Energy Efficiency Programs & Services

As a Salem Electric member, you can choose between a variety of programs to save energy, reduce your electric bill, help the environment, and most importantly, put money back in your pocket.

We offer cash incentives for weatherization through our WeatherWise Program so your home can be less drafty, quieter, and cost less to heat and cool. To qualify you must be a Salem Electric member whose home or apartment is electrically heated. For a high efficiency heating and cooling system, install a ducted or ductless heat pump through our Heat Pump Program and receive a cash incentive. If you’re purchasing a new energy-efficient appliance, take advantage of our Appliance Rebate Program. To be eligible for a rebate, just look for the Energy Star logo on qualifying appliances.

Our new Energy Efficiency Programs & Services brochure gives you additional information on these programs and more that can help you save energy and money.

Call, click, or stop by the office for your copy.

“I was completely satisfied with the entire process; Marcos did a great job throughout, from first inspection to the final one. Thank you!” – Ardis

“Willie is a pleasure to work with; he is patient and very knowledgeable. He answered all my questions and set my mind at ease. Thank you Salem Electric for a great program!” – Ramona

“We are so thankful for the generosity of this program. We are blessed by the assistance we received.” – Jim & Christi

“Salem Electric was great with any questions I had, extremely helpful and friendly!” – Adam

“Thank you for your help with our new heating system and the thoroughness you provided after the system was installed!” – David

ORECA-Action: Your Cooperative — Your Voice

Each legislative session Salem Electric and Oregon’s 17 other electric cooperatives are faced with mandates and regulations that challenge our ability to deliver the electricity you need at an affordable cost. This year’s session will be no different. Cooperatives across Oregon are encouraging members to come together to promote common sense solutions through our grassroots campaign: ORECA-Action. By joining ORECA-Action, you’ll maximize your voice while advocating for your co-op and all Oregon electric cooperatives. Currently we have 250 of our nearly 19,000 members signed up for ORECA-Action. If you’re interested in getting important information and updates visit SalemElectric.com and click Your Cooperative — Your Voice to sign up.

Together we can make a difference!
Salem Electric is contracting to have a system-wide GPS inventory done on all our meters. The contractor will be following our current meter reading routes to collect their data and their vehicles will be marked with a Salem Electric logo for easy identification. The collected GPS information will be used for future diagnostic purposes.

Directors Meet with Senator Kim Thatcher and Representative Bill Post

Salem Electric president Joe Van Meter, directors Dave Bauer and Alicia Bonesteel, general manager Terry Kelly, and ORECA executive director Ted Case held a meeting with Senator Kim Thatcher at the State Capitol on January 25. On January 26, Van Meter, Bauer, Kelly, Case, and director Jeff Anderson met with Representative Bill Post. The meetings were an opportunity to inform the legislators about Salem Electric and discuss proposed legislation currently facing Oregon’s electric cooperatives.
On April 10 Salem Electric will celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day. First recognized by Congress in 2013, this day is an opportunity to thank these dedicated men and women who work 365 days-a-year, rain or shine, day or night to maintain or restore electrical service to your home or business.

Salem Electric’s 16-member line crew has nearly 300 years of combined experience. They thoroughly understand our system, take safety precautions seriously, and have a unified goal to prevent service interruptions and, when interruptions do occur, restore power as quickly, efficiently, and safely as possible.

We appreciate the work they do and this opportunity to say… Thank you!
Whether you use one, 100, or 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, there are expenses (or fixed costs) that remain the same. These costs do not vary based on the amount of electricity consumed. Included in the basic charge are taxes, poles, wires, equipment, trucks, labor, and billing systems, all of which must be in place to provide members safe, reliable electricity.

Members’ bills include a basic charge so recovery of these fixed costs aren’t totally dependent on kilowatt-hours sold. Currently Salem Electric’s residential basic charge is $10 per month and is one of the lowest in the entire state. Every cost of service analysis we’ve done indicates our basic charge should be closer to $35 to $40 per month.

To help recover our fixed costs and allow us to levelize our kilowatt-hour costs, we have adopted a plan to increase the residential basic charge from $10 to $15 effective October 1, 2017, with a second $5 increase effective October 1, 2019.

INFO BULLETIN MARCH 2017
Leadership Youth Representative Sam Wallace will represent Salem Electric at the Washington D.C. Youth Tour in June. NRECA organizes the tour that welcomes 1,500 students from across the U.S. to visit and tour the nation’s capital, educating them on cooperatives and industry issues.

Salem Electric received 60,000 phone calls, nearly 30,000 visitors to the office, and recorded over 12,000 connects and disconnects in 2016. The trend away from cash and check payments continues with nearly 65% of members using online or electronic bill pay options.

In 2016 Salem Electric had an average outage time per member of 26.1 minutes. The leading cause of outages was animal and weather-related incidents.

Conservation measures resulted in saving nearly 3.8 million kWh in 2016. Heat pump installations were up while some other programs saw a decrease in activity.

IT reported progress in cybersecurity improvements, network monitoring, development of a disaster recovery plan, and upgrades to the security camera system.

Kelly updated the board on current legislative activity and mentioned that environmental groups want spill at BPA dams from April through August. Spilling would require other forms of electricity to be purchased potentially resulting in a $50 million added cost and likely a rate increase. In addition, some evidence shows added oxygen in the water (created by spill) could hinder, rather than help, the salmon population.
Grassroots Campaigns
— Important and Effective

For more than one hundred years grassroots movements have utilized collective action to effect change at the local, regional, national, or international level. Over the years I’ve been involved with several grassroots programs that have had great success in their advocacy efforts by educating the public on issues that impact them and providing a platform to make their voices heard. Grassroots campaigns are important and effective.

I recently signed up to join Salem Electric and electric cooperatives across Oregon through our grassroots campaign; ORECA-Action. Each session there is legislation introduced that challenges Salem Electric’s ability to deliver reliable, affordable electricity to our members. ORECA-Action provides an easy and effective way to communicate common sense solutions to legislators when flawed legislation is introduced.

In January other Salem Electric board members and I met with Senator Kim Thatcher and Representative Bill Post to discuss our concerns about legislation being considered in the current session. In mid-March we will continue to advocate for our members by attending the ORECA Legislative Days at the State Capitol. Having our members communicate with elected officials is imperative to create a strong grassroots campaign, but we need your help.

How does ORECA-Action work? When legislation is proposed that would impact Salem Electric, you will receive an email asking for your support along with a pre-written electronic letter and contact information for you to forward the letter, and any of your own comments, to your elected officials. Without your involvement, ORECA-Action won’t be successful.

Join me in supporting local control of our cooperative. To sign up visit SalemElectric.com and click the Your Cooperative — Your Voice, pick up a postcard at the office, or call 503 362-3601 to request a postcard be mailed to you.