



March 2023

Newsletter

84th ANNUAL MEETING

Okanogan County Electric Cooperative Inc. Official Notice of the Annual Meeting of Members

Pursuant to the provision of the By-Laws, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Members of Okanogan County Electric Cooperative will be held Monday, April 17, 2023

Where: "The Barn" in Winthrop, WA
51 N Highway 20

When: Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00pm

American Legion Auxiliary #120 will serve pie afterwards.

OCEC Moves Forward with Grant Application

Okanogan County Electric Coop (OCEC) has advanced in a federal grant application under the umbrella partnership of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to help fund rural utility projects that will decrease wildfires caused by utility equipment and strengthen electrical grid systems in wildfire prone areas. The OCEC project concept is to relocate and replace an overhead primary power line with underground equipment in the Rendezvous area. The new route would allow accessibility throughout the year, improve reliability for consumers and reduce the risk of wildfire in a state protected area. We will keep our members updated as the process continues.

Board of Directors: Alan Watson awatson@ocec.coop | Dale Sekijima dsekijima@ocec.coop
John Rogers jrogers@ocec.coop | Michael Murray mmurray@ocec.coop
Rick Johnson rjohnson@ocec.coop | Sara Carlberg scarlberg@ocec.coop
| Travis Thornton tthornton@ocec.coop

Our mailing address is: PO Box 69, Winthrop, WA 98862

Winter Hours of operation: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Contact us: Toll Free: (888) 710-2228 | Local: (509) 996-2228

Email: info@ocec.coop | Web: www.ocec.coop

OCEC RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE APRIL 2023

With the recently approved 2023 budget by the OCEC Board, members will see a rate increase beginning in April 2023. The increase will be approximately 5% for all rate classifications and will show up on the May 2023 billing statements. One primary driver for this needed increase is the rising cost of wholesale power above our Bonneville Power allocation for our growing system. The additional power purchased above that allocation has increased by nearly 100%. Also, OCEC has experienced significant cost increases for necessary specialized equipment to maintain a reliable and resilient electric distribution system. Certain materials have increased over 200% in an 18-month period. OCEC has not had a rate increase since 2018 and we will always strive to keep rates affordable.

How will the rate increase affect my monthly bill?

Example A (Rate 1)

Full Time Resident, General Service Rate 1

Average usage of under 1200 kwh per month, maximum of 14,400 kwh per year.

Rate 1	2022	2023
Base Fee	\$32.00	\$33.60
Per kWH charge	\$0.0810	\$0.0851
12 mo. Total kWH	8164	8164
12 mo. Bill Total	\$1,045.28	\$1,097.96

Example B (Rate 2)

Full Time Resident, General Service Rate 2

1201 to 5000 average monthly kwh usage, maximum of 60,000 kwh per year.

Rate 2	2022	2023
Base Fee	\$50.00	\$52.50
Tier 1 kWH Up to 5,000 kWH	\$0.0678	\$0.0712
Tier 2 kWH 5,001 and over	\$0.0758	\$0.0796
12 mo. Total kWH	37464	37464
12 mo. Bill Total	\$3,140.06	\$3,297.44

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

The only way you can be sure that you are digging safely is to Call 811 Before You Dig, and request a FREE underground utility locate.

At least two business days before you plan on digging: Call 811, or go to DigSafeWA.com.



COLOR	DESCRIPTION
WHITE	Proposed Excavation (your responsibility)
RED	Electric Power Lines
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum
ORANGE	Communications, Alarm or Signal Lines
BLUE	Potable Water
GREEN	Sewers and drain lines
PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and slurry lines
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings