

Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Annual Meeting Highlights the Environment

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative will be held on Friday, September 11th at the Delaware Academy & Central School in Delhi.

The theme of this year's meeting is “*Energy and the Environment.*” DCEC CEO and General Manager Greg Starheim says the co-op is working to balance energy projects and the environment, as evidenced by the cooperative's Waste-to-Energy Project at the Delaware County Solid Waste Management Center in Walton.

At the Annual Meeting, the DCEC Board will be asking members to approve several minor changes to the cooperative's bylaws and a resolution relating to the regulatory oversight. “The proposed bylaw changes are minor”, explained Board President Frank Winkler. “They are being proposed to make our bylaws more current with today's technology to allow for electronic communications with members, storage of business information and electronic bill payment.” Even with these changes, members can still elect to correspond with DCEC staff using traditional ways as they may desire. Another bylaw revision would change criteria for joint memberships.

The DCEC Board is also recommending members approve a resolution that will allow DCEC to transition from being regulated by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to where the DCEC Board will have the authority to make decisions on rates, rate structures, policies and other matters on behalf of the membership.



DCEC employee Millie VanHoesen and DCEC retiree and member Steve Watkins at the 2008 Annual Meeting

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Stamford Flag Day Parade



On Sunday, June 14, 2009, DCEC participated in the Stamford Flag Day Parade. It turned out to be a very nice day and many people lined the streets to watch the parade once again this year.

As always DCEC staff, directors, and family enjoyed being a part of the parade!

DCEC Member Installs Solar Energy System

Even though the electricity that DCEC delivers to its members mostly comes from renewable energy, some members want to do even more to reduce their “carbon footprint”. That is the case with Mark Izeman and Tanya Khotin, members of DCEC who recently built a new house off of Beach Hill Road in Andes.



DCEC members Mark Izeman & Tanya Khotin at their home in Andes

Mark and Tanya, who have two young boys, have a long-standing interest in environmental issues. As a Senior Attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a national environmental group, Mark has worked for many years to help protect the Catskills. So when they were designing their new home, they wanted to use solar power for electricity and heat. To generate electricity, they installed a 3.6 Kw photovoltaic system—that is roughly equivalent to the consumption of a typical home. During times when their electrical consumption is more than that, they will be served by the DCEC power lines. When generation is in excess of their load, surplus energy generated by the solar panels will be “injected” into the DCEC power grid.

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“Our relationship with NYPA is very strong and we will value them as a strategic business partner”, says Winkler. “However, the Board believes this change would provide us greater flexibility to be more responsive to the needs of the membership over time.” With NYPA’s agreement, the DCEC Board is proposing this change. The DCEC Board and NYPA will be present at an “Open House” scheduled for July 28th at the DCEC offices on Elm Street to answer any questions that members have on this proposal.

Members are urged to attend the Annual Meeting to hear the latest news about the cooperative, participate in the business of the co-op and meet special guests.

Legislative Corner: House Passes Milestone Energy, Climate Change Bill

On June 26th, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed a highly controversial bill that sets limits on emissions of gases linked to global warming. In a 219-212 vote, the House approved the Waxman-Markey Energy bill which would reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 and by about 80 percent by mid-century.

Under the bill, the government would limit carbon emissions from factories, refineries and power plants and issue allowances for polluters. Some of the allowances would be allocated to current emitters, but about 15 percent would be auctioned off by bid to companies that would need to secure credits to remain in compliance.

It is “the most important energy and environmental legislation in the history of our country,” said Rep. Ed Markey of Massachusetts. “It sets a new course for our country, one that steers us towards a path of clean American energy.” Critics, however, warn that the legislation will cause disastrous consequences including skyrocketing energy prices, job losses and further economic hardship. China, which overtook the U.S. as the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has yet to embrace climate change mitigation measures.

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In addition to the solar panels, they also installed solar heating panels on the roof to provide hot water for radiant heating and showering. They also incorporated many other “green” elements in the house, including energy efficient lighting and appliances, reclaimed wood siding, products with high recycled content and the use of natural lighting. “We wanted to build a house that would help fight climate change while also protecting the beauty and resources of the Catskills,” says Mark.

Earlier this year, the DCEC Board approved a policy that permits residential renewable generation projects to operate while connected to the DCEC grid. In addition to addressing how members will be credited for energy injected into the DCEC grid, the policy outlines strict safety requirements that must be followed to ensure safety to the public and DCEC line workers.

“We recognize that some of our members may want to install renewable generation at their homes”, says Greg Starheim, CEO & General Manager. “While we will continue to supply our members with low-cost, green energy, we now have the ability to accommodate those members who wish to install such systems.”

Waste-to-Energy Project Update

After six months of operation, DCEC’s Waste-to-Energy Project continues to operate very reliably. In the months of May and June, the project operated at over 92% reliability which included a 47 hour planned maintenance outage for normal engine maintenance (oil change, spark plugs, filter replacements, etc.) from June 3rd -5th. The power generated by the project serves to offset the power DCEC would otherwise have needed from the NYS wholesale energy markets.

While reliability of the project has been exceptional, the amount of gas produced at the landfill has been less than expected. Investigations have concluded that the solid waste in “cell 5” of the County landfill is saturated with water which hampers anaerobic digestion in the waste mass and the production of methane-rich landfill gas. Plans are underway to install a membrane cap on this area which will increase gas production from the solid waste while increasing the amount of gas captured for electricity generation.

DCEC will be holding an “Open House” at the facility on Saturday, July 11th from 10am to 1pm in conjunction with the Delaware County Solid Waste Facility (& Composting Facility) Open House that same day. Come to see us and take a tour of the project!



DCEC's Waste-to-Energy Project

Online Bill Payment

For the last couple of years, DCEC offers its members a service called "MyAccount". "Myaccount" allows members to make online bill payments and service requests. All that's required to register for this service is your name, account number and a functioning e-mail address. To get started, members simply need to go to the DCEC website (www.dce.coop) and click on the "MyAccount" link located on the left side of the homepage.

Once registered, members can view and/or pay their electric bill, request services and view historical billing information. Online payments can be made with a Visa or MasterCard or by debiting a checking account by entering the routing and account number on the website. Registered members have the option of receiving e-mail notification that their electric bill is available to view and pay. DCEC takes protection of members confidential information seriously and has taken the necessary precautions to protect against identity theft.

Over 400 members have signed up for "MyAccount" and DCEC encourages you to take advantage of this service and its many benefits. If you have any questions related to this service, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Event Reminder

DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2009



The Delaware County Fair
August 17-22, 2009
Come see DCEC there on
Friday, August 21st



DCEC and Youth Delegate Visit Washington D.C.



*DCEC Youth Delegate Erica Howard
with Congressman Hinchey*

Erica Howard, of Sidney Center and a Junior at Sidney High School, was chosen as the 2009 DCEC Youth Delegate and accompanied DCEC officials on a trip to Washington, D.C. to speak with government representatives and participate in the 2009 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference. After the Legislative Conference Erica was chosen as the NY state Youth Delegate out of three other delegates representing the other NY state cooperatives. Erica will be representing NY in the Youth Leadership Council conference in July in Washington D.C. and will also attend the NRECA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in February 2010. Erica will be reporting on her experience at the Legislative Conference at the upcoming DCEC annual meeting on Friday, September 11, 2009.

Erica was chosen after an extensive application process and interview with the DCEC Board of Directors. She had wonderful recommendations including one from Sidney Central School Superintendent Sandra Cooper. Erica has true leadership qualities which show in all of her extra-curricular activities. She has a wonderful personality and we are proud that she was chosen to represent the cooperatives of NY state.

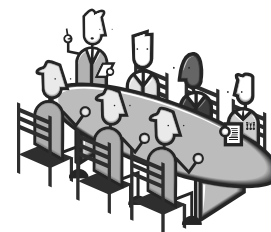
Nominating Committee Identifies Board Candidates

Each year, consistent with DCEC bylaws, DCEC holds an Annual Meeting of its Membership. The 2009 DCEC Annual Meeting will be held on Friday evening September 11, 2009 at the Delaware Academy and Central School. This is an important meeting where DCEC presents to its membership a "State-of-the-Cooperative" along with conducting business such as election of directors.

Ever wonder how directors get nominated and selected to serve on the DCEC Board? According to the bylaws, a Nominating Committee is appointed by the standing Board to meet and identify at least two candidates for each of the district director positions that are up for election. DCEC has nine directors representing the nine districts of DCEC's service territory that serve three-year terms. This year, the following district director positions are up for election: District #1 (representing the Town of Gilboa, Schoharie County and that portion of the Town of Jefferson in said county situated East of NY State Highway Rte. 10, District #3 (representing Town of Davenport) and District #7 (representing the Towns of Hamden, Franklin and Walton).

The 2009 Nominating Committee met on July 8, 2009 at the DCEC office on Elm Street in Delhi. The Committee approved candidates for each director spot that is up for election. Nominations can also be made through petitions before and during the Annual Meeting. Further information is available in the DCEC bylaws which is located at www.dce.coop.

We hope to see you at the 2009 DCEC Annual Meeting on Friday, September 11th!



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Recent Outages at Dryden and Kortright Substations

On May 16, 2009 about 700 of our members served by DCEC's Dryden Brook Substation experienced an outage at approximately 1:00 pm. The cause of the outage was a faulty 1,250 KVA substation transformer. Spare units on-site were energized and service was restored at about 6:00 pm.

DCEC is currently purchasing a replacement transformer. When installed, a short outage will be necessary to convert the service over from the spare currently in use. It is anticipated that this future outage will occur in late summer or early fall and our members served from this substation will be notified in advance of this needed outage. Members affected are in the Towns of Masonville, Tompkins, Sidney, Walton, and Franklin.

On April 29, 2009 DCEC took possession of a new transformer planned for our South Kortright substation. Our crews have been working in preparation for the final connection of this unit for late summer. During the connection process there will be a needed outage that will be a duration of a few hours. Members in the Kortright, Stamford, Bovina, Davenport, Meredith, Harpersfield and Jefferson areas will be affected and notified in advance of the outage time and duration. This unit should give decades of quality service and we appreciate the members understanding and cooperation.



New Kortright transformer

Operations Update



Right of Way clearing (ROW):

DCEC ROW clearing contractor, KW Reese, will be working over the next couple of months in the Towns of Jefferson and Gilboa. DCEC ROW crew will be working in the Town of Andes.

Pole Replacements:

DCEC crews will be replacing poles on County Route 29 in the Town of Harpersfield.

Line Reconstruction:

DCEC crews will be reconstructing electric lines on Bob Holloway Road in the Town of Delhi.

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!**



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