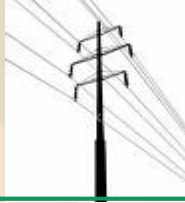




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CATSKILL HI-LINE

Newsletter — June 2026

From the desk of CEO John Gasstrom

Happy summer, Members!

As June bills arrive, I want to highlight a few important cooperative updates that are connected by a common theme: preparing DCEC for the future while continuing to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective service today.

DCEC's Board of Directors and key staff members recently participated in a strategic planning session to help guide the cooperative's priorities over the next several years. That work is still being refined, but the major themes are clear: financial stability, reliability, workforce readiness, better communication with members, and preparing our electric system for the future.

One important part of that future is SmartHub. SmartHub is more than a bill payment tool. For members who have already received an upgraded meter, SmartHub can provide more detailed energy-use information, including interval data that can help show when electricity is being used at your home or business. This can be especially helpful during the summer months when air conditioning, dehumidifiers, pool pumps, well pumps, extra refrigerators, and other equipment may increase usage.

SmartHub will also be the easiest way to participate in this year's cooperative voting process. Later this summer, members will vote on director elections for three Board seats and a proposed bylaw change related to capital credit retirements. The proposed bylaw change is intended to give the Board more flexibility in how capital credits may be retired in the future, while still recognizing members who have been waiting the longest.

Members who vote electronically will receive a \$10 bill credit. Electronic voting through SmartHub will be the preferred and easiest method. Members may also receive a secure voting link by email. If you would like help voting electronically, DCEC staff can assist you at the cooperative office.

To make these tools work well, please make sure DCEC has a valid email address on file for your account. Updated contact information also helps us provide outage updates, account notices, and other important cooperative communications.

We know some members may want help getting started. DCEC will hold two Member Q&A sessions focused on downloading, installing, accessing, and using SmartHub. These sessions will also cover how to view detailed energy-use information and how SmartHub will support electronic voting later this summer. The sessions are *tentatively* planned for Tuesday, June 30 at 12:30 PM and Wednesday, July 8 at 5:00 PM. Please watch our Facebook page and website for details on how to sign up for one of these sessions.

Finally, as our meter upgrade continues, please remember that DCEC employees may need to access cooperative equipment located on your property. We do our best to be respectful and minimize inconvenience, but access to meters and related equipment is necessary for us to provide electric service. If you have questions or concerns, please call the office so we can work with you.

Thank you for your continued patience, participation, and support as we move the cooperative forward together.

Cooperatively Yours,

John Gasstrom

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

A Note About Meter Access:

DCEC continues to replace aging metering equipment throughout our service territory. These upgrades are necessary to maintain reliable service, improve outage information, and provide members with better energy-use data through SmartHub.

Because electric meters and related equipment are part of DCEC’s electric system, Cooperative employees may need to access equipment located on a member’s property. We understand that unexpected visits can be frustrating, and we do our best to be respectful and minimize inconvenience whenever possible.

All active services must be connected through cooperative-approved metering equipment so DCEC can continue providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective electric service. If you have a concern about access to your meter or the meter exchange process, please contact the DCEC office at 607-746-2341.

Summer Safety & Co-op Word Search:

We have heard from members who enjoy some of the lighter features in the newsletter, so this month we are including a summer safety and cooperative word search.

As you find the words, take a moment to think about the safety reminders and member tools that go with them. Stay away from downed wires, use generators safely, keep equipment away from overhead lines, and call 811 before digging. Also, remember that SmartHub can help you view energy use and will be the easiest way to vote electronically later this summer.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

with *Safety Sadie*



When playing outside, look up for power lines. **Never** climb a tree near a power line.

Learn more... SafeElectricity.org



L	Q	M	Q	Q	B	V	I	R	T	U	A	L	S	C	V	Z	G
Z	Q	Y	T	A	C	X	N	Y	G	J	R	T	N	P	Z	M	E
T	S	H	Z	N	A	V	A	X	F	J	Q	S	I	C	K	C	N
P	I	J	Y	N	Y	N	M	Z	M	B	F	U	E	A	H	J	E
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X	C	A	Z	E	Y	O	N	L	S	V	S	N	A	P	K	X	I

- WORDS TO FIND**
- ANNUAL MEETING
 - BALLOT
 - CALL 811
 - CAPITAL CREDITS
 - COOPERATIVE
 - ENERGY
 - GENERATOR
 - LADDER
 - MEMBER
 - METER
 - OUTAGE
 - POLE
 - RIGHT OF WAY
 - SAFETY
 - SMARTHUB
 - STORM
 - TREE
 - VIRTUAL
 - VOTE
 - WIRE



STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED WIRES.

USE GENERATORS SAFELY.

KEEP EQUIPMENT AWAY FROM OVERHEAD LINES.

CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING.

SMART HUB VIEW ENERGY. VOTE EASILY.

Want to Go 100% Green with Your Electricity Use?

In 2025, Delaware County Electric Cooperative members used more than 90 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. About 85% of that power came from our hydroelectric allocation from Niagara Falls — a renewable energy source.

The remaining 15% was purchased through the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) energy market, where electricity may come from a mix of sources, including fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and renewables.

If you would like to ensure that 100% of the electricity used at your home or business is matched with renewable energy, we invite you to join our GO 100% GREEN program.

Through this voluntary program, DCEC purchases Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on your behalf to offset the portion of your electricity that is not already supplied by hydropower. Since approximately 15% of our power supply comes from the open market, RECs are purchased to match that portion of your monthly energy use.

Beginning this year, the cost of the program will be \$0.02396 (about 2.4 cents) per kilowatt-hour, applied only to 15% of your monthly electric use. Members already enrolled in Go 100% Green will see the updated program rate reflected on this month's bill.

Interested in enrolling in the GO 100% GREEN program? Contact our office at 607-746-2341 or email office@dce.coop to sign up or learn more.



DCEC
Delaware County
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connection®

POWERED BY WATER. DELIVERED TO YOU.

CLEAN. RENEWABLE. RELIABLE.

Hydropower is a clean, renewable energy source that provides reliable electricity to power our homes, businesses and communities.

GO 100% GREEN

MATCH YOUR USE. SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY.

In 2025, DCEC members used more than 90 million kilowatt-hours of electricity.

- ✓ About 85% comes from our hydroelectric allocation from Niagara Falls.
- ✓ The remaining 15% is purchased through the NYISO energy market, where power may come from a mix of sources, including fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and renewables.
- ✓ Through our GO 100% GREEN program, we purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to offset that 15% — so 100% of your electricity use is matched with renewable energy.

HYDROPOWER: HOW IT WORKS

1 WATER IN MOTION

Water stored behind a dam is released and flows through a penstock (large pipe) toward the turbine.



2 TURBINE GENERATES ELECTRICITY

The moving water spins a turbine, which turns a generator to create electricity.



3 POWER DELIVERED TO YOU

Electricity travels through power lines to substations, then to homes, farms and businesses.



THE JOURNEY OF HYDROPOWER TO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS





NIAGARA FALLS HYDRO ALLOCATION

About 85% of your electricity comes from clean, renewable hydropower.



TRANSMISSION LINES

High-voltage power lines carry electricity over long distances.



LOCAL SUBSTATION

Voltage is lowered at substations for safe, local distribution.



DISTRIBUTION LINES

Power lines deliver electricity through Delaware County.



YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

Reliable, affordable electricity for the things that matter most.

HOW IT WORKS

You use electricity.



DCEC purchases RECs to match the 15% not already from hydropower.



You enjoy 100% green electricity!



\$

COST: \$0.02396 (about 2.4 cents) per kilowatt-hour, applied only to 15% of your monthly electric use.



Clean energy. Local commitment.

Together, we can build a stronger, more sustainable future for Delaware County.

READY TO GO 100% GREEN?

📞 607-746-2341 ✉ office@dce.coop

Contact our office to sign up or learn more!



2026 Annual Meeting: Official Candidates & Voting Details

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter “Cooperative”) will hold its Annual Meeting on **August 25, 2026** 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 virtually at 5:00 p.m. Voting will occur electronically this year.

During this year’s meeting, members will elect **directors for three board seats**. This year, voting will occur primarily electronically. All members with an email address on file for their account will receive an emailed, secure personal link to vote in this year’s Director Election. Voting will also be available through each member’s SmartHub account. Voting via a paper ballot is only available for members upon request. We encourage voting electronically, as paper ballots come at an extensive cost to the Cooperative. All votes are due by August 19th and the ballot results will be announced at the annual meeting. Each membership shall be entitled to cast only one ballot; for example, a joint membership has one vote. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting. Eligible voters can vote for three (3) candidates. Members may vote for candidates of any of Region, even if they do not reside in that Region. For example, if you live in Walton you are considered to be in the Southern Region, you may vote for a candidate in the Central Region.

2026 Candidate for Central Region

David Krzyston has lived in the Delhi area for 46 years. Mr. Krzyston has taught in the electrical program at SUNY Delhi since 1990 where he currently holds the rank of professor and works closely with faculty in the Utility Operations program. Mr. Krzyston enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as volunteering in the community. He is a board member of The Compassionate Friends in Oneonta, and faculty advisor for the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) student club at SUNY Delhi. “I hope to use my experience and knowledge to help DCEC continue to meet operational and sustainability goals, while maintaining their reputation for fiscal responsibility. In my experience, DCEC provides unparalleled service and support to both members and contractors, I would be honored to assist in continuing that tradition.” Dave and his wife Jodi have three children and have been DCEC members for over 30 years.

CENTRAL



2026 Candidate for Northern Region

Joseph Hornbeck has lived in the Jefferson area for 25 years and is a proud member of DCEC since March of 2001 after purchasing a home with his wife Debra. Joe and Deb have three grown children and 4 Grandchildren and one more to add to the family in August. Joe retired in 2021 from the Village of Stamford as Public Works Superintendent after almost 29 yrs.

Joe was in charge of all aspects of the Village daily operations and oversaw some large projects such as the Water Main and Sewer Repair Projects. Joe was responsible for purchasing items and operating within a budget.

Joe enjoys camping and spending time with his wife, grandchildren, family and his two dogs. Joe has been a Volunteer Fireman in the Stamford Fire Dept for 36 active years. He has been the Second Assistant Chief for the last nine years. He has held the position of Chief and many other offices in the past years.

Joe's past experience as DPW Superintendent and Assistant Chief of the Fire Dept. will help him to make wise budget decisions within the Co-Op. Serving as an appointed Director for the last 8 months has given Joe the opportunity to see how the Co-Op operates. This will help him to better serve as a director.

Northern



2026 Candidate for Southern Region

Patrick O'Brien has been a proud member of DCEC since June 2020 and has served on the Board of Directors since August 2023. Patrick and his wife, Morgan, are lifelong residents of Delaware County and currently live in Trout Creek with their four children. He currently works as a Regional Engineer for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and has spent his career in engineering, project management, operations, and public service.

Patrick is committed to DCEC's primary mission of providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective electric power supply to its members. He believes in responsible stewardship of the cooperative's resources and thoughtful planning to ensure DCEC remains strong for future generations. Patrick is honored to serve the membership and, if reelected, will continue to focus on safety, reliability, affordability, and sound decision-making on behalf of the cooperative.

Southern



Voting in SmartHub is Easy!

Did you know you that this year you will be able to vote in the Cooperative election right through SmartHub?

When voting opens, simply log into SmartHub and look for the "Vote Now" button on your dashboard. From there, you can securely access your ballot, review candidate information, make your selections, and submit your vote in just a few minutes.

How to Vote:

1. Log into SmartHub
2. Click "Vote Now"
3. Review candidates and make selections
4. Submit your ballot

It's secure, simple, and a great way to make your voice heard at your cooperative.

Questions? Contact our office — we're happy to help!



Request a paper ballot by completing the official form below and submit to DCEC by **August 3, 2026**. As a reminder, electronic voting is available this year, as paper ballots come at a significant cost to the Cooperative.

Once the Cooperative receives your form, we will provide you with an official ballot. Properly completed paper ballots will be counted as long as they are received by **August 19, 2026** (four business days prior to the Annual Meeting). Once DCEC has received a member's ballot, it cannot be revoked. A member voting by paper ballot may still attend the Annual Meeting.

Members can return the below form:

Email to: office@dce.coop

By mail:

DCEC
 Attn: Paper Ballot Request
 P.O. Box 471
 Delhi, NY 13753



I HEREBY REQUEST A PAPER BALLOT FOR THE AUGUST 25, 2026 ANNUAL MEETING.

Member's Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Member's Address (where you'd like the ballot sent to): _____

By signing this ballot application, I certify that I am the member whose name appears herein, and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

Member's Signature _____

If you have any questions with respect to this form or the Annual Meeting, please contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341 or (866) 436-1223, or at Delaware County Electric Co-op, P.O. Box 471, 5 North Depot Street, Delhi, NY 13753.



KEEP PETS SAFE IN THE *Summer Heat*

Protect your furry friend when temperatures rise:

-  Provide access to fresh, cool water at all times.
-  Ensure there are shaded spots outdoors.
-  Keep paws away from hot pavement.
-  Limit activity and exercising on hot, humid days.
-  Never leave pets in cars, where temperatures can rise fast.
-  Supervise pets around water or a pool.
-  Watch for signs of overheating: panting, labored breathing, red or pale gums, disorientation or collapse. Get immediate veterinary help if needed.

For more pet safety tips, visit:



SAFETY TIPS *for the pool*

- Ensure pool lighting meets current electrical codes.
- Install GFCIs in all electrical outlets within 20 feet of the pool.
- Never touch electrical appliances when wet or standing in water.



DEC Recipe Corner:

Taco Stuffed Peppers

Ingredients

- 4 large bell peppers
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound 95%-lean ground beef
- 1 (15-ounce) can no-salt-added black beans, rinsed
- 1 cup mild salsa, divided
- 1½ cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese, divided

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Slice 4 peppers in half lengthwise; remove and discard seeds and ribs. Place the pepper halves, cut-sides up, on the baking sheet.
3. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1 pound ground beef; cook, stirring often to crumble, until browned, about 5 minutes. Add rinsed beans and ½ cup salsa; stir to combine. Remove from heat and stir in 1 cup shredded cheese.
4. Fill each pepper half with the ground beef mixture, about a generous ½ cup each. Bake until the peppers are tender and beginning to brown, about 20 minutes. Top the peppers with the remaining ½ cup cheese. Bake until the cheese is melted, about 5 minutes. Serve with the remaining ½ cup salsa on the side.



SAFE BOATING WEEK

Beware of the dangers of electric shock drowning.



DCEC is Committed to Helping Members During Financial Hardships

DCEC encourages members currently struggling to meet their monthly payment obligation to contact the local agencies listed below for payment assistance.

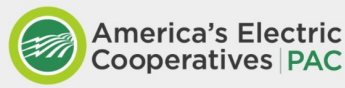
1. Contact DCEC's Billing Department to set up payment arrangements: 1-607-746-2341
2. Contact your local County Social Service program:
 - a. Delaware County 1-607-832-5300
 - b. Schoharie County: 1-518-295-8334
 - c. Otsego County: 1-607-547-4200
 - d. Delaware Opportunities provides assistance through certain agencies and can be reached at 1-607-746-1600
 - e. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Hotline: 1-800-342-3009

DCEC can provide supporting documentation regarding your account to these agencies that can assist in expediting your application.

Contributions to the NRECA America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nationals who lack permanent resident status. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.

DCEC Office Closures:

- Friday, July 3, 2026 - Independence Day**
- Monday, September 7, 2026 - Labor Day**
- Wednesday, November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day**
- November 26–27, 2026 - Thanksgiving**
- December 24–25, 2026 - Christmas**
- Thursday, December 31, 2026 - New Year's Eve**



<input type="radio"/> Bill Addition *	<input type="radio"/> \$1/Month (\$12/year)
<input type="radio"/> One-Time Contribution	<input type="radio"/> \$2/Month (\$24/year)
<input type="radio"/> \$ _____	<input type="radio"/> \$5/Month (\$60/year)
	<input type="radio"/> \$10/Month (\$120/year)

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

*Monthly contributions will continue until you notify us to discontinue



Beat the heat when working outdoors. Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you're not thirsty, to help prevent heat exhaustion.