

August 2010

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

Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

*Power-Gram*



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

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

Cludcroft, N.M. 575-682-2521

Alto, N.M. 575-336-4550

Carrizozo, N.M. 575-648-2352

## AUGUST IS BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH

August brings cooler temperatures and the rush to get ready to go back to school for many students and parents. Whether just starting kindergarten, moving into junior high or going off to college, this time of year can bring stress, anxiety and even depression in some. The key to fighting the stress is to start preparing long before the first day of school by following some of the tips below.

### ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

- Communicate with them ~ Talk with you younger students about their excitement and stress the benefits for them (seeing their friends, playing sports, etc.)
- Give them some control ~ Be firm that they do have to go to school, but give them control over some simple choices. Avoid power struggles by letting them make a decision about whether to bring a lunch or ride the bus or their bike to school.

### TEENS

- Keep communication lines open ~ Older children want you to listen to their concerns about going back to school, but be careful to not be judgmental. Do everything possible to keep lines of communication open at this critical age.
- Look for patterns ~ A wild new hairdo? No problem. Purple hair AND scary new friends AND a drop in grades? Now is the time to worry.

### ADULTS

- Focus on your goals ~ Remind yourself why you are going back to school (better job, more money, etc.).
- Remember that you are not alone ~ Many other 'non-traditional' students have made it through this, and that it's normal to be a little anxious or fearful.

Here are some additional ideas for making the transition from summer play time to school time a little bit easier.

- About 2 weeks before school starts, begin going to bed and getting up on schedule.
- Call your school and get the facts about fall sports teams and social clubs. Don't be late or miss something.
- Make sure to get all immunizations and physicals completed.
- Make a check list of items easily forgotten at the last minute and hang it in an obvious place.
- Put up several hooks for backpacks, jackets and lunch boxes. Remember to not hang them too high for the shorter ones in the family.
- Pack lunches the night before and refrigerate.
- Make sure backpacks are packed and ready before going to bed - this prevents the last minute fuss over some thing being lost or misplaced.
- Create a homework center away from a TV. Stock with extra crayons, pencils, scissors and other supplies that may be needed to complete homework.
- Each evening, have a 30-minute family clean-up time to get everything back in place.
- Remember school dress rules when buying clothing. Some schools have rules about the verbage appearing on t-shirts.
- Buy socks that are all the same for easy matching at laundry time.
- Make sure you buy a lunch box or backpack that your small child can open easily.
- Make a calendar to place in a visible spot; fill in events and school vacation days.
- Make a special box or location for your children to place forms from school which need special attention.

**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



**NEW ALTO OFFICE HOURS**

8 AM - 4 PM  
MONDAY-FRIDAY  
Excluding Holidays, which  
will be posted separately.

**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 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 to equipment, please contact the cooperative office when you add a load a your location.



**Time's Running Out for federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits!**

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided incentives to make energy efficiency improvements to existing homes, but they expire on **Dec. 31, 2010**. You can receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over 2009 and 2010. The cost of installation is not covered for windows, doors, roofing, and insulation. A list of qualified improvements is at [www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits). Examples include:

**Windows and Doors**

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights | Must have Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) and U-factor less than or equal to 0.30.  |
| Storm Windows and Doors               | When combined with the window/door over which it's installed, it must meet the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) in your climate zone. |

**Roofing**

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| Metal, Asphalt Roofs | All ENERGY STAR metal and asphalt roofs qualify. Must be expected to last 5 years or have a 2-year warranty. |
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**Insulation**

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| Insulation | Primary purpose must be to insulate. For example, vapor retarders are covered but insulated siding does not qualify. Also must meet 2009 IECC and be expected to last 5 years or have a 2-year warranty. |
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**Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)**

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|---|---|
| Central Air Conditioning                              | For split systems, must have an energy efficiency ratio (EER) greater than or equal to 13 and a Seasonal EER greater than or equal to 16. For package systems, must have an EER greater than or equal to 12 and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.   |
| Air-Source Heat Pumps                                 | For split systems, must have a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) greater than or equal to 8.5, an EER greater than or equal to 12.5, and a SEER greater than or equal to 15. For package systems, must have a HSPF greater than or equal to 8, an EER greater than or equal to 12, and a SEER greater than or equal to 14. |
| Natural Gas or Propane Furnace                        | Must have an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) greater than or equal to 95.   |
| Gas, Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boiler and Oil Furnace | Must have an AFUE greater than or equal to 90.  |
| Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan                     | No more than 2 percent of furnace total energy use.   |

**NOTE:** Certain non-solar water heaters and biomass stoves also qualify for energy efficiency tax credits. Tax credits are also available for renewable energy, including geothermal heat pumps. For tax purposes, the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and receipt are generally required.

Source: ENERGY STAR. For details visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

**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.