

Energy Tips of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons—holiday gatherings, houseguests, shorter days, and longer nights. Taking small measures like turning down your thermostat, using the sun's free heat to help warm a house through open blinds, utilizing LED light bulbs, and washing clothes in cold water, can all help control those rising costs.

Using Space Heaters Can Increase Your Electric Bill

As we head into the colder months, many people will start pulling out space heaters to help take the chill off certain areas in their home. While space heaters are a great way to supplement inadequate heating in one room, but can often run up your electric bill more than expected.

Here is an easy way to calculate the amount your bill could increase with the use of a space heater.

1. Obtain the wattage (watts) from the nameplate of the appliance. Note: If listed as kW (kilowatts), skip to Step 3. If amps are specified, multiply amps x voltage to obtain watts.
2. Divide the number of watts by 1,000 to get kW. Example: $1,500 \text{ W} \div 1,000 = 1.5 \text{ kW}$.
3. To find out how many kilowatt hours (kWh) the heater uses, multiply the kW x the number of hours the heater is running each day. Example: The heater runs 10 hours per day = $1.5 \text{ kW} \times 10 \text{ hours} = 15 \text{ kWh}$ per day.
4. To calculate the daily operating cost, multiply the kWh of the heater by the average cost per kWh. Example: The daily cost = $15 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.15 = \2.25 per day to operate.
5. To calculate the monthly operating cost, multiply the daily cost by the number of days the heater is used during the month. Example: If you run the 1,500 W heater 10 hours per day, 30 days per month = $15 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.15 \times 30 =$

In this example, the cost of operating the space heater per month would be \$67.50. That increase in a monthly electric bill could have a significant impact to someone on a tight budget if they aren't expecting to pay that much.

Sometimes the use of a space heater cannot be avoided. When possible, consider these other low-cost solutions for keeping warm.

- Use an electric blanket or mattress pad on your bed as a way to stay warm at night.
- Put on a sweater or extra layers.
- Turn your ceiling fan on low and run in a clockwise direction to push warm air back down to where you can feel it.
- Snuggle up with a blanket while watching TV.
- Close your curtains and blinds at dusk to keep the warm air from escaping through windows.

There is Still Time to Apply to be a Youth Tour Delegate

Are you a high school sophomore, junior or senior? Is it a dream of yours to visit our nation's capital? Four lucky students from area schools will go on this unique trip to watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments, visit with U.S. Senators and make memories that will last a lifetime.



Otero County Electric Cooperative (OCEC) is proud to sponsor four delegates to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., for a week during June 2019. Don't miss out on this excellent learning opportunity. Apply today!

2018 Youth Tour participants enjoyed a week-long visit in Washington, D. C. in June 2018

Application packets may be picked up at your local OCEC office, from your school guidance counselor or at our website, www.ocec-inc.com.

Don't wait—application deadline is Friday, December 14, 2018.



*From the Otero County Electric Cooperative,
Staff and Board of Trustees.*

We will be closed **Monday, December 24 - Tuesday, December 25 and
January 1 for New Year's.**

Board of Trustees



Charles Mulcock
President • SE District



Matt Flotte
Vice President • Cent. District



Denny Burnett
Secretary • SE District



Scott Shafer
Treasurer • NW District



Russell Bell
Trustee • SW District



Bill Bird
Trustee • NE District



Fred Hansen
Trustee • NE District



Marty Mills
Trustee • Cent. District



Tim Rabon
Trustee • SW District



Preston Stone
Trustee • NW District

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)