



DEC Current

**Join us for the 2023 Annual Meeting:
Food, Prizes, Music, and Co-op Business!**

The Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting will be held in person, Saturday, August 19, 2023 at Milford Central School located at 42 W. Main Street, Milford, NY 13807. Registration will open at 9:00 A.M. with the business meeting to begin at 10:30 A.M. We will have coffee, donuts and pastries available.

Official notice and an open invitation are hereby extended to all bona fide members and their families of the Cooperative to come and take part in the proceedings. We have proposed bylaws which can be viewed here: <https://otsegoec.coop/bylaws>

REGISTRATION 9:00—10:15 AM BUSINESS MEETING: 10:30 AM

Brooks' House of BBQ will be serving a chicken dinner from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM by **Reservation ONLY**. There will be bill credits to all members who are registered and seated in the auditorium before 10:30 AM.

If you would like to join us and participate in the chicken BBQ dinner, please complete the ticket and return it with \$10.00 per dinner by 8/11/2023. Please make checks payable to "Otsego Electric Cooperative" and please **DO NOT** include this payment in your check for payment of your electric bill.

Dinner tickets will **not** be sold at the meeting.

Live Music by **Local Artists!**

Vendor Fair including several local organizations and businesses!

We hope to see you there!



79th Annual Meeting — Brooks' Chicken Bar-B-Q

\$10.00 Per Serving

Enclosed Please Find \$ _____

Please Reserve _____ Tickets at **\$10.00 Each**

Name(s) _____

(Otsego Electric Cooperative Members and Family Only Please)



Otsego Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 128,
Hartwick, NY 13348

Office Hours
7:30 – 4:00
Monday – Friday

Phone:
607-293-6622

Pay-by-Phone
1-844-843-6842

After Hours and Outages:
1-866-591-3192

Call **UDig New York** before
you dig at **811** or
1-800-962-7962

Board of Directors

Gary Potter
President

Charles Arnold
Vice President

Edward Clarke
Treasurer

Steve Child
Secretary

Fred Braun, Jr.
Director

Amy Parr
Director

Patrick Hooker
Director

Timothy R. Johnson
CEO

www.otsegoec.coop
www.oconnect.coop

Meter Tampering

Otsego Electric Cooperative is member-owned so energy theft costs all of us money. Theft of services drives up costs for all members and it is also a criminal offense. Those who tamper with electric meters are not only exposing themselves to criminal charges but also to life-threatening electrical shock. Otsego Electric Cooperative has and will continue to contact law enforcement any time someone tampers with an electric meter or tries to illegally reconnect their electric service. The charge for meter tampering is \$500.00.

As a reminder, do not cut the seal on your meter base for any reason. If you need the seal cut for access to the meter base, call us ahead of time to schedule a line worker to come out and help you. Even a licensed electrician must have an Otsego Electric Co-op line worker cut the seal on the meter. If you know, or think you know, of anyone tampering with a meter or stealing electricity, please contact us by calling at 607-293-6622.

Peak usage & how you can help:

- Using extra power for running appliances, motors, etc. during peak times can increase costs for all of us not just for that month but sometimes for the whole year if we set a new high peak. Please consider doing laundry, running your dishwasher, or charging your EV during off peak hours which are:
9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.; and 8:00 p.m.- 5:00 a.m.
- Follow OEC's website, newsletter, and social media for energy saving tips.
- Check out OEC's Clean Heat Rebate program if you are considering upgrading your fossil fuel heating system.
- If you have a beat-the-peak device, consider using your power when the red peak load light is off.
- Try not to use air conditioning units or other electric appliances during peak hours.

What's the fuss about PEAK ENERGY USAGE?

Peak energy demand is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to increased energy demands for heating and cooling spaces.

In the summer: Energy use spikes from mid- to late afternoon until evening.

In the winter: Energy use is higher in the early morning and then again in late afternoon/evening.

Adjusting when you use electricity can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

Third Party Notification

Every member has the right to designate a third party to be notified if the member's bill is not paid and if the member's service becomes subject to disconnection for nonpayment. For example, a parent can designate an adult child as the third party to receive notifications. Third party notifications can be very helpful in situations where health troubles or other factors might make it difficult for the member to stay on top of bill payments.

Electric Updates to your Home

If you are considering converting your home to electric heat or installing an EV charger in the near future, please give us a call! At times, the equipment at your location may need to be upgraded to handle your new upgrades. If you do not have the proper size transformer or service at your house, you could cause your equipment to fail and create outages.



2023 NY State Legislation: All-Electric Buildings, Cap and Invest, and Public Renewables

The Governor and Legislature enacted several major changes that will create tremendous impacts on our Members starting in the very near future. First, New York State adopted the All-Electric Buildings Act. It prohibits installation of infrastructure, building systems, or equipment used for combustion of fossil fuels in new construction no later than December 31, 2023 if the building is less than seven stories; new taller buildings of seven stories or more must be all-electric starting no later than July 31, 2027. This means all new furnaces, hot water heaters, household stoves, and pool heaters, etc. cannot be installed if they will burn fossil fuels after these dates. Exceptions were made for: emergency systems for backup power (i.e. generators); commercial food establishments (restaurants); laundromats; hospitals; and several others; however, all of these exempted buildings shall be “all-electric ready” as well. Local jurisdictions can implement these rules sooner than the specified dates.

The second major legislation establishes a Cap and Invest plan that will be developed by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Energy Research and Development (NYSERDA). This program will have large impacts on the any sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Companies that create these emissions will have to purchase “pollution allowances.” The costs of these allowances will surely be passed through to us as consumers of these products (such as gasoline, propane, and fuel oil). Thirty percent of these new funds will be used for rebates to consumers. The rest of the money will be put into a dedicated fund to implement the NY Climate Action Council’s Scoping Plan. Another piece of legislation is the Build Public Renewables Act. This act requires the New York Power Authority to get into the business of building renewable energy projects. We do not yet know how NYPA will make this transition and who will bear the costs of the projects.

All of these changes coupled with the mandate for all vehicles purchased in NY to be all electric by 2035 are bound to increase costs at Otsego Electric Cooperative. OEC will also see higher revenues from increased purchases of electricity. Although most of our base load power comes from very fairly priced hydropower, the extra power we purchase comes from the open market. These prices are unpredictable and can be very high at times of high demand. We will all need to plan now for these coming changes and Otsego Electric Cooperative is doing our part planning and getting ready to be able to meet these challenges as they arise.

Studying Energy Demand Costs

Historically, OEC’s revenues have primarily been based on energy purchases because meters could not measure demand and a monthly service charge. Now it is possible to measure peak energy demand so our bills could reflect these costs.

Demand-related costs can account for over 50% of our costs of service. Three-part billing for demand, energy usage, and a monthly service charge is the fairest and most equitable way to bill for electric usage. Many cooperatives have already set up 3-part rates so members receive bills that more accurately reflect the real cost of their service. Commercial accounts have been billed on demand for many years but residential services have not. Demand can vary widely with the introduction of fast electric car chargers and other high capacity appliance demands so OEC is currently studying implementation of this rate structure. Members could have the ability to save money on their bills by reducing their demand during our peak usage times which are usually from 5 to 9 in the morning and 5 to 8 at night. OEC system peaks can occur in the summer and winter so each member’s usage can affect the system. Each service’s peak demand is based on your highest usage over a 60-minute interval during peak hours over the past 12 months. We will share more information on Demand costs and charges later this year when we complete a full cost of service study that is underway.

Energy Explorers Activities

We often think about teaching our kids safety about crossing the road, being around our stove or a campfire and other general items, but do we remember to speak to them about electrical safety as often? Use our Energy Explorer activities to help teach them about Electricity and being safe around it! Enjoy a fun summer themed activity with them this month and check back often for more!

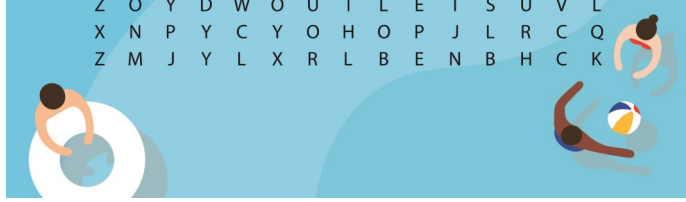
SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SEARCH



Water and electricity never mix. Always practice safety when you're near or in the swimming pool this summer. Read the following safety tips, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.

Never bring electrical **devices** near a swimming pool. **Electrical** devices that come in contact with **water** can cause electric shock. When possible, use **battery**-operated devices when **outdoors** near a swimming pool. Outdoor electrical **outlets** should be **dry** or covered. If you hear thunder, immediately exit the swimming **pool**. Thunderstorms and lightning may be near.

C Y P G V Q B X S E D R N L Y
 I R O J R H S R L J M R I J F
 I E O X M W O E V T W G Y L A
 M T L T J O C M H O H M H K H
 V T P A D T M C K T Z G E U Q
 E A Y T R P O Z N E J K Y M B
 H B U I P T E I D Q K C X Q M
 Z O C L F W N W W C N K J N S
 R A I T B G G S D R T H T I K
 L E I T K J K N H X Z C B Y J
 L K T A Z X T Y H E Q D P R R
 N X M A X M Q S E C I V E D F
 Z O Y D W O U T L E T S U V L
 X N P Y C Y O H O P J L R C Q
 Z M J Y L X R L B E N B H C K



Reporting Power Outages

Anytime you experience an outage, please report it! There are some cases where your house may be the only house out. If you assume a neighbor has called in an outage, it could take longer for us to restore your service as we may be unaware of the outage all together. If you are able to report information such as the location a tree may be down or if you heard a loud pop sound, this can help our crews determine where the problem may be.

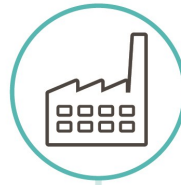
To report an outage you can call our office at 607-293-6622 or utilize our 24 hour call line at 866-591-3192.

Factors That Impact Electricity Prices

Just as inflation has impacted everything from the price of gasoline to the price of eggs, costs for the fuels required to produce electricity have also risen. There are multiple factors that play a part in the cost of our energy. As a Co-op, we do our best to manage those costs the best we can to provide the most cost effective electric to you possible but the more our members are educated, the more we can all work together!

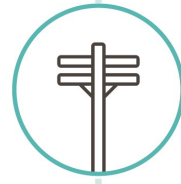
4 KEY FACTORS That Impact Energy Bills

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.



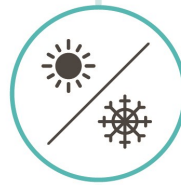
Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must first be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The cost of fuels used to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This monthly charge covers cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



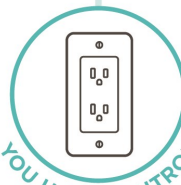
Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide electric service.



Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



YOU HAVE CONTROL

Energy Consumption

This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh. You have control over how much energy you use, which can ultimately help manage your monthly costs.

