



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

August 2018



Sac Osage Electric Announces New Four-Part Rate Design

One of the missions of Sac Osage Electric is to provide service to our members at a price where everyone pays their fair share. The traditional “load curve” that models a typical residential electrical usage pattern is or will be impacted by distributed generation, plug-in electric vehicles, on-demand water heaters, and other lifestyle changes to a point where the current two-part rate is becoming less effective at providing revenue at a cost that’s equitable to all of our members. Therefore, we are changing from the current two-part rate to a new four-part rate scheduled to go into effect upon completion of programming and testing. Although this rate is designed to be revenue neutral, some members may see an increase and others a decrease in their monthly cost, depending upon the consistency (or “load factor”) of electrical use.

The four parts are as follows:

Service Availability Charge of \$30 (\$33 for seasonal accounts)

- Provides revenue to cover costs such as maintaining right of way, and any other expenses not directly related to the delivery of electricity.

Energy at \$0.062/kWh

On-Peak Demand Charge at \$6.36/kW

- The On-Peak kW Demand value will be the largest monthly one-hour average demand between the hours 6 AM – 9 AM and 4 PM – 7 PM. Approximately forty percent of Sac Osage Electric’s power costs is in demand charges. Reducing this demand charge by utilizing appliances such as a washer, dryer, and oven (and raising the air conditioner thermostat within those afternoon hours) outside of the hours shown above will lower our costs and we will pass those savings on to you.

Off-Peak Demand Charge at \$1.50/kW

- The Off-Peak kW Demand value will be the largest monthly one-hour demand between the hours 9 AM – 4 PM and 7 PM – 6 AM. This value multiplied by the off-peak demand charge provides revenue to cover our “fixed costs” such as poles, wires, and other equipment necessary to provide electrical service.

This new design replaces the current declining block rate that has been in place for many years and encourages and promotes conservation by rewarding members that utilize electricity more efficiently with lower monthly costs. Most importantly it contributes to the goal of “Fairness down the lines” where everyone pays their fair share.

Calendar Photo Contest

We would like to invite our members to participate in Sac Osage Electric Cooperative’s photo contest. Thirteen photos will be selected for display in our 2019 Calendar.

We would like photos for all seasons. Start looking through those memory cards and have your cameras ready so you can capture just the right picture for our contest. Photos can be any appropriate subject or scene, but must be taken in the general Sac Osage Electric area. Judges will select a photo for each month and one for the cover. Each winner selected will receive a \$25.00 credit on their bill. Deadline for entries is September 31, 2018.



Unclaimed Capital Credits

We are trying to locate former members with unclaimed refunds from the years 1986 to 1989. Please visit

www.sacosage.com/content/capital-credit-claim-form

for more information and to view the list of names.

SAFETY FIRST!

What people don’t know about electricity is, well, shocking! Find out how to stay safe around electricity by visiting Safe Electricity at safeelectricity.org. The tips and videos you will see on this website could save your life.





ANNUAL MEETING



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative held its Annual Meeting of the members on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. It was a hot spring evening with over 1,000 people in attendance at the annual meeting.

“Robin’s Hood” entertained the crowd with their amazing talent.

They are undoubtedly a group of talented individuals that entertained the crowd with a little bit of the area’s finest jazz music while the members registered, ate a delicious pulled pork sandwich provided by Sugar Foot Barbeque and enjoyed Hiland’s Ice Cream Sandwiches. A number of prizes donated by the cooperative’s vendors were given away to attendees, as well as a 55” Flat Screen TV, Apple iPad and HERO 5 Session along with bicycles for the youngsters.

Two director candidates ran unopposed to serve on the Board of Directors of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative: Mr. Jim Murray, Iconium area; and Mr. Neale Johnson, Stockton area. Mrs. Jan Neale, from the rural El Dorado Springs area was not running for reelection. Two candidates were running for election Mrs. Amy Hedrick, El Dorado Springs area and Mr. Ken Hacker, El Dorado Springs area. Mr. Ken Hacker won with 66 votes over 55 for Mrs. Hedrick.



2018



THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

FOUNDED IN 1792

Only the beginning

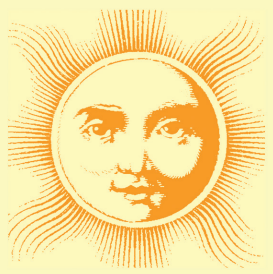


On a quick trip across the radio dial today, you will find a wide cross-section of offerings, from various types of music and sports to familiar advertising jingles. The possibility of this kind of brand-name recognition was not immediately evident to the early radio industry or its prospective clients. Radio's first commercial was aired on Aug. 28, 1922, over station WEAJ in New York. A realty company sponsored the spot to promote Hawthorne Court, a group of apartments in Queens, and they paid the going rate: \$100 for 10 minutes of airtime.



While the sun shines

Once symbolic of good harvest, "making hay" has many superstitions associated with it. For good luck, wish on a wagonload of hay. But, if the hay is baled, you'll have to wait until the bales are opened for the wish to come true. Avoid approaching a wagonload of hay from the rear because it may bring misfortune to watch the hay disappear from your sight. Bad luck may come your way if you fail to make a wish on a wagonload of hay, so always have your wish handy.



WEATHER PROVERBS

Dry August and warm doth harvest no harm.

Fog in August indicates a severe winter and plenty of snow.

At St. Bartholomew there comes cold dew.

If many meteors in summer, expect some thunder.

If horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air, rain will ensue.

When it rains in August, it rains honey and wine.

Onion's skin very thin, mild winter coming in; onion's skin thick and tough, coming winter cold and rough.

Recipe for Cran-Banana-Blueberry Popsicles



Photo Credit: Julia Sudnitskaya/shutterstock

2 cups fresh blueberries
2 ripe bananas
1-3/4 cups cranberry juice cocktail, divided
1/4 cup granulated sugar (optional)

Combine blueberries, bananas, and 3/4 cup cranberry juice in blender; blend 20 seconds. Pour mixture through a fine-mesh strainer, pressing with spatula, to remove skins, if desired.

Rinse blender; pour strained liquid back into blender with remaining cranberry juice and sugar (if using). Blend another 20 seconds. Pour into molds; freeze at least 4 hours.

**For recipes, gardening tips and
weather forecasts, visit:
www.almanac.com**

Time for a change?

Updating old appliances can often bring savings

All of the most energy-efficient 2018 models of washers and dryers are front-loading.

Photo courtesy Pixabay, Creative Commons.

Dear Pat: Several of my appliances are getting old and will need to be replaced soon. Will the appliance choices I make have much impact on my energy bill? — Chelsea

Dear Chelsea: Your energy use varies month to month, so it can often be difficult to see how much difference an appliance purchase makes. It's best to view the purchase over the lifetime of the equipment. Think about the up-front cost and the lifetime energy cost.

In a *Consumer Reports* test, the most efficient refrigerator used \$68/year less electricity than the least efficient model. Multiply that difference over a decade or two, and the lifetime energy savings could be greater than the up-front cost. All it takes to get the best appliance for your needs is some initial research.

Appliance energy use is usually less, on average, than home heating and cooling bills, but can be several hundred dollars each year. Your appliance use depends on factors such as the model you've chosen, how often you use it, the settings you use for its particular function and even the time of day it is most used.

Over the last few decades, new appliances became more energy efficient, driven partly by minimum government standards. These standards, created by the U.S. Department of Energy, save consumers more than \$60 billion each year. Appliances are required to include an Energy Guide label that shows estimated energy use and operating cost per year. These labels help you compare different models and calculate the initial cost against the long-term savings.

Some appliances will also have an Energy Star label. This indicates the appliance is substantially more efficient than the minimum standard. Your greatest energy savings opportunities can come from replacing an old appliance with an Energy-Star-rated appliance. Removing a refrigerator that's 20 years old and replacing it with a new Energy Star model can lower the monthly electricity cost by 75 percent, from \$16.50 to less than \$4.

In some cases, the configuration of the appliance can also make a substantial difference. For example, a side-by-side refrigerator/freezer uses about 70 percent more energy than other configurations, with all the most efficient models having the refrigerator stacked on top of the freezer. All 36 of the most efficient clothes washers of 2018 were frontloading models.

Consider how much you use the appliance you're considering replacing. The more you use the appliance the greater your savings will be when choosing a more efficient model. If you use the appliance less or have a small household, you may get by with a smaller refrigerator or freezer, which will save you money.

How you operate the appliances also can make a big difference.

Here are some easy ways to save:

Refrigerator/Freezer:

- Set your refrigerator at 35 to 38 degrees and your freezer at zero degrees.
- Make sure there is adequate air flow between the wall and the back of the unit.
- Keep the refrigerator relatively full when possible.
- Replace the seals around the doors if they appear to be leaking air.
- Defrost the refrigerator and freezer regularly.

Stove/Oven

- Use the correct size of burner to fit the pan.
- Use smaller appliances like a microwave or slow cooker instead of the oven when possible.

Dishwasher

- Use the most energy-efficient and shortest setting that gets your dishes clean.
- Air dry rather than using the heated dry function.
- Wait to run a load until the dishwasher is full.

Make the most out of your appliance energy use with a little research before buying a new model and a few easy adjustments to the way you use them. To see check out the highest rated energy-efficient models and compare average annual savings, go to www.energystar.gov/most-efficient/me-certified-clothes-washers.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more ideas on saving energy on appliances, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Have more questions about energy efficiency for your home?

Contact your local electric cooperative and ask how we can help.