

Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Prepares for Smart Grid Implementation by Securing Grant



A Smart Grid In-Home-Display

DCEC is proceeding with a system-wide deployment of Smart Grid technology. The program, funded through grants and from the U.S. Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research &

Development Authority (NYSERDA), will provide numerous benefits to members, both in improving operations and providing members greater access to information to help reduce their energy costs.

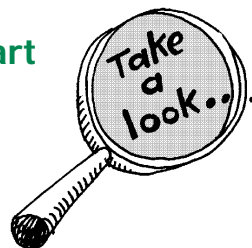
“This was an excellent opportunity for us to upgrade our aging existing electric hot water heater “load control” and automated meter reading systems. These programs are over 12 years old and are becoming obsolete. We greatly depend on these systems to process member billing, identify and manage outages and minimize our purchase power costs. Smart grid technology will do all of that and much more,” says Wayne Marshfield, DCEC Operations Manager.

DCEC staff has been busy negotiating with various technology suppliers and will soon be making decisions as to what systems will be purchased. It is envisioned that deployment will begin in the fall of 2011 and be complete by the end of 2012.

Once fully deployed, Smart Grid technology will not only provide operational benefits, but will provide members online access to detailed (hourly) usage information to better understand consumption patterns and how they might be able to become more energy efficient. Further details will be coming in the future.

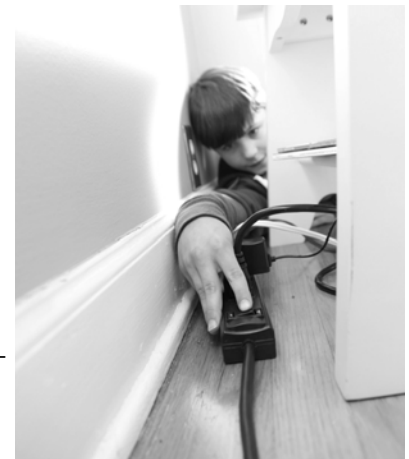
Consumers Crave Smart Meter Data...

See page 3 for More Details



Member Savings Program Brings Value to DCEC Members

It is important for DCEC to provide its member-owners with safe, reliable power. Yet our service goes beyond that. It's also important that the Cooperative offer additional services that can help members save money on energy expenses and have a positive impact on everyone in the community. That is why DCEC is launching the Member Savings Program.



Through the Member Savings Program, DCEC is able to provide value to members and our community through a variety of services designed to save them money and become

Member Savings Program Continued on Page 2...

DCEC Holds Member Information Meetings

The DCEC Board of Directors held a series of Member Information Meetings to present to members details of a proposed rate increase and bylaw changes. The meetings were held on May 24, 2011 at the Hamden Town Hall and on June 22 at the DCEC Garage on Depot Street in Delhi. Based on these meetings the DCEC Board approved to implement the rate increase (featured in the last two newsletters) and will recommend the bylaw changes at the 2011 DCEC Annual Meeting on September 9, 2011. The overall 8% rate increase will not effect large business consumers and will be introduced over a 2-year period beginning in July 2011. The increase will affect the average residential member's bill by about 13 cents a day. Details of the proposed bylaw changes are available at www.dce.coop.

Members will be receiving an Annual Meeting special edition of the Catskill Hi-Line in their August bills which will contain the official notice of the meeting, biographies of director candidates up for election, the financial report, and your Brooks Chicken BBQ reservation ticket. We hope to see you at this year's meeting!

Member Savings Program Continued from Page 1...

more energy efficient. Examples include:

- Home energy audits—DCEC has partnered with NYSERDA to provide free home energy audits and possible financing for energy efficiency projects. DCEC members must have a household income at or below \$100k.
- Co-op Connections Card—DCEC members will have access to 10-60% discounts on prescriptions at participating pharmacies as well as discounts from local and national participating businesses.
- Energy Efficiency Tools— “Together We Save” is an online program that DCEC members can access that will allow you to take a “Home Tour” which shows you how much you can save by implementing certain energy saving practices room by room. Also, other energy efficiency tools will be available to help members save energy and money by raising awareness and conservation as well as inspiring them to teach everyone around them.
- Smart Grid Technology—(see “Smart Grid Implementation” article on page 1). Through this technology DCEC members will have online access to detailed (hourly) usage information and how they can become more energy efficient.



So while our number one priority is to keep the lights on, DCEC is committed to bringing additional value to our members and the communities we serve. The Member Savings Program is just another way to accomplish that goal. For more information on this program please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-2341.

Legislative Update

AN 4-48-29

Albany:

- Amendment of Rural Definition: New York State Law currently restricts rural electric cooperatives from serving incorporated villages or other municipalities with a population exceeding 1,000 residents. Over the past few months, the NYS Senate and Assembly both have passed bills that increases the population restriction to 20,000 residents consistent with federal law. The bill now goes to the Governor for signature. DCEC thanks Senator Bonacic and Assemblymen Magee, Crouch and Lopez for their support and leadership on this legislation. While this won't immediately effect DCEC's ability to serve new members, it does significantly provide flexibility and the potential for doing so in the future.



Washington:

- USDA Rural Utility Service (RUS) Funding: Electric cooperatives borrow funds from the USDA RUS to finance electric generation, transmission and distribution plant investment. Contrary to critics who refer to this program as a “subsidy”, cooperatives pay interest on borrowed funds which directly reduced the federal budget deficit by > \$100M per year in 2010. In his draft 2012 Fiscal Budget, President Obama ironically proposed dramatic cuts to RUS funding. Over the last few months, over 80 congressmen and women signed support letters to restore RUS funding to traditional levels, of which 10 were New York State representatives. DCEC wishes to express a special thanks to Congressmen Gibson, Tonko, Hinchey and Hanna for their support.
- Clean Renewable Energy Bonds: It is commonly known that renewable energy projects are costly to build and without various “incentives” are not economic compared to traditional sources of generation. During budget negotiations last December, critical incentives available to “for profit” developers were extended by Congress including the “Production Tax Credit” (PTC) and the 30% Treasury Grant Program. While this was good news for the environment, a key program for non-profits like electric cooperatives and municipals, called Clean Renewable Energy Bonds or “CREBs”, was overlooked and terminated. This program allows co-ops to issue zero-coupon bonds to finance projects and offers tax incentives to the purchasers of the bonds. Over the last 5 years, this program had financed dozens of renewable projects including DCEC's Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project in Walton, NY. Over the last few months, over 66 congressmen and women signed onto a support letter to restore the CREBs program. DCEC wishes to thank Congressmen Hinchey and Hanna for their support.

DCEC Wraps-Up Residential Solar/PV Project Program

May 1, 2011 represented the deadline for new applicants for the DCEC Residential Solar/PV Incentive Program. The program was made possible through a \$300k allocation by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and has been well received by DCEC members. To date, eight members are now online with their projects and six other installations are scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. The program provided approximately 50% of the cost of the installations. While this program comes to an end, DCEC continues to look for other funding sources for future projects.



Completed Solar/PV project at member Raymond Smith's home in Davenport



Completed Solar/PV project at member Thomas Daly's home in Harpersfield,

Delaware Academy Students Visit DCEC's Waste-to-Energy Project

Four students representing various high school science classes at Delaware Academy visited the DCEC/Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project at the Delaware County landfill in Walton on June 6, 2011. The visit was organized by the Delaware Academy High School Science Teacher, Mark Kline. Mr. Kline has presented a series of topics related to alternative energy production in his classes at Delaware Academy, including the capturing of landfill gas and its conversion to electrical energy. Other topics covered in his classes included solar voltaic energy production and its application on the DCEC system.

While at the Waste-to-Energy Project, the students were able to obtain first hand knowledge from Paul DeAndrea, DCEC Engineering Manager, about the various devices and equipment used to capture and convert the energy contained in the landfill gas to useful electrical energy for sale in the New York state market. The additional benefit of the destruction of the potent landfill produced greenhouse gas, methane, by the waste to energy project was also discussed.



Delaware Academy High School Science Teacher, Mark Kline with students

DCEC & Youth Delegate Visit Washington



DCEC Legislative Youth Delegate Emily Bartz and Congressman Chris Gibson

Emily Bartz of Masonville, was chosen by the DCEC Board of Directors as the 2011 DCEC Legislative Youth Delegate. Emily accompanied DCEC officials on a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with government representatives and participate in the 2011 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference. Emily will be reporting on her experience at the Legislative Conference at the upcoming DCEC Annual Meeting on Friday, September 9, 2011.

Consumers Crave Smart Meter Data

Almost 65 percent of residential electric consumers are interested in viewing some sort of smart meter data either online, on a smart phone or on a display. 74 percent would consider paying between \$1 and \$5 per month for the service. Among those willing to pay, a slightly higher number were from the lowest income group (earning an annual \$25,000 or less) - likely indicating a desire to better manage monthly bills.

Twenty five percent of electric cooperatives have deployed advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) for consumers to be able to view this data. This type of information will be available to DCEC members as part of the DCEC Smart Grid Project.

Source: Nielsen Energy Survey Results, CFC News Bulletin

Operations Update

Line Reconstruction & Pole Replacement:



DCEC crews are continuing to rebuild a section of single phase line in the Towns of Franklin and Hamden on East Handsome Brook, Snake Hill and East Brook Roads. Crews have also started a single phase line and pole replacement on Houghtaling Hollow Road in the Town of Meredith. Members in these areas should expect short outages from time to time.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC ROW tree clearing crews will be working in the Masonville area clearing our electric lines. This should continue throughout the fall of this year and clearing will be done on all single and multi-phase lines.

KW Reese, a DCEC contractor, will be clearing and trimming lines in the Towns of Andes and Hamden, mainly on Fall Clove, County Rt. 2, Biggar Hollow, and Basin Clove Roads.

Members will be notified if other areas are to be cleared before the next newsletter.

Community Calendar



**DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday, September 9, 2011**

**Otsego County Fair
August 2—7, 2011
Morris, NY**



**125th Delaware County Fair
August 15-20, 2011
Walton, NY**

Art & Soul of the Catskills
on the Court House Square, Delhi
Saturday, August 6th
10:00 am—5:00 pm
Free Admission, Rain or Shine
For more info visit:
www.artandsoulofthecatskills.com



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**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!**

Energy Efficiency Tip: Power Strips

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home’s energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. “Smart” power strips are another good option—when one master good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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 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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