



For Outages Please Call: 1-800-548-4660

Visit us at [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com)

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

September 2009

Cloudcroft, N.M. 575-682-2521

Alto, N.M. 575-336-4550

Carrizozo, N.M. 575-648-2352

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative



**Our Energy, Our Future™**  
A Dialogue With America

Your voice counts. Earlier this year, consumers and electric cooperatives worked together to bring co-op concerns to the forefront of the U.S. House of Representatives' climate change debate. As a result the House revised its climate change bill, H.R. 2454, resulting in significant rate relief for electric co-op consumers compared to the measure first introduced. Co-ops are still concerned with parts of the bill and it's far from perfect, but it's a step in the right direction. As climate change legislation works through the U.S. Senate, there are three keys things senators must keep in mind: Keeping the bill fair, affordable, and achievable.

**FAIR:** Legislation should recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced. It appears cap-and-trade system setting limits, or caps, on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and other sources will be part

of legislation. Where you live and how your state produces power could impact how much money Congress adds to your utility bills. Congress needs to keep things fair; no one should be penalized and pay more for climate change because of where they live.

**AFFORDABLE:** Any climate change plan must keep electricity affordable for all Americans. Estimates vary on how much climate change legislation could add to your monthly electricity bills. Since electricity is used to make most products, prices in general will likely rise. Congress must keep costs to consumers in mind as they debate these proposals.

**ACHIEVABLE:** Climate change goals must be realistic and in sync with technology to ensure long-term success. Otherwise they're doomed to fail.

Go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to make your voice heard.

### Air Sealing and Insulation TIPS ON INSULATION S AVINGS

Air that transfers in and out of homes through cracks, crevices and holes can increase energy consumption. Here are some helpful tips to avoid air infiltration:

- Seal around pipe coming through walls.
- During hot and cold weather, ensure windows are closed tightly and locked.
- Ensure weather-stripping around doors and windows is tight.
- When your fireplace is not operating, its flue should be closed tightly.
- Check the ceiling behind the cornice of built-in bookshelves for holes cut during construction.
- Drop-down, disappearing stairways should fit tightly into the ceiling and be carefully weather-stripped.
- Whole-house attic fans should be sealed tightly during the winter.
- Make sure your outside dryer vent door closes when the dryer is not in use.

### INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COOPERATIVE

When you as a member of Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc. perform some type of improvements around your home or property and you add electrical load, please notify OCEC to notify us so we can be assured that the equipment we have at your location is sized properly. Failure to do so may result in damage to your equipment and also the cooperative's equipment. So to avoid unnecessary outages or damages of equipment, please contact OCEC when you add a load a your location.

## Coop Connections Card

Otero County Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, is proud to be an integral part of the communities we serve. That's why we're introducing Co-op Connections, a program that helps you receive discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses.

### Here's What You Get

- Great discounts from businesses in your community.
- Discounts of 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions at participating pharmacies.

Access to over 48,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more. Search online to find discounted prices on prescriptions ([www.rxpricequotes.com](http://www.rxpricequotes.com)) and participating locations ([www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com).)

### How much will I save?

The discounts save you 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions at over 48,000 pharmacies nationwide, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and more.

### How much does the feature cost?

Your pharmacy discounts are provided as part of your Co-op Connections® program at no cost.

### Does everyone in my family need an individual card?

No. One card may be used by the entire family.

### I just received my card. Can I use it right away?

Yes, just present your card and prescription at a participating retail pharmacy to receive a discount at the time of purchase.

### I've lost my card. How can I get a replacement?

Please contact Taylor Electric Cooperative.

### How are these pharmacy discounts different from traditional prescription insurance?

This plan is not insurance; it is a pharmacy discount offer. The card provides immediate discounts at the pharmacy. Upon presenting your card to the pharmacist, you will pay the lower of a discounted price or the pharmacy's regular retail price. There are no forms to fill out and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. These discounts are available only at participating retail pharmacies.

### Can I use my Co-op Connections card with my current insurance benefit to reduce my costs?

Your card cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. However, use your card to purchase prescriptions not covered by your insurance plans at a discounted rate.

### Where can I get a list of pharmacies that accept the card?

The Co-op Connections card is accepted at over 48,000 retail pharmacies nationwide, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and more. You can find participating pharmacy locations at [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com).

## INFORMATION YOU CAN FIND AT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.OCEC-INC.COM](http://WWW.OCEC-INC.COM)

- Make a payment with your credit card, debit card, or pay by e-check.
- Check your balance, payment history, consumption history and a detailed copy of your billing information.
- Online Energy Audit
- Kids Corner for educational purposes.
- Regulatory Information
- Existing Rates
- Products and Services offered by OCEC.
- Job Opportunities
- Net Metering Information
- Contacts at OCEC
- Energy Calculator
- Energy Library
- Information on Coop Connections Card.

Check it out today and see what's available

### **OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**P.O. BOX 227**

**CLOUDCROFT, NEW MEXICO 88317**

- Office hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. If service is interrupted, check your fuses and circuit breakers. If all your service is off, check with your neighbors.
- Report promptly if you think the trouble is on Otero County Electric Cooperative, Incorporated lines.
- When problem is on consumers side of the meter, the consumer will be charged for a false call for service.
- Please examine this bill carefully as it will be considered correct if we are not notified within 30 days.
- The statement enclosed does not include payments made after billing date.
- If you desire information on the use of electricity for any job, large or small, do not hesitate to call your Cooperative, come by the office, or write for information at any time.
- FOR EMERGENCIES OR POWER OUTAGES CALL (800) 548-4660.