



We have heard from some of our cooperative members about the February electric bills for January's usage. Most of the questions concerned the PPA and the higher-than-normal bills. We posted on social media that the average daytime temperature was 14 degrees in January, compared to an average of 22 degrees in January 2021. As a result, the PPA or Purchased Power Adjustment charge by the New York Power Authority was much higher on the February bills than in many years. OEC's daily energy purchases in January 2022 exceeded our hydro allocation of lowest-cost power on many different days in a row. It was unusually cold. When we exceed our hydro allocation, we have to purchase power on the market and demand was high all over the state.

The cold is the major reason for the increase but there are other market forces at play such as increased costs of fuel to run generators and the lack of availability of dispatchable generation options. As the state moves to more intermittent resources, such as solar and wind, we will need significant amounts of dispatchable resources that can run for days, weeks, or even a month when we see temperatures like January.

Some members have also asked about wind and solar. The challenge with these sources is the variability of output which presents a fundamental challenge to reliably meeting electricity demand when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. Solar and wind are not dispatchable due to the variability of their "fuel" source. We believe it is best to look at investments in energy efficiency first.

Regarding efficiency measures, OEC has been shedding peak load for the past 15 years with our electric water heater program. In addition, we switched to 100% LED Area Lighting over 12 years ago. We also offer cash incentives to encourage installation of geothermal systems as a heat and cooling source. Geothermal is the most efficient way to heat and cool a home. Some of our co-op members have installed geothermal and they are very happy with the systems. Please contact us if you are interested or visit our website for more information. We will continue to look for more ways to reduce your bills and to alleviate some of the more recent challenges we face with incremental energy costs.

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 **Dig|Safely. 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

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 friends award a scholarships to deserving students who plan to further their educations after high school.

Applications are available at 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, 2022.

Scholarships are awarded by the Marlette family.

Please call our office at **607-293-6622** for scholarship application information. Applications are due by May 1, 2022.



HEAP Assistance

We understand that situations arise when it can be difficult to pay your bills, especially as costs rise with lower winter temperatures. If you need assistance paying your bills, there are programs, such as HEAP, that are available to assist you. In order to find out if you qualify, you can visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov or call one of the following numbers for assistance:

Otsego County Department of Social Services 607-547-1700
Chenango County Department of Social Services 607-337-1500
Madison County Department of Social Services 315-366-2211
Herkimer County Department of Social Services 315-867-1220
Opportunities for Otsego 607-433-8000
Catholic Charities 607-432-0061
Office for the Aging 607-547-4232

Attention High School Juniors!

2022 Legislative Youth Representative Opportunity

Otsego Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer an exciting opportunity to a **high school junior**. We usually are able to sponsor a trip to Washington, DC to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference to tour DC. Unfortunately it will not be possible to do this in person this year. Nevertheless, we are opening the application process because there is a Scholarship Award available!

Please visit our website at www.otsegoec.coop for the application paperwork. The deadline is March 31st, 2022.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy

