

Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Makes Capital Credit Distribution

About 2,400 DCEC members who received electric service from the Cooperative in 1989 received a capital credit retirement in December. DCEC operates on a non-profit basis. When the Cooperative has a positive financial margin at the end of the year, it is allocated to members and paid back when financial conditions permit.

One of the goals of the DCEC Board of Directors is to retire capital credits annually to the members. The retirement amounted to \$466,000 which was the remaining balance of the 1989 credits. Members from 1989 who are still active with DCEC received the retirement as a credit on their December electric bills while check payments were issued to members that are no longer receiving electric service from DCEC.



Tips On Preparing For An Outage

1. Have fresh batteries for a flashlight, radio, and alarm clock.
2. Have a manual can opener, drinking water, and dry food available.
3. Keep a non-electrical corded phone or cell phone available with emergency numbers. If you are experiencing a medical emergency please call 911.
4. Protect your appliances, computers and other sensitive equipment with a surge protector.
5. If you have a generator, make sure that it is properly connected to isolate the generator from the possibility of feeding back into DCEC's electric lines. If you have any questions, please contact DCEC's office for consultation. Also, have enough gas on hand to run the generator for at least a few days.
6. Know how to use the manual override on your electric garage door opener.

Continued on Page 5...



Are You Interested in Director Nominations or Serving on the Nominating Committee?
See pages 4 & 5 for Details

DCEC's Annual Meeting of Members
September 23, 2016



Rate Structure Revisions Proposed to Take Effect April 2016

Your board of directors is proposing rate structure revisions for all rate classifications that would take effect on your April 2016 bills, if the rate revisions are approved. Please refer to the time table below for an anticipated timeline.

Rate Revision Time Table	
Cost of Service Study Completed	November of 2015
Proposed Rate Revisions Announced to Membership	January of 2016
Member Information Meeting Held	Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7 pm
Board of Directors Finalizes Rate Revisions at their Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Rate Revisions are Seen on Member Bills	April of 2016

Although the Cooperative has not completed a cost of service study since 2011, the Cooperative has been utilizing a Formulary Rate Adjustment to make small adjustments to rates every six months in order to keep revenues in line with costs. Therefore, the rate structure revisions being proposed for April of 2016 are revenue neutral. The proposed revisions to the Cooperative's rate structures do not change the total revenue that the Cooperative will receive from members, but they do change the amounts members will pay on each line of their bill. The average Formulary Rate Adjustment (FRA) and the average Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) lines during the first year after the rate revisions should be zero. In some months the PCA could be a charge and in other months the PCA could be a credit, but it should average zero for the year.

Continued on Page 2...

Hey 11th Graders!
Interested In Becoming a Legislative Youth Delegate?
...See page 5 for Details



Rate Structure Revisions Proposed to Take Effect April 2016

...Continued from Page 1

The examples below show the bills of an average Residential SC-1 consumer before and after the proposed rate revisions:

Residential SC-1 Before Rate Change		Residential SC-1 After Rate Change	
Current Bill Information		\$ Amount	
Service Charge	17.50	Service Charge	20.00
Energy Charge 1000 KWH @ .10160	101.60	Energy Charge 1000 KWH @ .10895	108.95
Power Cost Adj 1000 KWH @ .00806	8.06	Power Cost Adj 1000 KWH @ .00000	0.00
Load Mgmt Credit	-4.00	Load Mgmt Credit	-4.00
Formulary Rate Adj 1000 KWH @ .00089	0.89	Formulary Rate Adj 1000 KWH @ .00000	0.00
Current Charges Due	124.05	Current Charges Due	124.95
Past Due Balance	0.00	Past Due Balance	0.00
Total Amount Due	124.05	Total Amount Due	124.95

In the example above, this Residential SC-1 member paid very close to the same amount for the total bill, but costs were shifted from variable Power Cost Adjustment and Formulary Rate Adjustment charges to the basic energy charge and the fixed monthly service charge. This rate revision “zeros out” the Power Cost Adjustment and Formulary Rate Adjustment lines.

This is one goal of the rate structure revision. Another goal of the rate structure revision is to have each rate classification pay as close as possible to the amount that it costs to serve them. Therefore, some rate classifications will pay slightly more (up to ~3.5% more) after the rate structure revision and some rate classifications will pay slightly less (up to ~5%).

Member Information Meeting	
Topic	Proposed Rate Revisions
Date	Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Time	7 pm
Location	Delaware County Public Safety Building 280 Phoebe Lane, Delhi



DCEC Announces Membership Information Meeting for Proposed Rate Revisions

The DCEC board of directors invites all interested members to attend a Member Information Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7 pm at the Public Safety Building on Phoebe Lane in Delhi, NY to discuss the proposed April 2016 rate structure revisions. Please attend the Member Information Meeting, ask questions, and provide input.

Continued on Page 3... ➔

What You Should Know About Downed Power Lines

Always remember to stay clear of fallen utility wires. If you do come in contact with a downed utility wire of any kind, always do the following:

1. Assume it's energized and stay as far away as you can. Energized lines can charge the ground near the point of contact and may electrocute you. If a person or pet comes into contact with a downed power line, remain clear. Do not touch them or the wire.
2. Call 911 or the utility serving the location. Leave everything to utility professionals and emergency personnel.
3. Do not drive over downed power lines. Even if they're not energized, downed wires can get entangled with your vehicle and cause further damage.

4. Stay in your car. If a power line falls on your vehicle while you're driving, do not exit until you know for sure that the line is de-energized.
5. If you must evacuate, jump away and land with both feet together. Do not touch the vehicle while stepping on the ground, as this can create a path for electricity to run through you.
6. Shuffle away to safety. Keep your feet together and take small, shuffling steps until you're at least 35 feet away. Taking larger steps can also create a path for electricity to run through you.
7. Phone and television wires can be just as dangerous as electric wires. Treat all downed wires as shock hazards.

Rate Structure Revisions...Continued from Page 2

Shifting Member Costs from Variable to Fixed

The Cooperative is shifting member costs slowly from variable energy-based charges to fixed monthly service charges. There are a number of reasons for this shift:

1. The Cooperative does not cover enough of its fixed costs through fixed revenues. Therefore, the Cooperative experiences large revenue swings due to unpredictable winter weather patterns. Unseasonably warm winter weather leads to a revenue shortfall while extraordinarily cold winter temperatures lead to higher than expected revenues.
2. Energy conservation measures, which should be supported, promoted, and celebrated by the Cooperative, make it difficult for the Cooperative to recover the cost to serve its members.

* Monthly fixed charges are proposed to increase by 50 cents in 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020.

Service Class	Proposed Monthly Fixed Charge	Proposed Monthly Demand Charge	Proposed Monthly Energy Charge
Residential SC-1	\$20 / month*	\$0 / kW	\$0.10895 / kWh
Residential SC-2	\$25 / month*	\$0 / kW	\$0.12500 / kWh
Small Commercial Single Phase SC-3	\$20 / month*	\$0 / kW	\$0.11273 / kWh
Summer Peaking Commercial SC-4B	\$20 / month	\$2.25 / kVA	\$0.08586 / kWh
Large Commercial SC-4A	\$40 / month	\$7 / kW	\$0.07500 / kWh
Public Authorities SC-5	\$19 / month*	\$0 / kW	\$0.10326 / kWh
Industrial SC-7	\$500 / month	\$6.00 / kW	\$0.05225 / kWh

There are fixed costs to make electrical service available to members, regardless of how much energy an individual consumes. By shifting member costs from variable to fixed, the Cooperative can recover more of its fixed costs AND work together with members to reduce energy consumption.

Spotlight on Sportsfield

Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. is a large commercial member of your Cooperative. Since 1998, Sportsfield has been the innovative industry leader in the manufacture and sale of sports construction equipment for the high school, college and professional levels of competition in the Eastern US. They now have a growing market share in the Western, Southern, and Mountain regions of the US also. You have probably seen some of Sportsfield's products on television if you have seen an NFL goal post or the protective netting and padding surrounding a professional baseball field.

Sportsfield is not only a valued member of the Cooperative, but a valued employer in Delaware County. They recently invested \$8 million to expand their

manufacturing facility outside of Delhi. By adding 57,000 square feet to their manufacturing floor, Sportsfield will also create 37 new full time jobs for local people. Sportsfield already has approximately 68 employees in Delhi.

By investing in their business and creating new jobs, Sportsfield helps the Cooperative to purchase more low-cost, renewable hydro energy through the New York Power Authority's (NYPA's) Economic Development Power (EDP) program. The Cooperative's latest application for up to 250 kW of additional EDP power was approved at the December meeting of the NYPA Trustees. These allocations of low-cost economic development power help to keep rates affordable for all members of the Cooperative.

Sign Up for DCEC's Load Control Program and Get \$4.00 Off Your Monthly Bill!

Do you have at least a 30 gallon electric hot water heater?

Do you use at least 350 kWh's per month?

If your answer was "YES" to both of those questions and you would like to participate in **DCEC's Load Management Program**, which helps all DCEC members save money, please give us a call at **(607) 746-9284!**

RHEEM PRESTIGE SERIES HYBRID HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

- 2.45 Energy Factor
- Easy to Adjust Water Temperature
 - 10 Year Warranty
 - 50 Gallon
 - Acts as a Dehumidifier
 - Energy Star Label
 - Save Minimum of \$150/year in Electricity Costs



Call (607) 746-9284 for cost and information

Greene Lumber Project

DCEC and NYSEG have executed an Facilities Agreement ("Agreement") which calls for DCEC to upgrade a portion of its electric distribution system in order to provide capacity for an interconnection with NYSEG for providing electric service to the Greene Lumber development in the vicinity of Butts Corners, Davenport, NY. The Agreement calls for DCEC to provide 1.5 MW of capacity on its electric distribution system for the interconnection.

DCEC has completed the planning and design for the identified system upgrades and has begun to order the required equipment and hardware.

2016 Board of Director Nominations & Nominating Committee

As a democratic organization, Cooperative members vote each year to elect directors to represent them on the DCEC Board. Elections for director positions occur at the DCEC's Annual Meeting in September. DCEC currently has 7 directors representing three regions of the DCEC's service territory (see DCEC Board Regions chart below). Directors serve 3-year terms. In accordance with the DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee considers members interested in serving on the board and nominates candidates for the election. If you are a bona-fide residential member of the Cooperative, at least 21 years old and are interested in being a candidate, or if you would like additional information, please contact the DCEC office.

In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the Nominating Committee must prepare a list of candidates for membership consideration at least 60 days prior to the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held September 23, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Elections will occur at the 2016 Annual Meeting for two board seats representing the Central Region, which are currently served by Meg Hungerford and Steve Oles.

The Central Region consists of the Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright, and Meredith.

The Committee will meet from March through June at the DCEC office at 39 Elm Street, Delhi, for the purpose of identifying candidates for the above positions.

Nominations for directors are governed by Article 4 of the Bylaws. A director may be nominated either through:

- 1) The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**. The Nominating Committee meets to identify at least two candidates to run for each seat up for election.
- 2) The second way is by **PETITION**. Any 15 or more members may petition the Cooperative to place a qualified member on the ballot. This must be done at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws which are available on: www.dce.coop/content/dcecc-bylaws-policies. Voting for directors is covered by Article 3. Each member may cast one ballot for a nominee for each seat up for election. **A married couple holding a joint membership are considered one member and will receive one ballot.**

BOARD DISTRICTS		
Northern Region	Central Region	Southern Region
Gilboa	Bovina	Andes
Jefferson	Delhi	Colchester
Summit	Franklin	Masonville
Davenport	Hamden	Middletown
Harpersfield	Kortright	Sidney
Stamford	Meredith	Tompkins
Maryland		Walton
		Bainbridge

Continued on Page 5...

Concern for Community

Every year for Christmas DCEC employees, retirees, and the Board of Directors donate toys toward a local toy bank within the DCEC service territory.



This year the Cooperative chose Delaware Opportunities. The gifts went to 29 children in Delaware County who are in families that participate in Family Development or Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP). The children range in age from three to eight and live within the county. We hope the toys were a welcome sight to those children on Christmas morning. We look forward to donating for another local charity again next year.

Generlink Transfer Switches

*Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket
20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator | Built in Surge Protector
Accommodates 10,000 watt Generator*

Available for Purchase at our Office

*For More Information
or to Confirm Compatibility
Contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341.*



Tips On Preparing For An Outage...Continued from Page 1

7. Be sure to keep at least a half tank of gas in your vehicle.
8. Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible. A well insulated freezer will keep your food from spoiling for days, depending on its location, as long as you don't open the door.
9. If you hear that a storm is coming, fill your bathtub with water for use in flushing toilets, feeding pets and for other non drinking purposes.
10. Never use gas ovens, gas ranges, or barbecue grills for indoor heating.
11. Make sure you have new batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

11th Grade Student Wanted for Legislative Conference

Each year the DCEC Board of Directors selects one local high school junior to represent DCEC in Washington D.C. at the Annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference. The selected student will attend the conference with fellow student-delegates from other electric co-ops throughout the state (and 900 plus co-ops across America). During this conference students will spend time on Capitol Hill discussing legislative issues that affect electric cooperatives with congressional

delegations and staff. The student will have the opportunity to experience government first-hand through meetings with legislators and other electric cooperative leaders.
Requirements for applicants:

- Must be a junior (11th grader)
- Be the son/daughter of a DCEC member
- Have a B average or higher
- Demonstrated commitment to community service

Students will be accompanied by DCEC Directors, managers, and employees. This is considered an "all-expense-paid" trip to the nation's capital which includes visits to historical sites and tours. The student selected may wish to bring funds for incidentals and souvenirs.

Please contact your guidance counselor's office or the DCEC office at (607) 746-9299 for an application or additional information. All applications need to be submitted by **Tuesday, March 1, 2016.**

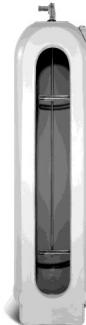


Providing our rural members with:

- ✓ Low-cost Electricity
- ✓ High System Reliability
- ✓ Community/Member Service

*Warrantied for LIFE and
available in 30, 50, 85 and 105
gallon sizes!*

Marathon
WATER HEATERS



*Your local area
dealer
for electric*

2016 Board of Director Nominations and Nominating Committee ...Continued from Page 4

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the DCEC office. In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the committee is comprised of between 5 and 11 members representing the geographic diversity of the DCEC service area. Members serving on the committee are offered a modest stipend for their service. The committee meets three to four times from March through June in the evenings.



DCEC would like to thank the members who served on the 2015 Nominating Committee: Donald Conklin (Walton), Thomas Courtenay-Clack (Jefferson), Camilia Eldidi (Harpersfield), Frank J. Eppich (Hamden), Committee Chair Christine Hauser (Stamford), Stephen Hodge (Walton), Carol LaTourette (Sidney Center), Steven R. Mason (Delhi), and Arthur Reed (DeLancey).



Operations Update



Pole Replacement & Line Reconstruction:

Cooperative line crews will be working on County Route 16 Delhi and in Kortright/Harpersfield preparing for interconnection with NYSEG and service to Greene Lumber Company.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

Cooperative right-of-way clearing crews will be working on County Route 16 in Town of Delhi and Kilanowski Road in Town of Hamden.

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!**



KO 2-41-17D

Home Energy Assistance Program

Having trouble paying your energy bills? Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded grant program that offers financial assistance to income-eligible members who need help paying their energy related bills. Please contact your local Social Services office for additional information:

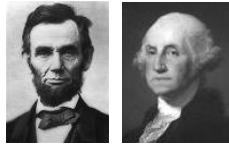
- ◆ Chenango County (607) 337-1500
- ◆ Delaware County (607) 832-5300
- ◆ Otsego County (607) 547-4355
- ◆ Schoharie County (518) 295-8334



Remember, you can manage your account 24/7 by signing up for "SmartHub" at www.dce.coop.

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2016 for President's Day.



Income Eligibility Guidelines for HEAP

Household Size	Monthly Income (gross)
1	\$2,244
2	\$2,935
3	\$3,625
4	\$4,316
5	\$5,006
6	\$5,697
7	\$5,826
8	\$5,956
9	\$6,085
10	\$6,215
11	\$6,671

Save \$ for Your Co-op

If you have signed up for SmartHub and you still receive a paper bill in the mail, you can save your Cooperative money by discontinuing the monthly mailed paper bill. To do so, log into SmartHub and click on "My Profile" click on "Update my Printed Bill Settings" turn off "Printed Bill Status".

By eliminating your paper bill, you will save DCEC over \$14 per year in printing and mailing expenses. If you would prefer, you can call the Cooperative office and ask us to make that change for you.

A summary of the 2015 Membership Survey results can be found on our website, www.dce.coop/content/2015-membership-survey-results

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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 communicate aspects of the cooperative to its 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.

Board of Directors

President..... Stephen Oles
 Vice President..... Hartley Russell
 Secretary..... Edward "Rusty" Pick
 Treasurer..... Frank Winkler
 Director..... Shawn Hartwell
 Director..... Paul Menke

Director..... Meg Hungerford
 CEO/General Manager..... Mark Schneider
 Asst. General Manager..... Wayne Marshfield

Delaware County Electric Co-op., Inc.
 39 Elm St., PO Box 471
 Delhi, New York 13753-0471
 607-746-2341 Toll Free: 866-436-1223
 Fax: 607-746-7548
 Email: office@dce.coop
 Web Site: www.dce.coop