

Warm Up to Insulation

Insulation is a homeowner's primary line of defense against cold weather with its ability to keep heat inside. Its ability to resist heat flow is measured in R value – the higher the R value, the less heat will be able to transfer. There are many types of insulation on the market today which all have different benefits, applications and costs.

The most common and least expensive insulation is fiberglass. It has been very popular in new construction for decades but does not perform as well as many of the newer advanced types being used today. It can easily be purchased in rolls or batts and installed by a homeowner. When installed properly, it will improve the energy performance of any home.

A more advanced type of insulation is cellulose. Made from recycled newspaper, it's one of the better materials for new or existing construction. It is blown by a machine into attics, wall cavities and other hard-to-reach places. Unlike fiberglass, it can reduce air movement, therefore improving the air leakage of a building.

One advanced type of insulation becoming very popular today is spray foam. Although it is one of the most expensive types, it provides the largest benefit in home performance. Not only does spray foam have the highest R value per inch, but it also eliminates air leakage and provides a moisture and air barrier. It requires some very high tech equipment to install spray foam and should only be installed by a qualified professional.

Insulation also comes in a variety of other materials. Foam boards in 2x8 or 4x8 sheets of different materials can be used easily to provide thermal, air and moisture resistance. Many new homes are utilizing these materials by manufacturing structural panels (SIPS), to create a wall system which provides insulation and framing easily put together on site.

Whatever type of insulation you are using, it needs to be protected with a fire resistant material. Make sure you check with local or state officials to be sure what coverings will be adequate for your particular situation.

(Information for this article was provided by NHEC Residential Energy Efficiency Program Administrator Chris Johnson. Chris is also President of the Northeast Home Energy Rating System Alliance)

Who is Fred? He's Fred Anderson, President & CEO of the Co-op and he's big on energy efficiency!

FRED SAID: "Did you know that you can take a federal tax credit of up to \$500 for adding insulation to your home?"



RESOURCE CORNER



Check these HELPFUL WEBSITES for more information about what type of insulation is BEST FOR YOUR HOME...

<http://www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html>

A joint venture between Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy, this site lets you enter your zip code and a quick calculation will tell you the most economic insulation level for your new or existing house.

www.insulationsmart.com

An online calculator lets you estimate your potential monthly savings with insulation that minimizes a major source of energy loss from your home.

www.builderonline.com

A great source of "how-to" information that's perfect for the do-it-yourself homeowner.

- Watts Happening
- Emergency Prep
- NRECA Award
- Member Discount
- Fred Said

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter

FEATURE ARTICLE: 2008: What's On Tap?

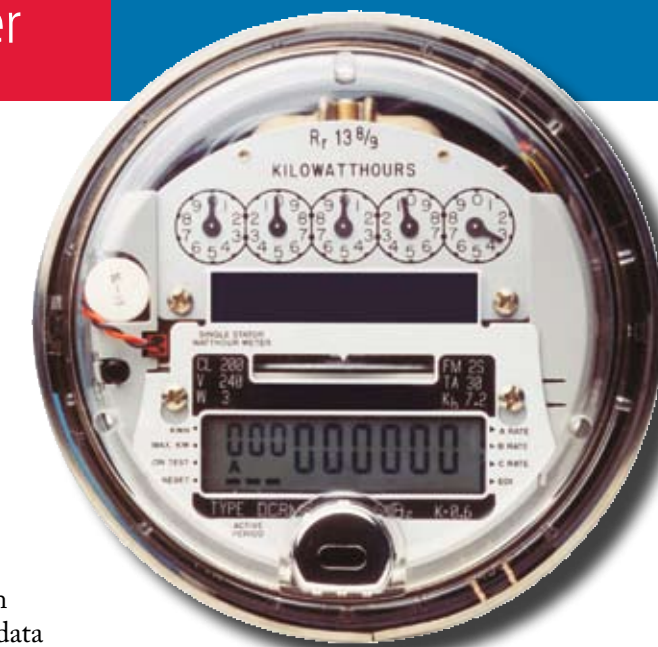
The Co-op is hitting the ground running in 2008 with plans that build on the success of last year and set the stage for future improvements.

In the field, NHEC will be taking the first steps towards implementation of a Communications/Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI), that will revolutionize the way information is exchanged between our headquarters and the electric meter on your house or business. In 2008 NHEC will begin a multiple step program that upgrades its electronic communications infrastructure to ensure adequate communications coverage from Colebrook to Raymond. The project will be phased in over the next four years.

As part of this comprehensive capital investment, the Co-op will be replacing its aging two-way radio system with a wide area telecom network consisting of microwave and fiber links throughout NHEC's service territory and a two-way radio

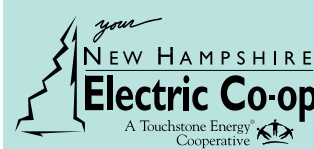
system to replace the existing low band system. These two technologies will greatly improve our ability to "talk" with our crews out in the field and gather data from our substations and meters throughout the service territory. When AMI is fully deployed in the later stages of the project, NHEC will be able to read every meter every day, on a schedule or on demand. There will be no need for meter readers to go to every property each month, nor will there be a need for Metering Specialists to make trips to properties for "off-cycle" activities such as re-reads or transfer reads. Under a funding plan approved by the NHEC Board of Directors, the entire Communications/AMI implementation will be paid for by repurposing existing funds, thereby avoiding the need to increase rates.

Also in 2008, the Co-op will be expanding its energy efficiency and renewable energy programs to help members reduce their carbon



emissions and manage their energy costs. NHEC will continue to offer rebates on the installation of solar hot water systems and wind generators in its service territory. New in 2008, rebate offers will also be extended to members installing solar photovoltaic systems (solar PV). The Co-op will also expand its Commercial & Industrial program to include rebates on the replacement of fossil fueled boilers with high efficiency units, as well as a rebate program for businesses installing geothermal heat pump systems.

There's a lot to look forward to in 2008 and we'll keep you up to date on our progress in the months to come.



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

Winter Storm Outages – Be Prepared

Winter is here – be ready for storm-related outages with the following preparations...

A home emergency kit can be invaluable in an outage, especially if power is likely to be out for some time. We all hope that any outage is short lived, but preparing for longer interruptions is time well spent. Here are some ideas for your kit:

Basic Needs

- Portable radio
- Flashlight(s)
- Spare batteries
- Candles
- Matches or a lighter
- Wind up or battery alarm clock
- Moist towelettes (baby wipes)
- Freezer ice packs - keep them in the freezer all the time so they're ready to use
- Large cooler or ice chest
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Warm, dry clothing
- First aid kit
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Baby supplies, including diapers

Water

If you know a storm with the potential to cause outages is coming, fill containers with water, including your bathtub(s). Separate water for drinking from that for other uses. Flush toilets sparingly with a bucket of water.

Food

Plan on a 3 to 5 day supply for each member of the family, including family pets. These can include:

- Canned meats, vegetables and fruits
- Freeze-dried meats, vegetables, fruits, and prepared meals
- Instant foods
- Foil pouch products
- Infant foods and needs
- Pet foods
- In addition, the following will make life without power easier:
 - Manual can opener
 - Disposable plates, cups, and eating utensils
 - Camp stove and fuel

To Report an Outage

The Co-op's Control Center is a busy place during times of widespread power outages. You can help our employees and yourself if your power goes out by following these simple steps:

- To report an outage, call 1-800-343-6432. We recommend you keep this number posted in a convenient place in your home – near the phone, on your refrigerator...wherever it's easy to remember and locate.
- Have your account number ready – if we don't have your phone number on record, you'll be prompted to enter your 10-digit account number. This information will automatically enter your outage in our computer database without the need to speak to a Control Center employee directly.
- Tune in to local radio – the Co-op will notify local radio stations in your area if we expect your power to be out for an extended period of time.

Super Sunday Ski Bash!

The Co-op is again teaming up with its member ski areas to offer half-price all-day lift tickets for members only on Sunday, February 3, 2008.

Start your Super Bowl Sunday on the slopes, then get ready to cheer on the Patriots (fingers crossed) in the big game!

Clip the coupon to the right and present it at the ticket window at any of the participating mountains on February 3, 2008 to receive your discount. Each coupon is good for up to four people and applies to all age groups.

Take your pick of any of these great ski resorts: Cranmore (North Conway), The Balsams Wilderness Ski Area (Dixville Notch), Black Mountain (Jackson), Dartmouth Skiway (Lyme).

Co-op Wins 2008 National Community Service Award

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) announced that New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) is the recipient of its 2008 Community Service Award for Energy Efficiency.

The award recognizes NHEC's energy efficiency efforts at Cranmore Mountain in North Conway, where the ski area saved more than \$50,000 in energy costs last winter.

NHEC bested more than 60 electric cooperatives from across the country in winning the award, which is given annually to a cooperative that has done the most to provide their member-owners with the most efficient systems and practices possible.

Working in partnership with Cranmore staff, NHEC provided a rebate of \$15,000 toward the purchase of 20 low energy tower snow guns that are estimated to be 60% more energy efficient than conventional guns. In addition, NHEC provided the capital to purchase two fan guns costing \$56,300 through its SmartSTART program (Savings Through Affordable Retrofit Technologies). This program allows for the cost of improve-

ments to be repaid over time on the member's electric bill, using the energy savings generated by the products themselves.

NHEC also developed a program for Cranmore staff which enabled the resort to participate in ISO-New England's demand response program. Notified by NHEC of high electricity price/demand periods, Cranmore was able to curtail its electric usage and get paid the actual price for the power it did not consume. Demand response participants provide an important resource for New England. They help ensure the power grid's reliability, reduce wholesale price volatility that drives up the cost of power for everyone, and reduce air pollution by enabling older, less efficient power plants to run less often.

NHEC will receive the award at NRECA's 2008 Annual Meeting to be held February 24-27 in Anaheim, CA. NRECA is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 40 million people in 47 states.

WATTS HAPPENING!

Board of Directors Meetings

The NHEC Board of Directors meets monthly at dates and locations that are available on the Co-op website at www.nhec.coop/boardofdirectors, or by calling Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801.

Seeking Candidates for Board of Directors

Four seats on the 11-member Co-op Board of Directors will be up for election to three-year terms in 2008. In a cooperative, the members themselves elect candidates they feel will best represent them on the Board of Directors. Voting takes place by mail ballot in May 2008 with board members installed at the June annual meeting. The Co-op seeks broad representation from a diverse group of individuals and encourages all qualified members to consider running for one of the open seats. You must be a Co-op member in order to run for a position on the Board. For more information about how to get your name on next year's ballot, contact Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801, or nhechq@nhec.com.

D.C. Youth Tour – Last Chance!

High school juniors have until February 29, 2008 to apply for a spot on the 2008 Washington D.C. Youth Tour. To enter, just write a letter to an elected official about an issue that's important to you. Before you send it, make a copy and send it to Youth Tour Coordinator Audrey Simpson, c/o NHEC, or simpsona@nhec.com. More information is available under the Community menu on our website: www.nhec.coop.

Average Bill Going Down in January

Members will see a modest bill decrease effective this month. The monthly bill for the typical residential member will go down approximately 73 cents due to a combination of rate changes. While the Delivery Charge portion of your bill will increase slightly to cover the cost of the Co-op's expanded energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, a reduction in the Stranded Cost portion of your bill will more than offset that increase. The Stranded Cost charge is a per kilowatt-hour charge that pays for part of the costs related to the Seabrook Station nuclear power plant and the cost of terminating a long-term power supply contract with Public Service of New Hampshire.

Get half-price lift tickets on Super Bowl Sunday

Co-op Members - Present this coupon (originals only, no photocopies) at any of the following ski resorts on Sunday, February 3, 2008 and receive up to four all-day lift tickets at half the regular rate in effect at the time:

- Cranmore
- The Balsams Wilderness Ski Area
- Black Mountain
- Dartmouth Skiway

Discount is valid on February 3, 2008 only; not to be combined with any other offers. Discount applies only to lift tickets, not valid for any other mountain activities. Co-op members may also present recent copy of NHEC bill (six months to present) to receive discount.