



April 2026

OEC Current

The Otsego Electric Monthly Newsletter

www.otsegoec.coop



OTSEGO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. BOX 128
HARTWICK, NY 13348

OFFICE HOURS:
7:30 - 4:00
MONDAY - FRIDAY

PHONE: 607-293-6622
AFTER HOURS &
OUTAGES: 1-866-591-3192

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

Thank you, Lineworkers!

We have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave lineworkers who make that possible every single day.

Our crews are always ready when it matters most - leaving family dinners, working through the night, and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system - they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers, thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all you do!



Planting a Tree for Earth or Arbor Day?

Choose the right trees

- Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in the winter) block sunlight in the summer and allow light in during the colder months, helping to regulate indoor temperatures year-round.
- Evergreen trees provide consistent shade and can serve as windbreaks, which is especially helpful in cool climates.

Tip: In hot climates, choose native or drought-tolerant species. They require less water and are typically more resilient.

Plan for a tree's mature height

- Avoid planting trees that will grow taller than 15 feet near power lines.
- For taller species, plant at least 20 feet away – 45 feet is even better – to prevent safety hazards and avoid future pruning.

Call before you dig!

Before you plant anything, especially trees, call 811 to check for underground utilities. This free service marks public lines, like electricity, water and gas, so you avoid costly and dangerous mistakes. Call several business days before you plan to dig.



OEC Safety Corner

- Before you dig at your property, call 811 to ensure the proper utility companies will mark your lines
- Not only can you incur charges for damaging lines, but you can be seriously injured
- Hitting your lines can take out your service and your neighbors – creating unnecessary outages or service disruptions
- Wait until your lines have been marked before beginning your project

Call Before You Dig!

The advertisement features a top-down view of a hand digging a square hole in a green lawn. The soil is dark brown. A power line with a blue and red jacket is visible at the bottom of the hole, with a small spark or light effect at the tip. The text 'Plan ahead.' is written in large, bold, white letters on the left side of the hole. Below it, in smaller white text, is 'you never know what lies below...'. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a dark grey banner with white text: 'Make safety a priority when digging. Before starting any digging project, call 811. It is a free service that will have buried public utilities marked on your property so that you can safely dig around them.' To the right of this banner is the logo for 'Safe Electricity.org' with the text 'Learn more at:' above it.

Plan ahead.
you never know what lies below...

Make safety a priority when digging. Before starting any digging project, call 811. It is a free service that will have buried public utilities marked on your property so that you can safely dig around them.

Just call 811, or submit an online request at Call811.com at least three business days before you plan to dig.

Learn more at:
Safe Electricity.org

Nominations 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 17th, 2025.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



Howard S. Marlette Scholarship

Attention High School Seniors!

Don't miss out on an opportunity to help fund your future! Apply now for our Marlette Scholarship and take a step closer to achieving your education goals. It's easy to apply, and it could make a big difference in your educational journey.

- Must have a parent/guardian who is a resident on a property served by Otsego Electric.
- Applicants must be a high school senior.
- Applicants must have a good high school record (Average of B or above).
- Applicants must be active in their communities or churches.

Applications due by May 1, 2026. For more information and the application visit www.otsegoec.coop/marlette-scholarship

MARLETTE SCHOLARSHIP

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

This scholarship is given in memory of Howard S. Marlette, who served Otsego Electric for 37 years!

Applications accepted until May 1, 2026

Spring Into Energy Savings

Spring is a season of renewal - and a great time to refresh your energy habits, too! As temperatures begin to warm and daily routines shift, a few small changes around your home can add up to meaningful energy savings.

Otsego Electric is committed to helping our members use energy wisely while keeping homes comfortable year-round.

Spring is the perfect time to schedule maintenance for your heating and cooling system. Spring and fall checkups conducted by a licensed professional can help ensure your system is running efficiently, safely, and reliably before the peak seasons begin. A well-maintained unit uses less energy, lasts longer and helps prevent costly breakdowns.

If you're looking for a simple place to start saving, look no further than ceiling fans. Fans don't actually cool or heat the air, but they help you feel more comfortable by moving it. During warmer months, make sure your ceiling fan blades are set to rotate clockwise. This creates a downward breeze that makes you feel cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat a few degrees without sacrificing comfort. In cooler months, reverse the direction of fan blades clockwise to help push warm air down from the ceiling, improving efficiency when your heating system is running.

Speaking of thermostats, adjusting the temperature just a few degrees can make a noticeable difference on your energy bill. Hot water use is another area where habits matter. Taking shorter showers, turning off the

water when brushing your teeth, and not running the water the while you wash the dishes can save energy and conserve water. Finally, the time of day ou use energy can determine how much that energy costs the Co-op.

When you run your major appliances during off-peak hours (when energy demand is lower), you can take advantage of lower energy costs, due to less pressure on the energy grid.

OEC is here to help in every season. If you have any questions or want to learn more about energy efficiency, give us a call anytime or visit

www.otsegoec.coop!



Third Party Notifications

If you would like someone else to receive a copy of your bill, speak to us regarding your account or assist you in managing your account, you can fill out a Third-Party Notification form with us! Contact us at 607-293-6622 and we would be happy to assist you.