



Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Generates Clean Power at the Delaware County Landfill

After four years of development work, the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) has successfully started up its clean, renewable energy project located at the Delaware County Solid Waste Facility in Walton, NY. The project, known as the Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project, is the product of collaborative efforts by DCEC and the Delaware County Department of Public Works (DPW). Waste gas produced from decomposing garbage at the county's landfill will be utilized to power a 1,000 kw internal-combustion engine generator.

This is an important event for DCEC and our members. This opens a new chapter in our history since DCEC has never owned any of its own generated power up until now.

Historically, the 65 year old non-profit electric utility has purchased wholesale power to serve its member-owners throughout Delaware, Schoharie, Otsego and Chenango Counties. In the recent past, power supply from the wholesale power market has become costly and volatile putting pressure on the utilities electric rates.

We are very pleased to finally see power being produced at the facility. This will help us stabilize rates to our members and provide benefits to Delaware County taxpayers as well. In early 2008, DCEC and Delaware County entered into an agreement giving DCEC rights to the gas produced at the landfill, and rights to develop the project at a site location adjacent to the DPW Composting Facility.



Completed Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project

Continued on Page 2...

December Ice Storm Outage



DCEC crews clearing downed trees from ice storm

Members experienced the second major outage of the season on December 11th – 15th, 2008. The hardest hit areas were members in Jefferson, Gilboa, and Harpersfield. Others affected included the Towns of Kortright, Davenport, Meredith, Delhi, and Hamden. The culprit was a severe ice storm, the same storm that hit other counties within New York and surrounding states.

The outage calls started just before midnight on Thursday, December 11th, and all power was restored by 11:30 am on December 15th. By the time it was over the storm had broken six poles from downed trees and limbs along with the severe icing on the conductors. The total cost of the storm to DCEC is estimated to be \$150,000. DCEC may recover some of these expenses if federal officials declare the storm a federal disaster.

During the worst part of the storm on December 12th, trees were crashing down in front and in back of the lineman as they worked. Luckily there were no severe injuries, only scrapes and bruises.

For the most part the members affected were very understanding and cooperative, we thank everyone for that.



Powering Our Rural Communities
FREE

"Winter Home Energy Tune-Up Kits"
(See page 2...)

*Please visit www.dce.coop or contact our office located at 39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY for more information including income eligibility criteria.



39 Elm Street, Delhi, New York 13753
607-746-2341
www.dce.coop

Clean Power at Landfill Continued from Page 1...

The County Board passed a resolution in January 2008. Under the terms of the agreement, DCEC will develop the project and pay the County a portion of the benefits derived from the plant. DCEC will own, operate, and maintain the facility over the 20-years of the project.

Most power generation in New York State is generated at power plants fueled by fossil fuels, especially natural gas. In an effort to reduce global warming, New York State has adopted a "Renewable Portfolio Standard" which establishes a goal of securing 25% of the energy consumed in the state from renewable sources. Not only does the DCEC project use a low-cost and predictable source of fuel but it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the County landfill. The waste gas produced from decomposing refuse produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas which, if not recovered, would disburse into the atmosphere. The project is generating marketable "carbon credits" relating to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions while also reducing odor at the facility.

The \$2.5M project is partially funded through a grant from the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority. "We value our relationship with NYSERDA", says Paul DeAndrea, DCEC Manager of Engineering. "They are an essential partner in the development of advanced renewable technologies in New York State."

DCEC and Delaware Opportunities Distribute Home Energy Savings Kits

DCEC and Delaware Opportunities announce a joint program to assist local residents with winter energy costs. DCEC and Delaware Opportunities will be distributing free "Winter Home Heating Tune-Up Kits" to eligible residents in Delaware, Schoharie, Otsego, and Chenango Counties. The kits contain a variety of home energy efficiency products that could save a typical home-owner up to \$200 during the winter heating season.

"We are very pleased to be offering this program", says DCEC CEO & General Manager Greg Starheim. "It is our pleasure to help local residents save on their energy bill."

To receive a free kit, residents must complete a simple form verifying their eligibility based on their household income and the number of residents that reside in the household. For instance, a family of four would qualify as long as their monthly gross income does not exceed \$3,776. Residents need not to receive their electricity from DCEC to be eligible.

"We want to distribute as many kits as we possibly can", said Wayne Marshfield, DCEC Assistant General Manager.

To receive more information, interested residents can call DCEC at (607) 746-9281. In addition to Delaware Opportunities, DCEC has also teamed up to distribute kits through the following organizations which are listed below:



From left to right: DCEC Employees James Bright, Dwayne Johnson, Wayne Marshfield - DCEC Assistant General Manager & Town of Hamden Supervisor, Joseph Maggiore – Weatherization Director for Delaware Opportunities

Home Heating Tune-Up Kits are being distributed throughout the 4-county area. If you are outside of Delaware County below are other County DSS offices that are participating :

Otsego County Department of Social Services
ATTN: Liz MacNaught
Director of Income Maintenance
Meadows Complex
140 Co Hwy 33W
Cooperstown, NY 13326
ph (607) 547-1750
fax (607) 547-1721

Chenango County Dept of Social Services
Attn: Sandy Cleveland
Emergency Services Coordinator
5 Court Street, County Office Building
Norwich, New York 13815
Phone: 607-337-1535
Fax: 607-334-8768

Schoharie County Dept of Social Services
ATTN: Paul Brady
Commissioner
284 Main Street
Schoharie, NY 12157
Phone: (518) 295-8310
Paul.Brady@dfa.state.ny.us

11th Grade Student Wanted for Legislative Conference



DCEC once again announces an exciting opportunity for 11th-grade students. Annually, DCEC sponsors a “Legislative Youth Delegate”. If selected the student would travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nations political leaders and learn about our Nation’s legislative process. This year the tour will take place from Sunday, May 3, 2009 to Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

The student-delegate representing DCEC will attend with other New York State rural electric cooperative student-delegates. Together, rural co-op representatives from the 850+ co-ops across the U.S. will be in Washington for meetings with our Congressional Representatives and Senators on Capital Hill. The student will also have the opportunity to experience government first-hand by visiting the nation’s capitol. Time will also be reserved for a visit to some of the sites and cultural events 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 year, be a son/daughter or have a guardian that is a DCEC member, have demonstrated strong academic and involvement in extracurricular activities, and have a minimum “B” GPA. Interested students must submit a completed application to the DCEC office in Delhi, NY by March 16, 2009. For more information contact or visit your school guidance counselor, or please contact Tara at the DCEC office @ (607) 746-9281.



KO 2-61-7

We look forward to seeing your applications!

Members Requested to Contribute to “ACRE”

Thanks to all of our members who contributed last year to the “Action Committee for Rural America” or “ACRE”. ACRE is funded by voluntary contributions by employees, directors and membership from cooperatives across the U.S. ACRE is critical in ensuring we maintain a strong voice on Capitol Hill on legislative issues that affect our industry and in ensuring that we have an opportunity to engage in discussions that shape future laws. As a great example, ACRE was a major factor in the cooperatives providing opinion on the recent Climate Change legislative debate in Washington. The cooperatives, through our membership in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), provided our opinion on various versions of Senate and House bills and our commitment to the development of renewable energy projects.



Members can participate in ACRE through a contribution on their monthly bill. A \$25 annual contribution amounts to a \$2.08/month contribution on member’s bill. If you are interested in making a contribution please contact our office for more information.

Please select one of the options below for Delaware County Electric Cooperative:

- Regular ACRE Member: \$2.08 per month added to electric bill (\$25 per year)
- Regular ACRE Member: One time check of \$25 for the year

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account # (if available): _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

You can also authorize by sending an email to office@dce.coop

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.



This Month: Tom Lubbers

Tom Lubbers, the Director representing the town of Davenport, has been involved with DCEC since 1950. "I've grown up on the co-op line, basically," he says. As a youngster, working on Davenport dairy farms, he got to know then-Director Nils Nordberg. "To hear him talk about it, it seemed like that was really exciting," Lubbers said.

Tom remembers a time when the delivery of power was not as reliable as it is today. "When you saw a thunderstorm coming over the hill, it meant the power was going to go out for a while," he said. That was a real problem for farm kids because, "It meant we had to milk the cows by hand."

When Nordberg retired in 1986, Lubbers ran, successfully, to replace him. He says the cooperative was busy at that time, replacing original lines that were installed 40 years earlier. He says clearing of right-of-ways was a big issue then and continues to be so today.

Today, the cooperative has moved into power generation, with the start-up of the Delaware County Landfill and the development of the Western Catskills Hydro Project. "It's really an exciting time, now," he says. "We can take matters into our own hands instead of counting on others. Who the heck would have listened, years ago, if we said we were going to go generate power at the landfill? But, there we are."

Lubbers says his favorite thing about being a DCEC director is, "The company, itself. It's more like a family than a company." He praised the DCEC office staff and line crews, saying, "They really want to help the people. It's not just a job to them."

Meet The Board!



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!**

*Congratulations to our latest winner!
Pamela Slovinsky*

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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