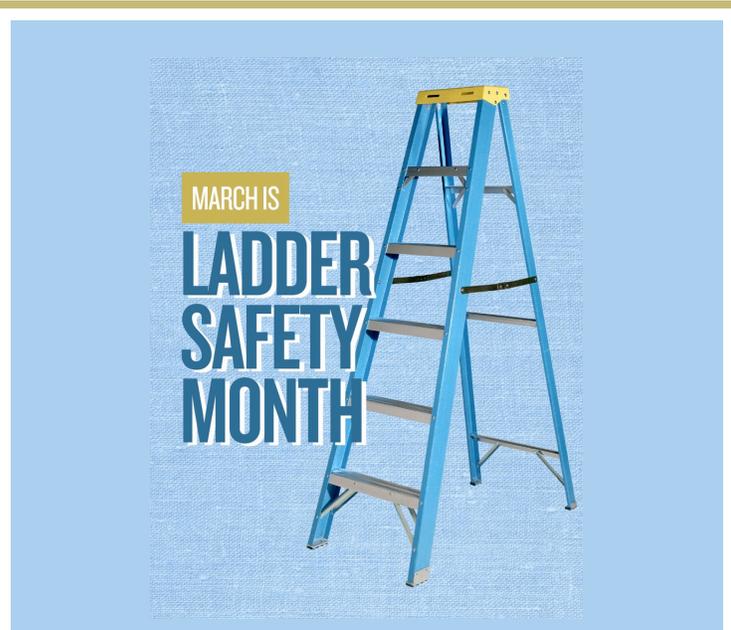
Please be aware that vegetation crews do not chip or remove dead limbs or brush after cutting. They will ensure it is not in a driveway or pathway and does not create any additional hazard. OCEC's main concern in vegetation management is powerline reliability and safety.

WINTER DISCONNECT MORATORIUM

Protection from winter shut off ends March 15, 2026. 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, 2025, through March 15, 2026, 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, 2025.

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.



March is National Ladder Safety Month! Remember, ladders and electricity can be a dangerous mix, and every step counts. When working on outdoor projects, always look up and around for overhead power lines. Staying safe starts with awareness.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.

DID YOU KNOW?

Backfeed on power lines typically occurs when generators and solar panels are used or installed incorrectly.

You can help prevent backfeed by hiring a qualified electrician to install standby generators and solar panel systems. The electrician should obtain the necessary permits and work with OCEC to ensure all safety measures are taken.

You should thoroughly read the instructions for safe operation of portable generators.

If you have a backup generator, please contact OCEC so we can note this information on your account. Knowing where generators are installed on our system, helps keep crews safe.

HELP PREVENT BACKFEED.



Hire a **licensed electrician** to install transfer switches and standby generators.

Familiarize yourself with the safety instructions for all types of generators.

Ensure **professional installation and maintenance** for solar panel systems.

Contact OCEC so we can note generator locations on our system for crew safety.



TO MAKE A PAYMENT BY PHONE OR OBTAIN YOUR BALANCE, PLEASE CALL

1-855-940-3957