



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# THE OEC CURRENT

People You Can Count On

[www.otsegoec.coop](http://www.otsegoec.coop)

June 2011

## Beat-the-Peak

We have received positive feedback about our new Beat-the-Peak devices. One Co-op member wrote “the Beat-the-Peak meter is a fun way to help out all our Co-op partners as well as conserve energy”. This type of feedback is great to hear.

These units plug into any standard wall outlet. The 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.

Keep in mind, during the Summer months the lights will not change as frequently as they will in the winter.

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’s a good time to conserve energy. Beat-the-Peak units are currently available in limited supply. If you are interested, call our office at 607-293-6622 to request one.



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.

This month’s featured connect card business is the Depot Deli, 21 Railroad Ave. in Cooperstown.



### Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

*Stephen Rinell, CEO*

#### Board of Directors

Gary Potter  
*President*

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### Energy Efficiency

## Tip of the Month

Consider using solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers’ instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge each day.

16-15-38-16-OS

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Give Your Home's Energy Use a Vacation When You're on Vacation

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here's a tip from Otsego Electric Cooperative (OEC) that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break.

- **Water heater.** Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away. Or, talk to an energy expert at OEC about turning off the water heater.
- **Thermostat.** During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm. If you're away during the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.
- **Refrigerator.** Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.
- **Lights.** Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.
- **Electronics.** Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.

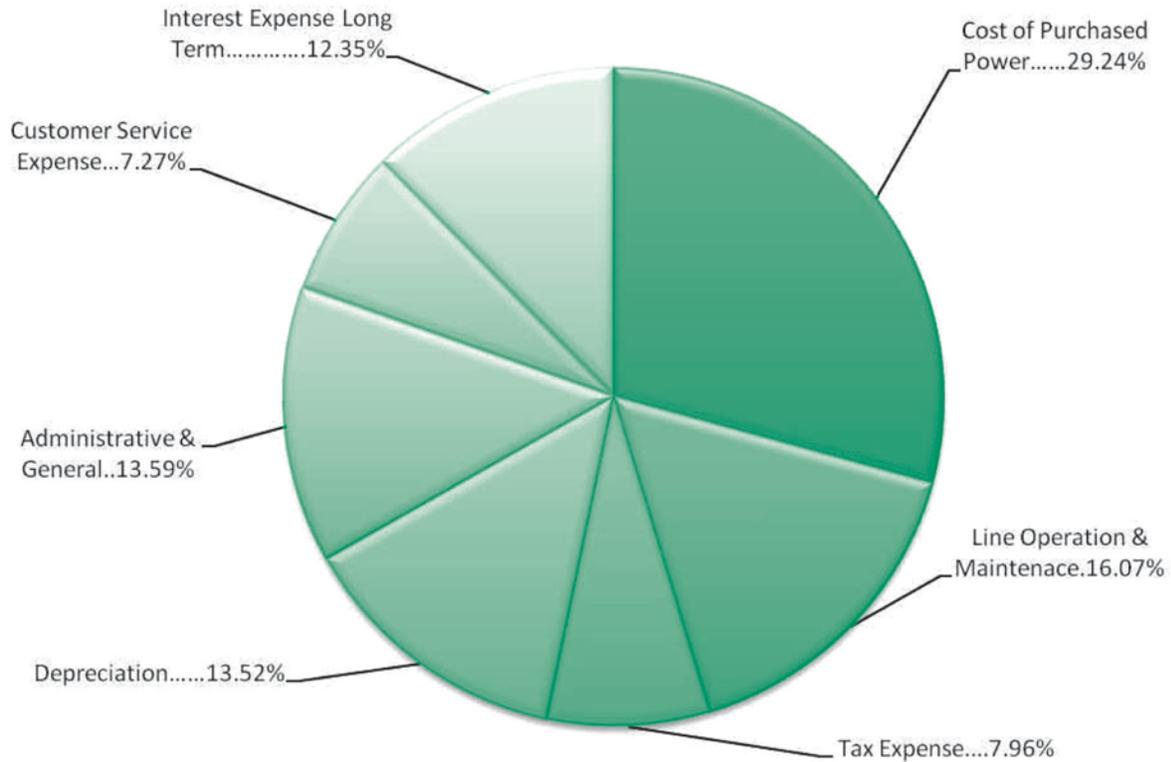
For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) or Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com), or call the efficiency experts at Otsego Electric Cooperative.



Otsego Electric Cooperative's Management is continuing to look for affordable broadband options for our members.



## HOW YOUR POWER DOLLAR WAS SPENT



It is important to understand how each dollar you spend on electricity is used by your cooperative. The graph above shows a basic breakdown of where your money goes after you pay your bill.

Before we receive power to one of our seven local substations, a percent of that dollar has already been spent. There are also fixed expenses per meter, which include depreciation, interest and taxes for each electric meter. These costs are incurred every month, regardless of how much energy is used. The remaining percent covers local costs to provide services, safety programs, education, energy-efficiency programs and maintaining a safe reliable electric system with fewer electric service interruptions every year.

## 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.**

### 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.

# 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - Brooks' Chicken Bar-B-Q

**\$5.00 Per Serving**



Enclosed Please Find \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets at \$5.00 Each (*No takeouts.*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(Otsego Electric Cooperative Members and Family Only Please)*

Cut out the coupon above and send it in by August 10<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending Otsego Electric Cooperative's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

*Wednesday, August 17, 2011*



The Annual Meeting of the Members is the most important day of the year for your cooperative. This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School, Wednesday, August 17, 2011. Gilbertsville Mount-Upton Central School is located at 693 County Highway 51, in Gilbertsville NY.

The ever-popular Brooks' House of Bar-B-Q chicken will be served between **5:00** and **6:30 P.M.**, with the business meeting starting promptly at **7:00 P.M.**

Please complete and return the coupon above, along with the \$5.00 per dinner payment. Please make your check payable to Otsego Electric Cooperative. **Do not include this in your check for payment of your electric bill.** No tickets will be sold at the meeting. Members not wishing to attend the Bar-B-Q are encouraged to attend the business meeting and take part in the election of Directors and other business matters.

**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.***

*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