Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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July 2023

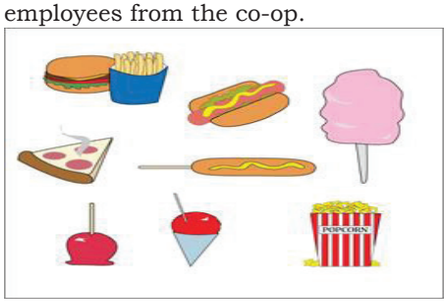
It's that time of the year again! The 142nd El Dorado Springs Annual Picnic will be held July 20-22, 2023.

Members will have an opportunity to sign up in person for Operation Round-up at our Sac Osage Electric Cooperative booth. By doing so, each new signup will get their name in a drawing for a cornhole board set.

We will also provide energy effecient information on ways to save money when it comes to your electric bill along with information regarding our rebate programs.

Do you have questions about the new internet service that is coming available to our members? We will be glad to assist you in answering those questions as well.

Be sure to come by and say hello as this will be a great opportunity to meet a few board members and employees from the co-op.



2024 Calendar Contest

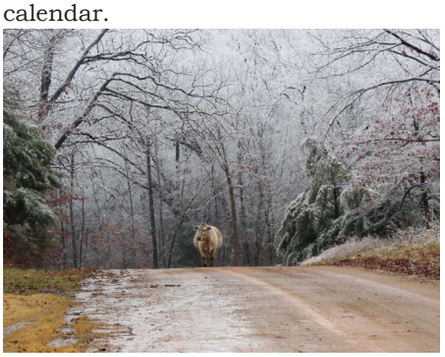
Each year Sac Osage Electric gives free calendars to members from our cooperative headquarters. This year members have the opportunity to submit their own pictures to be a part of the calendar. Winning members will receive a $25 credit on their electric bill. Fill out the form on our website at sacosage.com

Requirements are:

- Photo must be taken by the member of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative submitting the entry.
- Photo must be taken within the cooperative territory.
- Photos should be in a landscape (wider than it is long) to fit the calendar.

By submitting the photo through the website, the member is giving permission to Sac Osage to use the photo in the calendar and other promotional material.

Members can submit multiple entries, but a new form must be filled out with each one. Sac Osage encourages members to take photos in all seasons as this will increase the chances of being included in the calendar.



FIrework Safety Tips

Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water/hose nearby in case of accidents.

Designate a safety perimeter.

Supervise children when they are handling sparklers.

Don't forget about your pets!

Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.

Never place a part of your body directly over a firework or hold a firework in your hand when lighting.

Only light one firework at a time.

Avoid alcohol consumption when handling or using fireworks.

Consider safe alternatives to fireworks such as party poppers, bubbles, silly string, or glow sticks.

www.dhs.gov

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

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative News

THINKING ABOUT PURCHASING SOLAR?

Solar energy systems work when sunlight hits a solar photovoltaic module (solar panel or PV panel) and causes an electric current to flow. The current produced from the PV panels is controlled and regulated by an inverter, which converts direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) needed for use by household appliances. The electrical panel is where the power gets distributed throughout your house; any excess electricity may be sent from the panel back to your cooperative's power grid.

To begin, you can look at factors such as which direction your home faces, the condition of your roof, and obstructions such as trees and other buildings that may block the sun during the peak generation period of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is always a good idea to contact Sac Osage to get an accurate picture of what you can expect from a solar instalation.

Getting started:

Before choosing a solar system, be sure that your home is as energy efficient as possible; you may want to get a home energy audit from your cooperative to help determine which improvements will be most beneficial. Investing in energy efficiency provides a faster return on your investment or may eliminate the need for installing solar. By improving your home's energy efficiency first, you will reduce your overall energy use and may reduce the size of a PV system.

Make sure your roof is in tip-top shape. If yours is older, you may need to repair or replace it before installing solar. It will need to last as long as the panels or you will add removal and reinstallation to the cost of a new roof. Or if you choose to put your solar system on the ground (which is the most efficient installation method) be sure the area around it is clear and shadow/shade free.

Research solar and solar contractors thoroughly before investing in a system; get at least three quotes before choosing one. Be sure to work closely with your cooperative for advice and assistance on interconnecting with the grid. We can provide information and energy use history that can help you to size your system and evaluate savings. Our staff has experience working with other member-owners and solar contractors.

How Much Electricity Can I Generate? This depends on several factors.

The size of your system. Determine how much electricity you want to produce; then size your system accordingly. Note that you can start out small and add on. A system that will generate 100% of your energy needs is expensive, so most systems are sized to generate only a portion of your home's needs.

Your site. If you have a shade-free area from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., you'll be able to collect more sun and produce more energy than if your site is shaded.

Your region. The sunnier the days in your area, the more electricity you'll be able to generate. For example, systems in the southwest produce more electricity per year than in the northeast. To help answer this question in more detail, your cooperative and your installer can provide details specific to your location.

How long is the payback period on solar pv system?

The payback period can range from 10 years to more than 20 years, depending on the system cost, available rebates and incentives, and the amount of electricity the system produces versus what you use at your home. Check with Sac Osage Electric Cooperative for more information on net-metering policies and use the calculator on this website, shouldibuysolar.com to get an accurate estimate of your payback.

What happens with a solar pv system on cloudy days?

Your system will not collect sunlight at night and on cloudy days. That means, you will draw electricity from your cooperative during these times, and because your home is still connected to the cooperative's electric grid, you'll be able to receive reliable power. If you PV system produces excess energy on sunny days, you can be compensated based on the cooperative's net metering guidelines.

What happens with a solar pv system during power outages?

Most grid-connected PV systems shut down to prevent back- feeding electricity into de-energized power lines that may have fallen or that line crew members may be working on. It's important to have this shut-down feature to prevent injuries—and even death— to those working on the line.

Will my cooperative buy any axcess energy I produce with a solar pv system?

Grid connected PV systems are connected to the cooperative's power lines. That means electricity can flow both ways (to your home from your cooperative, and from your PV system back to the electrical grid). On sunny days at times when your energy use is lower, your system may produce excess energy that can flow back to the grid.

On January 1, 2008, the State of Missouri's Net Metering Law took effect, requiring all electric utilities to offer a net metering program to customers generating up to 100 kilowatts of electricity.

The Net Metering Law states that any power that is not used by the member generating the power (commercial or residential) will be credited to their utility bill at the utility's avoided-cost rate each month. Credits from net metering must be used within twelve months of generation or they expire, and they can only be applied to kWh energy charges not demand or availability fees.

How much does a solar pv system cost?

The price of PV components varies depending on the size of the system (generating capacity), type and quality of the components purchased, and complexity of the system selected. The good news for consumers is the cost of PV has decreased over the past 20 years.

Installation costs depend on the size and complexity of the system, but also on the home layout and construction. For example, a simple, south-facing roof allows for an easier install than a roof with hips and valleys. In addition, some homes require structural or wiring upgrades. An average 4 kW system may cost between $10,000 and $20,000, before credits and incentives. This is based on a typical installed cost of $3 to $5 per Watt of distributed generation capacity. To determine your cost, get multiple bids from reputable installers.

Are there incentives and tax credits for installing solar pv systems?

For 2023, the tax credit is 30% of the cost of a new residential system. Be sure to consult with your financial and tax advisor to see if these incentives apply to you.

How long do solar pv systems last?

Certified PV products and systems generally have a life expectancy of between 20 to 30 years. PV panels may outlast the roof they are attached to. Make sure your roof is in good shape or budget for replacement during the life of the system.

Manufacturers test PV panels for hail impact, high wind, and freeze-thaw cycles to represent real-life situations. Most manufacturers offer 20- to 25-year warranties for panels; extended warranties may be available at an extra cost. Little maintenance is required; occasionally it may be necessary to rinse modules off with water to remove dust and grime. Other components like inverters may have a shorter life. You should be aware that from the day they are installed, solar panels become less efficient. On average the output of a solar system decreases by 0.5% annually. In time they will stop producing power and will have to be replaced.

Solar Myths:

Myth: Electric cooperatives do not support home solar power installations and distributed energy generation.

False. Electric cooperatives have supported member-owned solar installations for many years. Just fill out the interconnection agreement with your local cooperative to start the process. Your cooperative will help ensure your solar array is safe and you are fairly compensated for your generating a portion of the electricity you generate. Most of all, your electric co-op wants to make sure you are getting all the facts before you invest in solar.

Myth: Your electric bill will be reduced to zero or near zero as a result of your solar panels.

False. Electric cooperatives have been tracking member-owned generation along with cooperative-owned community solar panel production for more than 15 years. These records show a typical home installation will send about 60% of its generated power back to the grid over the course of a year. In any year, there will be days when the sky is cloudy. Your panels may also be covered by snow or ice, limiting generation. The power your system generates will help offset the energy charge on your electric bill. It will not cover other charges, such as the service availability or demand charges, which pay to maintain a reliable electric grid for all.

Myth: You don't need to contact your electric cooperative until you're ready to interconnect your solar system.

False. Electric cooperatives will always support what is in the best interest of members. Involving the cooperative early in the process will ensure the best possible outcome for you. Your cooperative partner can:

- explain the interconnection process
- assist with the application
- discuss net metering payment terms
- provide accurate data on how much electricity you use
- coordinate required interconnection work needed from the cooperative.

We can also review the power purchase agreement terms if the system is being financed.

Myth: Solar contractors/salesmen are your best source of information for distributed generation, including solar power.

Perhaps. No one knows solar installations better than the contractor. Likewise, no one knows electricity better than your electric cooperative energy advisor. If you're considering solar for your home, the best solution is to contact your local co-op first to establish a contractor-homeowner-cooperative partnership early in the process so there are no surprises.

Find more at shouldibuysolar.com

Locally Owned, with *You* in Mind!

Conexon Connect is proud to partner with Sac Osage Electric Cooperative to close the digital divide throughout rural Missouri.

Fiber internet allows you to enjoy:

- Fiber-fast speeds;
- Affordable monthly pricing;
- Equal upload and download speeds;
- Unlimited data, no caps or throttling, ever;
- *And more! All powered by your **local, trusted** electric cooperative.*

Join the Broadband Movement!

Check your availability at www.ConexonConnect.com, call us at 1-844-542-6663, or scan our QR code!

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Sac Osage Electric

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