



Office Info:

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Summer Hours:

Office hours Monday - Thursday
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Okanogan County Electric Co-op

August 2019 Newsletter

BPA Low Income Energy Efficiency Program

Okanogan County Electric Cooperative Inc. (OCEC), is researching the need in our service territory for low-income weatherization paid for through BPA's Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program. OCEC would partner with Okanogan Community Action Council if there is enough demand in the OCEC service area. The program requires the following eligibility:

- Household income must not exceed 200% of Federal Poverty Level or 60% of state median income, whichever is greater. The income levels are based on household income and size. Example: For a family of 4, the household income must not exceed approximately \$4,100 monthly income for the federal level or \$4,400 of monthly income for the state level.
- Must be an active OCEC member.
- Home must be primarily electric heat (not with wood or propane).

Examples of uses:

- Insulation
- Weather-strip
- Doors & Windows
- Ductless Heat Pump

If we have enough interest and eligibility we can move forward on this project.

If you or someone you know may be eligible for this program please contact OCEC, phone 509-996-2228 or physical address 93 West Chewuch Rd, Winthrop WA, e-mail info@ocec.coop, or mailing address PO Box 69 Winthrop WA 98862.

Transmission Update

BPA and the Okanogan PUD completed work in June to finish the loop configuration on the transmission lines that connect Okanogan, Brewster and Twisp. The loop configuration will supply the Methow Valley with redundant power supply lines. This should provide a major increase in reliability on the OCEC system. In previous years, loss of the single power line serving the Valley was the major cause of the loss of power. Even with the new transmission line from Pateros completed, the transmission lines were not in a loop configuration until the latest work was completed in June.

This project was originally conceived in the 1980's. The thirty years it took to complete the project saw, among other items, a unanimous Washington State Supreme court ruling in favor of building this transmission line.

OCEC Board of Directors:

Sara Carlberg (scarlberg@ocec.coop) | John Kirner (jkirner@ocec.coop) | Chris Legler (clegler@ocec.coop) | Michael Murray (mmurray@ocec.coop)
Ray Peterson (rpeterson@ocec.coop) | Dale Sekijima (dsekijima@ocec.coop) | Alan Watson (awatson@ocec.coop)

Electric Board Reorganizes

After the OCEC Board elections in April, the OCEC Board reorganized. Below are the new officers:

President – Dale Sekijima

Vice President – Chris Ledger

Secretary/Treasurer – Alan Watson

Easement Maintenance

OCEC is trying a new method of maintaining some of its easements. This method will increase reliability, reduce wildfire risk and, hopefully, reduce costs over the long run. OCEC is contracting with OCEC member Bob Rivard who uses a brush cutter to mulch the vegetation in a particular easement area. OCEC is working with land owners before we employ this method. Below is a before and after picture of the easement that was treated. No chemicals are used in this process.

