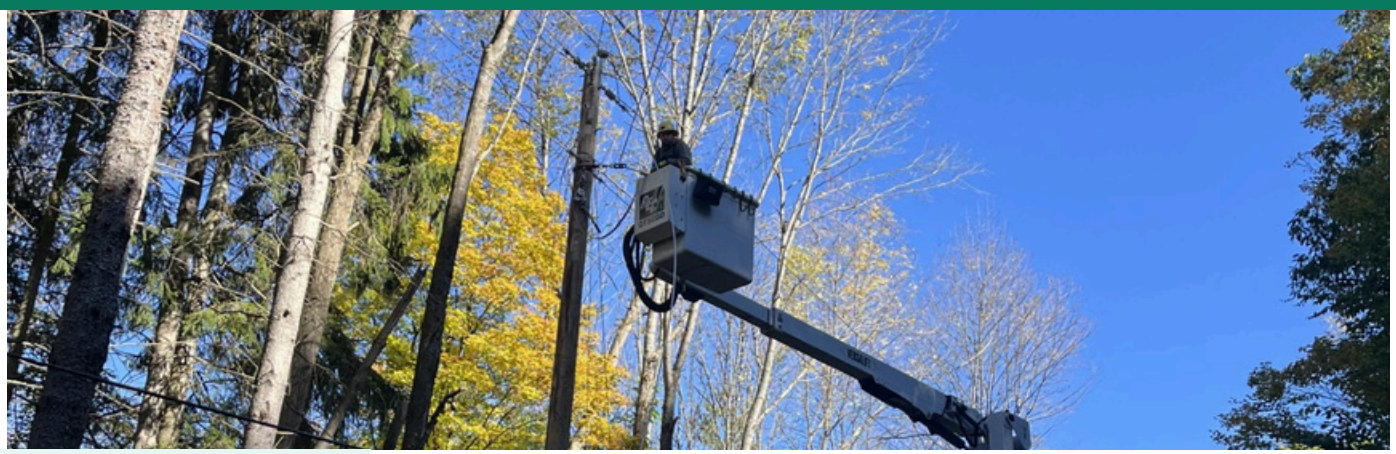
November 2026

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
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OUTAGES: 1-866-591-3192

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Happy Thanksgiving



During this Thanksgiving season, we express our thanks to all the people who together make our rural electric cooperative a special kind of place. Our member-owners to whom the co-op belongs, the Directors who offer leadership and advice, and the employees whose daily presence and skills keep everything running smoothly. All of us here at your cooperative wish you a Very Happy Thanksgiving!

Winter Preparedness: Be Ready Before the Snow Flies (or Sticks)

As winter approaches, now is the perfect time to prepare your home and family for colder temperatures and the possibility of winter storms. While Otsego Electric Cooperative works year-round to provide safe and reliable electric service, severe weather can sometimes result in power outages. Taking a few simple steps now can help keep your household comfortable and prepared throughout the winter season.

Prepare Your Home

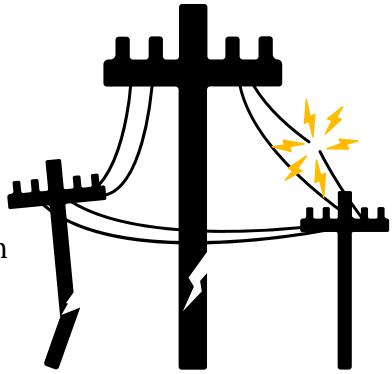
Before temperatures drop, take time to make your home more energy efficient and winter-ready.

- Seal drafts around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Replace furnace filters and schedule any needed heating system maintenance.
- Clean and inspect chimneys, vents, and wood stoves before use.
- Disconnect garden hoses and winterize outdoor water lines.

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- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, especially if you use fuel-burning heating equipment.

These simple tasks can help improve comfort, reduce energy use, and prevent costly repairs during the winter months.



Prepare for Potential Outages

Winter storms can bring heavy snow, ice, and strong winds that may damage power lines and equipment. Having a plan in place before an outage occurs can make a significant difference.

Consider keeping the following items on hand:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- A battery-powered or hand-crank weather radio
- Bottled water and non-perishable food
- Prescription medications and essential medical supplies
- Portable phone charging devices
- Extra blankets and warm clothing
- A first-aid kit
- If you have our OEConnect service, we have battery back-up units available to back-up your phone and internet service with us.
- If someone in your home relies on electrically powered medical equipment, be sure to have a backup plan in place and discuss emergency options with your healthcare provider.

Generator Safety Matters

Portable generators can be helpful during extended outages, but they must be used safely. Never operate a generator inside your home, garage, basement, or any enclosed area. Generators produce carbon monoxide, an odorless gas that can be deadly. Always operate generators outdoors and away from windows, doors, and vents.

In addition, generators should never be connected directly to your home's wiring without a properly installed transfer switch. Backfeeding electricity into power lines can create serious hazards for lineworkers and the public.

Winter Preparedness Reminder: The best time to assemble emergency supplies, test backup equipment, and discuss your family's emergency plan is before the first major storm arrives.

Capital Credit Retirements

What differentiates OEC from investor-owned utilities (IOUs)? While IOUs generate profits to return to their shareholders, OEC operates on an at-cost basis through a process known as capital credits. Annually, if you purchased power through the cooperative, you, our member-owners, are allocated a portion of the cooperative's excess margins based on the amount of power you purchased. OEC periodically, if able, retires these excess margins back to our member-owners through a retirement of capital. This is just one example of the Cooperative Difference!

Members who received electric service from the Cooperative during 1989 and 1990 will receive a capital credits retirement payment this December.

If you are still an active member of the cooperative, your capital credits retirement may appear as a credit on your December electric bill, depending on the amount you are owed. Former members who still have eligible capital credits owed to them will receive a separate check by mail.

Have you moved since being a member with us? If so, please take a moment to update your mailing address. Keeping your contact information current helps ensure we can get capital credit payments to you.

To update your address or for questions about capital credits, please give us a call. Thank you for being a valued member of your electric cooperative!

OEC Safety Corner - Holiday Decoration Safety

As you deck the halls this holiday season, remember to keep safety at the top of your decorating list! Don't forget to inspect your lights for damaged cords and never overload your outlets!

A little extra caution can help ensure a safe and bright holiday season for you and your family!



Wishing you and yours a very safe and Happy Holiday season!

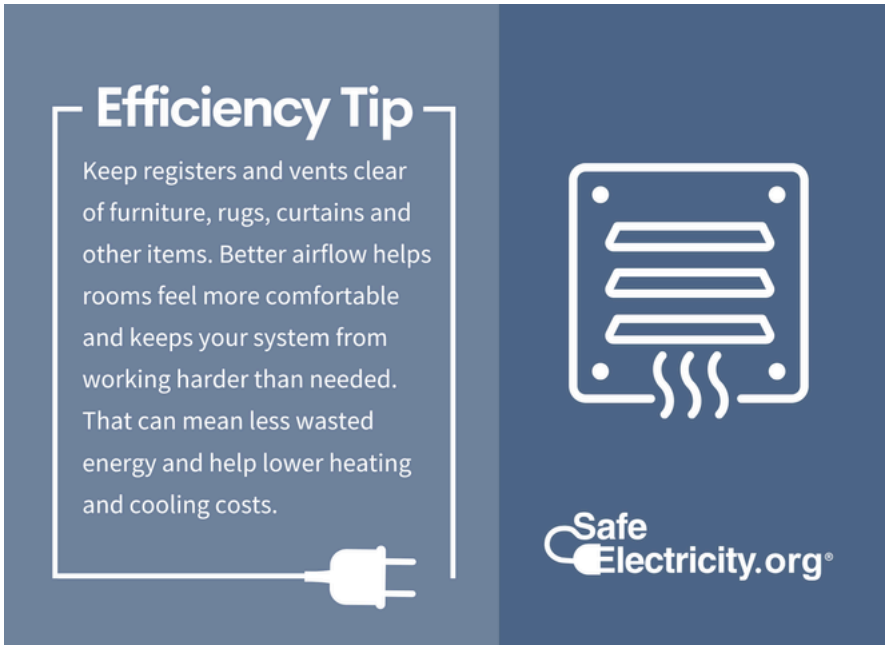


As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. However, prior to heading out on your hunt, ensure electrical safety and mindfulness is part of your list!

- Never setup a treestand anywhere near a power line or on a utility pole.
- If you are getting into someone elses stand - look up and ensure you are no where near a power line.
- If you are using a portable generator on your trip, ensure you do not use it in a confined area.
- **Never shoot towards power lines, utility poles, transformers or any electrical equipment.**
    - Not only could you damage equipment and cause an outage or be seriously injured - you could be liable to pay for the damage caused.

Efficiency Zone

Along with cleaning your vents and keeping them clear of obstructions, check for drafts around windows and doors. Seal any leaks you find, add insulation in areas like the attic where heat may escape, and have your furnace serviced regularly. These steps can improve efficiency and help keep your home comfortable!

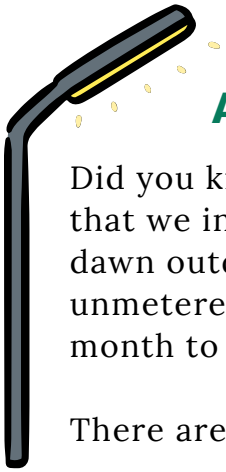


Financial Assistance

As our weather changes, we know households will start utilizing their heat and spend more time inside.

If you are experiencing a financial hardship and need assistance with your bill, please contact our office to discuss with our representatives. You may also contact one of the local area organizations below for additional resources.

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**
Salvation Army - Oneonta **607-432-5960**
Opportunities for Otsego **607-433-8000**
Catholic Charities **607-432-0061**
Office for the Aging **607-547-4232**



Area Lights

Did you know that we offer Area Lights, that we install for you? We offer dusk to dawn outdoor lighting. These lights are unmetered, and include a flat fee each month to allow for safe outdoor lighting.

There are two options to get started:

- Agree to four years of the light service
- Agree to two years of the light service and pay a $240 installation fee

Area Lights are $10.00 per month

For more information or to access our sign up form visit:
https://www.otsegoec.coop/area-lights



Upcoming Office Closures

- Wednesday, November 11th
- **Thursday, November 26th - Thanksgiving**
- Friday, November 27th