



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

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News

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Keeping the Power On Through the Coronavirus

The members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways, but their electric service remained as reliable as ever. Through the statewide shutdowns, the Cooperative remained fully staffed and continued operation of its essential service.

As the number of positive tests grew in Missouri, Governor Mike Parson declared a state of emergency on March 13th. The situation called for increasingly drastic measures as schools closed and counties and municipalities began to issue strict social distancing orders. On April 3rd Governor Parson issued a statewide "Stay Home Missouri" order which was extended through May 3rd. This closed many more businesses in the Sac Osage service territory.

As an essential service, Sac Osage Electric Cooperative continued to serve its members. Changes were



Lineman, Josh Heiserman, works a live line in March.

made to help to slow the spread of the virus while keeping the lights on. To implement the social distancing standards, The Cooperative closed the lobby and resale area. Members were still able to pay with cash or deliver paperwork through the drive-through window. The office remained fully staffed answering all members' calls.

Linemen also continued to work with some adjustments to ensure continued service. They staggered shifts to limit contact and lower the chances of infection. Despite these changes, they continued to restore outages, make

necessary system improvements and build new line. Their efforts kept the electricity on to the Sac Osage membership which is mostly residential as they followed the stay at home order.

As the statewide stay at home order was set to expire May 4th, the cooperative prepared to reopen the lobby and resale department with social distancing cautions in place. The Cooperative is grateful to members for their patience and cooperation during this difficult time and was happy to continue electric service throughout this wholly unusual challenge.

Annual Meeting Rescheduled for September 22nd





Take Control and Save Program Continues to Help Members Save

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in partnership with Associated Electric Cooperative has offered the Take Control and Save Rebate program to members for nearly a decade. The program has a proven history of saving energy and saving members money. Over the years the program has been modified and expanded with the bottom line being kilowatt hours saved and more money in members' pockets.

The number one category of energy used across the cooperative is heating and cooling. The Take Control and Save program has concentrated efforts to address this largest area of electricity usage.

HEAT PUMPS

New ground source heat pump installations may qualify for a rebate of \$750 per ton. Qualifying replacement equipment may be eligible for a \$300 per ton rebate. Air to air heat pumps can qualify for a \$300 per ton rebate. All heat pumps must meet minimum energy efficiency and installation requirements insuring real long term value to members. Mini-split heat pump systems are a more recent edition to the air to air rebate and are an excellent solution for some members.

ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS



For those members who do not have a whole-house cooling solution, the Take Control and Save program offers a rebate on room air conditioners. Energy Star rated room air conditioners can qualify for a rebate of \$50.

THERMOSTATS

New smart thermostats can help members "beat the peak" and save in overall energy consumption. The Take Control and Save program offers a \$50 rebate on Energy Star rated advanced thermostats.



Outside of heating and cooling there are places members can save money. The Take Control and Save Program also offers rebates on other electric energy users.

WATER HEATERS

Electric water heaters are eligible for a rebate up to \$50. Water heater can replace a current electric water heater with an efficiency less than 0.9, or a gas water heater. Heat pump water heaters are also eligible for a rebate.

ENERGY AUDITS

An energy audit provides great long-term value for saving energy. A professional energy audit will identify home improvements such as sealing air leaks, new windows, or added in-



sulation that will save electricity year round. The audit will show the pay-back value of the work, helping members make wise energy renovation decisions. The Take Control and Save program has contracted with local energy auditors and will pay half the cost of the audit. Members who make changes suggested by the audit will qualify for further rebates up to \$500.

Commercial and Industrial members may also qualify for discounted energy audits. Rebates are also available for high efficiency lighting for business.

Further details about the Take Control and Save program can be found at www.sacosage.com. Forms detailing the qualifying requirements can be found there. Members can also request forms at Sac Osage headquarters in El Dorado Springs.

Take pictures in all seasons to be a part of the 2021 calendar. Details at www.sacosage.com.