



March 2026

OEC Current

The Otsego Electric Monthly Newsletter

www.otsegoec.coop



OTSEGO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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MONDAY - FRIDAY

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Budget Billing

For our members currently enrolled in our budget billing program, please be aware that the upcoming "True-Up" month is approaching in April. This is the month when any outstanding balance that was not covered by your budget amount will be due. We encourage you to review your account and plan accordingly to ensure a smooth process!

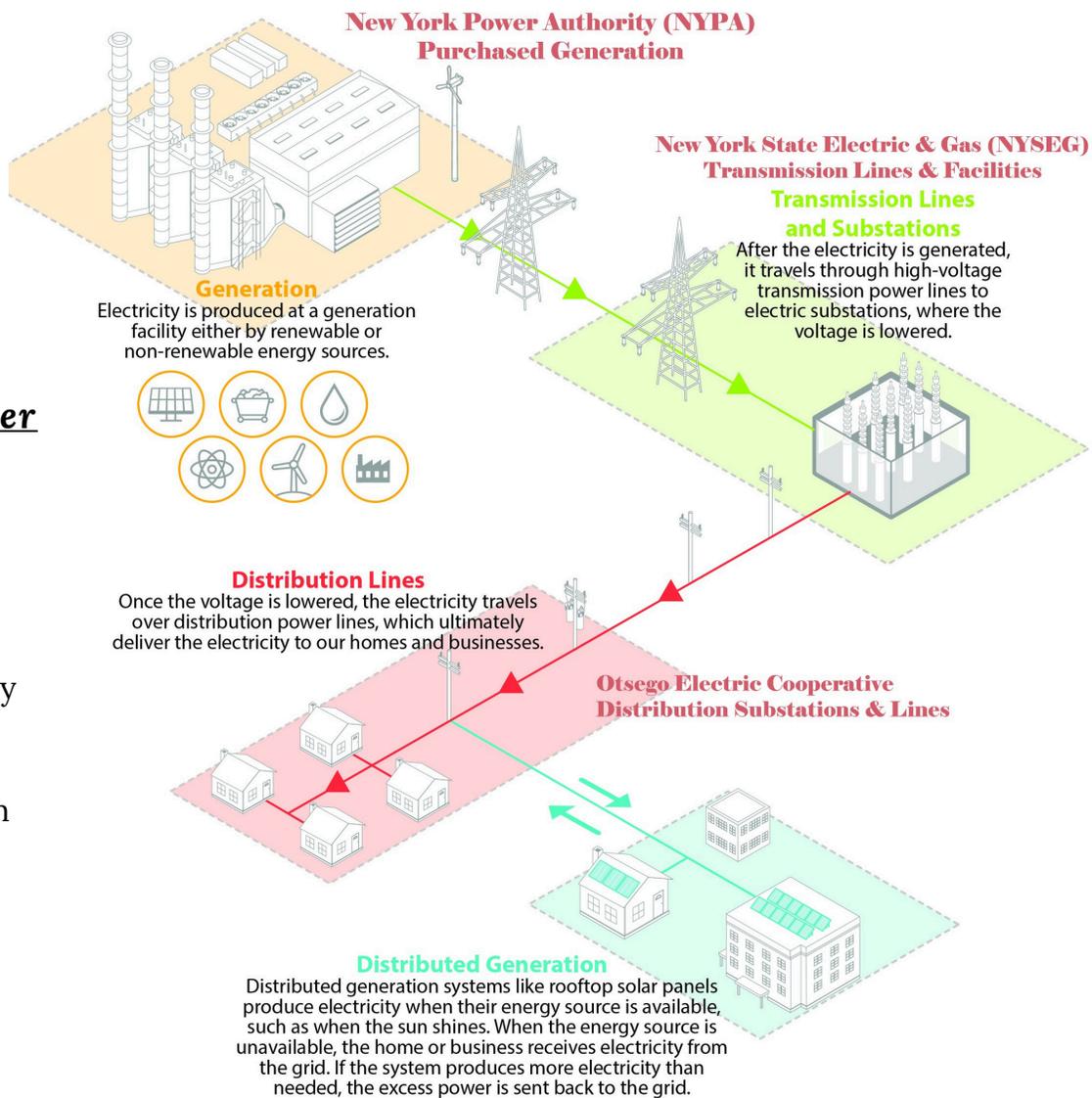
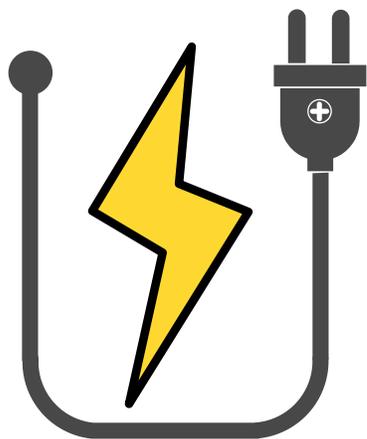
If you are interested in enrolling in our budget billing program, please contact our office. Our team will review your past three years of energy usage, calculating an average monthly kWh usage. Based on this information, we will recommend a budget amount for your household.

Please note that while we strive to set a budget that accurately reflects your needs, it may not always cover your full amount used, especially during higher consumption times, such as cold winter months. Therefore, we ask members to monitor their accounts to understand where they stand each month.

We review each budget bill account at least twice a year. During this review, we may suggest adjustments to your amount - which could be an increase or a decrease - depending on your usage patterns and current standing.

For more information or to ask any questions you may have, please contact us, and we will be happy to assist you!

HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



How We Purchase Power

This graphic depicts how electricity reaches you, our member:

- 1. Generation:** The New York Power Authority (NYPA) supplies energy to OEC via its own generation or by procuring energy from the open market. OEC is allocated very low-priced hydro power from NYPA to meet approximately 82% of our energy requirements.

The remaining energy is procured by NYPA from various sources on the open market; these prices are passed through at cost in your “purchased power adjustment (PPA)”. These adjustments are typically more pronounced during periods of extreme heat or extreme cold when energy demand is high. OEC’s hydro power allocation has been fixed for many years and cannot be increased. NYPA is responsible for purchasing all OEC’s power requirements under a long-term agreement.

- 2. Transmission:** New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) is responsible for delivering the electricity from the generators to OEC’s substations over high-voltage transmission power lines.
- 3. Distribution:** OEC, a non-for-profit electric cooperative, is then responsible to deliver the purchased power safely and reliably to your home or business through its network of distribution substations, lines and transformers **at cost**.

OEC Safety Corner

Preparing for a Baby

Preparing for a new baby is an exciting time! To help keep your family safe, we want to highlight an important but often overlooked aspect: electrical safety.

- Utilize Outlet Covers
- Try to avoid having long cords lying where they are easily grabbed on
- Cover exposed power strips if possible, especially plugs that are not in use
- Do not allow cords to dangle, as they become tempting for young children and even pets to grab on to
- Exposed cords can become tripping hazards
- Once done with an extension cord, pick it up and put it away!

BABYproofing

How does your home stack up?



Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

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



Reliability Requires Investment

As your local power provider, Otsego Electric's mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid—through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members expect. Strategic updates such as line relocations and transformer upgrades are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as automated switching devices, drones and advanced monitoring systems may allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages and provide real-time data to help us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently. However, each of these new technologies also come at a high cost.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience - it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.



Important Note

Only the individual(s) listed on your account are authorized to inquire about or make changes to it. This policy helps ensure the safety and security of our members. If you need to add a new person or update the account information, please contact our office directly.