



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



THE OEC CURRENT

People You Can Count On

www.otsegoec.coop

May 2011

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Install



Otsego Electric Cooperative recently installed photovoltaic panels at our Oaksville substation. This system will generate enough energy to run some of the communication equipment inside the substation, any excess energy will be put back on the grid.

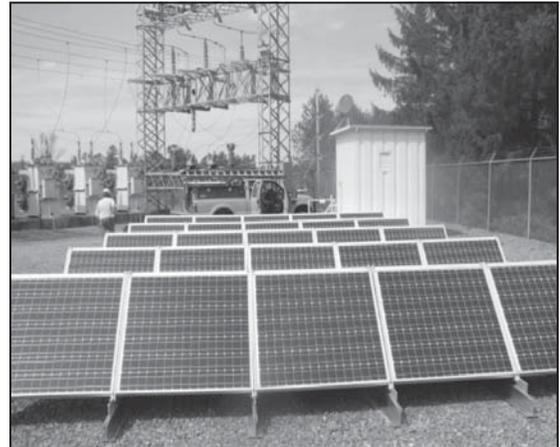
We will be using this as a test site so we can gather data from these panels. This substation site was chosen because it is already fenced in, there was enough space with a Southern exposure, and monitoring production will be simplified with our communication equipment already in the substation. Having our own system on-site will be useful for gathering data.

Most of the cost of our solar PV installation was funded by the New York Power Authority (NYPA).

Historically, solar installations have been more feasible in the Southwestern United States. In recent years solar technology has improved, making it more practical in areas like ours.

We chose to install panels manufactured by TenKsolar, based in Minnesota. Their product information can be found at their website <http://tenksolar.com>.

In the past two years Otsego Electric Cooperative has worked with our members on several solar PV projects. These projects have all had NYPA approved funding. Although there is no available funding at this time, we hope NYPA will continue funding projects in 2012.



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

Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

16-20-38-02-LA

Marathon® WATER HEATERS



Otsego Electric Cooperative now carries energy efficient 50 Gallon Rheem Air-source heat-pump water heaters.

We have a working HP50 set up at our office, feel free to call the office if you have any questions about it.

We also have many sizes of Marathon water heaters to choose from. If you are tired of heating your water with expensive oil or gas, consider using clean, efficient and affordable electricity for your water heating.



Local Farmers Market

Stop by the Cooperstown Farmers' Market, it's located in beautiful downtown Cooperstown, just off Main Street in Pioneer Alley. The Market operates rain or shine, year round. Summer hours are 8:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M. every Saturday.

Locally grown food tastes great...



Beat-The-Peak

We have more “Beat-the-Peak” devices on order. There has been a lot of interest in these devices since last months newsletter, as more arrive we will distribute them.

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.

Note: The “Beat-the-Peak” lights will change more frequently on very cold or very hot days.



What are you interested in seeing in the OEC monthly newsletter? Please let us know.

Vegetation Management



Our Vegetation Management (Brush Crew) will be working in the Towns of Hartwick and Otsego this month.

We will be finishing work in the Index Substation area and moving to the Laurens area in the coming months.

Co-op Connect Card Featured Business



Personal Computer Services, Inc.

314 Chestnut Street
Oneonta, NY 13820
607-433-7272 - www.pcsoneonta.com

Show Co-op Connections Card and get 10% off repair, parts, and service.

Energy Efficiency

We are often asked about affordable ways to produce electricity. For most people, it is best to look at how electricity can be used efficiently before looking at how it can be produced. Efficiency can be considered the number one renewable energy. There are many cost effective ways to be efficient, below are a few:

Lighting—changing incandescent light bulbs to more efficient CFL’s is one of the easiest ways to start saving money.

Sealing Air-leaks—sealing air-leaks around your home can save money. An inexpensive tube of caulk can prevent heat loss, along with weather stripping around doors and windows.

Water Heater Insulation—If you do not already own a well-insulated Marathon water heater you may want to consider insulating your current electric water heater with a water heater blanket. In some cases these can save you up to 9% in water heating costs.

Programmable Thermostats—By installing a programmable thermostat you can have your home temperature turned down at night while you are sleeping or turn up prior to you coming home from work.

A simple self energy-audit of your home could reveal some simple, inexpensive ways for you to save.

If you have questions or comments about energy efficient products we would like to hear from you. You can call Jim Foote at our office at 607-293-6622. We are interested in hearing what our members have to say concerning energy use.

Energy Efficiency Shopping List

Planning energy efficiency upgrades at home? Take this handy shopping list with you to your local home improvement store.

CFLs (4-pack)	\$6
Caulk	\$2
Weather stripping	\$4
Outlet sealing kit (10)	\$20
Attic door insulator kit	\$40
Programmable thermostat	\$40
Mastic	\$12
Water heater blanket	<u>\$20</u>
Investment:	\$144
Potential Annual Savings:	\$700
Sources: HomeDepot.com, TogetherWeSave.com	

IS YOUR SERVICE MAP LOCATION LOCATED IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

Somewhere in the body of this newsletter there is 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR Otsego Electric Cooperatives 67th Annual Meeting will be held August 17th at the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School. We will have more information in upcoming newsletters.

If you have an electric water heater call the Co-op office at 607-293-6622 for info about the \$2 monthly credit for being in the Load Switch Energy Saver Program.

AUTOMATIC – Bank Draft



Pay your bills automatically – without writing a check.

It's a convenient, easy way to pay your electric bill – without writing a check. You save the cost of a check, postage, inconvenience, and the possibility of forgetting to pay. Join today!

Using Otsego Electric Cooperative's automatic bill payment system is simple, all you have to do is sign up. You can choose to have your payment made with a bank draft from your checking or savings account.

Otsego Electric Cooperative does not charge its customers for automatic bill payment. It is best to ask your financial institution if they have a charge. If they do, it is usually less than a paper check charge. Contact our office at 607-293-6622 if you have any questions.



**Have a great
Memorial Day
Weekend.**

**The Co-op office
will be closed
Monday, May
30th.**



Save money by using efficient lighting. There are many new styles to choose from.

Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 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