



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

May 2021

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Air Conditioning and Demand Rates

As hot humid weather begins to hit Sac Osage territory, many members question how much using their air conditioners will effect their peak demand. Generally the hottest part of the day is mid to late afternoon. Air conditioners are often still working hard going into the 4 PM to 7 PM peak demand hours. Because of Sac Osage's low kilowatt hour charges most members' bills in the warm weather months will not be higher compared to a non demand rate structure. The first thing members should do to save money on their summer electric bills is to make their homes as efficient as possible.

Sealing air leaks through caulking and weather stripping should be the first step. The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.



Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the molding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

Concentrating on energy efficiency will save money throughout the year; the demand rate structure also offers savings when members can avoid running appliances at the

same time. Members who can avoid having the dryer, dishwasher and water heater running during peak times will see lower overall electric bills.

Members may want to try a smart thermostat to raise the temperature during peak periods and cool during the off peak. Members attempting this should remember that this must be done consistently every day. Otherwise, the member will still set a higher peak if the air conditioner runs



through one of the peak hours. Most members find it better to leave the air conditioner at a comfortable temperature but avoid other appliance usage. It is also important to keep in mind on seasonal properties or when returning from vacation that turning on an air conditioner in a hot home during peak hours will set a higher demand.

Don't Let Your Trees Become Your Neighbor's Outage



Call 800-876-2701 to report limbs to be trimmed out of the line.

Offices will be closed May 31 in honor of Memorial Day.



Annual Meeting Happening in September



The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will be held Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Similar to last year there will be a drive through registration. Further details will follow in the June and September issues.

May is Catch-up Month for Members With Budget Billing

Members on the budget billing program will pay the difference in their budgeted and actual bills for the year or possibly have a credit this month.

Who's it for?

Members who have 12 months of payment history at the same location with out any delinquent payments and no returned checks qualify for this program.

How does it work?

Sac Osage will determine your Budget Bill by averaging the kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage of the previous 12 months. May 1st will be the catch-up date. At that time if you have used more kWh's than were budgeted, you will pay the difference on the next month's bill. If you used less than were budgeted, you will see a credit on your next month's bill. On May 1st your Budget Bill will be

recalculated to reflect the latest 12 months.

How long will I be on Budget Billing?

As long as you make your full budgeted payment by the 25th of each month and any extra payment required for the catch-up month, you can continue Budget Billing. You can decide to go back to regular bills by notifying the cooperative in writing. That month will then be the catchup month.

Will my budget Bill be adjusted if I do something like add a new level to my home?

Sac Osage may adjust the amount of your Budget Bill anytime during the billing period if usage varies significantly from the previous year in order to protect you from too large a catch-up amount.

Take Pictures in All Seasons for our 2022 Calendar Contest. Submission details can be found at www.sacosage.com

