



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# THE OEC CURRENT

People You Can Count On

www.otsegoec.coop

April 2011

## Office Hours Change On May 2<sup>ND</sup>

Otsego Electric Cooperative will be changing office hours starting **Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.**



### Otsego County Highway Department and OEC Work Together

In March of 2011 Otsego Electric Cooperative (OEC) had relocated and upgraded lines along County Route 23 in the Town of Exeter. In the past the Otsego County Highway Department employees have kept trees trimmed along these same sections of road. Working together OEC and Otsego County have cleared several sections of trees along the road right-of-way. OEC will be placing new lines along sections



of the road where tree removal has taken place. Once cooperative owned poles are in place, OEC will handle tree trimming along these sections of the road.

In the past OEC has worked with Otsego County on other projects; for example, in 2009 OEC Employees volunteered to run power to Otsego County's E911 Antenna Equipment in the Town of Unadilla.

These projects, while focusing on our members' needs, help us work towards the sustainable development of our local community.

#### Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

*Stephen Rinell, CEO*

#### Board of Directors

Gary Potter  
*President*

Charles Arnold  
*Vice President*

Wendell Saunders  
*Treasurer*

Steve Child  
*Secretary*

Roger Erway  
*Director*

Fred Braun, Jr.  
*Director*

Edward Clarke  
*Director*

Kathleen Del Plato  
*Director*



#### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



## Know What's Below: Call Before You Dig

Whether it's a dreamed up deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, summer weather is a great time for outdoor improvement plans to actually play out.

But if your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you'll have to wait a few more days so the job can be done safely. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes, and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority do not take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 33 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance, a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit [www.digsafelynewyork.com](http://www.digsafelynewyork.com).

*Sources: Common Ground Alliance, SafeElectricity.org*



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



## Pad Mount Transformers need to be *left alone*

**Never** let anything grow closer than 10 feet from a pad-mount transformer. (The access panel is marked by a handle, lock, and sticker on the front.)

**Never** enclose a pad-mount transformer with fencing, shrubs, or anything else with less than a 10-foot-wide gate or opening.

**Never** allow children to play near pad-mount transformers.

**Never** pour waste oils, chemicals, or other liquids on or near a pad-mount transformer. These liquids can seep into the ground and damage underground cables.

## OEC's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The Otsego Electric Cooperative's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 5:00 P.M., at the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School.

We look forward to seeing you there. We will have more information in upcoming newsletters.



# Marathon® WATER HEATERS

Call Otsego Electric Cooperative at 607-293-6622 to find out about member discounts on energy efficient **Marathon** water heaters.

We have many sizes to choose from.



We can order energy star approved **Marathon** air-source heat-pump water heaters.

Call for member pricing.

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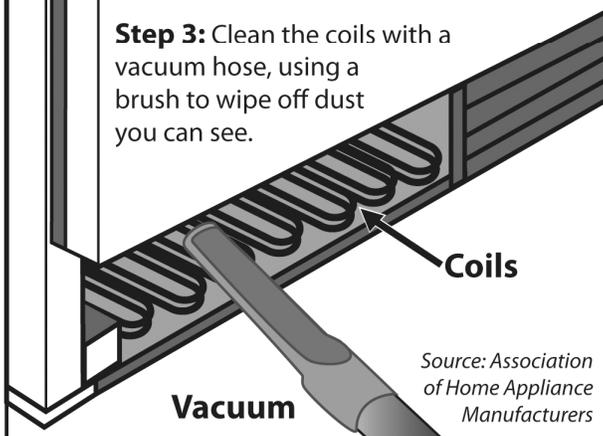
## Clean Cold Coils

Vacuum your refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that reduces efficiency and creates fire hazards. To clean condenser coils:

**Step 1:** Unplug the refrigerator.

**Step 2:** Pull off or unscrew the vent plate that protects the coils.

**Step 3:** Clean the coils with a vacuum hose, using a brush to wipe off dust you can see.



## Nomination and Elections Committee

*In compliance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, all members are hereby notified that, as defined in the bylaws of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. the Board of Directors will appoint a nominating committee. The nominating committee will meet during the month of July to select a list of nominations for director.*

Article 4, Section 3 of the bylaws follows:

**NOMINATIONS.** It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty days nor more than seventy-five days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations and elections consisting of five members who shall be selected from different sections of the project area so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall review, certify and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen or more members acting together shall make nominations by petition not less than seventy-five days prior to the meeting. In the event adequate nominations are not received and certified, the nominations and elections committee will have the authority to appoint nominees. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the certified candidates.

*Petitions are available at the cooperative office.*

### IS YOUR SERVICE MAP LOCATION LOCATED IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

Somewhere in the body of this newsletter there 's a service map location number. Your map location number is located on your bill. If you find your map location number in this newsletter call the office within 15 days and your account will be credited \$25.



## Beat the Peak

Otsego Electric Cooperative now has “Beat-the-Peak” devices which plug into any standard wall outlet. This device can easily be installed at a member’s home or business which will allow the homeowner/business owner to see when the co-op is purchasing expensive incremental power. Certain times of the day our co-op system has a higher demand and we go over our hydro allocation of power. During these times the red light will come on indicating it would be a beneficial time to try to conserve energy.



The benefit to having one of these devices is that they are not intrusive because they do not control anything, it simply lets our members know when it is a good time to conserve energy. Beat-the-Peak units are currently available in limited supply. If you are interested in one call our office at 607-293-6622 to request one.



## Co-op Connections Card

### New Phone App for Saving Money



We are happy to announce we now have a new Connections Card iPhone App. Basically, any co-op member with an iPhone can download the app, select their co-op’s card and have it be displayed electronically on their iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad. Forgot the card and you’re at the pharmacy? No problem! Many stores have loyalty “card” apps now and even the airlines accept virtual boarding passes so we are keeping pace with technology with this great tool.

Below is the direct link to view the application. You’ll need iTunes to actually download it:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/co-op-connections/id425692910?mt=8>

Call our office if you would like a Co-op Connections Card sent to you.

Visit [www.connections.coop/Otsego](http://www.connections.coop/Otsego) to find local discounts.



**Our featured local Connect Card business this month is Williams Tire & Auto in Pittsfield NY.**

Show your connections card and get a 10% discount (not valid with other offers).



We have added four new local Connect Card businesses this month in Cooperstown: **The Pioneer Patio Restaurant, Christmas Around the Corner, The Silver Fox Gift Shop, and The Inside Scoop.**

## DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT TELEPHONE NUMBER?

There are times when we need to contact you. Perhaps your payment didn’t reach us or, we may have a scheduled outage and we want to call those affected ahead of time. Do not assume we have your most current information on file. It will only take a minute of your time to give us a call or fill out your information on the back of your bill to make sure we have your correct information.

We strive to provide excellent service — but we need your help too. Thank you for helping us provide the best service possible.



**Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**Office Hours**

**7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

*Monday – Friday*

Phone: **607-293-6622**

After Hours and Outages: **1-866-591-3192**

Call **Dig|Safely. New York** before you dig 1-800-962-7962 or 811