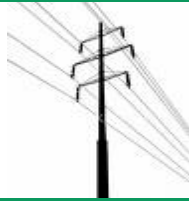




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CATSKILL HI-LINE

Newsletter — October 2025

From the desk of CEO John Gasstrom

Happy autumn, everybody! This fall season we welcome the cooler mornings and evenings, as well as colorful foliage and football. But this means that winter is right around the corner – so we remind everyone to be prepared for winter storms by checking your supplies and testing your generator if you have one. Please see our winter storm preparation checklist in this issue so you can make sure you are ready to weather a potential power outage.

Has a DCEC staff member visited your home or property lately? We have several ongoing projects ensuring we can provide reliable electric service to our membership. These include our drone study, vegetation management and assessments, as well as regular maintenance and upgrades to electric meters. As we finalize our winter preparations, please remember that as a condition of receiving electric service, you have previously given DCEC crews permission to access your property to perform work related to providing you with electricity.

As per DCEC tradition, each year, the co-op coordinates a food drive around the holidays. This year we are hosting a food drive to benefit the Davenport Food Pantry (see attached flyer for details) Please bring your canned or other non-perishable dry goods to the co-op office between November 3 and December 12.

Thank you to all of the members who have already responded to our political call to action! Electric cooperatives were born out of FDR's executive order establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935. To this day, we rely on political action to be able to fulfill our mission of delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electric power to our members. We work with many lawmakers, both state and federal, to try to make sure that new regulations and legislation help support that mission, and not hinder it. By donating to our Political Action Committee (PAC) you enable us to continue supporting the elected officials who in turn support electric cooperatives. Please consider making a donation to the PAC by returning the form found in this issue with your bill. Even \$1 per month, makes a difference.

Cooperatively Yours,
John Gasstrom

Ready Your Home **FOR WINTER**

Prepare your home for winter now to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort. Here's a checklist you can use.



INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM:

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

TEST AND MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY:

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR:

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Learn more at:  **Safe Electricity.org®**

Powering Our Rural Communities

5 North Depot Street
PO Box 471
Delhi, NY 13753

AUTOMATED LINE (payments & outage reporting): **(855) 939-3672**

Office Phone: (607) 746-2341

Fax: (607) 746-7548

Operations Update:

With the fall colors fading fast, it’s time to wrap up summer projects, prepare for winter, and begin the planning for 2026. In 2025, we received a grant from the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority to conduct a drone study of our system, and our meter system upgrade is scheduled to finish in early 2026. The third prong of our operational updates will rely on feedback from our membership, so look out for a system-wide survey coming out this winter as well. It will be aimed at member service issues as well as the technical projects on the near horizon designed to flatten our peaks. Together, these three tools will assist our strategic planning for the next several years.

What is peak flattening? I’m so glad you asked! In the below graphic, you can see a system-wide usage curve for a typical day. You will notice one demand peak in the morning from about 5am-10am, and another in the afternoon from about 5pm to 10pm. The horizontal dotted line through the graphic represents the amount of electricity we are contractually guaranteed from Niagara Falls – purchased at our “Hydro Rate” which is both economical and environmentally friendly!

But when our demand spikes above the dotted line, we must buy power at the Market Rate, which can be **significantly** more expensive. When demand peaks, everyone on the system pays for power at the increased rate. Common peak flattening techniques are Distributed Generation Systems, and they come in several methods, for example: charging batteries at the Hydro Rate and discharging them during peak times, or having members use their generators or solar power during peak times to reduce overall demand. Another

is called load shifting: simply moving demand from peak to off -peak times. You can find a more technical explanation below in the Engineering Update, but in the meantime we are gathering information on which types of Distributed Generation will fit best with our membership.

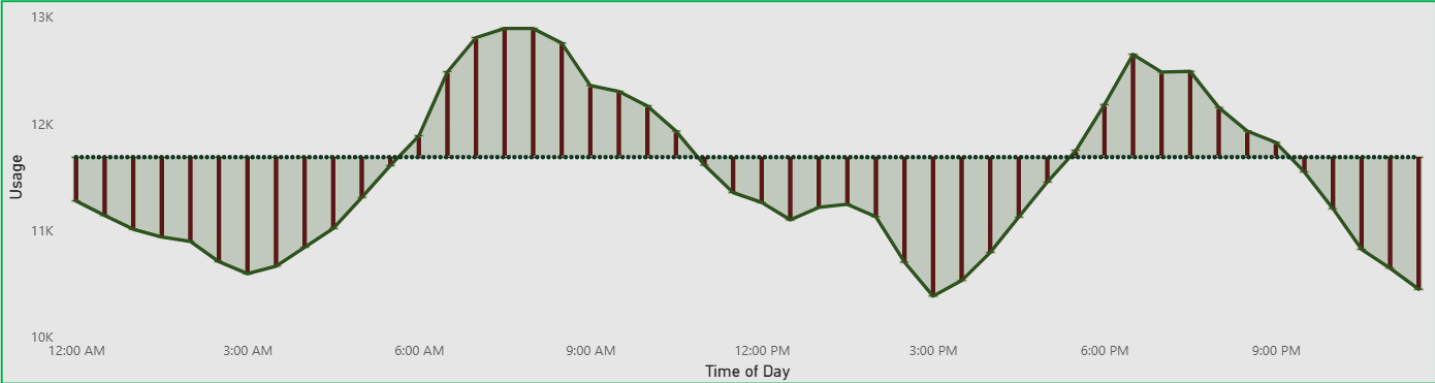
Please be on the lookout for our membership-wide survey that will help us understand the best systems to implement to keep costs low for our membership. In the meantime, if you have, or are interested in, a generator or battery storage system at your service location, feel free to contact Nick or Dakota at DCEC.

Chief Operating Officer

Nicholas J. Frandsen



Graph depicting average daily usage



Message from Engineering:

The DCEC Engineering and Technology team has had the pleasure of working with many of our members on projects geared toward improving quality of service, membership experience, as well as reducing the bills of our membership overall.

We have seen a significant increase in applications for Distributed Generation Systems (Solar/Battery systems, as well as full home generators). It is very important for the safety of our team members that the correct design and technology is in place. This includes Generator Disconnect/Transfer devices as well as manual and lockable disconnect switches. The proposed design of such systems are reviewed by our team and approved on a case-by-case basis. If you are interested in applying for DCEC grid interconnection, you can find the application process and details on our website!

To expound on what John and Nicholas have already said, the DCEC team is an estimated 30% through our overall deployment of our upgraded metering system. This new metering system will provide you with the knowledge and tools to play an active role in monitoring and controlling your own energy consumption.

A large factor in how much we all pay for electricity comes from the highest demand point we experience in a given month so any effort to reduce this helps everyone. In the future, we may pilot optional time-of-use rates to further reward our members that prioritize electricity usage outside of peak hours. The upcoming membership survey will include questions from our Engineering and Technology team geared towards what types of solutions you are interested in implementing and/or cooperating with us on to help flatten our peaks.

Don't wait for us though! Some simple things that you can do to lower your bill directly, and contribute to lowering *everyone's* bill are included below.

1. Weather proofing your home reduces your overall bill, lowers your usage, as well as contributes to the Cooperative's peak-flattening initiative. This can be done by following the infographic of suggestions included in the infographic on Page 1 of the Newsletter.
2. Do you have a generator or battery backup? By discharging your battery system during the peak times, or otherwise finding a way to draw less of your power needs from the grid, you can effectively help DCEC reduce grid demand and contribute to lowering electricity costs for our entire membership.
3. Most modern washers, dryers, and dishwashers come with a delay feature already included. If you are cleaning up after dinner in the evening, and would normally run your dishwasher or start a load of laundry, consider loading your appliance and setting the delay feature to run at or after 10:00 P.M. The same methods can be done for morning peak hours by running your appliances between noon and 3:30 P.M.

We are happy to answer any additional questions that our membership may have and look forward to working with you and for you.

-Dakoda Aiken
Engineer-in-Training



DCEC Office Closures:

Thursday November 6, 2025

Monday November 11, 2025

Thursday November 27, 2025

Friday November 28, 2025

Helpful Tips:

- **Meters** Can't get to your meter? Maybe we can't either! Know where your meter is located, keep it clear and accessible. If you're the first person calling in to report an outage, we may ask you to verify your meter is blank.
- This information allows us to more quickly diagnose the size of the outage and restore power.
- **Phone Numbers** Make sure your contact information is up to date. There are times we need to contact you – confirming your power is restored, billing purposes, and alerts are a few reasons.
- **Security Cameras** If you call to report an outage because your cameras are not working, we will need someone to check that the meter is blank. Cameras can be out due to other factors than power outages. Dispatching a crew for non-power outage will result in charges.



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Make a difference this holiday season!

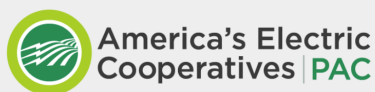
Drop off unexpired, non-perishable goods at DCEC's office
11/3/25 through 12/12/25

5 NORTH DEPOT STREET, DELHI, NY 13753

Especially needed items: Flour, sugar, coffee, pudding, jello, cake mixes, oil (olive, vegetable etc), and mayonnaise.

Also hygiene items such as toothbrushes, tooth pastes, deodorants, and soaps are accepted.

**DONATIONS WILL GO TO:
DAVENPORT FOOD PANTRY**



☐ Bill

Addition

☐ One-Time

Contribution

☐ \$1/Month (\$12/year)

☐ \$2/Month (\$24/year)

☐ \$5/Month (\$60/year)

☐ \$10/Month (\$120/year)

☐ Other: \$ _____

I affirm that my contribution has been made with personal funds:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COOPERATIVE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

*Federal law requires the following information for contributions exceeding \$200:

EMPLOYER: _____

OCCUPATION: _____



Also sign me up for Voices for Cooperative Power

Portable Generators

Many homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Safe Electricity offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators.

Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.

Maintain adequate ventilation. Generators emit carbon monoxide. NEVER operate a generator in your home, garage, or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.

Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring. This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical back feed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment

Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling. Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location.

Protect your appliances. Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.

Use proper extension cords. Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.

Shut down generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.

Remember maintenance between uses. It's important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Safe Electricity suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.

For more tips on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.