



Powering Our Rural Communities

Delaware County Broadband Initiative Awarded \$2.9 Million

The Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI) was awarded \$2.9 million in matching New York State grant funding by the Southern Tier Economic Development Council following Governor Cuomo's annual Regional Council Awards Ceremony on Thursday, December 11, 2014. The DCBI project is a partnership between the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC), MTC Cable, a subsidiary of the Margaretville Telephone Company, and DTC Cable, a subsidiary of the Delhi Telephone Company, to extend broadband services to the un-served residents and businesses located within the DCEC service area. The project proposes to extend over 210 miles of fiber optic facilities passing 1800 un-served and underserved households, businesses, and anchor institutions of the DCEC membership located within the townships of Andes, Colchester, Hamden, Hardenburgh, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Kortright, and Meredith. Total project cost is over \$6,700,000 including \$3.7 million in private investment, \$2.9 million in NYS grant funding, \$25,000 from the Catskill Watershed Corporation, and funding from the Town of Hardenburgh Rising Community Program. The fiber optic network will offer a suite of advanced telecommunications services including voice, video, and broadband. In addition, the network will have the capacity to meet future

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DCEC Makes Capital Credit Distribution

About 2,330 DCEC members who received electric service from the Cooperative in 1989 received a capital credit retirement in December.

DCEC operates on a non-profit basis. When the Cooperative has a positive financial margin at the end of the year, it is allocated to members and paid back when financial conditions permit. One of the goals of the DCEC Board of Directors is to retire capital credits annually to the members.

The retirement amounted to \$250,000 which was a partial retirement of the 1989 credits. Members from 1989 who are still active with DCEC received the retirement as a credit on their December electric bills while check payments were issued to members that are no longer receiving electric service from DCEC.



DCEC Says Goodbye & Thank You to Sharon Mogridge & Don Buel



Sharon Mogridge

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. has the pleasure and privilege to employ experienced, trained and talented personnel to ensure that your cooperative is functioning at an optimal level. Unfortunately, we must bid sad farewells as our colleagues and friends transition into the world of retirement. Fortunately, we have staff that are capable of moving into these positions so that our members continuously receive the high level of customer service that we strive for.



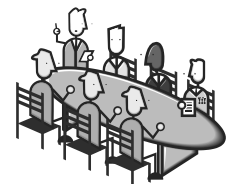
Donald Buel

We have two employees retiring in January 2015. We would first like to thank Sharon Mogridge for her 26 years of dedicated service. You may remember her as the smiling face in the front office from 1988 through 2008. Sharon then moved to the billing office where she was the friendly voice that took your payment or helped you with your billing questions. We would also like to thank Donald Buel for his 17 years of dedication to the Cooperative. Don served the co-op members as part of the Tree Crew. He was an integral part of DCEC member service in the field.

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Are You Interested in Serving on the DCEC Nominating Committee?

See page 4 for Details



Hey 11th Graders! Interested In Becoming a Legislative Youth Delegate?...

See page 5 for Details



Delaware County Broadband Initiative Continued from Page 1...

cell tower connectivity needs, provide business-class Ethernet circuits, and support the Delaware County Emergency Services communications network.

The following are the most frequently asked questions about the Delaware County Broadband Initiative from DCEC members:

Q: Will my home get broadband service through this project?

A: Phase 1 of the project will target DCEC members living in Andes, Colchester, Hamden, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Kortright, or Meredith. Upon completion of the DCBI project, over 95% of the DCEC members living in these towns will have access to broadband services (from either their existing provider or from the newly constructed DCBI fiber based facilities). There will be rare exceptions in cases where the amount of fiber infrastructure needed to support a very small number of homes may make the fiber extension to those homes cost prohibitive. Please bear in mind that the Delaware County Broadband Initiative is trying to reach as many under-served and un-served Cooperative members as possible with the funding available.

Q: If my town is part of Phase 1 of this project, when should I expect to have broadband service available at my house?

A: Construction of the fiber optic network will commence once contracts are in place with the NYS Empire State Development Agency and is scheduled to take up to two years to complete. Services will become available as network segments are activated throughout the construction time-frame.

Q: If I don't live in one of the towns that are part of Phase 1, will I ever get broadband service from the Delaware County Broadband Initiative?

A: Efforts by the partner companies to secure additional funding will continue to address un-served and under-served residents who are not included within this project area. In the late spring of 2015 the project team will begin working on their Phase 2 grant application. The goal of Phase 2 will be to cover more of the remaining towns within DCEC's service territory.

Q: What is the next step for the project team?

A: The project team will work as quickly as possible through the next phase in the contracting process with the Empire State Development Agency (ESD) which is to sign a document that states the terms of the grant. Until the project team has that document signed with ESD, no construction can occur and no funds can be expended.

Q: How and when can I get more information about how this project will impact me?

A: As soon as contracts are in place with the NYS Empire State Development Agency, the project team will produce fiber network maps for each town included in Phase 1. Town-wide informational meetings will be conducted during which residents will be able to review the maps and ask questions of the project team. Information will also be posted regularly on the DCEC, MTC, and DTC websites once construction is under way. In the meantime, you can direct your questions to DCEC CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider at (607) 746-9282.

A Message From DCEC Board President, Stephen Oles



I began my career with DCEC when appointed to fill the vacant board seat when the late John Eckert retired. Prior to my appointment I spent many hours with John learning not only about DCEC, but gaining an understanding of the Cooperative principles. My pride has grown with over twenty years of service to DCEC in being a member of a nonprofit service organization. Recently elected to the presidency, my role has changed, but my dedication to this fine institution remains strong.

DCEC faces obstacles such as limited growth, and rising operational costs. With this said, the Cooperative stays committed to aggressively managing these concerns and others by implementing and maintaining programs such as vigorous right-of-way maintenance, embracing new technologies, application of the formulary rate model, and having a professional staff that can continue to fulfill its mission of providing safe, reliable, and cost effect electric energy and related services to our members.

With routine reviews of the Cooperative's Strategic Plan and Financial Objectives, your board of directors are truly committed to the DCEC mission. Annual retirements of Capital Credits is just one example of this commitment. Please visit your website at www.dce.coop to learn more about our Mission & Goals, the Co-op Principles, Rural Electric Co-op History, and our Partners & Affiliates.

I hope that all of you as members of DCEC take pride in knowing that you are owners of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative.

Sharon Mogridge and Don Buel Continued From Page 1...

Please join us in wishing Sharon and Don a very happy, restful and well-earned retirement and thanking them for serving our members so well.

Sharon's position is being filled by Tara Rifenbark. Tara has worked in the front office for 8 years as the Cooperative's Administrative Assistant and part of our member service team. Tara has gained the knowledge and experience necessary to transition into the billing office where she will continue to serve our members and provide excellent customer service and support. Please join us in congratulating Tara on her new role and wishing her continued success here at DCEC.

DCEC to Change Online Bill Pay From MyAccount to Smart Hub

Members who use DCEC's MyAccount interface to pay their monthly bills will see a change in March. The MyAccount payment portion of the website will be upgraded to a new version called Smart Hub. Smart Hub has several advantages over the current MyAccount application:



- 1) Members will be able to view their own daily electricity usage.
- 2) Members will be able to save multiple payment methods within Smart Hub and then chose their preferred payment method each month. For example, a member could save a credit card and their checking account information. Then when a member pays their monthly bill, they can chose either the credit card or the checking account option at the time of payment.
- 3) Members can access Smart Hub through a smart phone app, which is optimized for mobile devices.
- 4) Members or their friends and family can make one-time payments on an account without setting up a MyAccount user name and password. This feature, called Pay-Now, will appeal to those members who do not wish to store any of their financial information on any computer.

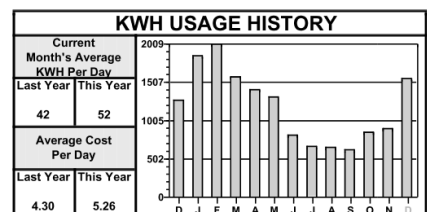
If you have any trouble with the transition to Smart Hub, please call the Cooperative office for assistance.

Tools For Evaluating Usage In Your Home

Have you ever been frustrated because you did not know how much energy was being used by certain devices in your home? If so, this article will describe for you some tips and tools to help you figure out where your electricity is being used. Use the following ideas to get a better understanding of the electrical load within your home:

- 1) Your monthly bill is a great source of information about how much total electrical energy your home is consuming in a given month.

Your kWh usage history is displayed in the upper right corner of your bill. In this example, this member used 52 kWh per day in December of 2014 compared to 42 kWh per day in December of 2013. The graph shows the trend from month to month. This member's graph indicates that the member has some electrical heating in her home. That is why the winter months show much higher usage than warmer months.

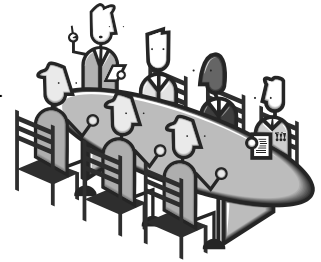


- 2) The electric meter on the side of your house or on your pole has an LCD display with dashed lines that move across the display at different rates depending on how much energy your house is using at any given moment. Take a look at the speed of motion on your display with different loads turned on and off in your house. Members have used this technique to find unexpectedly large loads like a failed dehumidifier.
- 3) DCEC takes energy readings from your meter on a daily basis through our power line carrier communications system. Those readings are stored in DCEC's computer systems. If you call the office and ask about your daily readings, DCEC staff members can speak to you about usage patterns or large peaking days. This information has helped some members realize that their usage pattern is much different than what they would assume. Once members understand their usage pattern, it is easier to put conservation measures into practice.
- 4) If you question the amount of energy being consumed by a specific 120-Volt load within your home, you may want to directly measure the energy consumption of that device or appliance with a meter. You can purchase such meters at the large home and building supply stores for about \$20. If you would like to borrow a meter for a few days to investigate loads in your house, you can borrow a Kill A Watt electricity usage monitor from DCEC. Please contact Mark Schneider at (607) 746-9282 to reserve a Kill A Watt monitor for your use.



Nominating Committee Forming to Identify Director Candidates

Consistent with Cooperative Bylaws, a Nominating Committee is formed each spring for the purpose of identifying Cooperative members interested in serving on the DCEC Board of Directors. This committee is made up of members of the Cooperative who are interested in learning more about the governance structure of DCEC and working to identify qualified candidates to serve as directors of DCEC. The candidates that are nominated by this committee are included on the ballot for a membership vote at the Annual Meeting, which takes place each September.



The board takes their governance responsibilities very seriously. Over the last few years, they have worked hard in ensuring that our director nomination process is very transparent and fair.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the DCEC office. In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the committee is comprised of between 5 and 11 members representing the geographic diversity of the DCEC service area. Members serving on the committee receive a modest stipend for their service. The committee meets three to four times from March through June in the evenings.

DCEC would like to thank the members who served on the 2014 Nominating Committee: Frank Eppich, Christine Hauser, Stephen Hodge, Steven Mason, Bob Foote and Carol LaTourette.

2015 Board of Director Nominations

As a democratic organization, Cooperative members vote each year to elect directors to represent them on the DCEC Board. Elections for director positions occur at the DCEC's Annual Meeting in September. DCEC currently has 7 directors representing three regions of the DCEC's service territory (see DCEC Board Regions chart on page 5). Directors serve 3-year terms. In accordance with the DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee considers members interested in serving on the board and nominates candidates for the election. If you are a full-time residential member of the Cooperative, at least 21 years old and are interested in being a candidate, or if you would like additional information, please contact the DCEC office.

In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the Nominating Committee must prepare a list of candidates for membership consideration at least 60 days prior to the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held September 18, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Elections will occur at the 2015 Annual Meeting for the following regions which are currently served by:

Northern Region: Shawn Hartwell —Towns of Davenport, Gilboa, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Maryland, Stamford & Summit.

Southern Region: Hartley Russell—Towns of Andes, Bainbridge, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins & Walton.

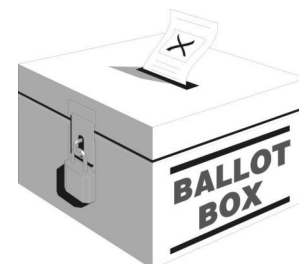
The Committee will meet from March through June at the DCEC office at 39 Elm Street, Delhi, for the purpose of identifying candidates for the above positions.

Nominations for directors are governed by Article 4 of the Bylaws. A director may be nominated either through:

1) The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**. The Nominating Committee meets to identify at least two candidates to run for each region up for election.

2) The second way is by **PETITION**. Any 15 or more members may petition the Cooperative to place a qualified member on the ballot. This must be done at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws which are available on www.dce.coop. Voting for directors is covered by Article 3. Each member may cast one ballot for a nominee in each region. A married couple holding a joint membership are considered one member and will receive one ballot.



11th Grade Student Wanted for Legislative Conference



DCEC announces an exciting opportunity for 11th grade students. Annually, DCEC sponsors a “Legislative Youth Delegate”. If selected, the student will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation’s political leaders and learn about our nation’s legislative process. This year the tour will take place Sunday, May 3 to Tuesday, May 6, 2015.

The student-delegate representing DCEC will attend the conference with other student-delegates from electric cooperatives across New York State. Together, co-op representatives from the 900+ co-ops across the U.S. will be in Washington that week for meetings with Congressional Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill. The student will have the opportunity to experience government first-hand through meetings with legislators and other electric cooperative leaders. Time will also be reserved for visits to historical sites in Washington. This opportunity is an “all-expense-paid” trip except for general spending money that the student may elect to spend on souvenirs and incidentals.

To be considered, the student must be in their junior (11th grade) year, be a son/daughter of a DCEC member, demonstrate strong academic achievement (“B” average or better) and have demonstrated a commitment to community service. To be considered, students must submit an application to the DCEC office in Delhi, NY by March 2, 2015. Applications and further information is available at www.dce.coop, from school guidance counselors or at the DCEC office.

DCEC Board Districts and Directors

<u>Northern Region</u> Represented by: Ed “Rusty” Pick & Shawn Hartwell	<u>Central Region</u> Represented by: Paul Menke, Steve Oles & Meg Hungerford	<u>Southern Region</u> Represented by: Frank Winkler & Hartley Russell
Davenport	Bovina	Andes
Gilboa	Delhi	Bainbridge
Harpersfield	Franklin	Colchester
Jefferson	Hamden	Masonville
Maryland	Kortright	Middletown
Stamford	Meredith	Sidney
Summit		Tompkins
		Walton



Steve Oles



Hartley Russell



Paul Menke



Frank Winkler



Meg Hungerford



Rusty Pick



Shawn Hartwell

DCEC Employees & Board Donate Toys to Walton Toy Bank

Every year for Christmas DCEC employees and the Board of Directors donate toys toward a local toy bank within the DCEC service territory. This year the Cooperative chose the Walton Toy Bank. This fund impacts 300 local children within the Walton area up to the age of 16. We hope the toys were a welcome sight to those children on Christmas morning. We look forward to doing the same next year.

Reliability at Cat Hollow Substation

DCEC has been working with our transmission services provider (NYSEG) to improve right of way conditions for the circuits powering DCEC’s Cat Hollow substation. Right of way tree and vegetation conditions on the NYSEG system have been identified as the major causes of reliability problems for members served from the Cat Hollow substation. Right of way tree clearing improvements have been completed both on the 46 kV sub-transmission, bulk supply to the area as well as the 4.8 kV distribution feeder which interconnects directly with DCEC’s substation. Additionally, the Town of Colchester has performed tree clearing adjacent to and along a portion of the distribution right of way.

DCEC and NYSEG also completed a review of the electric circuit breakers and related devices to ensure proper protection of the Cat Hollow service area.

Sign Up for DCEC’s Load Control Program and Get \$4.00 Off Your Monthly Bill!

Do you have at least a 30 gallon electric hot water heater?

Do you use at least 350 kWh’s per month?



If your answer was “YES” to both of those questions and you would like to participate in DCEC’s Load Management Program, which helps all DCEC members save money, please give us a call at (607) 746-9284!

Operations Update



Pole Replacement & Line Reconstruction:

DCEC line crews will be upgrading primary conductors on County Highway 21 and D'Agostino Road in the Towns of Walton and Franklin.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC ROW clearing crews will be working on Bob Holloway Road in the Town of Delhi as well as Huff and Bramley Mountain Roads in the Town of Bovina.

AN 5-92-15

Home Energy Assistance Program

Having trouble paying your energy bills? Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded grant program that offers financial assistance to income-eligible members who need help paying their energy related bills. Please contact your local Social Services office for additional information:

- ◆ Delaware County (607) 746-2325
- ◆ Otsego County (607) 547-4355
- ◆ Schoharie County (518) 295-8334



Remember, you can manage your account 24/7 by signing up for "MyAccount" at www.dce.coop.

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2015 for President's Day.



Income Eligibility Guidelines for HEAP

Household Size	Monthly Income (gross)
1	\$2,194
2	\$2,869
3	\$3,544
4	\$4,219
5	\$4,894
6	\$5,569
7	\$5,696
8	\$5,822
9	\$5,949
10	\$6,076
11	\$6,534

Is Your Location Number in This Issue?

Your service location number begins with two letters and is located on your bill next to your account number. Keep your eyes peeled for the "hidden location number" in this newsletter! If you find the number, and it is your service location you will receive a DCEC fleece sweatshirt!



Good luck!

Save \$ for Your Co-op

If you have signed up for MyAccount and you still receive a paper bill in the mail, you can save your cooperative money by discontinuing the monthly mailed paper bill. To do so, log into MyAccount and click on the link called "Stop/Start Print Bill" along the left side of the MyAccount screen. Then "uncheck" the box next to "Send Me A Statement By Mail." By eliminating your paper bill, you will save DCEC over \$14 per year in printing and mailing expenses. If you would prefer, you can call the Cooperative office and ask us to make that change for you.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. The information contained herein is designed to communicate aspects of the cooperative to its members. Statements published do not necessarily reflect the official position of the cooperative. The information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy.

Board of Directors

President..... Stephen Oles
 Vice President..... Hartley Russell
 Secretary..... Paul Menke
 Treasurer..... Frank Winkler
 Director..... Shawn Hartwell
 Director..... Edward "Rusty" Pick

Director..... Meg Hungerford
 CEO/General Manager..... Mark Schneider
 Asst. General Manager..... Wayne Marshfield

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