Background

2022 Methownet and OCEC collaborated on a feasibility study that determined a cost of $30 million to bring fiber internet service to every OCEC member.

2022 Wasington State Broadband Office (WSBO) announced federal grant program availability with a project cap of $12 million.

11/22-1/23 Working with grant consultants OCEC and Methownet determined a fiber project area that would make a strong candidate for a successful application (complete fiber backbone and efficiently deliver service to 2600 OCEC members).

5/23 Full grant of $12 million awarded. Methownet and OCEC launch Okanogan County Connect. Project completion expected within three years.

6/23 $1.2 billion in federal funds earmarked for Washington State alone. OCEC and Methownet commit to pursue further funding in order to provide fiber to the premis for all OCEC membership.

What we know so far

Up to 2600 households or businesses who are OCEC customers in 2022 will be eligible for a free fiber installation when the contractor is scheduled to be in their neighborhood.

Monthly rate and terms of service will be determined later this year.

All OCEC membership is encouraged to sign-up for information at okanogancountyconnect.com. If you are in the project area, signing up will ensure you will be contacted as details of the project become available. No commitment is required until actual installation is being scheduled beginning in 2024. OCEC Members who are not in the current project area should also sign up at this time. This will be helpful in future grant applications.

Delivery of fiber service is expected to follow the path of power service to your location. Overhead lines will be hung and underground lines will be trenched.

Project Timeframe

Year One: Inform community of opportunity and enlist participation
Details of funding requirements will be made available
Intitial project staging (integrate funding requirements, establish contractors, etc)

Year Two and Three:
Project buildout to premises
Apply for addition grant opportunities