



# DEC Current

## How Extreme Winter Weather Impacts Reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

**Here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):**

Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

**Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.

**Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.

Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.

**Pro tip:** Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.

When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.

**Pro tip:** Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

**Pro tip:** Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also each contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.

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:  
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## Using a Credit or Debit Card with our Autopay Program

Many subscribers opt to use our autopay program in an effort to streamline the process of paying their monthly bills. If something shall occur and you need to make an update to the credit or debit card that is on file, please be advised that these updates can only be made using our Smart Hub Application (under billing & payments; autopay program drop down menu) or the Telephone Payment line (1-844-843-6842). Our office representatives are prohibited to make any updates to your card information. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause; however, this policy is in place to protect the personal information of all our members and subscribers. We appreciate your understanding!

## Howard S. Marlette Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is given every year in memory of Howard Marlette who was an active member of the community and his church and he served the Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. for 37 years as a Director. He also served as President of Otsego Electric Cooperative from 1992 to 2004; President of the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Association from 1986 to 2004; and Howard also received the George D. Aiken Award from the Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives in 2002.

To honor Howard's service to his community and his involvement in the Otsego Electric Cooperative, his family and the Cooperative award several scholarships to deserving students who plan to further their educations after high school. Applications are available at [www.otsegoec.coop](http://www.otsegoec.coop) and must be submitted to Otsego Electric Co-op, Attn: Cody Allen, P.O. Box 128 Hartwick, NY 13348 by May 1, 2024.

*Scholarships are awarded by the Marlette family and Otsego Electric Cooperative.*



## Considering a Heat Pump?

If you are considering installing a Heat Pump at your home, contact us first! We do have rebates available to you, however, these are contingent upon availability of funds. For more information, give our office a call and we would be happy to assist you!



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