Broadband Project

We are looking forward to starting construction of our Fiber-to-the-Home Broadband project. We will be building to areas where we were awarded funding through the New NY Broadband Program. All of our members are not included in the first phase of the buildout due to the terms of the grant but we have applied for another grant to build to additional members. We hope to find out about the awards for additional application areas soon but we are moving forward with construction of this first part soon. We see this project as a win-win for our members with good potential for future expansion.

There are a lot of things we have been doing to get prepared for construction. The system design for the Laurens substation area is currently being fine-tuned. We sent out Requests For Proposals for the first phase of construction and we received bids back for project materials and construction labor. We have also been working on permitting with the Towns of Laurens, Richfield and Otsego for our equipment shelters. These shelters will house our electronic equipment at our substations. Once we start to build, the project will start moving forward more quickly.

As many of our members may have seen, our crews are out still collecting GPS data for our entire system. The GPS data is being used for our broadband project design plus it will be useful for the electric side of our business. Our line crew is doing a great job gathering this data and they are currently ahead of schedule—we have over 10,000 poles finished with about 3,000 more to go. We will be working in the Towns of Edmeston, Plainfield, Brookfield, Otsego, Hartwick, Westford, and Middlefield to finish up the GPS data collection.

We will be updating our current billing platform to provide more functionality to operate both the electric and broadband businesses from the same system. We will also be changing the look of the bills several months from now. We look forward to providing you more updates soon!

(This deployment of broadband service is supported by a grant awarded to Otsego Electric Cooperative by New York State through the New NY Broadband Program.)

Winter Shut-off Rules

With winter approaching, it can be a difficult season for many. Please remember it is important, as we go into the colder months, that any accounts approaching disconnect status should get in touch with our office to make payment arrangements in order to avoid interruptions in service.

It is helpful to provide us with a current phone number in case we need to get in contact with you. We don’t like to shut off power, so if we can avoid doing so, it is in everyone’s best interest. If power is interrupted for non-payment, there are additional fees for reconnection and it may take up to 24 hours to reconnect. We make our best effort to connect as soon as possible.
Load Control Switches

We will be doing some spot checks on our water heater load control switches to see if they are working properly. Many of our original load control devices have been installed on electric water heaters going on ten years. The first devices installed were built for one-way communication so we can’t check the switch remotely. The only way we can verify if these are working properly is by coming to your house. Our line crew will be contacting co-op members with load control switches to schedule appointments. If you have a switch and there are no LED lights on it, please contact the office and we will schedule an appointment.

Contact our office to find out about our NEW member discounts on Marathon electric water heaters. We have many sizes to choose from. These are high efficiency water heaters with substantial insulation that can save you money.

Smart Hub

If you have not done so already, you can log into SmartHub and set up auto-pay, e-billing and text notifications. We also have a smart phone app available for your convenience. Please call the office or stop by if you would like assistance setting up your account. Visit www.otsegoec.coop to log in.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here’s one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save $10 to $20 per year.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Have a happy holiday season!

www.otsegoec.coop