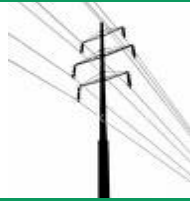




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bill Insert — November 2024

From the desk of CEO John Gastrom

The weather is turning colder, and I'm afraid our mild autumn is in the rearview mirror. As we get ready for another season of winter weather, I would like to remind everybody to be prepared for storms, and the possibility of a power outage. Please see our **home winter preparation checklist** and our **generator safety information** elsewhere in this newsletter for helpful tips.

Many of you may have heard that DCEC was recently notified that our grant proposal has been selected by the Department of Energy to move to the negotiation phase. While this does not mean that we are assured of receiving federal funding yet, it is a very good sign! We are now working with our five cooperative partners to define all of the work to be done over the five-year performance period of this grant and ensure that we are all targeting work that will benefit all of our members in improving reliability and resiliency.

This grant, which could mean federal funds of up to \$27 million dollars delivered to DCEC and five other rural electric cooperatives, helps us combat the impact of intense storms and invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer, which you've heard so much about lately. We are very excited about this project and all of the benefits it is expected to bring to our service territory!

We are also excited to begin our metering system upgrade soon and remind you again that over the next two years or so, DCEC personnel will be visiting your home or business to upgrade your current smart meter to the newer version. These new meters require additional equipment to report their energy data back to the office, so you may start to see new hardware on some DCEC poles in your area. (See picture, right). The new meters will help you be better able to control your energy use and are a part of our five-year rate roadmap we unveiled back in March. Also, as a part of that transition, we are making updates to a number of our other programs.

Our current Energy Efficiency rebates will be sunsetting as of December 31, 2024. Any qualifying purchases must be dated on or before this date, and rebate submissions must be received in our office no later than January 31, 2025 to be eligible for the current rebates. Additionally, our water heater demand response program will be changing next year, and all members will have an opportunity to re-apply for the new program once it is announced.



The current water heater program, which credits your monthly bill with \$4.00 in exchange for allowing us to curtail its use, will end as of April 2025, with a new program expected to launch later next year.

Thank you for bearing with us as our programs evolve and change to fit our changing energy environment. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving and hope that you will consider making a donation to our Annual Food Drive. The past two years, DCEC's food drive has supported the Stamford Sacred Heart Food Pantry and the Walton Food Pantry. This year, DCEC's food (and hygiene) drive will be support Masonville Connect's "Blessing Box" program (there are more details on the back). Please consider bringing your non-perishable food or toiletry items to the cooperative office by Monday, December 16th to be a part of this year's drive!

Cooperatively Yours,
John Gastrom



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



ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

DONATIONS WILL GO TO: MASONVILLE CONNECTS

DROP OFF TO: 5 NORTH DEPOT STREET, DELHI, NY 13753

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 4PM

MASONVILLE CONNECTS is collecting non-perishable food items and hygiene items to support their "Blessing Box" program. They are looking to gather items not provided by the food bank. Suggested items include:

Dry goods:

- Coffee
- Bread crumbs
- Instant potatoes cups
- Rice cups
- Mac 'n' Cheese cups
- Oatmeal
- Flour
- Sugar
- Yeast
- Drink packets
- Juice
- Spices other than salt

Hygiene products:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Body lotion
- Q-tips
- Feminine hygiene items:
(pads, tampons, panty liners)
- Toilet paper
- Wipes

Drop off unexpired, non-perishable goods at DCEC's office now through 12/16/24



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: 

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.

DCEC Office Closures:

Thursday, November 28, 2024 – Thanksgiving
Friday, November 29, 2024 – Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Christmas

DCEC's UPDATED NUMBERS:

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

LIVE Representative 24/7/365:
(607) 746-2341



USING A GENERATOR?

8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE



1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES

Always use it in a well-ventilated area.



2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS

Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.



3 IN A GARAGE

Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.



4 IN THE ELEMENTS

Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).



5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET

This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors or utility workers.



6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD

Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.



7 WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS

CO detectors should be on every level of your home (test them monthly).



8 IN DISREPAIR

Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.



Safe Electricity.org