

# enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's  
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

FEBRUARY 2023

## The Ol' Ball Game

The country's craze for baseball reached base  
in New Mexico in the early 1900s **Page 14**

Belen was one of many New Mexico cities that  
sprouted a baseball team and built a fanbase.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF BELEN HARVEY HOUSE MUSEUM







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 at 9 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Electrify and Save on Outdoor Tools

Powering up with electric garden and outdoor tools is not just reliable—it's affordable. Otero County Electric makes it even more affordable for our members by offering rebates for corded and cordless lawnmowers, trimmers, snow blowers, chainsaws and power washers.

While many people still believe gas-powered lawn equipment is better, there are many benefits to using electric equipment:

- Less maintenance—no spark plugs, fuel filters, or oil to change.
- Easier to maneuver—lighter than gas-powered siblings, which means they are easier to move around tight corners and navigate through your yard.
- Better for the environment—clean alternative to gas-powered engines.
- Quieter operation—less noise to disrupt neighbors.

OCEC has a few tools available in each of our offices to try if you are on the fence about which type of lawn tool to buy. We will let you try our trimmer, mower or leaf blower to help you make a decision between gas-powered or battery-operated tools.

Stop by an OCEC office in Cloudcroft, Alto



**Electric outdoor tools, such as electric trimmers, require less maintenance and are easier to maneuver.** ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY AMADA

or Carrizozo to see what equipment is available and try it out today.

If you purchase electric equipment, don't forget to complete and submit your application for a rebate from our energy-efficiency program.

## Rebates Available for Electric Powered Equipment

- Push mower or snow blower (36-volt minimum)—25% of cost up to \$150
- Riding mower—25% of cost up to \$1,000
- Chainsaw—25% of cost up to \$100
- Trimmer, pruner, blower or power washer—25% of cost up to \$50

A rebate of the same amount as the OCEC rebate may be available from our power supplier, Tri-State. That could mean a rebate of 50% of the cost of electric-powered lawn tools.

Each application will be evaluated by OCEC staff and submitted for the highest rebate possible.

Payment to members will be made upon approval.

Learn more about our energy-efficiency program and other rebates available at [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com).



**Gas-powered lawn mowers are often harder to maneuver around tight corners, require oil changes and are more disruptive to neighbors compared with electric, battery-powered lawn mowers.** ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY CLIFF

## Keep Your Account Information Up to Date

Your phone number is used to help identify and locate your account information when reporting an outage to our after-hours dispatch center.

If the number we have on file for you is not correct, it could keep us from getting

to your location to restore electricity in a timely fashion.

Call our office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to verify and update all contact information, including mailing address, email address and phone number.



***Otero County Electric  
offices are closed  
Monday, February 20,  
2023, for Presidents Day.***

ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY ARTBACKGROUND



### 5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

**Mind the thermostat.** If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

**Get cozy.** Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

**Don't block the heat.** If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

**Take advantage of sunlight.** Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

**Block air leaks.** Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

