

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NOVEMBER 2022

A Reservoir of Community

Elephant Butte Dam is an
engineering marvel for its time

Page 4

Elephant Butte Dam
celebrated its centennial
anniversary in 2016 by
hanging a flag measuring
60 feet by 30 feet.
PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S.
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)

Board of Trustees

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9 a.m. at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



VETERANS DAY

PROUD TO HONOR ALL
WHO HAVE SERVED



Fall Back on November 6

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before retiring for the night Saturday, November 5.

At 2 a.m. Sunday, November 6, daylight saving time ends, and the time reverts to 1 a.m.

In the 1770s, Benjamin Franklin was the first to discuss the idea of a time change after he woke up early one morning to find the sun already shining bright. Not until 1915—when British builder William Willett revisited the idea—was it considered.

Germany was the first to adopt the time change, followed by Britain. Eventually, during World War I, parts of Europe, Canada and the United States jumped on board.

After the war, the states in America were free to choose whether to observe daylight saving time and the calendar start dates of the time change.

The result was time confusion.

In 1966, the United States enacted the Uniform Time Act, making any state that participated in daylight saving time start and end on the same day.

Through the years, the start and end dates

have changed several times, most recently in 2005, when the Energy Policy Act was passed.

Now, daylight saving time begins the second Sunday in March and ends the first Sunday in November.

The reason for observing daylight saving time is the sun rises earlier in the spring and summer months, providing more daylight during the evening hours. In the fall, the exact opposite happens, so we set our clocks back to gain an extra hour of sunlight in the morning.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, daylight saving time decreases the country's electricity use 1% each day.

The use of energy and demand for electricity for lighting homes is related directly to the times people go to bed and rise. Daylight saving time saves energy for lighting in all seasons, but saves the least amount during the four darkest months of the year: November, December, January and February.

With clocks set back, it gets darker earlier, making it a challenge to complete outdoor tasks.

For more information, visit www.ocec-inc.com.

Holiday Décor Tips to Save Energy

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday decor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons.

They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking.

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers such as Amazon or at big



If you haven't made the switch to LED holiday lights, it's time. LEDs can last 40 holiday seasons and are safer. PHOTO BY HANS BRAXMEIER

box stores such as Lowe's or Walmart.

With a timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure

it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's decor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach.

Many Christmas tree farms and even retailers give away greenery clippings from

recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows.

To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to buy a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit www.ocec-inc.com for additional energy-saving tips.

Happy Thanksgiving

**Otero County Electric Cooperative
wishes members a Happy Thanksgiving!**

*OCEC offices are closed
Thursday, November 24,
and Friday, November 25.*

ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY PORNOCHAI SODA