



# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

## News

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Powerline Right-Of-Way Needs To Be Clear For the Good Of All Members

Most members are hopefully aware of DIG-RITE. This program reminds people in Missouri to “call before you dig,” so citizens can be aware of underground utility services. This can avoid costly damage and life-threatening accidents. Underground electrical lines can present an invisible danger, but members need to also be aware of the visible danger of overhead utilities.

the building could come into contact with the power line. During a storm, the line could fall on the building and stay energized causing a fire or injuring someone who approaches the

building. A building under the line will have to be moved, or the line itself will have to be moved to ensure the safety of system.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

Sometimes the commonness of overhead power lines can lead to complacency. They are in every neighborhood and almost every rural yard. As long as there is distance between the lines and people, it is good to let them fade into the background.

Problems arise when the distance between lines and a path to ground is lessened. Members should be aware that the fifteen-foot easement on each side of the line is there for a reason and should be kept clear. Buildings should never be constructed or moved into that easement.

A building under a line presents a continuing danger and will necessitate making a change at the member's expense. A person or animal walking on



A clear right-of-way makes for a safe and reliable system.



Keeping buildings, trees and other obstructions out of the right-of-way gives our linemen room to work.



**Bright ideas**

While fans don't produce cool air, using them along with your air conditioner will save money on your electric bill. By turning on your ceiling fan you can raise your thermostat 4 degrees without sacrificing comfort. Just remember to turn off your fan when you leave the room. Fans cool people, not air.



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Offices Will Be Closed Monday, July 4th.

## Happy Independence Day



Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative are eligible to enter the 2023 calendar photo contest. Photos taken within the cooperative territory can win a place in the complimentary calendar distributed to members at cooperative headquarters. Winners will receive a credit on their electric bill. More details can be found at [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com).

## Save With A Smart Thermostat

### WHAT IS A SMART THERMOSTAT?

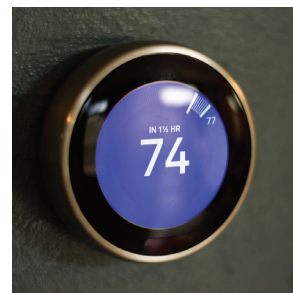
An advanced thermostat, also referred to as a smart or internet-connected thermostat, can give you more control, when compared to a traditional programmable thermostat, over the way your home uses energy, both at home and away. A smart thermostat works by connecting to your home's Wi-Fi network. After installation, you input the basics of your schedule and desired temperatures. Over time, as you change the settings, it learns your schedule and adjusts to reduce your energy use. Many have apps so you can receive updates, remotely control temperatures and monitor energy use. You can see how much you are spending on heating or cooling costs, tweak the programming to save money, and see the results immediately.

Most smart thermostats also show you how effective your heating and cooling system is by showing the length of time it takes to make a requested temperature change. This typically discourages people from turning a thermostat way down to "cool the house faster," which does not work. Another unique feature of many smart thermostats is geofencing. This allows your smart thermostat to know when you're on the way home and automatically adjusts your home's temperature to your liking.

### CAN SMART THERMOSTATS SAVE YOU MONEY?

The answer is yes! Consider this, for the average American household, almost half of their annual energy bill goes to heating and cooling, which can add up to more than \$900 per year. Additionally, most smart thermostats cost between \$150 and \$250 before rebates.

With such a small initial investment (the cost of the thermostat itself), smart thermostats have been shown to save between 10% - 12% on heating costs, while saving 15% on cooling costs for those who have central air conditioning. With the amount you may save on heating alone, you



could pay for the cost of the thermostat in the first year.

Keep in mind that some homeowners may purchase a smart thermostat for more than just the energy savings alone. For many, the allure also includes better control over scheduling, convenience, ease of use and features such as alerts and on-unit outdoor temperature displays.

It is recommended to purchase a thermostat that has the ENERGY STAR label. Thermostats with the ENERGY STAR label have been independently certified, based on actual field data, to deliver energy savings. Common ENERGY STAR certified smart thermostat features include:

- Remote Control: Using your smartphone, you can adjust the temperature in your home from anywhere with an internet connection.
- Geofencing: This feature allows your thermostat to detect when you've left for the day to 'set back' your heating and cooling system and save money on your heating or cooling bill. If you're on the way home, the thermostat can automatically adjust the temperature to ensure you arrive at a more comfortable home.
- Learning temperature preferences: Certain ENERGY STAR-certified smart thermostats can learn your preferences automatically and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving temperatures when you are asleep or away.
- Over-the-Air Updates: Your thermostat may update its software periodically to ensure it uses the latest algorithms and energy-saving features available.

Sac Osage offers up to \$50 on ENERGY STAR qualified smart thermostats.



## We Are Looking For Former Members With Unclaimed Capital Credits

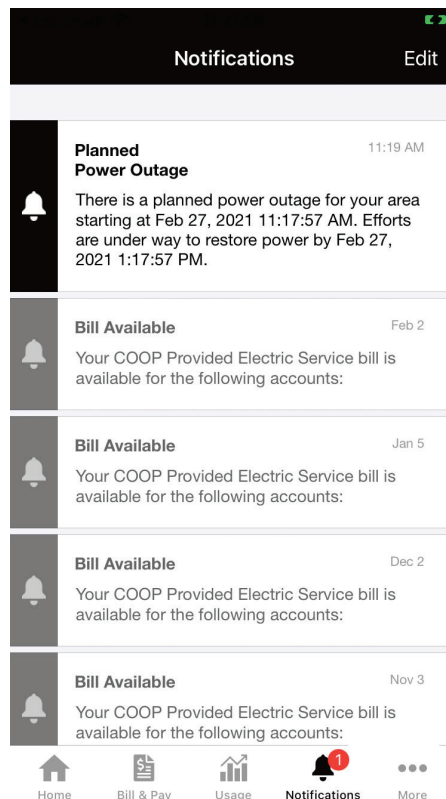
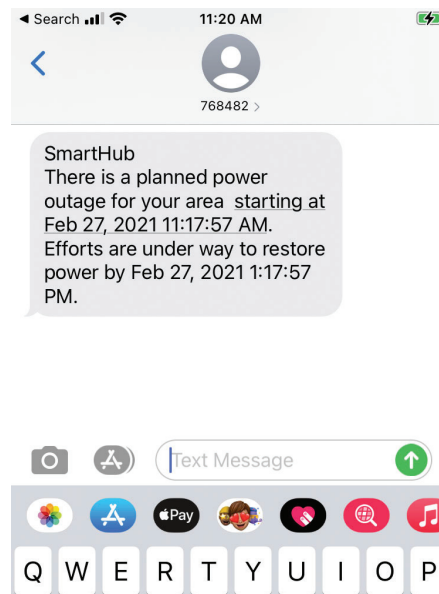
Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative") is trying to locate members who are the owners or joint owners of unclaimed capital credit refunds who were mailed checks by the Cooperative for previous years. Those mailed refund checks were returned to the Cooperative by the U.S. Postal Service as being undeliverable. The list of those members' names and the amounts of the unclaimed capital credit refunds may be found on our website ([www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)). If your name appears on the list or if you are the legal representative of a named deceased member, the Cooperative requests that you notify us so that these unclaimed capital credit refunds can be paid to the rightful owner.

To submit a claim, please visit our website to either submit your form online or obtain a printable UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND INFORMATION form. You may also obtain this form at our headquarters located at 4815 E Highway 54, El Dorado Springs, or by requesting it on our voicemail box at 1-800-876-2701. If these unclaimed capital credit refunds are not claimed by the September deadline, by or on behalf of the member, then those funds will be reallocated to the accounts of the current members in accordance with the cooperative's bylaws.

## Outage Notifications on SmartHub

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative wants to keep our members informed. Traditionally, that has been the role of Sac Osage News. For more than eighty years it has chronicled new cooperative programs, staff turnover, and rate changes. With more than a month between the time articles are written and when they end up in the hands of readers only slow major changes can be written about here. Now the Cooperative has new tools to keep members informed of things that come up in the short term or that impact only a part of the membership.

SmartHub has been around for several years. Many members are familiar with it as a way to pay their electric bill or to track their daily usage and hourly demand. But signing up for SmartHub also gives the cooperative and members another way to



communicate other issues. Members can change SmartHub settings and manage notifications. They can receive notifications through email and text messages. These notifications can now include outage updates.

Planned rolling blackouts have not happened in Sac Osage territory, but other planned outages do occur. At times line sections will have to be temporarily disconnected to do service upgrades or to safely remove a hazard from the right-of-way. Through SmartHub members can receive some advanced warning that these outages are taking place and how long they can be expected to last.

Members can receive all the benefits of SmartHub by clicking on the "Online Bill Payment" section of the Cooperative website, or downloading the SmartHub app through their phones' app store. Members currently signed up should check their settings under "Manage Notifications" to confirm they are receiving messages through e-mail and/or text notifications.

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