



October 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

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Understanding your Bill

As we enter into the cooler months, we get many member questions about what can drive up bill costs. OEC wants it's members to understand what you are paying for each month. Your bill includes several different costs that help deliver safe, reliable electricity to your home or business.

Often, the biggest part of your bill is the amount of electricity you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). a 100-watt lightbulb uses around 100 watts per hour. To measure your kWh use, divide your watts per hour by 1,000. THat in mind, one hour of use would be 0.1 kWh.

Another large factor in the amount of your billing is the cost of power itself, represented on our bills by PPA. Power costs can change based on fuel prices and the resources used to generate electricity. Grid operators, who we purchase power from, must make sure enough power is available during peak periods, when soaring demand comes into play so does the cost of that electricity. Prior to the electricity coming to your home, it travels across high-voltage transmission lines to local distribution systems, like our own. These lines and related equipment require ongoing maintenance and upgrades to keep electricity moving reliably, especially as demand grows.

Closer to home, OEC maintains the local distribution system that delivers the electricity to you, our members. This includes poles, power lines, transformers, substations, meters and other essential equipment. These costs are supported through the monthly Customer Charge, which is a flat rate fee that all members pay no matter how much electricity they use. This rate helps cover the basic costs of keeping the system ready to serve you every day. This rate also helps cover labor and emergency response.

The good news is that with small changes in your home, you can help lower energy use. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when away, replace dirty HVAC filters, use ceiling fans, seal air leaks and avoid using major appliances during peak times. Simple steps such as these can reduce energy use, ease demand on the grid and help lower energy bills.

OEC's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We know that every dollar matters and we work hard to make smart choices that support reliable service and the communities we serve.

Energy Efficiency Rebates & Resources

- OEC sponsors a Heat Pump Rebate Program in order to encourage the installation of clean air-source and ground-source heat pump systems.
 - For more information on this program please visit: <https://www.otsegoec.coop/oec-clean-heat-program>
- Smart Energy Choices - Mohawk Valley (through Cornell Cooperative) also has Energy Advisors who can help you find programs from other outside entities that you may be eligible for, such as energy audits or additional rebates.
 - For more information visit: <https://www.mohawkvalleyenergychoices.org/meet-our-team>

Peak Times

6:00 AM - 9:00 AM

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM



**A Little Cost.
A Lot of Life.**

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly—from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- **720** hours of refrigeration
- **20+** loads of clean clothes
- **15+** home-cooked meals
- **90+** hours of lighting
- **Numerous** devices charged
- **Hundreds** of hours of cooling/heating
- **Countless** connections to work, school and entertainment

30 days of comfort



Electric Buzz Words

Demand refers to the amount of electricity needed at any given moment. Demand (or load) must be matched by generation sources, such as hydroelectric plants or nuclear plants, to avoid brownouts or blackouts.

Generation resources are the natural materials, fuels and energy flows that produce electricity, primarily categorized into fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and renewable energy.

Capacity measures how much energy a resource could generate if operating at full power. Like lanes on a highway, capacity goes unused a lot of the time, but it is critical to maintaining grid stability under extreme conditions. The more generation resources on the grid - the faster these resources can maximize their outputs - the more capacity the grid has.

Baseload Generation refers to electricity that can be produced around the clock and is traditionally supplied by large, steady sources, they support the grid by producing a reliable flow of energy.

Dispatchable Generation refers to electricity that can be produced on demand as need rises. They support the grid by adjusting energy to match minute to minute changes in demand.

OEC Safety Corner - National Fire Prevention Week

DID YOU KNOW...

Smoke & CO detectors expire?



Safe Electricity.org
Learn more at:



Did you know that smoke and CO detectors expire? Many have long-life batteries that don't need to be replaced every year, but they still need regular attention. Test and inspect alarms, and replace any that are broken or expired with a new detector. If you do utilize alarms with regular batteries, ensure you are changing those at least 2 a year and testing regularly.



Do you know how to use a fire extinguisher? It's important to have a working extinguisher and know how to use it. They can save lives and property if you know how to use one properly, but remember, fire grows and spreads rapidly, so the first priority is to get out and call 911!



Fire Safety Tip: Make sure everyone in your home knows two ways out and a safe meeting place outside. Practice your fire escape plan regularly so you're prepared if an emergency occurs. 🔥🏠

Autopay Reminder: What Happens if your Payment Card Declines?

AutoPay is a convenient way to ensure your monthly bill is paid on time, but it's important to know what happens if your payment card is declined.

If your AutoPay card payment is unsuccessful, you will receive an email notification letting you know the payment was declined. If you have account notifications set up for phone calls, you will also receive a call regarding the declined payment.

Please note that declined card payments are not automatically reprocessed. If your payment is declined, you will need to make a manual payment for that month's bill to avoid any late fees or service interruptions.

You can manage your payment methods, notification preferences, and AutoPay settings anytime through your SmartHub account.

Did you know? In addition to using a debit or credit card, you can also enroll in AutoPay using a checking account. Checking account AutoPay can be set up directly through SmartHub or with assistance from our office staff.

If you have questions about AutoPay or need help updating your payment information, please contact our office. We're happy to help!

Efficiency Zone

Whether we are excited or not, cold and winter weather will soon be on it's way with the changing of the seasons. Being prepared in your home can help reduce energy use.

Use some of these tips to help get prepared ahead of time so you are ready when the cold weather hits!

Saving energy = saving money! \$\$\$



Third Party Notification

Often times, we will have an individual call on behalf of a family members account. Unfortunately, we are unable to speak to a person who is not one of the account holders or listed as a Third Party on that account. This is to protect you, our members. It is difficult on the phone to always know exactly who we are talking to and we would never want to share personal information or billing information with someone who should not have that info.

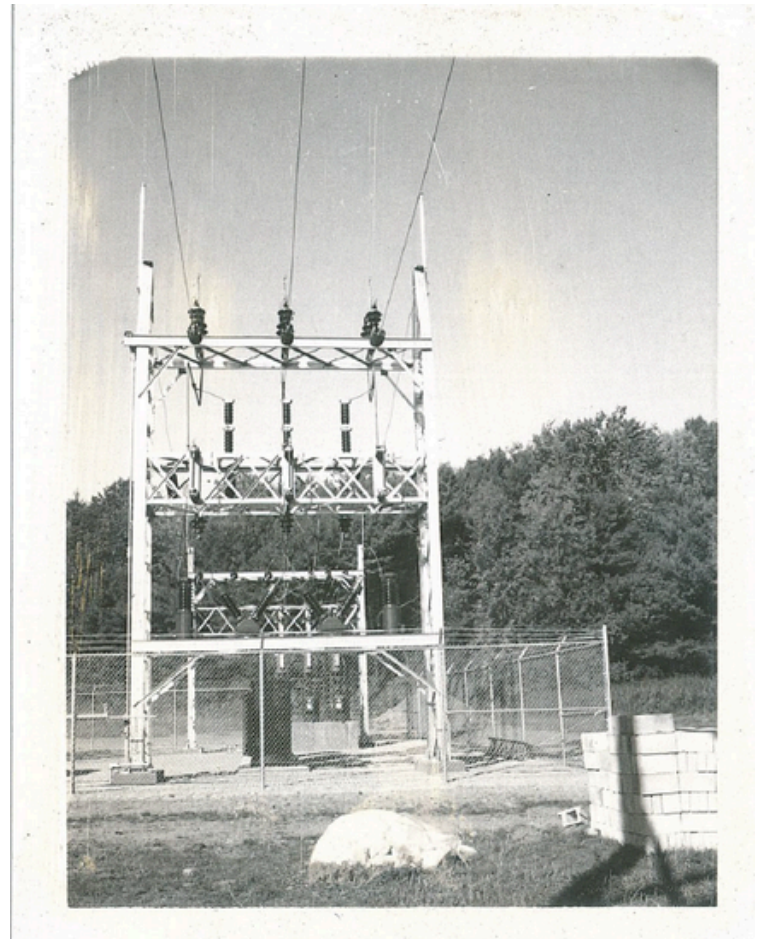
If you would like to fill out a Third Party Notification Form - please contact our office to receive a copy!

607-293-6622

memberservices@otsegoec.coop

A Glimpse into History

The Index Substation



Upcoming Office Closures

- Monday, October 12th
- Wednesday, November 11th
- **Thursday, November 26th - Thanksgiving**
- Friday, November 27th