

Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer
Mario Romero

Cloudcroft Office
404 Burro Avenue • P.O. Box 227
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
575-682-2521

Carrizozo Office
507 Twelfth Street • P. O. Box 669
Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2352

Alto Office
1135 Hwy. 48 • P.O. Box 1135
Alto, NM 88312
575-336-4550

Emergency and Outages
800-548-4660

Fax • 575-682-3109

Website • www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (M-F)

Board of Trustees

President
Charles Mulcock, SE District

Vice President
Denny Burnett, SE District

Secretary
Marty Mills, Central District

Treasurer
Scott Shafer, NW District

Vacant, SW District

Bill Bird, NE District

Cheri Hass, Central District

David Powers, NE District

Tim Rabon, SW District

Preston Stone, NW District

Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Cooperative.



Annual Meeting Will It Happen

Many OCEC members look forward to the ANNUAL MEETING each year in August. This event typically draws around 400-500 members, but with current restrictions imposed on large gatherings by the New Mexico Department of Health, changes to the meeting may be necessary. By the time you receive the July *enchantment*, your Board of Trustees will have met at the June 19 board meeting to decide whether or not the annual meeting will be held this year. This decision will impact how we proceed with elections and other cooperative business.

There are three (3) positions on the Board of Trustees that are up for election this year. Those trustees with terms expiring this year are:

- **Bill Bird**: Northwest District
- **Cheri Hass**: Central District
- **Vacant Position**: Southwest District

Bylaws allow for nomination of trustees by petition signed by 15 or more residents of the district in which the nomination is made. Petitions would normally be submitted between June 17 and July 7, 2020, with elections occurring at the annual meeting on August 1.

If the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members is canceled, there are a couple of options to be considered for elections. A special meeting could be called at a later date when gathering in large groups is allowed again, or current trustees would serve until elections could be held at the 2021 annual meeting. At that time, elections would be held for six trustees. The positions for terms that would have expired in 2020 would be elected for a term of two years, and those with terms expiring in 2021 would be elected for a three-year term. Petitions to be considered for election in 2021 would be submitted using the same guidelines as outlined in the Bylaws.

The annual meeting is a part of the co-op's rich 81-year history and an important event to our co-op family. While we hope to see your smiling faces on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**, we will do so only if it is safe for all involved.

Check our website (www.ocec-inc.com) and Facebook (Otero County Electric) page for an update about YOUR ANNUAL MEETING. If you have questions, please call 800-548-4660.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Points To Ponder Before Adding Solar

With changes in technology and solar panels being more affordable, many members are considering renewable energy alternatives. Adding rooftop solar at your home can be eco-friendly and a good option for lowering energy bills. Buying solar panels is a big step and one that shouldn't be taken lightly. There are many factors to consider before moving forward with an installation, and OCEC wants to help you make the right choice for your situation.

Is Your Roof Ready? One of the most important considerations before you go through with your solar panel installation is to know what shape your roof is in. Is your roof structurally sound enough to handle the extra weight of the panels? Do you need to make repairs, or will you need a replacement roof within the next few years? Avoid the additional costs and hassle of removing solar panels by addressing issues with your roof first.

Energy Efficiency is Important: Before calling in a contractor to install a new system, look at ways to make your home more energy efficient. Some small, inexpensive projects like caulking around windows, adding weatherstripping, changing to LED lighting and installing digital or learning thermostats can help lower your current electric bill. Putting in new windows and doors, adding insulation, purchasing new, energy efficient appliances and upgrading your HVAC unit are other projects to consider that may help decrease energy costs at your home. Once these projects have been completed and you are ready to move forward with your renewable energy project, you will be saving money by needing a

Considerations Before Installing Solar

- Is your roof in good shape and able to hold the extra weight of solar panels?
- Perform energy efficiency upgrades on your home.
- Call us so we can help answer questions on sizing your system, what effect a solar installation will have on your electric bill and instructions on applying for an interconnection with OCEC.
- Do your homework and hire a reputable contractor.

smaller system than what you may have had to if you hadn't made the efficiency upgrades.

What Requirements Does OCEC

Have: Prior to interconnection, OCEC requires an application and application fee of \$50. We also need to inspect the installation, possibly change your meter and have written approval from the state electrical inspector. The application and additional details can be obtained by visiting the Renewable Energy page of our website, www.ocec-inc.com/content/renewable-energy

Know What You Use: When, how, and the amount of electricity you use are important to know. Are you planning on putting in a hot tub? Will you be expanding your family? Thinking of purchasing an electric vehicle? These factors will impact the amount of energy you use and may impact the size of solar installation you purchase.

How does your energy consumption change from month to month? Do you use more power

in the winter months for heating your home or is your electric bill higher in the summer months when you need the A/C more? Talk with your solar contractor to design an installation that can best accommodate your energy needs throughout the year, taking into account all these factors so you can maximize your overall savings.

Use Trusted Sources: If you're considering solar for your home, make sure you are working with a reputable company. Because this is still an emerging industry with evolving technology, there has been a proliferation of pop-up companies in the market to make a quick buck. Representatives of rooftop solar companies may have more sales experience than knowledge of the energy industry, and their primary goal could be making a sale and moving on to the next prospect.

OCEC can offer a candid assessment to determine whether rooftop solar is right for you. Be wary of contractors who tell you not to contact us—we work for our members, and will have an objective view of how to achieve energy and cost savings for you, and that may or may not include rooftop solar.

In this ever-changing environment, it's important to remember you have a trusted energy advisor—your local electric cooperative. We are a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable, and safe electricity to our members.

