

# October 2020

## Newsletter

### Drive Thru Success

OCEC staff handed out energy efficient light-bulb packages on September 14th to eager OCEC members. 125 packages were given out in just over one hour despite the thick smoky haze that had settled in the valley.



### Hours:

Monday - Thursday  
7:00 am - 5:30 PM

*Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions OCEC will operate on Summer hours through the end of October, closed Fridays.*

### Office Info:

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**Local:** (509) 996-2228

### Online:

#### Web:

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#### Email:

[info@ocec.coop](mailto:info@ocec.coop)

#### Twitter:

[@ocec\\_info](https://twitter.com/ocec_info)

### Helping our Neighbors

OCEC sent a 3-member crew to Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative to assist with rebuilding their many miles of power lines damaged in the Cold Springs Fire. Providing mutual aid to fellow utilities is a common practice when a major disaster hits a utility's territory and the utility knows that its own crews and equipment won't be enough to restore power quickly. OCEC received mutual aid from Nespelem Valley Electric and other utilities after the Carlton Complex Fire.



**OCEC Journeymen Linemen**  
**Tony Faulkner, Dan**  
**Foussard and Chris Zahn**

**OCEC took reels of wire and a load of poles to help restore power for NVEC.**



### OCEC Board:

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## Winter is on its way

The strategies below can help you save energy, save money, and stay comfortable during the cool fall and cold winter months. Some of the tips below are free and can be used on a daily basis to increase your savings; others are simple and inexpensive actions you can take to ensure maximum savings through the winter.

### **Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun**

- Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

### **Cover Drafty Windows**

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

### **Adjust the Temperature**

- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. A smart or programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature.

### **Find and Seal Leaks**

- Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

### **Reduce Heat Loss from the Fireplace**

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly, approximately 1 inch, and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50° and 55°F.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Purchase grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.

### **Lower Your Water Heating Costs**

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

For more energy saving tips visit [www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver)