

Feature Story:

## The Great Light Bulb Debate

Like the bulbs themselves, there's been a lot of heat and not much light about the provisions of a 2007 law that require traditional incandescent light bulbs to become more energy efficient.

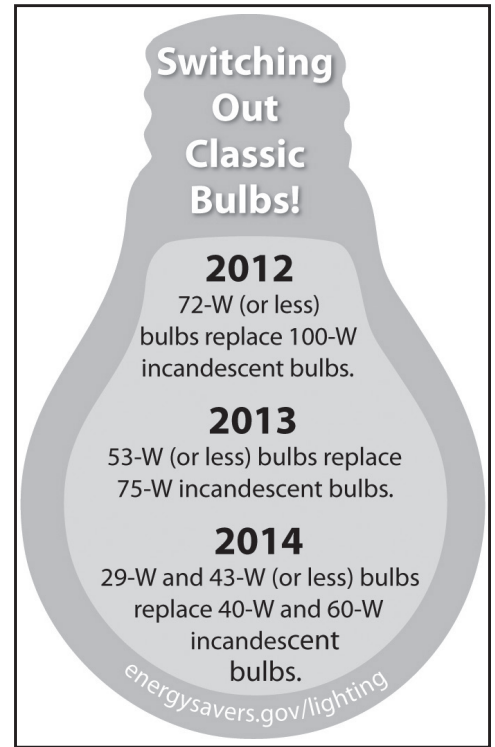
Late in his second term, George W. Bush signed into law the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which requires light bulb makers to improve the efficiency of incandescent bulbs by 25 percent. The details of the law require a phase-out of the manufacture of certain bulbs in their current form, starting with 100-watt bulbs next January. As the deadline for the first phase of the legislation approaches, light bulb confusion is everywhere.

The fact is, the law does not ban the use or manufacture of incandescent bulbs, nor does it mandate the use of Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) or other technologies. It simply requires that companies make some of their incandescent bulbs work a bit better, meeting a series of rolling deadlines between 2012 and 2014.

Incandescent bulbs, which convert about 90 percent of the electricity they consume into heat and only 10 percent into light, have remained essentially unchanged since they were invented by Thomas Edison 130 years ago. Since then, newer lighting technologies like CFLs and Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) have emerged that offer the same light output using much less energy. These newer lights also last anywhere from five to 10 years longer than incandescents.

So fear not if you're a fan of incandescent bulbs, you'll still find them on store shelves...just be ready to pay up to 85% more in operating costs over an LED bulb.

UPDATE: House Republicans on July 12 failed to advance a measure that would repeal the provisions of the 2007 law that requires an increase in efficiency standards for incandescent light bulbs.



## Land-Ho! Smart Meters Hit the Islands

Meter installers are swapping trucks for boats this month as they head for more than 900 properties located on islands throughout Co-op service territory. For island dwellers, the arrival of new smart meters that wirelessly report their readings will offer conveniences that were once available only on the mainland. Instead of being billed twice a year, island residents will receive a monthly bill and, when available, have internet access to a record of their electric usage in weekly, daily, or even hourly increments.

For seasonal residents, the ability to remotely monitor electric consumption can be a money saver. On occasion, seasonal residents have closed up their summer houses and headed home, only to find out a month or more later that an electronic device was left on or malfunctioning. This can result in an unpleasant surprise when the next bill arrives. Soon, those members will be able to see right away when something's wrong.

Between now and the end of 2012, every Co-op member will be receiving a new smart meter as part of NHEC's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. We encourage you to learn more about the project and how you can use it to better manage your energy use at [www.nhec.coop/ami](http://www.nhec.coop/ami).

## NHEC Team Is Top Fundraiser

The 23-member NHEC Team, 'Calamity for a Cause,' raised over \$5,300 at last month's Firefly 5K race as the New Hampshire Make-a-Wish Foundation continued the push to grant its 1000th wish to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

With last year's Co-op sponsored Make-a-Wish child Bella on hand to fire up the team, NHEC employees took to the 5K course in Waterville Valley with friends and family in tow. Fireworks and a barbecue brought a sparkling end to the festivities as the final donations were tallied. A big 'Thank You' to everyone who contributed to the success of the event and helped NH Make-a-Wish continue its important mission!



## Watts Happening

### Board of Directors Meetings

The NHEC Board of Directors regularly meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Cooperative's headquarters in Plymouth. Please check the Board of Directors page on the Co-op website at [www.nhec.coop](http://www.nhec.coop), or call Sharon Yeaton at (603) 536-8801 to confirm the current month's meeting time and location.

### Take Cover With Whole House Surge Protection

The Co-op has made it easier and more affordable to protect your electronic devices against damaging power surges. Whole house surge protection starts with a visit from a Co-op electrician to test and analyze your home's electrical grounding. If it's up to code, we'll install the Kenick surge arrestor, which blocks surges from entering your home. This device installs at your electric meter and protects your home and major "white" appliances, such as your refrigerator, air conditioner, dishwasher and washing machine/dryer. You'll get this surge protection package for just \$380, including delivery and installation. For more information or to order, call Co-op Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007, or visit [nhec.coop](http://nhec.coop).

## Copper Theft: Illegal and Dangerous

Two recent break-ins and thefts of copper cables at NHEC substations have brought a national problem into our own backyard.

With the price of scrap metal on the increase, thieves are increasingly targeting electrical substations. Needless to say, it's a crime that could have a far greater penalty than prison time.

Two would-be copper thieves in Kentucky and Ohio were electrocuted just last month as they attempted to strip wire from substations. Aside from the threat of death, substation vandalism causes power outages and equipment damage, the cost of which is borne by the entire membership.

NHEC has posted a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the substation thefts that occurred on June 25 and July 9 in Bridgewater and Meredith. We hope that the case has been solved by the time you read this story, but anyone with information is encouraged to call their local police department or New Hampshire State Police Troop F at (603) 846-3333.

If you see suspicious activity or evidence of a break-in at any electrical substation, please contact police immediately. Thank you!

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To report an outage  
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1-800-343-6432

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