



# October 2025

## Newsletter

### RATES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST

With the release of the final wholesale power and transmission rates from Bonneville Power Administration for the period of October 1, 2025–September 30, 2028, the OCEC Board approved a 5% kWh Energy Rate increase for the General Service G1, G2, G3, G4, and Second Meter rate classes effective October 1, 2025. This change reflects rising costs in wholesale power supply and delivery. Updated rates will ensure OCEC continues to provide safe, reliable power.

#### RATES AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2025

	Service Charge	kWh Rate	Demand Charge
Rate Class	(\$/mo)	(\$/kWh)	(\$/KW)
G1	\$36.30	\$0.0996	\$0.00
G2	\$56.70	Up to 5000 kWh: \$0.0776 5001 & over kWh: \$0.0872	\$0.00
G3	\$68.05	\$0.0587	\$3.70
G4	\$164.50	\$0.0568	\$3.70
(7) Second Meter	\$28.35	\$0.0965	\$0.00
(5) Irrigation Single Ph	\$52.20	\$0.0612	\$3.70
(6) Irrigation 3 Ph	\$67.00	\$0.0612	\$3.70
(10) Idle Service	\$36.30	\$0.0000	\$0.00

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

OCEC is pleased to announce new and continued rebate opportunities for residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrades through the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) programs.

- Attic, floor, and wall insulation
- Energy-efficient windows and patio doors
- Ductless heat pumps
- Heat pump water heaters
- Commercial lighting projects

These programs are designed to help members reduce energy use and lower utility bills – all while improving home or workspace comfort. To view program requirements and start your application, visit our website: [www.ocec.coop/rebates-assistance/](http://www.ocec.coop/rebates-assistance/)

#### Spotlight: Insulation Rebates

Have you been thinking about adding insulation to your home, attic, crawl space or uninsulated space? By doing a self-installation of insulation in their uninsulated (R-0) crawl space a fellow OCEC member recently received a rebate that covered the entire materials cost of their insulation upgrade!

Questions? Email us at [info@ocec.coop](mailto:info@ocec.coop) – we're here to help!

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## The Big Picture

We're building a future-proof fiber network to connect the Methow Valley. Construction is happening in stages, and every customer will get service as soon as their neighborhood is complete.

## How Fiber Construction Works

Each process must be in place before the next step:

Backbone → Cabinets → Distribution Lines → Drops to Homes → Internal Network → Go Time - Service Active!



## Just the Facts

- Will someone call before work starts outside my home?
  - Outdoor construction - like trenching or drop placement - does not involve pre-calls or door knocks unless special access is needed.
  - Our construction contractor will make every effort to contact property owners before construction.
- When will I get a scheduling call?
  - When we're ready to bring the fiber inside your home and set up your router, we will call.
- Should I talk to construction crews if I have a question?
  - For safety reasons, please do not distract the construction crew. Please call us, 509-996-2022
- What about sprinklers, pets, or landscaping?
  - Please mark your sprinkler and/or septic lines with flags. Those items are unable to be located by a utility.
  - Crews do their best to minimize disruption. If you have special concerns, let us know in advance.
- Why are some people on a 3-year service agreement?
  - For builds that were not included in the original grant design and engineering plan in 2023 but we are able to fund and build to now, we require a service commitment, as your monthly payment will help cover the incremental cost of the build addition.
- What about wireless radios and towers?
  - Wireless is an older technology that will be phased out gradually. Fiber is the long-term technology.

## Timeline & Expectations

For those who signed up before the 2023 ARPA grant submission date, there are multiple crews working simultaneously on stages 1-4: Backbone → Cabinets → Distribution Lines → Drops to Homes. Internal network connections will be scheduled as the backbone is completed.

Later Sign-Ups: You're in the pipeline, but your connection depends on the order of trunk and cabinet builds in your area.

Everyone in the ARPA grant area will go live with service by Fall of 2026. Everyone in the PWB grant area will go live in 2028.

We'll post regular updates online and in our newsletters. Visit [Methownet.com](http://Methownet.com) and select the News link for updates.

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