



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

February 2021

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Members Support Community Efforts Through Operation Round-Up

Throughout Sac Osage Electric Cooperative's nine county area there are many people living near or below the poverty line. The last year has presented some unique difficulties, but long running organizations have been there to help area citizens keep going.

The Care Connections Center in St. Clair County is dedicated to taking care of the needs of older residents. In Nevada, Missouri the Community Outreach runs many programs including the yearly Christmas Baskets. A simi-

lar program, the Stockton Christmas Baskets provides for the needy in Stockton. In El Dorado Springs the Christmas basket program provides goods for families that would otherwise go without this year.

These four programs have many things in common. They fill a need in the rural community. They are driven by volunteer efforts. And they are supported by many members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative.

Through the Operation Round-

Up program our board of directors was able to present checks for three hundred dollars to each of these community organizations. This money will help keep these programs going to serve citizens in our area who need some extra help.

The funds are raised by members who have agreed to have their electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. So if their electric bill is \$103.20, eighty cents goes into the fund, and the member writes a check for \$104 even. The maximum donation is never more than eleven dollars and eighty-eight cents a year, and averages right around six dollars a year.

For most members the spare change given to get to the next whole dollar will never be missed. Put together with the other Sac Osage Members' donations, this money adds up to a real difference in the rural community.

The cooperative wants all of the members who are currently supporting this program and rounding up their monthly bill to know that the money is going to worthy causes. It all stays in the community to help out those in need. With more members willing to round up their bill, more funds would be available for more of these community led, volunteer supported programs.

To be added to this effort at this time, members need to fill out a one-time form on this page. By sending the form with the next month's bill the member will have a part in all these efforts. One of the founding principles of rural electric cooperatives is "commitment to community." Sac Osage is proud to continue that commitment and give our members a chance to participate.



YES! Sign me up for Operation Round-Up.



Address:

Phone Number:

Signature:

Sac Osage Account Number:

..... Office Use Only

Employee Initial:

Date Received:



New Rebate Offers Members Electric Vehicle Incentive

Sac Osage Members who purchase a new electric vehicle charging station can receive a \$250 rebate through the Take Control and Save program. The rebate program is a partnership between Sac Osage and their power provider Associated Electric Cooperative.

The new rebate is for a new Level 2 charging station for an electric vehicle. The charging station must be Energy Star rated and purchased within 90 days of submitting the rebate application. Charging stations allow electric vehicle owners to charge at home. Sac Osage members can charge off-peak and take advantage of the low 6.2 cent per kilowatt hour energy rate.

The Take Control and Save program is a statewide cooperative initiative. It has saved over 2 billion kilowatt hours of electricity over the years.

As a member, you might ask, "Isn't conserving energy counterintuitive to an electric co-op's goal?" Not necessarily. Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective resources that your cooperative system provides.

It costs Associated Electric a lot of money to build new generation, whether that's coal, gas, wind, solar or hydroelectric, and then operate and maintain it. The 51 cooperatives in the three-tiered system in fact consider energy efficiency a generation source. Through conservation, it reduces demand and the need to invest in more infrastructure.

"The TC&S program started as a way to educate members how to save and conserve energy. When cooperatives offer money to members to ensure they will use less energy, that shows the commitment we have to them and our communities," said Scott Blue, member energy services spe-



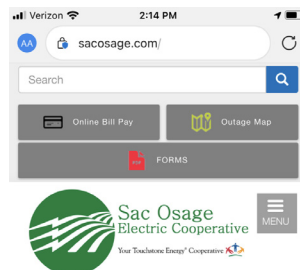
Level 2 charging stations like this one now have a rebate available.

cialist at Associated, who coordinates the TC&S program. "We listen to our members, and study how these rebates can benefit our system as a whole."

For TC&S's first 10 years, Associated and participating cooperatives invested more than \$61 million in the program. On the residential side alone, here are some of the achievements by year-end 2018:

- 29,401 ENERGY STAR appliances rebated
- 25,636 high-efficiency water heaters rebated
- 15,831 heat pumps rebated
- 11,692 residential energy audits
- 6,524 weatherization improvements

To learn about all the program has to offer and to download rebate applications go to www.sacosage.com. The website also has information on electric vehicles and available tax credits.



A Water Heater Timer Can Help Lower Your On-Peak Demand

Six hours a day. That may be an unreasonable time to go without hot water. But it might be reasonable to go that long each day without heating water.

Many members will not go through the 40 or 50 gallons of hot water stored in their hot water heaters during the two peak periods each day. Those members can save money by installing a timer on their hot water heater.

By setting the timer to be off from six to nine AM and four to seven PM each day, members can see savings on their on peak demand charge. The water heater will not reheat the water during that time, but for many families the hot water holds out until the peak time has passed. Then the timer turns back on the water heater.

Heating water outside the peak time every day, moves that demand to the off peak time. The off-peak demand charge is \$1.50/kW versus \$6.36/kW for the on-peak demand. An electric water heater often adds around 2 kW to a demand. The timer can save over \$9 a month making for a quick pay-back on a small investment.