Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. January 2026

OEC Current

Happy New Year!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day—January 19th—Office Closed
President's Day—February 16th—Office Closed

Notice of Rate Increase and Public Hearing

We are committed to providing reliable and affordable services to you and, as part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the infrastructure and ensure the sustainability of our services, our Board of Directors has voted to increase our kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge. This increase will start with the March 2026 billing cycle. For our average residential user, this will amount to about a two percent increase which is less than the inflation rate.

We have worked hard to keep this increase as low as practicable. We explore all options to keep our rates affordable while accounting for the Cooperative's needs. Rising costs coupled with the need to replace and modernize our facilities, creates the necessity of a rate adjustment.

We invite you to attend a Public Hearing where we will discuss the reasons for this increase and to discuss other issues affecting the future at OEC. You will also have an opportunity to share your feedback. The hearing will be held on *February 23, 2026 at 5 p.m.,* at the Cooperative Headquarters, 3192 County Highway 11, Hartwick, NY. **If unable to attend in person, you can attend the meeting remotely utilizing:** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83942700064 **MEETING ID: 839 4270 0064**

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work to serve you better. The chart below delineates the current charges, the rate change, and the new kilowatt-hour charges to be put into effect in March 2026.

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
1-844-963-2837

After Hours and Outages:
1-866-591-3192

Call **UDIG New York** before you dig at **811** or
1-800-962-7962

Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. Policy #301 - Member Rates

RATE SCHEDULE	DESCRIPTION	Member Charge (Old)	Member Charge (New)	Member Charge Rate Change	Charge/kWh (Old)	Charge/kWh (New)	Charge/kWh Rate Change	Demand Charge (Old)	Demand Charge (New)	Demand Charge Rate Change
Schedule 1	General Service - Residential	$ 32.66	$ 32.66	$ -	$ 0.091280	$ 0.093555	$ 0.002275	$ -	$ -	$ -
Schedule 2	General Service - Single Phase > 25KVA	$ 36.44	$ 36.44	$ -	$ 0.073000	$ 0.075275	$ 0.002275	$ 8.11	$ 8.11	$ -
Schedule 3	General Service - Three-Phase or Multi-Phase	$ 36.44	$ 36.44	$ -	$ 0.083000	$ 0.085275	$ 0.002275	$ 8.11	$ 8.11	$ -
Schedule 5	Small Commercial - Single Phase < 25KVA	$ 36.44	$ 36.44	$ -	$ 0.087920	$ 0.090195	$ 0.002275	$ -	$ -	$ -
Schedule 11	General Service - Campgrounds	$ 150.00	$ 150.00	$ -	$ 0.083000	$ 0.083000	$ -	$ 8.11	$ 8.11	$ -
Time of Use	Time of Use Rate (All Schedules)	$ 48.85	$ 48.85	$ -	Varies		$ 0.002275	$ -	$ -	$ -

Smart Ways Homeowners Can Save Energy and Money

With colder temperatures, many households are already starting to see higher energy bills. Here are some simple, effective steps you can take to increase energy efficiency around your home which will help you lower your energy costs as well.

1. Maintain Your Heating System

- *Replace or clean furnace filters regularly.* A clean filter improves airflow and efficiency, reducing energy costs.

Ensure vents are not blocked. Obstructions can hinder airflow, making your heating system work harder than necessary.

2. Seal Air Leaks and Drafts

- *Check for leaks around windows, doors, and other openings.* Use weatherstripping or caulking to seal gaps.

Inspect your home for drafts. Sealing these can significantly lower heating and cooling expenses.

3. Optimize Fireplace Usage

- *Close fireplace dampers when not in use.* Open dampers allow warm air to escape, increasing heating costs.

Use insulating curtains. They help retain heat during winter and keep your home cooler in summer.

4. Control and Spread Out Appliance Usage

- *Unplug devices when not in use.* Standby power can add up over time.
- *Run appliances like washers, dryers, and dishwashers during off-peak hours,* such as late at night, using timer settings if available.

Avoid using multiple high-energy appliances simultaneously. Spread out their use to reduce peak energy demand and costs.

5. Additional Money-Saving Tips

- Consider upgrading to ENERGY STAR-rated appliances and lighting fixtures.
- Regularly service your HVAC system for optimal performance.

Use ceiling fans to supplement heating and cooling.

6. Take Advantage of Free Energy Audits

Some local agencies offer free energy audits for qualifying homeowners. An audit can identify specific areas where you can improve efficiency and save money. Don't miss the opportunity to learn personalized tips tailored to your home! Implementing these simple strategies can lead to noticeable savings on your energy bills while making your home more comfortable year-round. Start today and enjoy the benefits of an energy-efficient home!

Every generation leaves behind a legacy, footprints that shape our future. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is your chance to do the same. For over 60 years, electric cooperatives have sent high school students to Washington, D.C., to discover their voice, step into history and begin writing the story only they can tell. Students will:

- Develop Leadership Skills
- Strengthen their resumes
- Connect with Peers and Coop leaders
- Meet with elected officials and learn how government impacts their communities
- Experience History and the sights of Washington D.C.

The best part? All expenses—travel, lodging, meals, and program costs—are covered by Otsego Electric! Applications for the Youth Tour are now open until March 2, 2026. If you know a high school student who is ready to grow as a leader, encourage them to apply today!

DEMAND VS. ENERGY:

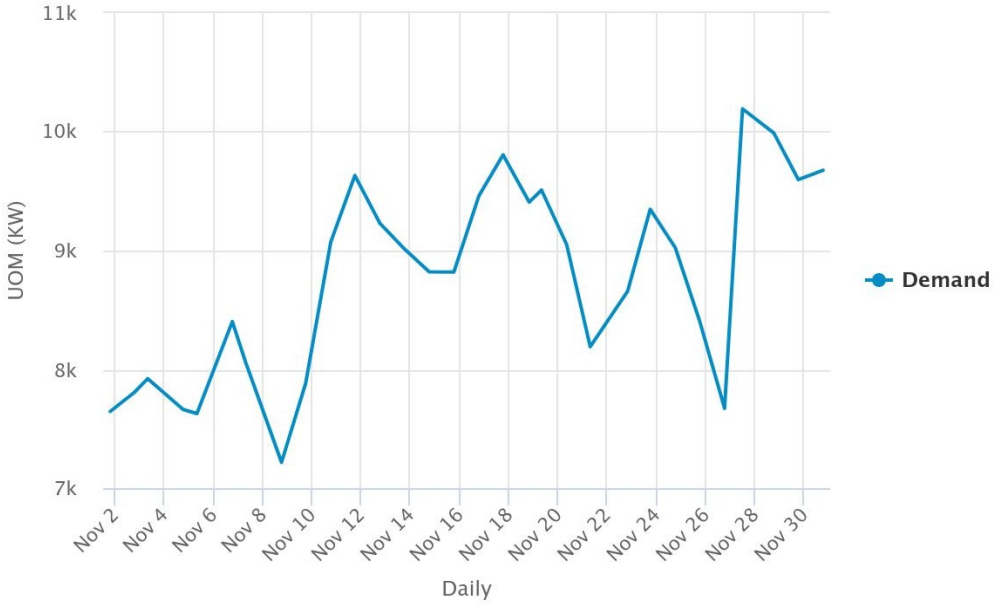
Energy: A measure of the total amount of energy used over time, measured in kilowatt-hours, kWh.
Think of energy like the total amount of water that flows through a pipe over a given month.

Demand: A measure of the total amount of energy drawn at any one time, measured in kilowatts, KW.
Think of demand like the size of the pipe needed to handle the largest surge of water you need at once (garden hose vs fire hose).

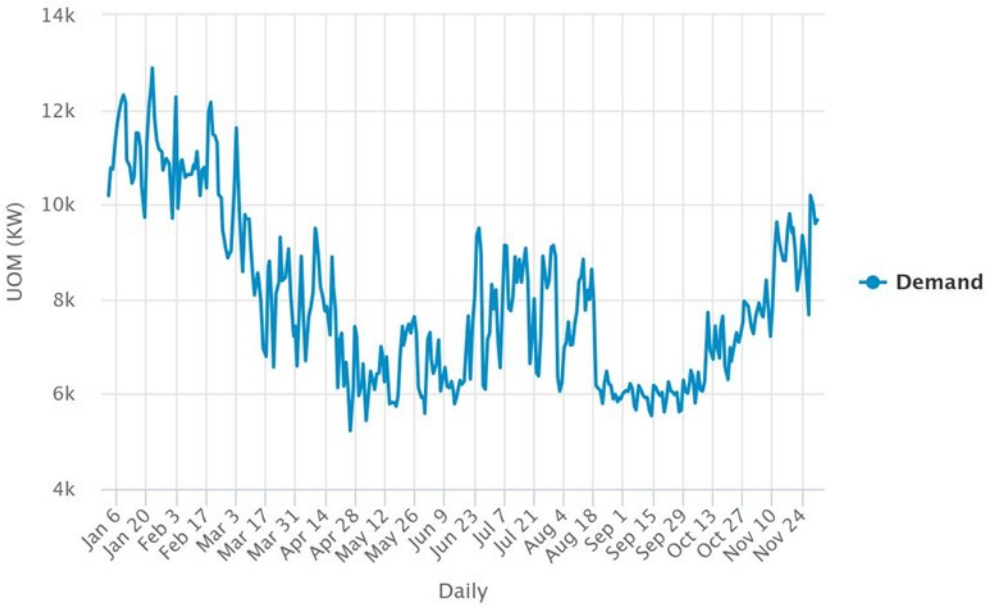
What is Demand:

Your Cooperative pays for demand in two distinct ways:

1. Purchased power agreements: Energy is delivered to Otsego Electric's customers through a complex network including power generation, transmission, and distribution. Otsego Electric is billed monthly by its power supplier, NYPA, for energy, **demand**, and scheduling charges; as well as NYSEG for delivery charges. Energy charges represent the aggregate usage of all of Otsego's members in any given month. Demand charges represent the maximum amount drawn at any one time by all of Otsego's members in any given month.



Demand (KW) changes daily throughout the month depending on each individual member's needs and energy requirements.



DEMAND VS. ENERGY CONTINUED:

Demand (KW) can also change drastically throughout the year based on seasonal weather and usage patterns.
The cost of Demand (KW) incurred by Otsego Electric is further influenced by the entire state and region's energy needs. OEC has long-term hydro power contracts that help positively impact the demand costs we incur, but when our system's needs exceed our contracted amounts, we buy power through the open market to meet our member's energy needs.

2. Demand is also directly related to OEC's physical infrastructure like substations, power lines, poles, and transformers. OEC needs to build and maintain infrastructure to meet its peak demand (KW) requirements so that when our members turn on a light, power up a piece of equipment, heat their homes, or plug in a car, the energy is available. During certain times of the day or times of the year this may be a smaller amount demanded (garden hose), and other times of the day or year this amount may be larger (fire hose), but the larger fire hose must always be available. Whether or not our system is utilizing power or not, we always must have that power available and the equipment to handle that power safely as well.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov