



February 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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Board of Directors

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Notice of Rate Increase

We are committed to providing reliable and affordable services to you. Our Board of Directors has voted to increase the kilowatt hour (kWh) charge to help pay for infrastructure maintenance and ensure the sustainability of our services. This increase will start with the April 2026 billing cycle. For our average residential user, this will amount to about a two percent increase which is less than the inflation rate, based on the current CPI.

We have worked hard to keep this increase as low as practicable. We explore all options to keep our rates affordable, including cost cutting 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 the proposed rate increase. 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 you are unable to attend in person, you can attend the meeting remotely utilizing: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83942700064> MEETING ID: 839 4270 0064 - Access information can also be found at our website.

Members can expect to see this change on their April bills, which reflects power usage in March. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of OEC as we work to serve you better.



Be Prepared for Storms and Power Outages

Storms can strike unexpectedly, bringing heavy snow, ice, strong winds, and the potential for power outages. Being prepared can make all the difference in keeping your family safe and comfortable.

One important step is to assemble an emergency kit. Some suggestions for your kit include bottled water, non perishable foods, flashlights, extra batteries, necessary medications, a first aid kit, extra blankets, pet supplies, and more depending on your needs.

During a storm, remember to always stay away from downed power lines, as they may be energized. If your power goes out, and you are operating a generator, please remember never to operate one indoors and follow all safety protocols.

Being proactive and prepared can help you navigate storms safely and comfortably, minimizing stress!

"Please remember never to operate a generator indoors and to follow all safety protocols."

OEC Safety Corner

- Ensure you utilize an approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your circuits separate from the co-op electric.
- If you do not have a transfer switch, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- Ensure you run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside your home.
- Ensure it sits away from your house, garage, windows, and doors - the carbon monoxide generated can be deadly.
- Ensure you use a heavy extension cord, which is not frayed.

Generator Safety



2026 Legislative Youth Tour

Explore, Engage, Empower!

The NRECA Legislative Youth Tour is an immersive experience designed to engage young leaders who are High School Juniors in the world of cooperative business and give you a firsthand look at how government works. This dynamic program will take you to Washington, D.C., where you'll meet with lawmakers, participate in active sessions about the cooperative business model, and explore the rich history and culture of our nation's Capitol.

We encourage students who live in a residence serviced by Otsego Electric to apply for this once in a lifetime experience! Visit our website at www.otsegoec.coop/legislative-youth-tour for further information and the application!

The Legislative Tour is not just a trip; it's a chance to empower your voice and learn how you can make a difference. Join us for an unforgettable journey to Capitol Hill and embark on a path of leadership, advocacy, and lifelong friendships!



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



Power Under Peak Demand Pressure

Lowering Demand on the Electric System

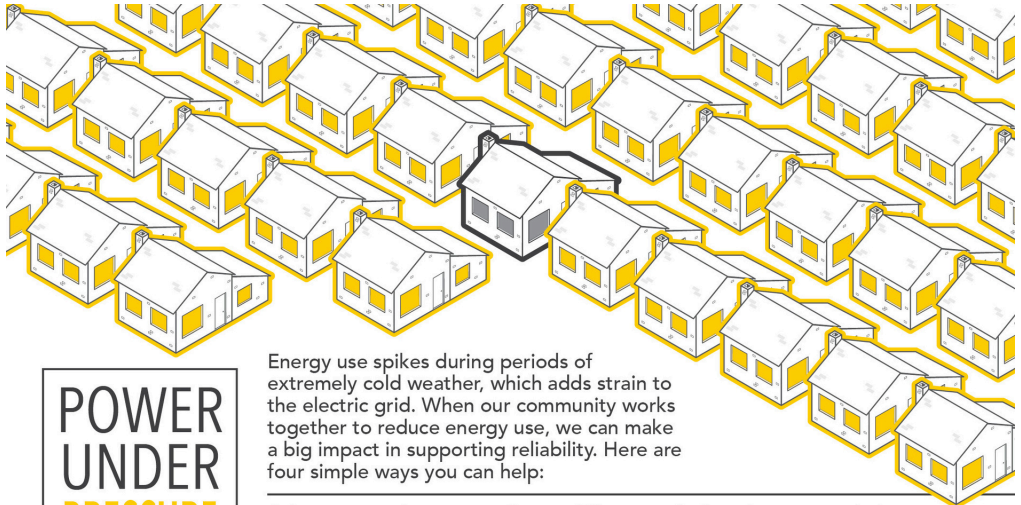
When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder winter weather drives us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting, and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. It is also true that most people use electricity at the same times - typically in the morning and early evenings - and this puts significant pressure on our electric grid.

During these times when homes and businesses use more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach - or occasionally exceed the available supply.

OEC takes many steps to maintain a reliable system, but this peak reduction requires a collective effort, and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use including:

- Lower your thermostat slightly, even reducing by a few degrees can help.
- Delay using large appliances during peak hours, which are 6AM - 9 AM & 6PM - 9PM.
- Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees F and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.
- Turn off lights and unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.



By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bills, but you can also help the Co-op save money as a whole. Together we can strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community.

POWER UNDER PRESSURE

Four Ways to
Ease Grid Strain
This Winter

Energy use spikes during periods of extremely cold weather, which adds strain to the electric grid. When our community works together to reduce energy use, we can make a big impact in supporting reliability. Here are four simple ways you can help:

1. Lower your thermostat. Even a difference of a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evenings or midday when demand is lower.
3. Lower your water heater to 120 degrees and avoid back-to-back showers.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items.



Important Dates

Presidents' Day - February 16 - Office Closed
Legislative Youth Tour Applications Due March 1
Marlette Scholarship Applications Due May 1