



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

September often brings questions about electric bills, especially after the high temperatures many of us experienced during August. As one of the warmest months of the year, August typically means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. As members review their August electric usage on this month's bill, many may notice an increase in costs and wonder what factors contribute to the price of electricity.

At OCEC, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During August, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, OCEC purchases power from Tri-State. The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Closer to home, OCEC maintains the local electric distribution system—utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. The monthly system charge helps offset a portion of the costs associated with maintaining this equipment. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a share of the basic operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

The hot temperatures experienced during August can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. As we transition into the fall months, it is still important to practice energy-saving habits. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

OCEC's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or co-op programs designed to help you save, please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by Savannah Rushing

**SEPTEMBER
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

YOUR ELECTRIC BILL EXPLAINED

- 1 Service location and account balance information.
- 2 Current meter readings, usage, and detailed charges for your account.
 - **System Charge**-Monthly minimum charge that helps cover a portion of the fixed costs required to maintain your co-op's distribution system.
 - **kWh Charge**-Charge for the energy you use based on current rates.
 - **Fuel Adj Rate**-Billing adjustment to accommodate the changing costs of fuel used to generate electricity. This is a "pass-through" charge from our supplier, Tri-State G&T, based on what they charge OCEC. This fee varies each month.
 - **Debt Cost-Fee** used to recover the cooperative's increase in debt cost since the present rates were set in 2020. This adjustment eliminates the need for expensive rate case hearings. The debt adjustment figure changes quarterly.
 - **Energy Efficiency Program**-Provides fund for energy efficiency rebates, which are offered to members to help lower energy consumption.
- 3 Important messages from OCEC related to current events, office closures, etc.
- 4 A graphical display of total monthly kilowatt hour (kWh) usage for the year, and details regarding average usage and costs for the current month, with a comparison to last year.
- 5 Contains information about paying your bill, including due date of current charges, account number, amount due, and payment methods available.

Otero County Electric Co-op, Inc.
PO BOX 227
CLOUDCROFT, NM 88317-0227
www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday- Friday
Phone: 575-682-2521 575-336-4550 575-648-2352
Cloudcroft Alto Carrizozo
Outages Call: 800-948-4660 Payments 855-940-3957

JOE SMITH
JANE SMITH
456 MAIN STREET
ANYWHERE, US 67890

Account # 12345601
Emergency Add: 456 M-
Map Location: 2-33
Service Desc.: 456
Rate: RES
Previous Bill Amount \$148.00
Payment Received \$0.00
Adjustments \$0.00
Balance Forward \$0.00

Current Charges 08/10/2026 \$191.00

Amount Due \$191.00
Past Due After 09/02/2026
Current charges only

METER 86954481
PRESENT READING 07/31/26 21988
PREVIOUS READING 07/01/26 21058
USAGE MULTIPLIER 1.0 \$30.0

RESIDENTIAL

CURRENT CHARGES		
SYSTEM CHARGE	930 kWh @0.13710	\$127.50
KWH CHARGE	930 kWh @0.01715	\$15.95
FUEL ADJ RATE		\$3.47
FRANCHISE FEE	930 kWh @-0.00011	\$0.10CR
DEBT COST		\$11.60
TAX		\$1.73
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM		\$0.85
ROUND UP AMOUNT		\$191.00
CURRENT CHARGES		\$191.00
TOTAL DUE		\$191.00

kWh Usage History

Current Month's Average kWh Per Day	Monthly Usage
31	930
Average Cost Per Day \$5.78	
Last Year Average kWh Per Day 26	

OCEC Offices will be closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT. PLEASE DO NOT FOLD, STAPLE OR PAPERCLIP.

Pay Your Bill Online at www.ocec-inc.com

JOE SMITH
JANE SMITH
456 MAIN STREET
ANYWHERE, US 67890

We accept Visa & MasterCard
Payments 855-940-3957

For more information, visit our website or office.
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday- Friday
Phone: 575-682-2521 575-336-4550 575-648-2352
Cloudcroft Alto Carrizozo

Account Number	Current charges only Past Due After	Amount Due	Amount Paid
12345601	09/02/2026	\$191.00	

Please make check payable to:

OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP
PO BOX 669
CARRIZOSO NM 88301-0669

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating/cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Dept. of Energy

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 Mescalero

Your cooperation is very much appreciated 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.



Contractor, VM West, recently began a project for OCEC to clear the right-of-way on the 69 kV transmission line through Toboggan Canyon, that brings power up to all of the mountain communities around Cloudcroft. The contractor began work in mid-August and is making great progress clearing trees and debris away from the power line to help mitigate wildfire risk and lessen the chance of trees impacting the line and causing extended outages.

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

1-855-940-3957