

9 Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills



1. Seal air leaks and insulate to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
2. Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
3. Turn off lights when not in use.
4. Lower your water heater temperature. The Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
5. Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
6. Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
7. Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
8. Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
9. Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Scam Alert!

Beware of scammers threatening to disconnect service

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these scams.

If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang-up the phone and contact the local authorities.

Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). OCEC will never ask you to offer up personal finance information over the phone.

If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our member payment center either in person, or over the phone at 800-548-4660.

Safety Tips When Decorating for The Holiday Season



- If hanging lights using a ladder, have a ground crew of one or two people to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations. This is an invaluable part of safety and for keeping you supplies with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
- Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service
- Don't overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
- Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
- Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.



The board of trustees and employees of Otero County Electric Cooperative **Thank You**, members, for your friendship, goodwill, and loyalty. May the happiness and good cheer of the holiday season be yours throughout the new year. Have a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

Our office will be closed on

- December 25-26, 2017: Christmas
- January 1, 2018: New Year's Day

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the cooperative.



OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Cloudcroft Office
202 Burro Avenue
PO Box 227
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
575-682-2521

Carrizozo Office
513 12th Avenue
PO Box 669
Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2352

Alto Office
1135 Hwy. 48
PO Box 1135
Alto, NM 88312
575-336-4550

Emergency/Outages
800-548-4660
Fax
575-682-3109
General Manager • Mario Romero

Website Address
www.ocec-inc.com
Office Hours
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (M-F)