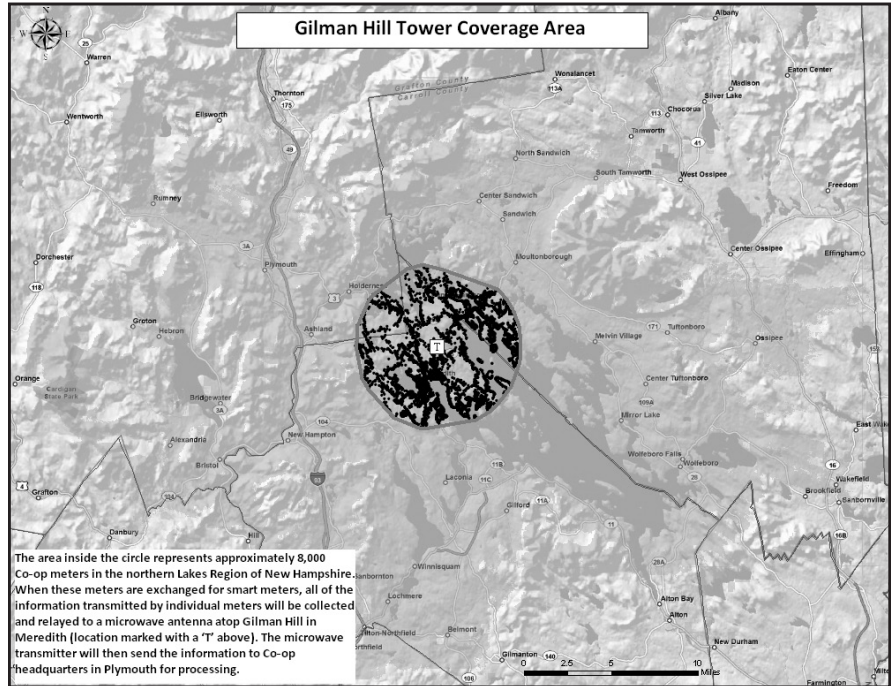


Feature Story: Smart Grid Communications Backbone Taking Shape

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) has contracted with Green Mountain Communications (GMC) of Pembroke, NH to furnish and deploy the microwave communications infrastructure that will support the Cooperative's smart grid project.

GMC is presently working on the detailed design for the network of microwave antennae, radios and appurtenances to be deployed at 25 tower sites that will enable two-way communications with all 83,000 NHEC electric meters across New Hampshire.

Over the next two years, NHEC will be installing meters that are capable of reporting readings and receiving pricing and usage signals. This will allow for new programs that offer NHEC members the opportunity to better understand and manage their energy use. The company expects to begin meter installations this summer.



**More Information, Project Updates Online:
WWW.NHEC.COOP/AMI**

From Derry to Pittsburg

GMC delivers premier technology and wireless solutions to clients across many sectors. GMC will be responsible for purchasing, installing, and testing a microwave backbone system that connects NHEC members from as far south as Derry, to Pittsburg on the northern border with Canada. The majority of this equipment will be installed at existing tower-site locations.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) being installed by NHEC over the next three years will create a "mesh network," whereby electric meters communicate with one another via radio frequency, gathering usage data and sending it to NHEC headquarters in Plymouth via microwave transmission and fiber optic cable from the 25 locations across New Hampshire. The entire project is being funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"We are very pleased to be partnering with Green Mountain Communications," remarked Fred Anderson, President/CEO of NHEC. "They have an excellent reputation as a technology and microwave systems provider, and we are confident that they will design and execute a technology plan that meets and exceeds our expectations."

Make Your Home an Energy Performer

If you're considering making improvements to your home to lower energy bills or fix comfort problems, you should learn about Home Performance with ENERGY STAR.

NHEC is now accepting program applications from members. If you qualify, you can receive rebates of 50%, up to \$4,000, towards the installation of recommended energy efficiency improvements. And thanks to NHEC's on-bill financing program, you may also qualify for a no-interest loan to cover your co-pay.

Rather than focusing on a single problem, like an old heating system or leaky windows, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR takes a 'whole house' approach to energy improvements. The program includes a comprehensive home energy evaluation by a certified Building Performance Institute auditor, who will recommend improvements that work together to give you the best results.

Each home's problems are different, but here are some recommendations that Home Performance auditors frequently make:

- Sealing air leaks and adding insulation
- Improving heating and cooling systems
- Sealing ductwork
- Upgrading lighting, appliances and water heating equipment
- Installing renewable energy systems

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR will make your home more comfortable and energy efficient. Depending on the improvements you choose, you may be able to save 20% or more on your annual utility bill.

How to Apply...
Program Description:
nhsaves.com/residential/retrofit
See if You Qualify:
nhsaves.com/homeheating
No-interest Loan Details:
nhec.coop/residential_homeperformanceloans
Or Call 1-800-698-2007

Watts Happening

Board of Directors Meetings

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

A Woodstove, Snowmobile Helmet and '98 Dodge Neon

They were all for sale last month in the online Co-op Classifieds. Buy, sell or swap at www.nhec.coop. Ads are free of charge to Co-op members and there's no limit to how many ads you can post. To get started, register online and follow the links to post your free ads.

Check Twitter for Outages

NHEC is live on Twitter.com.

NHEC_OUTAGE is activated during extended outage events and provides frequent updates during the restoration effort. Go online to Twitter.com and become a follower!

Go Green With Co-op Renewable Choice

Enroll in Co-op Renewable Choice and purchase blocks of homegrown renewable energy for a small monthly fee. The amount collected will be used by NHEC to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which support the production of renewable energy at facilities such as the Lempster Wind Power Project, Beaver Ridge Wind Farm and the Colebrook Municipal Landfill - all of which generate renewable energy that is purchased by NHEC for use by its members.

The fee for each 'block' is three dollars (\$3). Each block represents 100 kilowatt hours worth of renewable energy attributes. You can purchase as many blocks as you wish. The number of blocks purchased will be billed monthly and appear as "CO-OP RENEW CHOICE" on your electric service bill.

I would like to purchase the following number of blocks:

Please specify # of blocks _____

Dollars per month (\$3 per block) _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

NHEC Acct # (10 digits) _____

Daytime Phone _____

Your signature below authorizes NHEC to add the amount indicated above to your monthly electric service bill. This fee will be applied each month until you notify NHEC otherwise.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Please clip and return with your bill payment, or mail to:
NHEC, 579 Tenney Mountain Highway, Plymouth, NH 03264*



For member service please call
1-800-698-2007
Monday-Friday, 8-5:00
or visit us online at www.nhec.coop

To report an outage please call
1-800-343-6432

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative
579 Tenney Mountain Highway
Plymouth, NH 03264