



May 2023
Newsletter

84th ANNUAL MEETING

The 84th Annual Meeting was held at the Winthrop Barn on April 17th. 34 members attended. The meeting included an update on when audited 2022 financials would be available and board elections.

General Manager, Greg Mendonca, reviewed highlights of 2022 including an update of the OCEC strategic plan, completion of a broadband feasibility study, setting new records for energy and peak usage, and starting a ductless heat pump rebate program for energy efficiency. Greg then gave a summary of the 5% rate increase and the major drivers of the need, primarily cost of materials and cost of wholesale power. The report was concluded by discussing some of the major items OCEC is working on in the coming year, including negotiating new power supply agreements, and the potential for receiving a grant for a new broadband fiber network construction project.

After the meeting was adjourned attendees enjoyed pie & ice cream provided by the American Legion Auxiliary Post #120.

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

There were three open positions on the Board of Directors for the 2023 elections. All positions are for three-year terms.

The voting tally was completed on April 19, 2023. The results of the 2023 election were:

Dale Sekijima – 485 votes
Travis Thornton – 483 votes
Alaina Burtenshaw – 474 votes
6 Write in votes received

496 Valid Ballots Received
64 Ballots Disqualified (void due to missing, incomplete or inaccurate signature or membership information or received after the deadline).

Board of Directors: **Alaina Burtenshaw** aburtenshaw@ocec.coop | **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 |
| **Travis Thornton** tthornton@ocec.coop

DUCTLESS HEAT PUMP REBATE PROGRAM

OCEC's Ductless Heat Pump rebate program is still available to members who replace their existing electric home heating with a ductless heat pump installed by a Comfort Ready Home certified contractor. This program is available to all OCEC members in existing single-family homes with either electric zonal or electric forced air home heating.

If interested, visit [ocec.coop/rebates-assistance/](https://www.ocec.coop/rebates-assistance/) to learn more about our rebates and the next steps!

Members who have installed ductless heat pump systems in their homes by one of our Comfort Ready Home certified contractors after June 1, 2022 are eligible. Members who installed with a Comfort Ready Home certified contractor between January 1, 2022 and May 31, 2022 may apply for the waitlist for the program.

OCEC has paid out \$28,800 in BPA Energy Efficiency funds to members so far.

How can I reduce my energy bills?

Eliminate devices that might draw power while idle over long periods, such as TVs and Computers on standby, which might add up over time. Going away for a while? Unplug devices not needed while you're not home. Reducing your consumption through efficient appliance updates might be right for you. If you have electric heating and cooling bills, installing a new mini-split ductless heat pump can dramatically improve the comfort in your home.

What is energy efficiency?

Doing the same job but using less power! As technology has improved, better ways to keep our homes comfortable have come to market. Updating your home's climate control could improve your energy efficiency and dramatically reduce your monthly bills.

'ROUND UP' TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS

Did you know that you can "Round Up" your electric bill to help fellow OCEC members in need?

OCEC supports The Cove food bank by offering a "Round Up" program. Sign up and we'll round up your electric bill to the next dollar. This means that each member who signs up will never contribute more than \$12 per year. While this might not seem like much money, the pooling effect every month from coop members who join the program provides a significant impact. The Cove uses these funds to assist local families who need help paying their electric bills.

Call the office during business hours to sign up for the Round Up program.

Our mailing address is: PO Box 69, Winthrop, WA 98862
Contact us: Toll Free: (888) 710-2228 | Local: (509) 996-2228
Email: info@ocec.coop | Web: www.ocec.coop