



## Powering Our Rural Communities

### DCMO BOCES Completes Solar/PV Project

Construction has been completed on a solar photovoltaic (PV) project rated at 12 kW at the DCMO BOCES Western Delaware campus located near Trout Creek, NY. The project was successfully interconnected with the DCEC system on November 10, 2011. This PV system consists of 50 PV panels and associated inverters and it is expected to produce approximately 13,500 kWh annually. Partial funding assistance for the construction of this project was provided by DCEC through an agreement with the New York Power Authority (NYPA). The BOCES project is the thirteenth and final project receiving funding assistance from DCEC under the agreement with NYPA.



12 kW Solar/PV project at DCMO BOCES in Masonville

### Energy Efficiency Programs Available to DCEC Members

Several energy efficiency programs are available to DCEC members to help them save money on their energy bills. These programs can help members better understand their energy consumption and how best to manage their usage to reduce energy costs. These programs include:

1. **Virtual Home Energy Assessment:** Members can conduct a virtual home energy audit from the comfort of their living rooms by taking advantage of the “Together-We-Save” web application available at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop). Available free-of-charge, this user-friendly on-line tool prompts members to enter specific information about their homes and location. The site provides a variety of energy saving tips and specific recommendations on how members can save money on their energy bills. A simple financial savings calculator is also provided. This is very cool – give it a try!
2. **Home Energy Audit:** DCEC members are eligible to receive a home energy audit by a certified contractor. For most members, the audit is free-of-charge through the NYSERDA “Home Performance with Energy Star” Program. DCEC staff can advise members of the details of the program, how to apply and can recommend qualified contractors in our area.



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### NYPA Trustees Approve 20% Increase in Hydro Power Rates

During a November 15, 2011 meeting, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) Board of Trustees approved an increase in “preference power” rates to its wholesale power customers which include the Delaware County Electric Cooperative. The increase, amounting to approximately 20% increase over four years, went into effect on December 1, 2011.



NYPA first gave notice of a planned 29% increase in July 2011 that would begin to go into effect on November 1, 2011. Based on the very short notice provided, electric cooperatives and municipalities requested an extension to allow time for affected systems to understand the basis of the increase and prepare for its implementation. Over the past several months, preference power utilities including DCEC have been in discussions with NYPA and have argued against several aspects of the rate increase. The result was a reduction in the increase from 29% to 20%. As part of these discussions, NYPA is to

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

**See page 3 for Details**



## DCEC Makes Capital Credit Distribu-

About 2,300 DCEC members who received electric service from the Cooperative in 1988 received a capital credit retirement in December. The retirement represents 35% of the remaining partial-year retirement of “margins” that DCEC realized in that year.

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. “Our new members are helping to maintain the strength of the Cooperative. Retiring capital credits to long-standing members ensures fairness to all members while maintaining the financial health of the Cooperative”, described Steve Oles, DCEC Board Treasurer.

The retirement amounted to \$100,000 of 1988 credits. Members from 1988 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. The cooperative has a goal of retiring capital credits on a 20-year cycle.

## Energy Efficiency Continued from Page 1...

3. **Grants and Financing:** DCEC members are eligible for various subsidies and incentives if they implement energy efficiency recommendations that are generated from the Home Energy Audit. These incentives include a 10% cash back incentive (High Efficiency Measure Incentive or “HEMI”), 50% grant subsidy to income eligible members (Assisted Home Performance with Energy Star) and loans to finance the member-portion of the expenses associated with the work.

Contact DCEC member-service staff or visit [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop) for further information or assistance.



## NYPA Rate Increase Continued from Page 1...

meet annually with preference power customers to review the status and basis of costs that could affect future rate increases.

“This is a very substantial issue for us and our members”, says Millie Faulkner, DCEC Finance Manager. “At a time when our members are having difficulty paying their bills, coupled with unprecedented cuts in federal emergency aid to needy consumers, this increase is not helpful.”

Under the terms of power supply contracts that DCEC has with NYPA, NYPA is allowed to charge rates that represent the cost of operating the Niagara Hydro Generating Facility. NYPA contends that the rate increase is necessary due to costs that they are incurring in operating the power stations.

The cost of purchased power represents approximately 40% of the DCEC’s total cost-of-service to its’ membership.

## DCEC Secures NYSERDA Grant for Smart Grid Technology Deployment

NYSERDA and DCEC have entered into an agreement where the state energy office will provide \$840,000 to DCEC to implement advanced “Smart Grid” technology to improve its electric system operations and provide member-consumers greater opportunities for energy efficiency.

“This is a terrific thing for DCEC members”, says Greg Starheim, DCEC CEO & General Manager. “NYSERDA wants to see advanced smart grid technology deployed in New York State and DCEC needs to upgrade our electric system infrastructure.” DCEC implemented automated meter reading (or “AMR”) technology over 10-years ago which gave the Cooperative the ability to read members meters remotely, import those readings into our billing system and better manage electrical outages. The grant funding, together with an additional \$840,000 of funding DCEC received from the U.S. Department of Energy in 2010, will allow DCEC to deploy new technology that will replace the aging system and allow DCEC to better serve its members.

DCEC has a long standing relationship with NYSERDA. Over the years, the organizations have partnered together on a number of advanced technology projects including a residential fuel cell demonstration, advanced substation energy storage technology, assessment of renewable wind energy development within the Cooperative’s service territory, the Delaware County Waste-to-Energy (landfill gas) project and on advancing and promoting energy efficiency programs. “They are an important partner of ours and play a vital role in the energy industry in New York”, says Starheim.



## 11th Grade Student Wanted for Legislative Conference



DCEC announces an exciting opportunity for 11<sup>th</sup> 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, April 29, 2012 to Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

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 Capital Hill. The student will have the opportunity to experience government first-hand through legislative meetings and meetings with 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, 2012. Applications and further information is available at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop), from school guidance counselors or at the DCEC office.

## Tips On Preparing For An Outage

1. Have fresh batteries for a flashlight, radio, and alarm clock.
2. Have a manual can opener, drinking water, and dry food available.
3. Keep a non-electrical corded phone or cell phone available with emergency numbers. If you are experiencing a medical emergency please call 911.
4. Protect your appliances, computers and other sensitive equipment with a surge protector.
5. If you have a generator, make sure that it is properly connected to isolate the generator from the possibility of feeding back into DCEC’s electric lines. If you have any questions, please contact DCEC’s office for consultation. Also, have enough gas on hand to run the generator for at least a few days.
6. Know how to use the manual override on your electric garage door opener.
7. Be sure to keep at least a half tank of gas in your vehicle.
8. Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible. A well insulated freezer will keep your food from spoiling for days, depending on its location, as long as you don’t open the door.
9. If you hear that a storm is coming, fill your bathtub with water for use in flushing toilets, feeding pets and for other non drinking purposes.
10. Never use gas ovens, gas ranges, or barbeque grills for indoor heating.
11. Most of all, stay away from downed power lines.



## DCEC Joins with New York State Municipal Electric Systems

The Municipal Electrical Utility Association of New York State (or “MEAU”) is an association of 40 municipalities that own and operate municipal electric systems. This organization, first formed in 1930, provides a forum for municipal electric and cooperative systems to work together to understand and address various common industry issues. The New York State electric cooperatives and municipals have many common interests and business. For this reason, the DCEC Board decided to join MEUA. Through membership in MEAU, DCEC will work collaboratively with other similar electric utilities to reduce costs, improve member service and understand and address industry issues as appropriate.



## Member-Owned Distributed Generation Policy

DCEC has revised its policy covering member owned distributed generation systems which are connected with the DCEC electric system. This policy contains information useful to members planning a system installation. The policy still limits the size of member owned wind or photovoltaic (PV) systems qualifying for net metering to 15 kW. However, the revised policy allows DCEC to consider projects rated up to 10 MVA on an individual basis for interconnection with the DCEC system on an avoided cost basis. Additionally, the revised policy sets insurance liability limits for members that interconnect member owned distributed systems in parallel with the DCEC system. The policy may be found on the DCEC website at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop).

## Operations Update

### Pole Inspection:

DCEC completed line inspections in November on a portion of our distribution system in the Jefferson and Gilboa areas including 2,500 poles. Ten of those poles were identified as needing immediate replacement.

### Line Reconstruction:

DCEC line crews have completed a 1.4 mile line upgrade on Houghtaling Hollow Road in the Town of Meredith. Work is proceeding on upgrading a 1.9 mile line on Holiday Brook Road in the Town of Andes and Colchester along with a .7 mile line on Sal-Bren Road in the Town of Meredith.

### Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

For 2011, DCEC completed vegetation clearing of 89 miles of right-of-way clearing. DCEC clears its entire system of its right-of-ways every 8 years.

## 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](http://www.dce.coop).**

### DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2012 for President's Day.



Income Eligibility Guidelines for HEAP	
Household Size	Monthly Income (gross)
1	\$2,146
2	\$2,806
3	\$3,466
4	\$4,127
5	\$4,787
6	\$5,447
7	\$5,571
8	\$5,695
9	\$5,818
10	\$5,942
11	\$6,136

## 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!*

Read more about how to lower your energy bills 10-15% with a Free Winter Home Heating Tune-Up Kit.

Please call or stop by the DCEC office for more information.



## Statement of Non-Discrimination

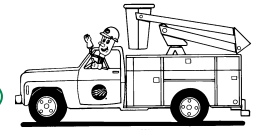
Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that it will comply with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age be excluded from participation and be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its facilities.

Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color or national origin in its policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants in any meeting of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operation of this organization.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is, Gregory J. Starheim, General Manager. Any person who believes himself or any specific class of individuals to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and Rules, and Regulations issued thereunder may, by

himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after their alleged discrimination or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the Rules and Regulations.

**TO 3-87-8**



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