



**Oneida-Madison
Electric Co-op., Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

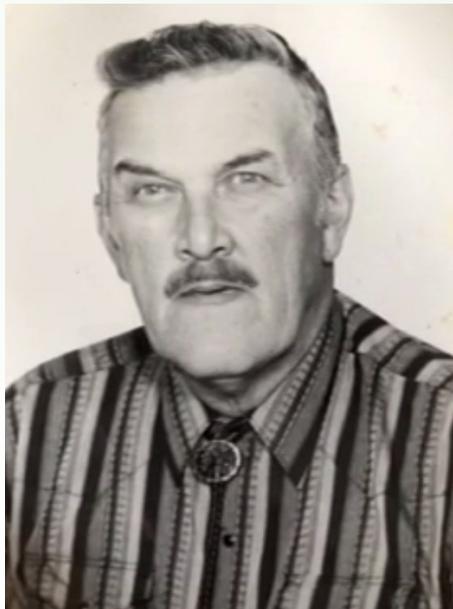
March 2023

COOPERATIVE NEWS

A Tribute to Don Brown

The Cooperative family suffered a great loss on Thursday, January 26, 2023, with the passing of retired Oneida-Madison Lineman turned General Manager, Don Brown.

In 1965, just days after his 23rd birthday, Don joined the Cooperative as an apprentice lineman. Displaying his strong work ethic and dedication to the membership, Don soon became Line-Foreman. During his time as Foreman, Don oversaw many large projects, including the building of our Fenner Substation. In 1986, Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative Board of Directors tapped Mr. Brown to fill the role of General Manager. Transitioning from the field to the office Don continued to take on many notable projects as the Cooperative grew. Don was contributory in the relocation of the Oriskany Falls substation, both increasing capacity and improving reliability. After 31 years of service to the Cooperative Don retired in 1996 leaving an impressive list of accomplishments for himself, his family, and the Cooperative. During his tenure at Oneida-Madison, Don saw a vast expansion of territory and membership, climbing from 669 to 1611 active electric services. Mr. Brown was instrumental in shaping the amazing organization your Cooperative is today. Even while enjoying his retirement, Don continued to serve the membership. Don, with his band, the Blue Valley Boys, were often the entertainment at the annual meetings. Attending annual meetings and stopping into our Bouckville office right up until his passing, Don kept watch over the Cooperative he worked so hard to help build.



On behalf of the entire national, New York, and local Co-op family, we thank you, Mr. Brown, you will be greatly missed.



Notes & Information

Normal Office Hours are as follows:

7:30am-4pm, Monday-Friday

Office Location: 6630 State Rt 20

Bouckville, NY 13310

Call (315) 893-1851 **24 hours a day** for assistance with power outages and/or emergencies

Your Board of Directors

Rudy Brouillette, President

Tom Stone, Vice President

Dan Saulsgiver, Secretary/
Treasurer

Seth Howard

John Lehr

James Nassimos

Kurt Peavey



Please take note of the due date on your bill, as it varies from month to month.

When mailing payments, mail ahead to allow enough time for the postal service to deliver them before the due date to avoid a penalty being applied to your account. A 1.5% penalty is applied the day following the due date if payment is not received.

Payments can be dropped off at the office either during business hours, or anytime in our drop box on the front of the building. They can also be made over the phone or online.

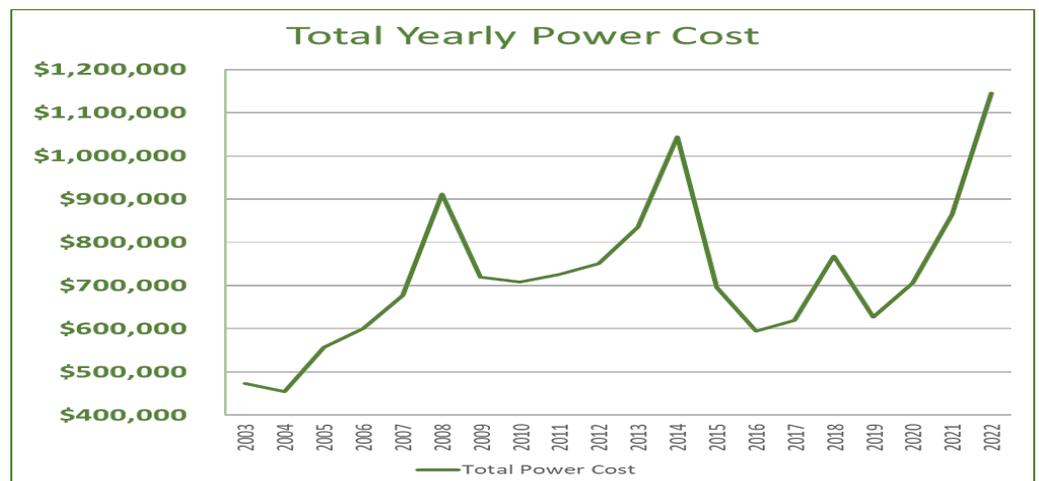
OMEC Rate Increase Goes Into Effect in April 2023

Below is a chart depicting the rate increase that was voted on by the Board of Directors on December 20, 2022. These increases will go into effect for April's usage which will be in your May 28th billing statement.

| <u>Residential Service</u> | <u>Present Rate</u> | <u>New Rate effective April 1, 2023</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Customer Charge | \$16.00 | \$17.00 |
| Energy Charge per kWh | \$0.0880 | \$0.1150 |
| Minimum Charge | \$16.00 | \$17.00 |
| <u>Commercial Service</u> | <u>Present Rate</u> | <u>New Rate effective April 1, 2023</u> |
| Customer Charge | \$30.00 | \$35.00 |
| Demand Charge/kWh | \$10.00 | \$10.00 |
| Energy Charge/kWh | \$0.08560 | \$0.1119 |
| Minimum Charge | \$180.00 | \$185.00 |
| <u>Security Lighting Service</u> | <u>Present Rate</u> | <u>New Rate effective April 1, 2023</u> |
| Per unit | \$8.75 | \$8.75 |

Rising Trend in Power Costs

OMEC power costs in 2003 were approximately \$470,000, steadily rising to \$911,000 in 2008. Prices declined but only to \$700,000 in 2010 before starting to climb again, peaking at over 1 million dollars in 2014. Power cost returned to the \$600,000 mark and again began to escalate. We ended 2022 with a purchased power cost of 1.15 million dollars.



How to Keep Energy Costs at a Minimum

With the rising costs of just about everything these days, it's a no-brainer to cut corners where we can to save money. Some costs cannot be helped but when it comes to your electric use, there are some key steps you can take to lower your bill.

- **Avoid “peak-usage” times**– we tend to use the most electricity from 4-9pm after we've come home from work or school. Like the supply and demand lesson from your high school economics class, the more energy people are using at one time causes demand to go up, and with that, the price. Try doing laundry in the early morning or late evening or use a crockpot to cook dinner instead of the oven.
- **Beware of energy “vampires”**- some appliances draw energy even when not in use, accounting for upwards of 15% of your bill. Make sure to unplug toasters, phone chargers, coffee pots and the like when you're not using them.
- **Become more energy efficient**–keep heating vents unobstructed by furniture and debris, caulk around windows and doors, change air filters regularly, and replace old and inefficient appliances with Energy Star rated ones. And don't forget about our Energy Efficiency Rebate! If you purchase an approved Energy Star rated appliance, fill out one of our short rebate applications and include a copy of your receipt to get up to \$400 credited to your OMEC account! For more information, visit our website at <https://oneida-madison.coop/energy-efficiency-rebate-program>
- **Take small steps to decrease your energy usage**– turning your thermostat down a couple degrees during the winter can make a huge difference! Invest in a programmable thermostat and set it to turn the heat down when you're not home. And in the warmer months, remember fans cool people, not rooms, so be sure to turn them off when you leave. Switch to LED lightbulbs; changing out just 5 lightbulbs can save \$45/year.

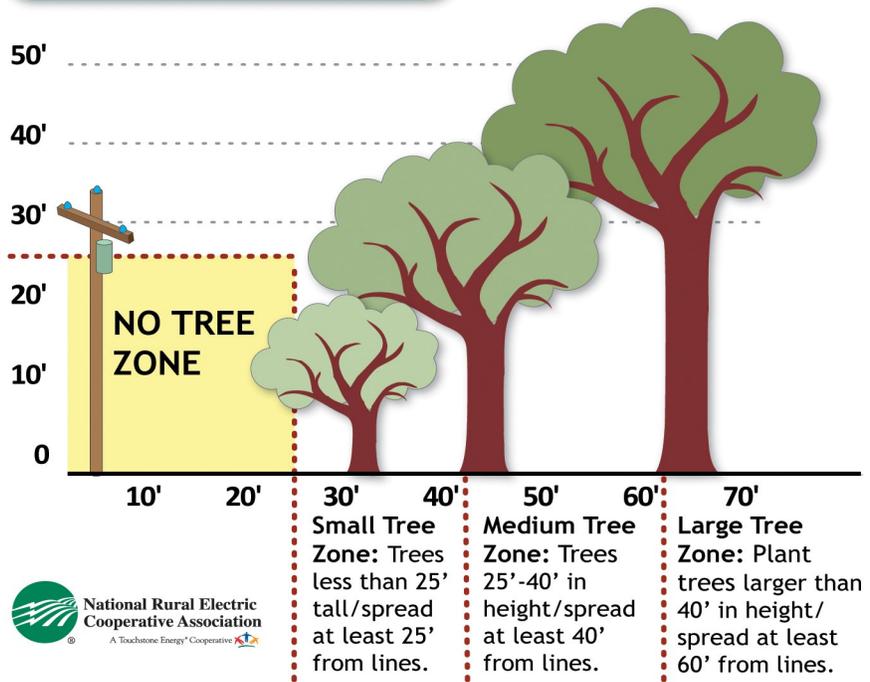


*“May your
blessings outnumber
the shamrocks that
grow,
And may trouble
avoid you wherever
you go.”*

- Irish Blessing



Tree Planting Guide



Arbor Day is April 28, 2023

Arbor Day is marked by the planting of trees and emphasizes caring for them as a way to sustainably protect our planet's natural resources. Check out the infographic to the right to see where the best location is to plant your trees in relation to power lines.

Your map location number, found on your billing statement, may be found somewhere in this newsletter! If you find it, contact our office by May 1st and your account will be credited \$10!

B-85-A1

Give Us Your Best Shot!!

- ◆ Enter as many photos as you'd like!
- ◆ Photos & entry forms can be dropped off, snail mailed or emailed to: kyla@oneidamadison.com
- ◆ Winning photos will be printed in our 2024 calendar, published in a future newsletter and recognized on our Facebook page and website!
- ◆ For an application, please visit: <https://oneida-madison.coop/photo-contest-2023>
- ◆ Can't get the entry form off our website? Stop in and grab one from the office or call and we'll send you one!
- ◆ Tell your friends and family!!

Photograph by Heidi Griffith, 2022 Photo Contest Winner



2ND ANNUAL MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Oneida-Madison Electric Co-op is looking for entries for our 2023 photo contest. Winners will be featured in our 2024 calendar!

The contest is open until July 31, 2023. We are looking for photos that represent life in our service area- whether they are action shots or landscape views. Entrants must be Oneida-Madison Co-op members. All photos must be the original work of the entrant and taken within the co-op's service territory.

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: ONEIDA-MADISON.COOP

HAVE YOUR PHOTO FEATURED IN OUR 2024 CALENDAR!

CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING!

ANY OMEC MEMBER OR CHILD OF A MEMBER MAY ENTER!

ONEIDA-MADISON ELECTRIC CO-OP
6630 State Rt. 20
P.O. Box 27
Bouckville, NY 13310

315-893-1851

oneida-madison.coop



Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18, 2023

Being a lineworker is not for the faint of heart, and here at Oneida-Madison, that is especially true. Our crew of four is responsible for over 260 miles of line and 2000 meters across two counties. They respond in the dead of night or in the middle of the day, during holidays, weekends, and birthdays to make sure the lights are kept on for Members like YOU!

On April 10, 2013, US Senate Resolution 95 set April 18th as the Annual Line Worker's Appreciation Day following 2012's devastating Hurricane Sandy which affected 24 states and saw 147 deaths in the United States alone. 8.51 million people were without power when lineworkers from across the country came together to get the electricity pumping again.

Being a lineworker is the 10th most dangerous occupation in the United States! That's why during an outage, we ask for your patience. While we want to get the power on as soon as possible, we also want our crew to take their time and do the job right for your safety and theirs!

If you'd like to properly thank our guys, cards and notes are encouraged! Please send them to Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 27, Bouckville, NY 13310

Save the Date!

The office will be CLOSED for the following holidays:

Good Friday

Friday, April 7, 2023

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29, 2023



As always, in the case of an outage or emergency, please call **315-893-1851**

24 hours/day, 365 days/year

For the most up-to-date information regarding news, outages, contests, and more,

Like and Follow us on

Facebook!

And don't forget to check out our website!

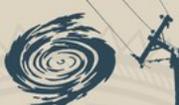
<http://oneida-madison.coop>



LINEMEN: Pride, Camaraderie, & Spirit



115,000
linemen in the United States



67,000
Approximate number of line personnel responding to Superstorm Sandy

Power lineman Trade begins **1879** with the invention of the Edison lightbulb.



Average cost of installing powerlines per mile:

Overhead = \$40,000
Underground = \$210,000



First lineman in the United States: Ezra Cornell, who built the Morse Telegraph line and later founded Cornell University.



Approximate weight of lineman tools and equipment worn: **30 lbs.**





Hot sticking began in **1905**



Barehanding began in **1915**

Rubber gloving started in the **1920s**



Median Annual Wage (not including overtime): **\$63,250**

9 Million Miles of wire in service in the U.S.



Number of years training to achieve journeyman status: **4**

170 Million Number of wood poles in service in the U.S.



2.7 Million Number of transmission towers in service in the U.S.



Estimated number of electric customers in the U.S.: **155,000,000**



Sources: US Department of Energy; North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority; Electric Light and Power Magazine; Northwest Lineman College; NRECA; EEI and others.

Powered by Northwest Lineman College

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!!

Applications are being accepted until **March 21, 2023**

applicants MUST be available to travel to Washington, D.C. April 15-19, 2023



Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



NRECA Legislative Rally 2023

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Annually, Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OMEC), sponsors a "Legislative Youth Tour" providing a selected youth-delegate the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation's political leaders, learn about our Nation's legislative process and how that process benefits the critical issues that face Rural Electric Cooperatives.

Along with this great experience comes \$1,000 scholarship and opportunities for more monetary scholarships and a chance to meet with like-minded youths in San Antonio, TX for the NRECA 2024 [PowerXchange](#).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be a son/daughter of a member of OMEC.
- Be in their junior (11th grade) year.
- Have at least a "B" average or better.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and community service.
- Be available to participate in [OMEC's Annual Meeting](#) in October 2023



APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested students should:

- Complete and submit the application by March 21, 2023. Application available on our website or in our office
- Submit a one-page student essay describing yourself. Essay should include where you go to school, favorite subjects, extra-curricular activities, and community service you have been involved in.
- Written recommendations from 2 references. References must be from a teacher, an extracurricular activity coach or leader, an elected official, religious leader or employer.
- Once applications are submitted an interview will be scheduled.

for more information visit

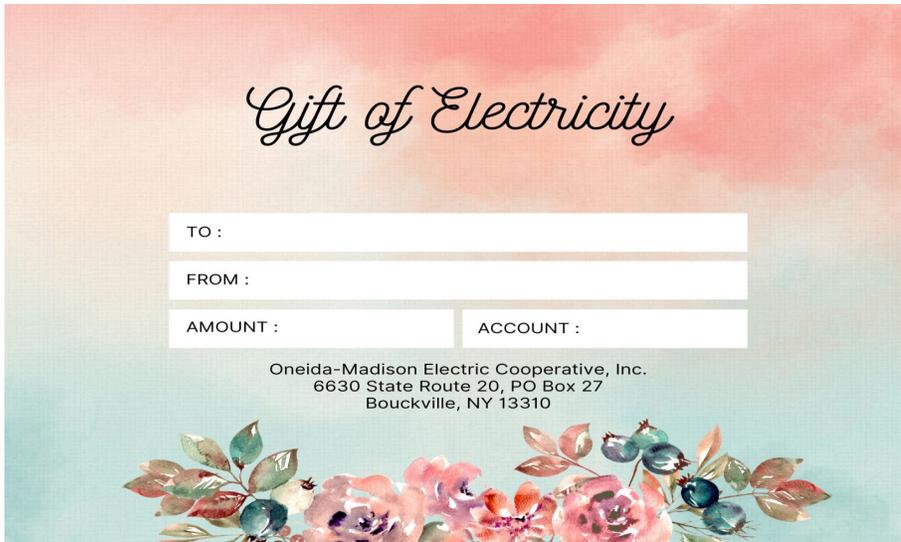
<https://oneida-madison.coop/2023-cooperative-youth-scholarship>

6630 State Route 20, P.O. Box 27, Bouckville, NY 13310
office@oneidamadison.com

Telephone: (315)893-1851 | Fax: (315) 893-1857

Give the Gift of Electricity

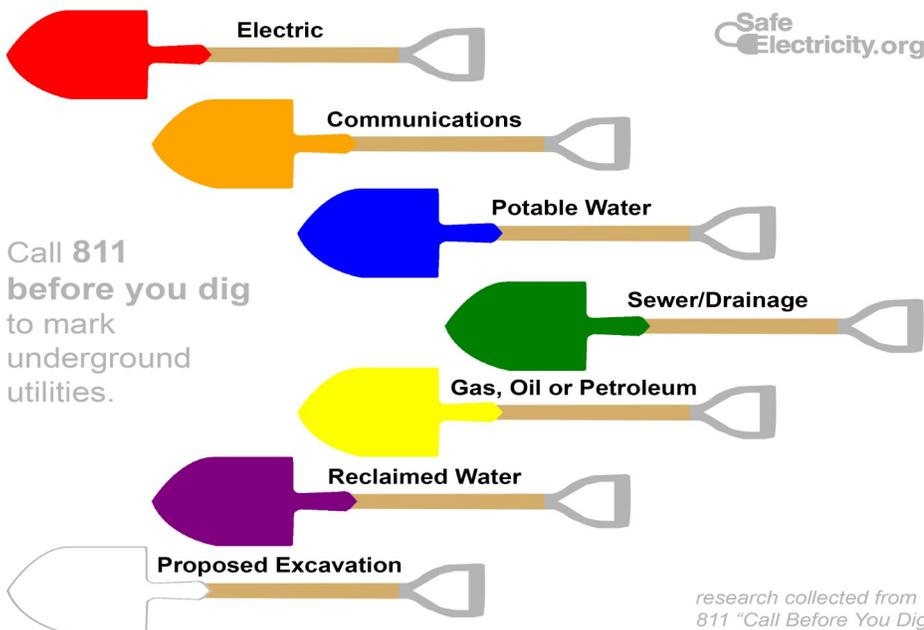
Don't know what to get that special someone for Christmas? Stuck on what Mom could really use for Mother's Day? Why not give the practical and useful Gift of Electricity? Pick up a form or print one off our website and send it to us along with a check or money order in the amount of your choosing. Oneida– Madison Electric will credit the recipient's account for the amount specified and send them a Gift of Electricity receipt. You can find the form on our website at <https://oneida-madison.coop/gift-electricity> or stop in and pick one up in the office!



The form is titled "Gift of Electricity" in a cursive font. It features a light green background with a floral border at the bottom. The form includes fields for "TO:", "FROM:", "AMOUNT:", and "ACCOUNT:". Below these fields, the address "Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. 6630 State Route 20, PO Box 27 Bouckville, NY 13310" is printed.

Don't forget to call 811 before you dig!

Spring is just around the corner, so before you start those new projects you've waited all winter to begin, make sure to call 811! Remember to allow 2 full working days, not including the day you call in advance before you begin a digging project.



Member Satisfaction Survey Now Available

After the amazing response from our Annual Meeting surveys, we decided to create a Member Satisfaction survey so that YOU, the actual owners of the Cooperative can share with us your thoughts on how we're serving you! The survey is a short 16 questions and it takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

This questionnaire is **completely anonymous** and can be found on our website at <https://oneida-madison.coop/member-satisfaction-survey>. We implore all of our members to take the time to let us know how you feel, what you'd like to see done differently, and how best to communicate with you.



At Home with Hazel

This velvety soup is rich in flavor and made with locally-found ramps also known as wild onions. If you're not a forager, leeks or even yellow onions, make good substitutions.

Bacon, Potato, and Ramp **Soup**

Prep time: 20 mins **Cook time:** 40 mins

Ingredients

Soup:

2-3 heads of garlic, plus enough olive oil to drizzle over heads before baking

4 Tbsp butter

1 Tbsp olive oil

2 C thinly sliced ramps, leeks, or onions

3 lbs. potatoes

4 C chicken stock

1/4 C white wine

2 tsp fresh thyme

6-8 slices of cooked bacon, crumbled

1/4 C sour cream

1 C half and half

Salt & pepper to taste

Garnish:

Fresh parsley (optional)

Olive oil drizzle

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Trim 1/2" off the top of the heads of garlic, exposing all the cloves inside and drizzle with olive oil. Wrap heads in foil and bake 40-45 minutes or until cloves are soft.
2. Heat a 2-quart pot over medium heat and add butter & olive oil, stir 'til melted. Add ramps and potatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, until they have begun to soften and brown slightly, about 6-8 minutes.
3. Add chicken stock, white wine, roasted garlic, thyme, salt & pepper. Stir to combine, scraping up any stuck bits from the bottom of the pan. Bring mixture to a boil, then turn heat down to a bubbling simmer. Cook until potatoes are tender, about 20-25 mins
4. When potatoes are soft, puree soup using an immersion blender, or in batches using a regular blender & return to the pot. Add bacon, sour cream, and half & half. Warm on medium heat for five minutes and serve garnished with a drizzle of olive oil and chopped parsley.

Notes:

1. You can use any kind of potato, but Yukon golds, red, and fingerling potatoes work best.
2. If you don't have white wine on hand, or prefer not to use it, just use more chicken stock.
3. When adding garlic, just squeeze from the bottom of the head and the garlic will come out in a paste-like consistency.
4. If you prefer a chunkier consistency, remove a couple cups of potatoes before blending and then add them back in after you've pureed the rest.
5. Serve with a green salad and crusty bread.

