



DEC Current

Drone Inspections

As we noted in our previous newsletter, we are anxiously awaiting being able to begin our aerial pole and line inspection project. This project is made possible by a grant that we were awarded to cover the expenses. When the vegetation begins to grow in our area, we will be utilizing services from Zeitview to assess the integrity of our poles, crossarms, wires and vegetation in right of way areas, allowing us to identify areas that need attention.

As part of this process, drones will be utilized to help cover more ground in a more efficient manner allowing us to see angles that otherwise are difficult to access providing us a more full scope review. We will also have trained technicians conduct ground inspections to ensure a thorough examination of our system. We ask that as we begin this work, please do not interfere with the drones as they are operating. These aerial inspections are faster and superior to ground inspections so we will be able to better focus our resources in areas of concern and, in turn, provide more reliable electric service to you!

As we get closer to the project start, we will send additional communications to inform you of where you might see these drones in operation. We truly appreciate your cooperation with this project as we work to improve our system. Should you have any questions, please call our office at 607-293-6622 or email memberservices@otsegoec.coop.

Unlock Your Future: Apply for our Scholarship Today!

We encourage high school seniors, who are served by Otsego Electric, to apply for our Marlette Scholarship! All Applications are due by May 1st!

- Applicants must have a parent/guardian who is a resident on a property served by Otsego Electric Cooperative
- Applicants must be high school seniors
- Applicants must have a good high school average (Average B or above)
- Applications must be active in their community and church

Applications can be found on our website at:
<https://www.otsegoec.coop/marlette-scholarship>



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

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www.otsegoec.coop

www.oeconnect.coop

Nomination and Elections Committee

All members are hereby notified that, as defined in the bylaws of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. the Board of Directors will appoint a nominating committee. The nominating committee will meet during the month of June to select a list of nominations for director.

Article 4, Section 3 of the bylaws follows:

NOMINATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty days nor more than seventy-five days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations and elections consisting of five members who shall be selected from different sections of the project area so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall review, certify and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen or more members acting together shall make nominations by petition not less than seventy-five days prior to the meeting. In the event adequate nominations are not received and certified, the nominations and elections committee will have the authority to appoint nominees. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the certified candidates.

Petitions are available at the Cooperative office. Petitions will need to be submitted on or before **June 4th, 2025.**



Electricity Tariffs

We are closely monitoring the ongoing discussions regarding the potential tariffs on electricity imported from Canada. Currently, these tariffs have been postponed as negotiations continue. It remains difficult to predict the full impact that such tariffs could have on our system and our members. If implemented, we would face higher costs for the Canadian electricity we do purchase, although it is important to note that not all of the power we rely on comes from Canada.

Budget Billing

Budget Billing is a convenient way to manage your electric payments and plan your monthly budget. To help control fluctuating monthly bills, the Cooperative offers fixed budget billing to its members. To sign up, call the office at 607-293-6622 and we would be happy to discuss your options!

Fixed budget billing is available to members who wish to pay the same amount each month and not be surprised by higher summer or winter bills. We will estimate your monthly consumption based on your past year's usage or 36 months if you have been a member long enough. We utilize April as a "catch-up" month, so if your budget did not cover your winter bills, you would be required to pay what is owed in that billing cycle. Each year in April, we recalculate your budget amount

Right-of-way Maintenance

One of the significant costs at Otsego Electric Cooperative is maintaining clear rights-of-way by removing trees and brush. Trees falling on power lines are a leading cause of outages, which not only disrupt service but also increase our operational costs. Our Cooperative currently owns about 770 miles of overhead lines. This ongoing challenge is made even more difficult by the rapid rate of brush and tree growth in our area.

We have an internal Brush Crew dedicated to maintaining our lines on a 10-year rotation. Additionally, we contract with outside tree crews to assist in clearing more sections of line, helping to speed up the process and improve efficiency. If you notice a tree in contact with a power line, please remember to avoid any contact with it. Do not attempt to remove it yourself. Instead, call us at 607-293-6622, and our trained crew will address the issue promptly and safely.