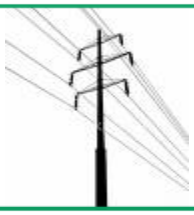
DCEC
Delaware County Electric Cooperative
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Catskill Hi-Line

Newsletter — November 2026

From the desk of CEO John Gasstrom

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to take a moment to say how grateful I am for the Members we serve, the employees who keep this Cooperative running every day, and the communities that make this such a special place to live and work.

November also means shorter days and the beginning of another Catskills winter. For DCEC, that brings some of our highest electric loads of the year.

Last month, I mentioned that when electricity is used is becoming almost as important as how much electricity is used. Over the coming months, you will hear more about that as we work through our 2027 budget and prepare for the next phase of our rate design.

There is a good reason for that.

DCEC has a valuable allocation of low-cost hydroelectric power from the New York Power Authority. When our system load remains relatively even, we make better use of that resource. The challenge comes when a large amount of electricity is being used across the system at the same time.

A very high monthly peak can affect much more than the cost of electricity during that one hour. Under the structure of our wholesale power supply, it can also affect how much of our electricity for the month benefits from our low-cost hydro allocation.

That is why flattening our load curve matters.

During the winter, DCEC's highest demand usually comes in the morning, often around 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. That is when heating systems, water heaters, lights, appliances, and businesses are all contributing to the load at once. We are not asking anyone to sacrifice comfort, but many of us have some electric use that can easily be moved to another time of day.

If it makes no difference whether the dishwasher runs at 8:00 in the morning or later in the day, waiting until after 10:30 a.m. and before about 3:00 p.m. helps. The same is true for laundry, charging an electric vehicle or battery, and other flexible uses.

Moving that usage to the overnight hours — after about 10:00 p.m. and before 5:00 a.m. — helps the membership even more.

The goal is not simply to move a morning peak into another busy period. In the summer, our highest loads tend to occur later in the day. What helps most is spreading flexible electric use into quieter periods rather than shifting it from one peak to another.

We are also learning much more about these patterns than we could in the past. As our Advanced Metering Infrastructure, or AMI, system continues to mature, it is giving us better information about not only how much electricity is being used, but when it is being used.

We are also looking at ways to better predict high-demand periods by combining historical load patterns with weather information and, over time, using distributed energy resources such as batteries, member-owned generation, smart thermostats, managed electric-vehicle charging, and other flexible resources to help reduce those peaks.

Better forecasting and technology can help us manage the system more intelligently, but Member choices matter too.

Over time, this will also influence how we design our retail rates. Today, most Members pay essentially the same energy rate regardless of what time of day they use electricity. In the future, I expect our rates to better reflect the fact that the cost of providing electricity is not the same at every hour of the day.

We are not going to make that change overnight. We need time to gather enough interval data to understand how different groups of Members use electricity, and we want Members to become more familiar with the information already available through SmartHub. As that data becomes more useful and Members become more comfortable seeing when they use electricity, we will be in a much better position to design rates that are both understandable and fair.

At the same time, purchased-power costs continue to put pressure on DCEC's budget. As I mentioned last month, we are evaluating an interim rate increase beginning in April 2027 to address our more immediate financial needs while we continue developing a more thoughtful long-term rate structure.

The April adjustment would be about recovering the cost of providing reliable service today. The longer-term rate redesign is about better reflecting when costs are actually being created and giving Members more opportunity to make choices that can help control both their own costs and the Cooperative's costs.

You will hear more from me about this over the coming months. My goal is to explain, step by step, what is driving our costs, what the data is telling us, and how we can design rates that are fair to Members while encouraging smarter use of the electric system.

As we head into winter, DCEC will continue preparing for storms and cold weather. I encourage you to do the same at home — weatherize where you can, prepare for possible outages, and make sure your family has what it needs.

And when you have some flexibility, remember that when you use electricity matters — and small choices can help the membership as a whole.

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

DCEC'S ANNUAL

Holiday Supply Drive

NOV. 5TH - DEC. 11TH

5 North Depot Street, Delhi, NY 13753

Especially Needed Items :

Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing, Barbecue Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam, Syrup, Salsa, Pasta Sauce, Cooking Oil, Salt & Pepper, Basic Spices & Seasonings, Cake Mixes, Cookie Mixes, Frosting.

Donations will go to : Colchester Food Pantry





KNOW WHAT TO DO

if in an Auto Accident with Power Lines



*If the car you are in hits a utility pole, **your vehicle and the surrounding area can become energized.***

Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.

1. Do NOT leave the car, and warn others to stay away.

2. Call 911 to have the utility notified.

3. Wait until a utility professional has told you it is safe.



The **only** reason to exit the vehicle is **if it's on fire.**

If the car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle: with feet together, and without touching the car and the ground at the same time.

Continue to **hop away** with your **feet together** as far as you can.



Learn more at

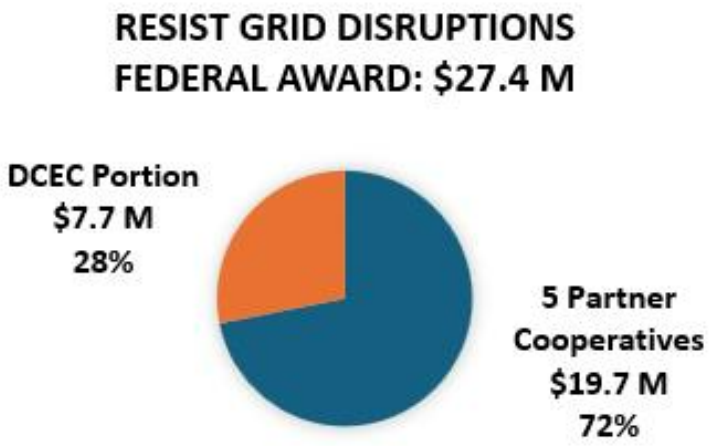
Safe Electricity.org

RESIST Grid Disruptions: A $27.4 Million Federal Investment in Rural Electric Reliability

Delaware County Electric Cooperative is proud to officially announce its role as the prime recipient of a $27.4 million federal award through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program, Round Two. This significant investment brings together six rural electric cooperatives in a collaborative effort to strengthen electric grid resilience, improve reliability, and better protect the communities we serve.

Of the total $27.4 million federal award, approximately $7.7 million will directly support projects at DCEC, with the remaining funding supporting five additional cooperative partners:

Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative (NY)
Otsego Electric Cooperative (NY)
Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative (NY)
Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative (PA)
Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative (NJ)



As the prime recipient, DCEC will lead and coordinate this six-cooperative initiative over a five-year project period, working alongside its partners to implement projects that address shared challenges facing rural electric systems.

The initiative, titled “Resilience to Intense Storm and Invasive Species-Triggered Grid Disruptions” (RESIST Grid Disruptions), focuses on enhancing electric grid resilience against severe weather disruptions and the growing threat of tree damage associated with invasive species. Through strategic infrastructure improvements, advanced monitoring technologies, and predictive analysis, the project aims to establish a stronger, smarter, and more adaptable electric grid capable of providing stable and reliable power to the communities served.

The RESIST Grid Disruptions initiative encompasses three primary areas of investment:

1. Strategic Grid Hardening
Investments will strengthen existing electric infrastructure through power line upgrades, pole replacements, substation tie improvements, and the installation or conversion of equipment to modern, remotely monitored and controlled devices. These improvements will help reduce vulnerabilities and improve the system's ability to respond to outages and disruptions.

2. Advanced Technology and Smart Grid Improvements
The project will advance the use of smart grid technologies, including real-time monitoring, automated switching, fault location and service restoration systems, and predictive analysis software. These tools will help cooperatives identify potential issues, assess system vulnerabilities, respond more efficiently to outages, and improve overall grid management.

3. Advanced Storm and Invasive Species Resilience

Recognizing the increasing challenges associated with severe weather and invasive species, the project will explore and implement advanced technologies to improve vegetation management and infrastructure inspections. The use of drones, remote sensing, high-resolution imaging, and specialized software will help identify potential risks, particularly in areas vulnerable to invasive species and tree-related damage.

DCEC CEO John Gasstrom noted, “One of the biggest opportunities in this project is improving the information we have about our system. Better data, better monitoring, and better planning tools will help us identify risks earlier, focus our resources where they can do the most good, and make smarter operating decisions.”

This award represents more than a substantial financial investment. It demonstrates the strength of the cooperative business model and the value of Cooperation Among Cooperatives—one of the seven cooperative principles that guides our work. By coming together across six rural electric cooperatives, we are demonstrating how collaboration allows us to address shared challenges, leverage resources, and accomplish more collectively than we could individually.

As the prime recipient, DCEC is honored to lead this important five-year initiative and help bring significant federal resources to rural communities. Through this partnership, we are advancing innovative solutions that will strengthen our electric systems, improve reliability, and benefit cooperative members for years to come.

DCEC Board President, Jeff Russell, commented, “This funding is a tremendous opportunity for our cooperative and, most importantly, for our members. It will help us make significant improvements to our electric system, strengthen reliability, and better prepare the cooperative to meet the challenges of serving our rural communities. By offsetting the cost of these improvements, the funding will help minimize the financial burden on our members.

I also want to recognize and thank all our employees for their hard work, dedication, and commitment they show every day in serving our members. Opportunities like this do not happen without a lot of effort behind the scenes, and their work has been a big part of making this possible. I’m also grateful for the five other cooperatives that partnered with us on this grant. By working together, sharing resources, and bringing our efforts together we have been able to accomplish something that would have been extremely difficult for any one cooperative to do on its own. It is a great example of what the cooperative spirit is all about.”

We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside our five cooperative partners and proud of what this collaboration represents. Together, we are putting the cooperative principles into action and building a stronger, smarter, and more resilient electric grid for the communities we serve.

Cooperatively yours,

Janelle Linehan, Project Manager

EASY Pumpkin Spice Cake

Good Food Brings People Together

Thankful for sweet moments

A SIMPLE RECIPE FOR SWEETER GATHERINGS

Pumpkin Spice Everything

A simple 3-ingredient boxed mix cake that is moist, flavorful, and ideal for Thanksgiving.

Prep Time 10 minutes | Cook Time 28–30 minutes | Servings 16

Holiday Favorites Taste Better Together

Ingredients

- 1 box spice cake mix
- 1 can (15 oz) pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 3 large eggs

Optional Cream Cheese Frosting

- 8 oz softened cream cheese
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream (or whipped topping)

Instructions

1. **Prep** — Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking pan with non-stick spray.
2. **Mix** — In a large bowl, whisk together the spice cake mix, pumpkin puree, and 3 eggs until smooth.
3. **Bake** — Pour the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top evenly. Bake for 28 to 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
4. **Cool & Frost** — Let the cake cool completely. If making the frosting, beat the softened cream cheese until smooth, add powdered sugar and vanilla, then fold in separately whipped heavy cream before spreading over the cooled cake.

A little pumpkin spice makes everything nicer

Thanksgiving is Sweeter with Cake



STAY SAFE OUT ON THE HUNT

Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.

- Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.
- Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.
- Always implement firearm safety techniques.
- Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.
- Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Check the weather in advance and be prepared.
- Check tree stands regularly for stability.
- Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Learn more at: Safe Electricity.org

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:

- Delaware County Department of Social Services: 607-832-5300
- Schoharie County Department of Social Services: 518-295-8334
- Otsego County Department of Social Services: 607-547-1700
- Delaware Opportunities: 607-746-1600
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Hotline: 800-342-3009
- Catholic Charities : (607) 604-4071

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



On Veterans Day and every day we are proud to honor our veterans — thank you for your patriotism, service and sacrifice.

DCEC Office Closures:

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day

November 26–27, 2026 - Thanksgiving

December 24–25, 2026 - Christmas

Thursday, December 31, 2026 - New Year's Eve

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family

America's Electric Cooperatives | PAC

- ○ Bill Addition *
- ○ One-Time Contribution

$ _____

- ○ $1/Month ($12/year)
- ○ $2/Month ($24/year)
- ○ $5/Month ($60/year)
- ○ $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

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.