

# Okanogan County Electric Co-op

FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER



Volume 1 | Issue 2

## Manager's Message

Election talk is in all the news. Here at OCEC, it is no different. OCEC's annual meeting is fast approaching (April 16) and with it there are three board positions up for election. The positions open are Districts 1 (North) and 2 (Central) and an At Large position (4). A map of the Districts can be found at [www.okanoganelectriccoop.com](http://www.okanoganelectriccoop.com).

All members can vote for all districts but you must reside in a District to run for the Board position. Any member can run for the at-large position. If you are interested in running for a board position, please contact me at the Co-op. We will need to finalize the list of members running for board positions by the middle of February. You may also contact someone on the nomination committee to get on the ballot. Check the website to find out who is on the nomination committee or call 996-2228.

We will again be mailing out ballots for voting. You may either mail these back or bring them to the annual meeting. All ballots must be received by the closing of the annual meeting on April 16 to be a valid vote.

We have a member's meeting scheduled on Thursday, February 16th at 6 PM to discuss the new rate design. We will have several rate design alternatives to discuss and we want to hear feedback from our members on these. Because a large number of members are out of valley, we are planning on putting this meeting on the web. Go to the website on the date and time of the meeting and follow the link for "Live Meeting Webcast". If this web meeting works well, we may continue it for the other planned member meetings and the annual meeting.

This will not be the only meeting to discuss rates. Besides the annual meeting, we have a meeting scheduled for March 13th to discuss the solution the board decides on. Also, we have scheduled a member meeting for May 15th. This meeting will be after the first bills come out with the new rate structure. This meeting will be to respond to member questions about the new rate structure.

As the owners of the co-op, you are the reason we are here. Your input in the upcoming member meetings is integral in developing the best solution for our members.

-David Gottula

## Cooperatives are.....

- Private independent electric utility businesses
- Incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate
- Established to provide at-cost electric service
- Owned by the members they serve
- Governed by a board of trustees elected from the membership, which sets policies and procedures that are implemented by the cooperatives' professional staff
- Distribution cooperatives deliver electricity to the member
- Generation and transmission cooperatives (G&T's) generate and transmit electricity to distribution co-ops

### special needs?

If you or someone in your home uses an oxygen machine or other specialized support machinery, please let our office know. This enables us to contact you in advance when we are planning outages and allows you time to prepare.

### safety

Stay away from downed powerlines and report to the Co-op as soon as you can.

Our number is (509) 996-2228

**Treat all downed powerlines as live and very dangerous!!**

### co-op programs

Operation Round-Up:

Round-Up rounds your bill to the nearest dollar, and donates the difference to those in need. Call the office to have this enabled on your account.

### Office Info

For newsletter feedback and outage notifications send an email to [info@ocec.coop](mailto:info@ocec.coop)

**Power outages call:**  
509-996-2228

**Office Hours:**  
Mon - Fri  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**General MGR:**  
David Gottula  
[dgottula@ocec.coop](mailto:dgottula@ocec.coop)

**Address:**  
PO Box 69  
93 W Chewuch RD  
Winthrop, WA 98862

### Board Members

**President / 4:** Don Hover  
[dhover@ocec.coop](mailto:dhover@ocec.coop)

**North / 1:** Dave Gens  
[dgers@ocec.coop](mailto:dgens@ocec.coop)

**North / 1:** Patricia Leigh  
[pleigh@ocec.coop](mailto:pleigh@ocec.coop)

**Central / 2:** Dick Garing  
[dgaring@ocec.coop](mailto:dgaring@ocec.coop)

**Central / 2:** Ardis Bynum  
[abynum@ocec.coop](mailto:abynum@ocec.coop)

**South / 3:** Paul Taylor  
[ptaylor@ocec.coop](mailto:ptaylor@ocec.coop)

**South / 3:** Dale Sekijima  
[dsekijima@ocec.coop](mailto:dsekijima@ocec.coop)

**At Large / 4:** Ron Perrow  
[rperrow@ocec.coop](mailto:rperrow@ocec.coop)

**At Large / 4:** Kent Hitch  
[khitch@ocec.coop](mailto:khitch@ocec.coop)

## Co-op Conservation: Phantom Loads

TVs, computers, DVD Players, cell phone chargers, cable boxes, all the luxuries of modern living! Even when we are not using these devices in our homes, they are using energy. Nearly 10% of home energy use can be attributed to these electronic wonders according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

How can we reduce the amount of energy these devices use? A power strip/surge protector with programmable options is one convenient and inexpensive way to beat these “phantom loads”. Ask the salesperson at your local store about a power strip/surge protector that can be programmed to allow some devices to turn off (such as receivers, gaming consoles and speakers) when not in use while allowing cable boxes or DVRs to remain on.

Another way to reduce phantom loads is to unplug cell phones, computers, and MP3 players once they are charged. Standard wall chargers for cell phones continue to feed power to a device after its fully charged and small amounts of energy are consumed even when no device is attached!

If you need to purchase a new microwave or cordless phone, look for one with a low-standby rating. Information about how much energy a device uses when idle can be found at [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov).



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## Co-op Conservation: Check for Leaks

You may already know where some air leakage occurs in your home, such as an under-the-door draft, but you'll need to find the less obvious gaps to properly air seal your home. The usual suspects are windows and doors. If you can see daylight around the frames, air is leaking. Weather-stripping can be easily installed by the homeowner. More extensive work should be done by qualified professionals.

A leaky faucet can waste up to 450 gallons of water a month according to the Oregon Department of Energy. If it's hot water leaking, the energy to heat the water is also being wasted. Check those faucets!!

Ceiling fans should be set in the clockwise direction for winter so that the cool air from the ground will be pulled up and the heated air downward. There is usually a switch at the base of the fan. Don't forget to change the direction to counterclockwise in the summer.

### Most Common Areas in Your Home for Leaks

- Wall or window-mounted air conditioners
- Window, door, and baseboard moldings
- Wiring that runs through insulated floors, ceilings, and walls
- Plumbing that runs through insulated floors, ceilings, and walls
- In the basement, where the foundation meets the wood framing
- Recessed lighting and fans in insulated ceilings
- Fireplace dampers
- Dropped ceilings above bathtubs and cabinets
- Missing plaster
- Electrical outlets
- Attic hatch
- Switch plates

### Calendar

**February 16th:**  
Rate / COSA Meeting  
Winthrop Barn  
6:00 PM

**March 13th:**  
Rate / COSA Meeting  
Winthrop Barn  
6:00 PM

**April 16th:**  
Annual Meeting  
6:00 PM Registration  
7:00 PM Meeting  
Starts

**May 15th:**  
Meeting to discuss  
new rate structure  
Winthrop Barn  
6:00 PM