

Powering Our Rural Communities

April 9, 2018 is Co-op Lineworker Appreciation Day

Please join us in thanking our lineworkers for all their hard work!



Our History, Our Future

One of my favorite quotes has always been, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives prepare to celebrate National Co-op Month in October, it is a great time to take a look back – and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. Delaware County Electric Cooperative was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn’t generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the Cooperative. Once established, annual meetings were the “must attend” event of the year. The Co-op – on behalf of the member-owners – committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today – and tomorrow. Delaware County Electric Cooperative currently serves 5200 consumer-members. We have returned \$5,244,976 to our members since 1942.

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not.

Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown.

As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident the Delaware County Electric Cooperative will commit to explore new ways to help our members and our community.

Over the years, as we’ve listened to you and your fellow co-op member-owners, we know we have to keep pace as technology and consumer tastes evolve. As always, we welcome your participation as we plan for the future.

April Billing Brings NEW Charges

The Cooperative will be changing two separate charges on members’ April electric bills.

Members in all residential and small commercial classifications will see a 50 cent per month increase in their Monthly Fixed Charge. For example, members in the 202/ Residential SC-2 rate classification will see their Monthly Fixed Charge change from \$25.50 per month to \$26.00 per month. This change is part of the 5-year rate plan announced in April of 2016. Members will see similar increases each year in 2019 and 2020.

All members in all rate classes will see a change from \$0.0050 to \$0.0040 in the Formulary Rate Adjustment (FRA). The FRA is reviewed twice each year by the board of directors in light of the Cooperative’s financial goals and objectives (<http://www.dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies>). The FRA can be reduced at this time due to strong revenues because of cold temperatures in January and February. In addition, more revenues are generated by the increased Monthly Fixed Charge described above. The FRA will be reviewed again in the middle of the year and could be further adjusted based on the financial condition of the Cooperative at that time.

The net impact of the two rate changes on a typical residential member consuming 1,000 kWh per month would be a very small decrease in cost, by 0.4%. If you would like to discuss these rate changes, please contact CEO/General Manager Mark Schneider at 607-746-9282.



*Saturday,
August 4, 2018*

For More Information See Page 3...

Thank A Lineworker



Blank Thank You cards will be available at the DCEC Office in the lobby for members to write words of appreciation to DCEC Lineworkers.



WHEN THE LIGHTS
GO OUT
SO DO THEY
#thankalineman



**Cooperative
Lineworker
Appreciation Day
April 9, 2018**





is sponsoring

Family Fun Event

Saturday, August 4, 2018

2 pm—7 pm

Courthouse Square in Delhi, NY

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL

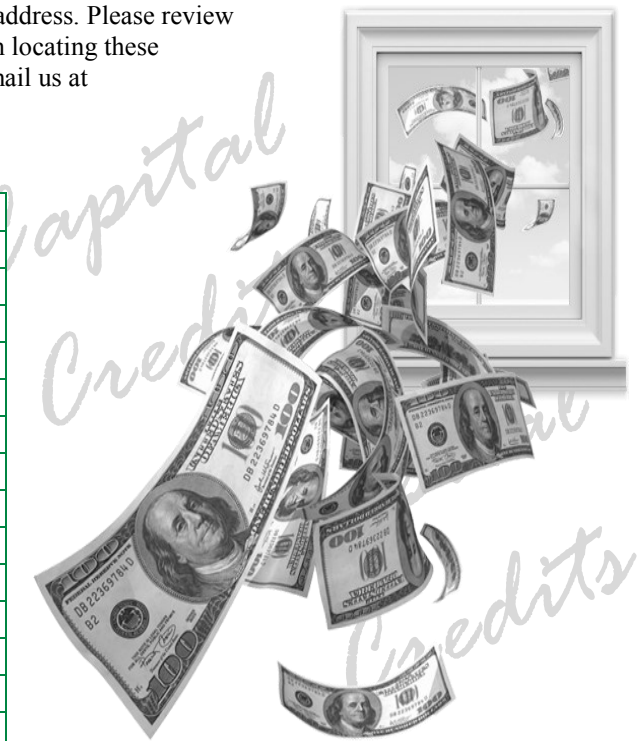
Come join us for outdoor movies, potato sack races, live music, local vendors, face painting, raffles, musical chairs, community discounts, door prizes, kids' games, crafts, food, free giveaways, safety demonstrations, family & friends from the community, and much more!

Can You Help the Cooperative Locate Lost Members?

Being a member of a cooperative does has many perks. One perk is that if you were ever a member of the Cooperative you or in some cases your estate could potentially receive money from the Cooperative. A cooperative is not an investor owned utility. It's a non-for-profit member-owned utility. This means your cooperative does not earn profits in the sense other businesses do. Instead, any margins, or revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid, are returned to the members in proportion to their usage of the Co-op's services through capital credits allocations and retirements. Margins are "allocated" or assigned to members who belong to the Cooperative during the year in which a margin is generated. The allocation is based on the member's proportion of revenue contribution for that year. Each member's portion is referred to as a "capital credit allocation." The cooperative has established a retirement cycle, approximately 27 years, for the retirement of capital credits. Under a 27-year cycle, capital credits that were allocated in 1991 would be retired in 2018. Capital credits of a deceased member are paid to the member's estate. What happens to a member's capital credits if the member moves away from the system? A member who terminates service no longer receives additional capital credits allocations. It is the member's responsibility to notify the Co-op of any changes in address or phone number so the member can be located when it is time for the Co-op to retire capital credits allocated to the member's account.

The following is a list of DCEC members whose capital credit checks have been returned to DCEC by the USPS due to an insufficient or outdated address. Please review the list and if you have any information that will be helpful to us in locating these members, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-2341 or email us at billing@dce.coop. Thank you for your assistance.

Walter	Antosik
Thomas W.	Crawford, Sr.
Vito	De Luca
Everett	Dozier
John G.	Ender
Kenneth	Glaser
Shirley J.	Hartman
Harold E.	Markert, Jr.
George W	Mc Devitt
Susan	Mc Mullen
William W.	Mc Murry
Jeffrey T.	Navratil
Richard H.	Panetta
Brian	Quinn
Theresa M.	Raynor
Kurt	Ritchey
Antolin	Roldan
Dorothy J.	Rose
William R.	Smith
Frank C.	Swesak
John F.	Triggs
Donald D	Urbanski
Anne C.	Verrill
Kathy	Warren
David	Weinberg
Charles	Wells
James P.	Wheeler
Henry M.	Zook
Rat Pack Rd & Gun Club	



Should you have tax questions and estate questions in regards to capital credits please contact a professional tax preparer and estate attorney. For general capital credit questions please call the DCEC Billing Department at (607) 746-2341.

Renewable Generation to Improve Future Generations

The Cooperative is partnering with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and SUNY Delhi to build a 2 Megawatt community scale solar project on SUNY Delhi property adjacent to the Cooperative's Delhi Substation on Arbor Hill Road in the Town of Delhi. The footprint of the solar farm will occupy up to 18 acres of hillside land across from SUNY Delhi's Valley Campus. When operational, the project will generate enough energy to power approximately 230 typical residential homes.

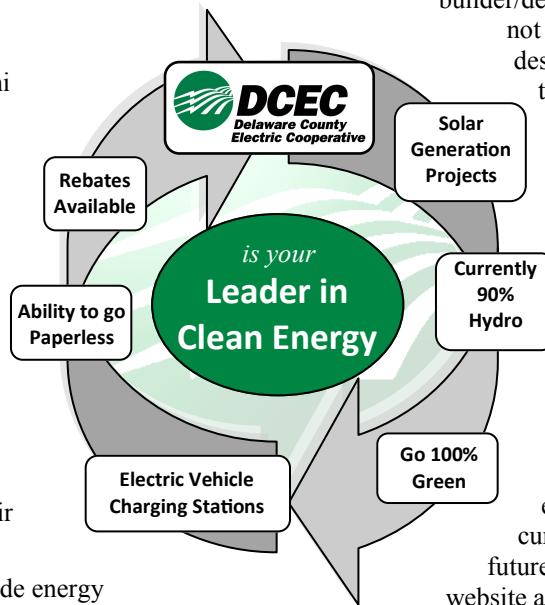
The project, currently in the preliminary stages of planning, will be designed and implemented by NYPA. SUNY Delhi and the Cooperative will be able to utilize renewable energy credits from the project to meet our renewable energy obligations under the New York State Clean Energy Plan. In addition, the project will serve as a learning laboratory for SUNY Delhi students of Integrated Energy Systems (<http://www.delhi.edu/academics/majors-programs/associates/integrated-energy-systems/index.php>). Students and faculty will have physical access to the project site to practice construction, operations and maintenance techniques. In addition, students and faculty will utilize the live data feed from project monitoring system in order to develop skills relevant to advanced troubleshooting and repair of community scale solar projects.

The project will also include energy storage, which may be used to lower the Cooperative's demand during peak hours. Lowering peak

demand lowers overall wholesale power costs for the Cooperative by allowing the Cooperative to buy more hydro power instead of more costly non-renewable energy from the wholesale market.

The project is being funded 100% by NYPA, who will enter into a long term power purchase agreement with the project

Mark Schneider, CEO of the Cooperative, said, "I am proud of the partnership between the Cooperative, SUNY Delhi, and NYPA because this project will help us to meet our clean energy commitments in a cost-effective manner while also helping SUNY Delhi enhance their academic programs."



builder/developer. Cooperative members will not pay any up-front costs for the design, procurement, or construction of the project, so the project creates no risk for Cooperative members. NYPA hopes to demonstrate the economic viability of community scale solar projects so that other cooperative and municipally-owned utilities throughout New York State will be encouraged to invest in similar projects.

For additional information about your clean energy options and what DCEC is currently working on to improve the future of generations please visit our website at www.dce.coop/future_generations.

Saving that Special Ash Tree

Unless you take action, all Ash trees on your property are subject to the coming wave of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insect, an invasive species that targets and kills Ash trees by attacking the tree's inner cambium. If you have an Ash tree with special financial, sentimental, or aesthetic value then you may want to take action now to save it from the EAB.

If you have an Ash tree in close proximity to your home or other buildings on your property, it could cost you between \$1,000 and \$3,000 to have that tree professionally and safely removed after the tree becomes compromised by the EAB. It could save you thousands of dollars to treat the Ash tree with an insecticide that prevents EAB infestation.

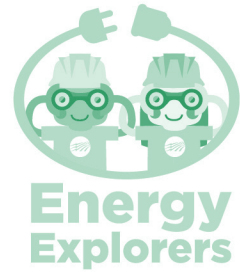
Regardless of the financial implications, some trees are just special to us. Maybe an Ash tree is home to

your grandkids' tire swing or you remember climbing in it when you were a kid yourself. Don't regret not taking action to save an Ash tree if it holds special memories for you and your family.

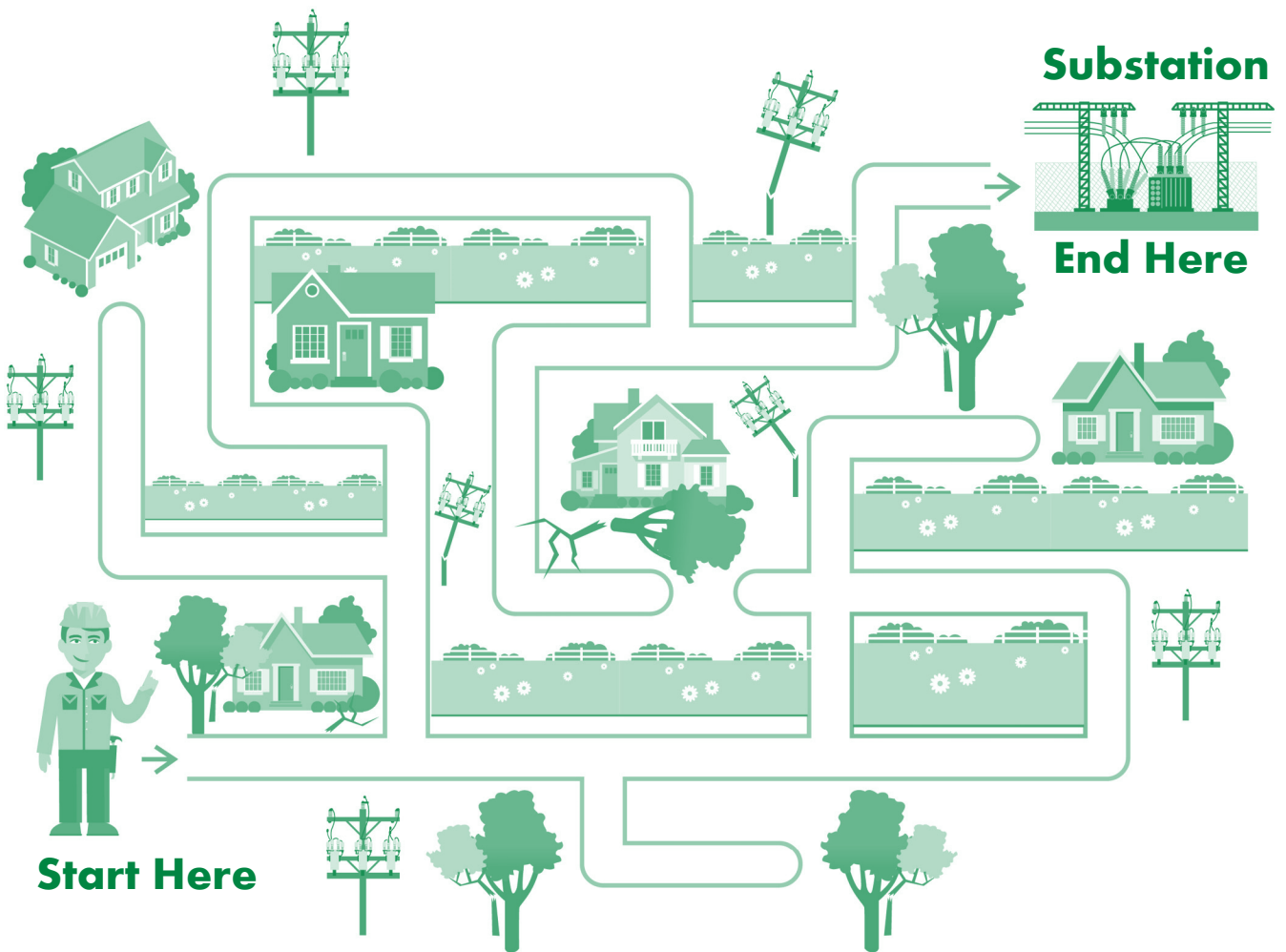
For information about Ash tree treatment, you can contact the Catskill Forest Association's Forest Program Manager, John MacNaught at 845-586-3054 or cfa@catskillforest.org. You can also read about CFA's Tree Saver Program at <https://catskillforest.org/invasive-species-program/>.



HELP THE LINeworker REACH THE SUBSTATION



Lineworkers work in dangerous conditions to restore electricity after major storms and other types of power outages. Many times, lineworkers make substation repairs to get the power back on. Can you help the lineworker get to the substation?



Low Voltage and What It Means

DCEC strives to provide quality electric service to your home, farm or business. To do so, DCEC operates its electric distribution system guided by certain national standards that specify service voltage level ranges. These ranges, having been established in cooperation with manufacturers, ensure that appliances and equipment will operate safely and properly when connected to your electrical system.

Electric service voltage levels provided to DCEC member/consumers are maintained within their "normal" operating range for most hours. Occasionally, however, the service voltage level becomes abnormal and may be less than ("low voltage") or greater than ("overvoltage") the desired range.

It is the condition of low voltage that occurs most frequently in power distribution systems and it may persist for extended periods of time until crews are able to make repairs which will remedy the condition. The causes of this condition may typically to equipment failure in a section of the DCEC electric distribution system. Otherwise, the cause may be related to trouble or a failure occurring within the Transmission Owner's (NYSEG's) electric system.

The operation of appliances and equipment containing electric motors, including refrigerators, freezers, heat pumps, air conditioners and water supply (well) pumps during low voltage conditions may damage or cause the failure of the motors contained in these various devices. Failure is primarily caused by increased internal heating. This heating results from the increased current being drawn by the motor as it attempts to continue producing the same

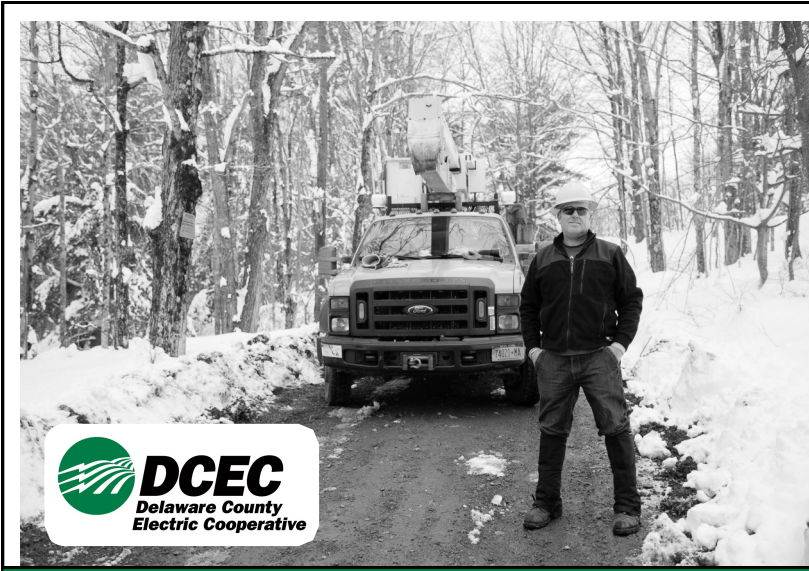
amount of physical work with less than rated voltage being applied.

Protection of consumer equipment from overcurrent conditions is the responsibility of the consumer (National Electrical Code Article 110, Requirements for Electrical Installations). Equipment containing properly specified overcurrent protection devices should remove the protected motor or device from operation prior to its sustaining damage. However, experience has shown that this has not always been the case. Occasionally, manual intervention may be advised.

Low voltage conditions can be readily detected by observing the performance of incandescent lighting. Reduced lighting level output indicates the presence of a low voltage condition. Should this condition persist, it may be advisable to shut off or disconnect the equipment and appliances affected. During the occasional, short duration "voltage sag" or "blink" associated with the clearing of power system faults or short circuits, no manual intervention is advised. However, if low voltage conditions persist, shut off, disconnect or otherwise "unplug" your equipment to protect it to the extent possible ensuring that you do so in a safe manner.

Restoration of your equipment to normal operation can be accomplished after the return of normal lighting levels, indicating an end of the low voltage condition and a return to normal operating voltage levels.

KO 1-49-10A



**Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 9, 2018**

Vegetation Management

As we enter spring it is time to start thinking about tree planting for the coming season. We encourage all members to think about not the trees as they are now but what they will mature into. Please take a moment to look up and around. Ask yourself how tall will this tree grow? Will it hit the line? Will I be upset if it is trimmed or removed? These questions and other considerations can allow us to work together to get the best outcome for all the members of our Cooperative and our Right-of-Way department. We encourage members to consider planting grasses and low growing ground cover in the right of way. Since we access the right of way for maintenance, outage restoration and other general upkeep please consider what you plant and where.



Used in off-road portions of the ROW. A crew member uses the bucket in an elevated position to trim branches of trees growing in from the side of the ROW toward the electric lines.

Pesticide Primer / Notice

This summer will begin our annual herbicide treatment season. We will be applying herbicide to our Rights of Way cleared in 2017. Please note the labels and information about how we use herbicides can be found on our website under Vegetation Management. Additionally we have members of our staff who can answer questions and get more information about the herbicides and methods we use.

For a complete list of all herbicides used and additional information about policies and procedures please visit our website at www.dce.coop/content/vegetation-management.

Spring Time Safety Coloring Fun

Spring Safety Tip:
Never climb a tree that has power lines running through it!
Always avoid playing near electrical utility equipment.

RHEEM PRESTIGE SERIES HYBRID HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER



2.45 Energy Factor
Easy to Adjust Water Temperature
10 Year Warranty
50 Gallon
Acts as a Dehumidifier
Energy Star
Save Minimum of \$150/year in Electricity Costs

Call (607) 746-9284 for Prices and More Information



Temp Laborer Position Available

The Cooperative will be hiring a new temporary laborer for our Tree Crew. Interested candidates should send a letter and resume to Mark Schneider, DCEC, PO Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753 or hand deliver them to the office at 39 Elm Street by March 30, 2018. Candidate qualifications include the following:

- 16 years of age or older
- Ability to identify local tree species by leaf
- Capable of performing physical labor for up to 10 hours each work day
- Driver's license preferred
- Subject to pre-hire drug and alcohol screening



Candidates must be available to report to work every Monday through Thursday, 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM for the whole temporary work season: June 25 through September 1, 2018.

Scam Alert!

Members of cooperatives around the country have recently reported attempted phone scams, in which a person pretending to be a cooperative employee threatens to disconnect their power unless they make a payment immediately.

Be prepared: tips for Delaware County Electric Cooperative members

These recent scams are certainly a reminder to safeguard your personal information and always verify who you are talking to. Please take a minute to look over this advice to help keep yourself safe.

- Delaware County Electric Cooperative employees will never call or email you to demand immediate payment. As a courtesy, the cooperative may call to remind you when your bill is past due. We will also make two attempts to call you before ever disconnecting your electric service for non-payment. However, those phone calls will follow written notification sent to you by mail. The Cooperative's employees will never demand payment over the phone. The Cooperative has several secure payment options including SmartHub and secure pay-by-phone at 1-844-209-7162. If you have any doubt as to whether you are talking to a DCEC employee, you can always hang up and call the Cooperative office at 607-746-2341 or 1-866-436-1223.
- Don't be pressured to act immediately. The Cooperative never makes disconnects for non-payment outside of regular business hours, Monday through Thursday. If you are contacted at night or on the weekend, you can always wait until regular business hours to call the Cooperative's office and take appropriate action such as making a payment or a payment arrangement.
- If you're already a member, DCEC will also never call or email to ask for personal information, such as your full social security number. We already have the information we need on file from your membership application, and it is stored securely in our system.
- Look for our logo and employee badges. Not all

scams are done over the phone. Sometimes scammers go door to door. To be certain you are dealing with an actual DCEC employee, look for our logo. Our employees drive vehicles marked with our logo. And all of our employees or contractors have identification badges with the employee's picture and the DCEC logo. If you are ever in doubt, call us to verify whether it is an employee or not.

- Beware of red flags. There are a couple of things that should warn you of a scammer. Typically, they will ask you to wire money or pay with a prepaid debit card. And they will likely demand payment immediately. They might also ask for you to confirm your credit card number, the security code on your credit card or your full social security number. Do not give out this information or make a payment if you come across these red flags.
- Don't trust caller ID. Most of the time, a scammer will call from another state or country. If you look at the caller ID, it may be obvious that it is not DCEC. However, some scammers have the ability to hide where they are calling from, so don't assume you can trust the caller ID.
- Contact your local law enforcement agency. If you are ever contacted in a suspicious manner, or believe you may be a victim or a scam, contact your local law enforcement agency. Give them any information you can, such as a phone number, email address or license plate number. They may be able to track down the perpetrators.

Contact the Cooperative too. If you receive a phone, email or door-to-door scam regarding your DCEC account, we want to know about it. Once we know of an issue we can help spread the word to other members. We don't want anyone falling victim to these schemes.



Hot Water Heater

Are you in the market for a new water heater? The Cooperative sells Marathon Hot Water Heaters manufactured by Rheem. You may be eligible for a \$50 discount if you convert from fossil fuels to a Marathon electric hot water heater. All you need to do is Purchase a Marathon Hot Water Heater, enroll in our Load control program (which also pays \$4 / month) and have an average monthly usage of at least 350 kWh.

Generlink Transfer Switches available for purchase at our office

Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket
20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator
Built in Surge Protector
Accommodates 10,000 Watt Generator



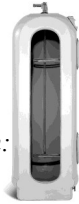
For More Information or to Confirm Compatibility Please Contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341.



Providing our rural members with:

- ✓ Low-cost Electricity
- ✓ High System Reliability
- ✓ Community/Member Service

Warrantied for LIFE
Please call for availability



39 Elm Street
P.O Box 471
Delhi, NY 13753
Ph: (607) 746-2341
(866) 436-1223
Fx: (607) 746-7548
www.dce.coop

Your local area dealer for electric



DCEC Annual Meeting Friday, September 21, 2018

The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to ask questions about your cooperative. We value your input and are always looking for ways to serve you better.

Event begins at 4:30 p.m. with a Brooks BBQ Dinner and the Business Meeting to follow.

Attention Members—Annual Meeting Agenda

For those of you interested in adding an item on the agenda for the *Annual Meeting of Members* please review **Member Participation in Annual Meetings of Members Policy** listed on [www.dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/member participation in annual meeting 2015jmar2 approved.pdf](http://www.dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/member%20participation%20in%20annual%20meeting%202015jmar2%20approved.pdf) or call the office directly at (607) 746-2341.

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!**

Operations Update

ROW Crew is working on cycle clearing in Hamden, Franklin and Walton. Bennet Hollow, Crystal Creek and Fish Hollow.

Line Crew is working on various make ready jobs for Spectrum, MTC and DTC in Jefferson, Tompkins, Walton, and Masonville. Planning on working on Randall Hill in Masonville and Platner Brook in Delhi.



CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. This newsletter has articles submitted by CEO/General Manager Mark Schneider, Engineering & Technology Manager Paul DeAndrea, Finance Manager Millie Faulkner, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Systems Coordinator Larry Soule, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine, and Administrative Assistant Alicia VanZandt.

The information contained herein is designed to promote action and discussion among 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.

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