



Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Co-op Connections Card Brings Value to Members & Local Businesses

DCEC is always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. DCEC's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we are proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with both local and national discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.



Here is what you get:

- Great discounts from businesses in your community including dining, shopping, automotive and much more. Use the card to support store owners in your neighborhood.
- Big savings when you shop online through My VIP Savings at more than 95 national retailers. Simply use the coupon code and/or links provided on the site to save.
- Printable online coupons for groceries that update daily.
- 10% - 85% discounts on most prescriptions at over 60,000 participating pharmacies.
- 10% - 60% discounts on eyeglasses, contact lenses, eye exams and LASIK.
- 20% - 40% discounts on dental care such as cleanings, x-rays, root canals, crowns and orthodontics.
- PLUS, additional savings on chiropractic visits, lab tests, imaging scans and hearing aids.

There currently are a few merchants throughout our community that accept the card including: MidTown Grill & Restaurant, Curtis Lumber, and Jennaluminescence (hand painted silk scarves) in Delhi as well as Sal's Traditional Meat Center in Bloomville.

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Can't Make the DCEC Annual Meeting? Vote by Absentee Ballot...

See page 3 for More Details

DCEC Welcomes New CEO Mark Schneider

Please join the DCEC Board of Directors, management and staff in welcoming Mark Schneider to the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. as the new CEO/General Manager. Some of you may recognize Mark as a previous employee. Mark worked for the Cooperative from May 2004 until January of 2007 as the Engineering Manager. Mark earned a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University. He has been employed at Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation where he expanded on his knowledge and expertise in the electric utility industry. Most recently he taught electrical technology at SUNY Delhi.



Mark has expressed a great deal of enthusiasm about rejoining DCEC and is focused on delivering "safe, reliable and affordable electric service" to the members. He is excited to rise up to the challenges of promoting the Cooperative principles and embracing the concept of delivering the highest level of customer service to the members that own this Cooperative.

Design Work Underway to Service Amphenol In Sidney

Work is well-underway on the design of electric service to Amphenol Aerospace in Sidney, NY. Earlier this year, the major employer and manufacturer of advanced electrical connectors joined DCEC as the Cooperative's newest industrial member. After the devastating floods of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee flooded Amphenol's manufacturing facility in the Village of Sidney, DCEC worked with Delaware County and New York State economic development officials at providing an alternative site at higher elevation within the Village which would be served by DCEC. The Cooperative is pleased to be part of an initiative which is so vital to the local economy and looks forward to providing electric service to Amphenol at their new facility on Delaware Street in 2013.



Aerial photo of Amphenol's current facility in Sidney, NY

Co-op Connections Card...*Continued from Page 1*

Be sure to present the card at the participating businesses to receive your discount! Local businesses will continue to be added so be sure to keep checking back at our website as well as our upcoming newsletters. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website at www.dce.coop and follow the Co-op Connections Card link. We hope local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections program benefit from increased traffic from DCEC members. Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean a savings of 10 – 85% off prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies including CVS, Walmart, Rite Aid, Walgreens, Hannaford, Price Chopper, O'Connor Hospital, Fox Care Center and many more. The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of other cooperatives across the country, resulting in a combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions. If you want to find out more about the prescription savings, log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for pharmacies in our area that honor the card or call (800) 800-7616. You will need to look on the back of your card and enter the member and group numbers to log in online. You will also need to enter your zipcode when searching for area providers. You can also visit www.rxpricequotes.com to find the best deal in town for your particular medication.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, DCEC strives to serve our members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values. If you have any questions please call the DCEC office for more information or visit us online at www.dce.coop and click on the Co-op Connections Card link.

DCEC Recruits Members for Energy Saving Programs



Example of an "In-Home Display"

Over the last several months you have heard about a number of innovative programs that DCEC is offering our members to help them save money on their energy bills. These include the: In-Home Display, Load Management and High Efficiency Hot Water Heater Programs. All of these programs were made available to members and to DCEC through grants received from the U.S. Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA). DCEC has been recruiting members to participate in each of these programs.

The In-Home Display Program is a pilot study. Currently, over a hundred members have responded with an interest in the program but only 50 will be selected to receive a device. This wireless device or "In-Home Display" is provided free-of-charge and members will also receive support and assistance to set up the device. The information provided to the member from this device will include electrical demand and hourly cost "energy alerts" during periods of high usage/cost to the Cooperative. The member must agree to keep the device in a visible area of their home for a period of 1-year and agree to participate in two consumer surveys (each takes less than 20 minutes) providing feedback on their experiences in using the device.

DCEC's Load Management Program has been available to members for over 20 years, enlisting approximately 800 members. DCEC is upgrading the technology platform over the next 6 months to maximize the benefits and effectiveness of the program. In order to participate you must be a year round resident with at least a usage of 350 kWh's per month. When installed, DCEC will be able to turn hot water heaters off for short periods of time between 6:00-10:00 in the morning and evening through the use of its central computer. This will occur mainly in December, January and February depending on the New York Independent Systems Operator (NYISO) daily load forecasts.

DCEC has hired and contracted with Wire Nutz Electric of Delhi to upgrade these load control units. They will be contacting our current members that have load controllers to set up appointments for the exchange. There will be no charge for the installation of these units and they can be removed at any time if they become an inconvenience to the member. This program is very important in lowering system peak usage periods and will save our members money by lowering costs from our power supplier. Additionally, DCEC has signed up about 50 members who have never had a load control device but would like one. A \$2.00 monthly credit will be given to each participant in the program.



DCEC's Load Control device

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Can't Make the DCEC Annual Meeting? Your Vote Counts!

If for some reason you are not planning to attend the 2012 DCEC Annual Meeting, you can still make your vote count by requesting an absentee ballot. At last years' Annual Meeting a DCEC bylaw change was voted on to replace voting by proxy with absentee balloting. In order for a member to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot they must request a ballot by completing an official form (available below) and submit it to the Cooperative. Once the Cooperative receives your form we will provide you with an official absentee ballot which you can then complete and send back to the DCEC office. DCEC will count properly completed absentee ballots as long as they are received by September 11, 2012 (10 days prior to the Annual Meeting). Once DCEC has received a members absentee ballot it can not be re-voked if the member decides to attend the Annual Meeting and vote once there.



DCEC must receive the completed Request for Absentee Ballot form no later than August 22, 2012. Members can return the below form either in person or by mail to the DCEC office at: P.O. Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753



REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter "Cooperative") will hold its Annual Meeting on **September 21, 2012** for the transaction of all lawful business in accordance with its Bylaws and the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Law.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Delaware Academy and Central School, located at 2 Sheldon Drive, Delhi, NY, and the business meeting shall begin at 6:30 pm.

Members who are unable to attend in person are permitted under Article III of the Cooperative's Bylaws to vote, by absentee ballot, on any and all issues presented to the general membership at that meeting.

To be eligible to vote by absentee ballot, members must request that an absentee ballot be sent to them by providing the following information and returning this completed form to the Cooperative. ***The Cooperative must receive this request no later than August 22, 2012.*** Upon receipt, the Cooperative shall send to the requesting member an absentee ballot with instructions for its completion and submission.

I HEREBY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2012 ANNUAL MEETING.

Member's Name: _____

Member's Address: _____

Member's Account Number: _____

If you have any questions with respect to this form or the Annual Meeting, please contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341, or at the address below.

Send to: Delaware County Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 471
39 Elm Street
Delhi, NY 13753

Storm Preparedness

When the power goes out DCEC's goal is to restore it quickly and safely. Below are recommended safety measures for our members during outages. The first steps you should take if your power goes out are:

- Check to see if your neighbors' lights are on. If they are, then the problem could be in your home.
- Locate your fuse box or breaker panel to be sure that all fuses are intact or that the breakers are all in the on position. If they are all set, try turning on and off the main power switch on the fuse box or the main breaker switch on the breaker box.
- If able, put your ear against your meter, if there is a hum then you have power to the meter.



If you still have no power call DCEC's outage line at (607) 746-9283 to report the outage and be prepared to provide the following information:

1. The name on the account for the location of the outage
2. The service location number, if you know it
3. A telephone number where you can be contacted
4. The nature of the outage, how long you have been out and/or anything you may have seen or heard

Be sure to stay safe during an outage. Make sure to keep away from downed power lines and debris that is resting on a power line, turn off major appliances to help avoid a sudden surge of power when service is restored and leave one or two lights on as a signal for when power is restored

Being prepared for outages is important, especially during weather related outages where damage can be widespread and repairs may be complex. Having a plan and an emergency outage kit are good ideas for everyone to consider. If a member of your household is dependent on electricity for life support, be sure to have portable oxygen tanks, backup power and/or a temporary relocation plan. Outage kits should be kept in an accessible location and should provide for basic needs. Items should include: battery powered flashlight(s), portable radio, extra batteries, battery powered alarm clock, dry and warm clothing, sleeping bags and/or blankets, bottled water, foods which can be consumed with little or no preparation and a phone that does not need electricity to work.

If you have any questions on what you can do to be more prepared for an outage please contact the DCEC office.

Energy Savings Programs...*Continued from Page 2*

Most recently DCEC members were introduced to our High Efficiency Hot Water Heater Program where we are offering our members the opportunity to receive a free high efficiency hot water heater based on heat pump technology. Under the terms of the program, selected members will receive a free 50 gallon advanced heat pump hot water heater. DCEC will arrange for installation of the appliance free of charge to the member including an instrumentation package that will monitor various operating parameters of the device. In return, selected members will commit to using the device for their entire domestic hot water heating needs and allow the data that will be collected from the device to be transmitted to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) over a period of 1-year. All data will be treated as confidential and will not identify individual members. At the end of the 1-year data collection period, participating members will be allowed to keep the appliance at no charge.



Example of a heat pump hot water heater

If you are interested and would like to inquire about any of these programs that DCEC is offering please contact our office at (607) 746-2341. DCEC encourages all of our members to use electricity wisely and efficiently.

What Are Your Capital Credits?

Each calendar year, DCEC completes year-end financial statements to determine the years "net-margin". Since DCEC is member owned, any positive margin is returned to its members through the allocation of capital credits. Allocation notices appear on the bill printed mid-year for Residential SC-1 members and in December for SC-2 members.

Each member's portion of the allocation is based upon that years kWh consumption. As part of the Cooperative business model, DCEC uses the retained allocations to fund capital necessities such as line construction and equipment. Capital credit retirement is determined based on the Cooperative's financial condition and the board of director's oversight. When the board determines that the financial condition is strong and can support a retirement, the members will receive their pay-out for that given year. Currently DCEC is operating on a 23-year pay-out cycle.

Continued on Page 5...

Second Phase of DCEC's Rate Increase Instituted

On April 26, 2011, DCEC's Board of Director's approved a rate increase of 7.9% over a 2-year period beginning in July 2011. The second phase of the rate increase, 3.8%, will be reflected in the July 2012 billing, resulting in an approximate increase of 13 cents per day to members charged under the Residential, Small Commercial and Public Buildings rates.

Capital Credits... *Continued from Page 4*

These credits are payable to only the member(s) who signed the membership application and are non-transferrable. Please keep in mind, that upon the death of a member, capital credits can be paid out to the member's estate.

DCEC's capital credits work on a first-in-first-out basis. As a result, some of our members are no longer active when a capital credit retirement is processed. It is important that DCEC is always updated with each member's current address so we can make sure your capital credit check reaches you.

Please contact the billing department at DCEC with any further questions in regards to the capital credit process.

Benefits of DCEC's Upgraded Metering System

DCEC's recently upgraded metering system gives many new benefits to the Cooperative including daily peak demand and kilowatt hour reads, daily blink counts, outage detection, voltage readings and the ability to remotely disconnect.

Remotely disconnecting will allow DCEC to disconnect services that are inaccessible and hard to reach (i.e long driveways, locked gates and remote meter locations), services noted for their transient residents (tenants in apartments), locations that have potential safety concerns for our employees (i.e. dogs), and for services of consistent non-paying members. The cost of remote disconnects will be much less for the member affected and the membership as a whole. Many utilities today are using this technology and we feel it will work very effectively at DCEC.

These new features will help the Cooperative serve our members more cost effectively and pass these savings on to our members.



DCEC Attorney Departs to Support National Co-ops/Board Retains New Counsel



In April, long-time DCEC attorney Tim Johnson accepted a position with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national trade association serving over 900 electric cooperatives across the U.S. The Board and employees wish Tim all the best in his new role and look forward to his continued support of DCEC at the national level.

With Tim's departure, the DCEC Board of Directors conducted an extensive search for a new attorney to serve the Cooperative. A search committee was established which considered numerous law firms and attorneys. Criteria that the Board used for evaluating candidate firms included familiarity with rural electric cooperatives and New York State utility law, experience in utility legal matters, general corporate governance, local familiarity and other areas. After an exhaustive search, the DCEC Board retained the services of Mr. Jeff Clark from the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King.

Mr. Clark brings extensive experience to his role in serving DCEC including having served for 18 years as Managing Attorney and Compliance Officer for Rochester Gas & Electric and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) where he oversaw all legal issues affecting utility operations. We welcome Mr. Clark and look forward to a long, successful future relationship.

What is a Pole Mounted Distribution Transformer?



To provide safe and reliable electric service to its members, DCEC employs a variety of different devices with each having a specific function or purpose. One of the most widely used devices is the pole mounted distribution transformer (please see photo). This device safely changes or "transforms" the typical high voltage of the overhead distribution line to a much lower voltage which can be readily and safely utilized by members (typically 120 or 240 volts). Inside its gray colored tank, the transformer makes use of wire coils and a magnetic-friendly steel core, all of which is cooled by mineral oil. It usually exhibits only a low level audible "hum" as it performs its job around the clock in all kinds of weather.

Operations Update

Line Reconstruction & Pole Replacement:

DCEC crews are rebuilding electric lines on Garvey Road in the Town of Davenport, and Tanglewood Lake in the Town of Delhi. They will also be replacing about 35 poles on Angel Mountain in the Town of Andes.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC ROW tree clearing crews will be working in the Town of Andes on Coss and State Roads, in Delhi on Maggie Hoag and Tanglewood Lake Roads and also on County Route 2 in the Towns of Delhi, Hamden and Andes.

KW Reese, a DCEC contractor, will be clearing and trimming trees on NYS Route 30 near Holiday Brook and Beech Hill Roads in the Towns of Andes and Colchester.

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



Community Calendar



DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday, September 21, 2012

Otsego County Fair
July 31—August 5, 2012
Morris, NY



125th Delaware County Fair
August 13—18, 2012
Walton, NY

Art & Soul of the Catskills
on the Court House Square, Delhi
Saturday, August 25th
11:00 am—6:00 pm
Free Admission, Rain or Shine
For more info visit:
www.artnsoulofthecatskills.com



Providing our rural members with:

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

Warranted for LIFE and available in 30, 50, 85 and 105 gallon sizes!



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Ph: (607) 746-2341
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www.dce.coop

Your local area dealer for electric

Marathon
WATER HEATERS

Energy Efficiency Tip: Beating the Summer Heat

During summer, keep the window coverings closed during the day to block the sun's heat. Also, clean or replace air conditioner filters once a month or as recommended.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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!*



Buyer's Market



If you would like to place an ad in our Buyers Market please call our office at (607) 746-2341

FOR SALE:

10 HP Snapper Rider Mower
30" cut, new belt, new clutch
Runs great, asking \$300
(607) 746-6952 Ask for Tim

GOODRICH MOWING

Mowing, Weed Eating,
Rototilling,
Free Estimates
Call: (607) 865-7769
or (607) 437-1289



Congratulations to the Graduating Classes of 2012!

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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