



**October 2018**

**Office Info:**

Winter Office Hours:  
Mon - Fri  
8 am - 4:30 pm

Our customer service call center is available 24/7/365 to handle most electric & propane concerns.  
(509) 996-2228

**OCEC Board:**

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**Contacts:**

**General Manager**  
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**Information**  
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**Effect of Initiative I631 on OCEC Members**

This November, Washington State residents will be voting on Initiative 1631 which, if passed, will create a new "pollution fee" on most fossil fuels emissions. It is estimated that the fee will add 14 cents per gallon to the price of gasoline. It will also increase the price of electricity and propane supplied by Okanogon County Electric Cooperative Inc (OCEC) and its subsidiary, Okanogon County Energy Incorporated.

OCEC buys almost all of its electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), most of which comes from carbon-free hydroelectric with a smaller amount of carbon-free nuclear generation. BPA does get about 3.4% of the power it sells from natural gas or coal-fired power plants which would be subject to the new carbon fee. We estimate that the fee would add \$15,000 to our cost of power in 2020, increasing \$2,000 a year after that. That translates to a 21-cent increase in a \$100 monthly electric bill, rising another 3 cents a month each year after.

The estimated fee on propane is 8.5 cents per gallon starting in 2020, increasing 1.1 cents per gallon each year after. That means a typical 250- gallon propane delivery would cost an additional \$21.50 in 2020 and an additional \$48.75 by 2030. This added cost would be passed on to our propane customers as part of the taxes on the bills.

According to the initiative the expected \$1 billion a year raised by the new carbon fee would be spent mostly on projects and programs that could reduce carbon emissions and promote clean energy.

While OCEC is not taking a position on the initiative, the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association that we are a member of is opposing it, arguing that it is unfair, contains too many exemptions and doesn't create enough accountability for how the money will be spent.

We encourage all OCEC members to take time to learn more about the initiative and to vote this November.

Curtis Edwards, OCEC Board President  
David Gottula, OCEC General Manager

**Current Board Opening**

OCEC has a current opening on its Board of Directors. This opening will be filled by the Board. If you are interested in applying for this, please contact General Manager David Gottula at (509) 996-2228.

