



# POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

## LOCAL VOICES SHAPE LOCAL SOLUTIONS October is National Co-op Month

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Otero County Electric Cooperative (OCEC). Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—like OCEC—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes OCEC different. Our story began in 1939 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students. OCEC offers scholarships to students for continuing education, rebates for energy efficient upgrades, and Operation Round Up funds to local civic groups and members in emergency situations.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you. Stop by your local co-op office October 26-30 for a few snacks, giveaways, and to chat with your local OCEC employees. We look forward to you stopping by.

Whether it's OCEC, your local credit union or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible—and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.

**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**  
Stop by October 26-30 to help us  
celebrate!

**CO-OPS**  
are led by their  
**MEMBERS.**



OCTOBER CALENDAR PHOTO  
submitted by Ben Sanchez

**OCTOBER  
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 Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

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.

- Alto
- Cloudcroft

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.

## SAVE ENERGY THIS FALL

### Schedule maintenance for your heating system.

Scheduling system maintenance now can help your heating system run more efficiently this winter. Replace your air filter regularly and schedule a professional tune-up before the winter chill arrives. A well-maintained system can improve comfort and help manage energy use.

Don't forget, OCEC offers members an energy efficiency rebate for HVAC maintenance!



OCEC Staking Engineer and drone pilot Cory Meeks gives students at the Cloudcroft Career Fair an up-close look at drone technology and explains how OCEC uses drones to identify hazards and assist during outages.

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

**1-855-940-3957**

**THIS SPOOKY SEASON, KEEP HOME ENERGY USE AND DÉCOR SAFETY IN CHECK. STOP ENERGY VAMPIRES FROM UNNECESSARY CONSUMPTION AND DOUBLE CHECK ELECTRICAL CORDS FOR DAMAGE. FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT OCEC, WE HOPE YOU HAVE A SAFE AND FRIGHTFULLY-FUN HALLOWEEN!**



A FEW REMINDERS FOR THE SPOOKIEST OF SEASONS...



**DON'T LET ELECTRICAL HAZARDS SPOIL SPOOKY FUN.**

Check all cords for damage, use outdoor-rated extension cords and avoid overloading circuits.



**DON'T LET ENERGY VAMPIRES HAUNT YOUR HOME.**

Unplug devices that draw power even when they're not in use.



**TURN OFF THE SCARES BEFORE YOU SLEEP.**

Unplug or turn off Halloween decorations when you leave home or go to bed.



**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**