

New Hampshire Electric Co-op TODAY

- Renewable Energy Rebates
- Estimated Bills
- Member Discount
- Watts Happening
- Save Energy & Money

JANUARY 2009

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter



Winter Storm Outages

BE PREPARED

Last month's ice storm left 45,000 Co-op members without power—some for as long as 9 days. A home emergency kit can be invaluable in the event of a prolonged power outage. 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. Also, remember to fully charge your cell phone – portable phones without battery backup will not work without power.

Food & Medicine

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
- Important medicines
- 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 be used outdoors only)

BE SAFE

Prepare a Safe Source of Heat. Have a safe alternative way to heat your home in case of a power failure. Never use a barbecue, camp stove or any other unvented heater because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning. If you do not have a way to keep your home warm enough, go to the home of a friend or relative, or check into a shelter until the power goes back on.

Portable Generators

- Connect the appliance you want to use directly to the generator
- Do not connect the generator directly to the building wiring system
- Run the generator only in a well-ventilated area to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide from burning fuel
- Use caution when handling and storing fuel. Turn off the generator for refueling

To Report an Outage: 1-800-343-6432

2009 Renewable Energy Rebates

The Co-op is ready to help make 2009 your year to invest in renewable energy. For the third year, we're offering rebates on the installation of qualified solar hot water, solar photovoltaic and small wind turbine systems. For complete program details, call the Co-op or visit our energy efficiency web site: www.smallsteps.coop.

Solar H2O

A solar hot water system is your affordable entry into "green" energy. A standard system consists of two 4'x 8' solar panels and can save 50 – 80% of your annual water heating costs. In 2009, the Co-op is offering rebates

of up to \$1,500 to members who install a qualified solar hot water system in Co-op service territory.

Solar PV

A typical two-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system can produce about 2500 kilowatt hours of clean, free electricity per year. At the current rate of 17 cents per kWh, that's an annual savings of \$425. Co-op rebates of \$3 per watt (up to \$3,500), combined with state and federal incentives, make this technology affordable for members who want to make socially and environmentally responsible energy choices.

Small Wind Turbine

It's always windy where you live? You could be turning it into free electricity with a residential wind turbine. In fact, a typical two-kilowatt system can lower your electric costs by as much as 80%. In 2009, the Co-op is offering rebates of up to \$3,500 on the installation of qualified wind turbines in Co-op service territory.

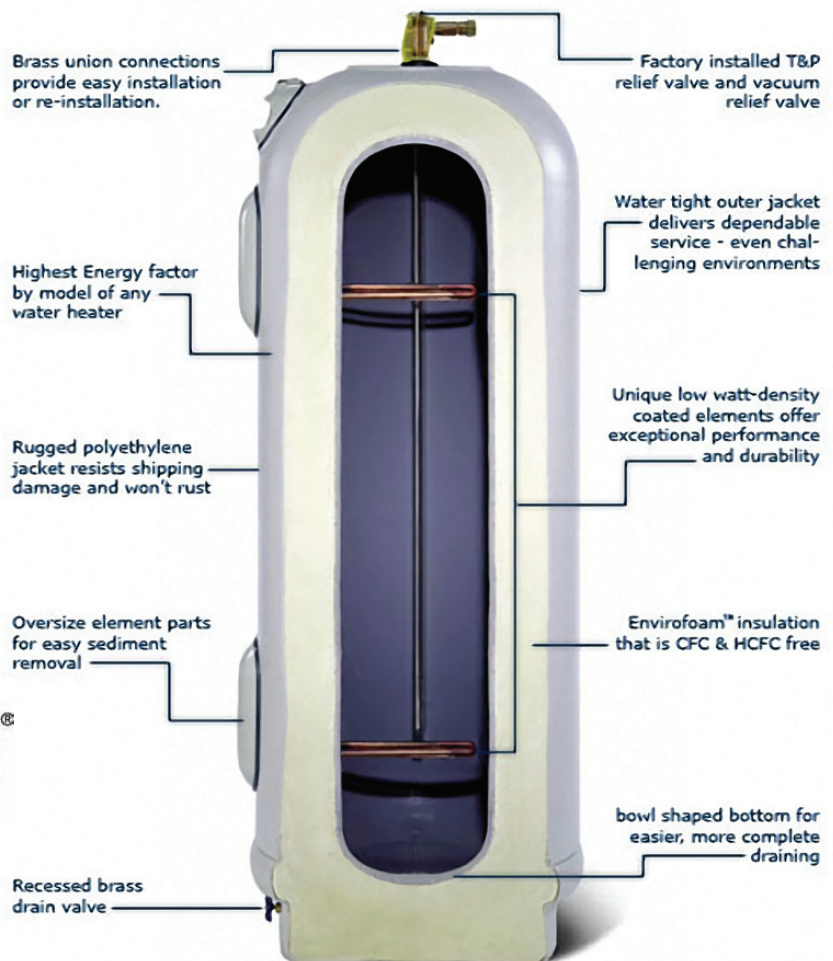
New programs designed to save members energy and money will be rolling out all year, so keep up to date at the Co-op's energy efficiency web site: www.nhec.coop.

The Marathon Advantage

An 85-gallon Marathon water heater uses less energy than a 50-gallon standard water heater. No wonder it's the number one choice in thermal storage units. Plus, it's got a lifetime tank warranty! The Marathon is the most efficient water heater made and probably the last water heater you'll ever buy.

Co-op members can purchase Marathon water heaters at discount prices directly from the Co-op and tap into our network of local plumbers for installation or service. Even deeper discounts are available for new construction. For more information on our hot water solutions, contact the Co-op at 1-800-698-2007, or visit us online at www.nhec.coop.

Marathon[®]
WATER HEATERS



2009 Co-op Rebates

Solar hot water: 25%
of installed cost up
to **\$1,500**

Solar PV: \$3.00 per
Watt up to **\$3,500**

Small wind turbine:
25% of installed cost
up to **\$3,500**

Estimated Bills - Don't Get Taken By Surprise

The meters of every Co-op member are read each month to ensure accurate billing. But on occasion (bad weather, impassable roads, obstructions around the meter, etc.), it is not possible to reach your meter. In this case, your bill for that period will be based on estimated usage. The Co-op estimates your usage by taking the average of your previous three months usage and your usage for the same month a year ago. Your bill will then be reconciled for actual usage during the next month's reading, or when the meter reader can safely access your meter. This can occasionally result in an unpleasant surprise if your estimated usage is well below your actual usage for that period.

If your bill is marked "EST" next to the kilowatt-hour usage line, you'll know your bill for that period has been estimated. If you do not want to receive an estimated bill and prefer to reconcile your account during the next reading period, please call the Co-op at 1-800-698-2007.

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 2009. 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 2009 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 January 30, 2009 to apply for a spot on the 2009 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. You could be going to Washington D.C. free for a week! Get all the details online under the Community menu at: www.nhec.coop.

Free Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

Bring your used fluorescent lights to one of two NHEC locations for safe, free disposal. Our Plymouth headquarters (Tenney Mountain Highway) and Meredith District building (Route 25) are accepting fluorescent tubes up to four feet in length, compact fluorescents, U-shaped and circular tubes (limit six per household, per visit).

Hours of Operation

Plymouth: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., M-F

Meredith: 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., M-F

\$20 Skiing & Riding at Tenney Mountain

Co-op Members - Present this coupon at Tenney Mountain on Friday, February 27th and ski or ride all day for **\$20!**

For conditions and trail maps, visit Tenneymtn.com. Tenney Mountain, Rt. 3A, Plymouth. Coupon good for up to two people. Discount applies to all age categories. Discount does not apply to other resort activities.

Discount is valid on Friday, February 27, 2009 only; not to be combined with any other offers. Show this original coupon to receive discounts, or copy of recent Co-op bill. No photocopies allowed.

The BACK PAGE

Top Ten Ways to Save Energy and Money at Home

1. Caulk or weatherstrip windows and doors.

Materials for the average twelve-window, two-door house could cost about \$25, but savings in annual energy costs might amount to more than 10 percent of your yearly heating bill.

2. Install storm windows and doors.

Combination screen and storm windows and doors are the most convenient and energy efficient because they can be opened easily when there is no need to run heating or cooling equipment. Installing high efficiency Energy Star windows can reduce heating and cooling costs by 15 percent; you can save from \$125-\$340 a year when you replace single pane windows with their Energy Star equivalents.

3. Insulate.

You can reduce your energy needs by as much as 20 to 30 percent, and save about four months' worth of household energy, by investing in insulation. Focus on your attic floor or top floor ceiling, crawlspace, exterior walls, basement ceilings and walls, and rooms over unheated spaces, like garages.

4. Use a programmable thermostat.

A programmable thermostat allows you to predetermine temperatures for daytime and evening comfort as well as energy savings. It can save you as much as 20 percent if you opt to reduce temperatures by 5 degrees at night and 10 degrees during the day when most people are out of the house.

5. Get an energy audit. New Hampshire Electric Co-op can refer you to a specially trained auditor to examine your home and explain what inexpensive and free energy conservation actions you can take to save money and energy immediately. For a complete list of home energy auditors in the state, visit the Residential Energy Performance Association website at www.repa-nh.org.

6. Set your water heater to 120 degrees. If you currently heat your water to 140 degrees, you may save as much as 10 percent on water-heating costs.

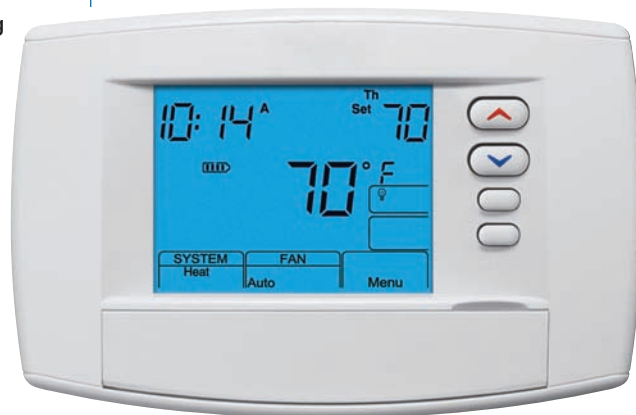
7. Wrap your water heater in an insulating blanket. This is one of the most cost-effective energy-saving steps you'll

ever take. Insulating blankets or "jackets" cost only around \$10, but they can reduce the loss of heat through the walls of the tank by 25-40 percent, saving 4-9 percent on heating bills.

8. Use less hot water. Wash laundry in cold water. Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Fix leaky faucets. Wash full loads of laundry and dishes.

9. Maintain your furnace. If you heat with oil, have your furnace serviced at least once a year to save 10 percent in fuel consumption (if you do this in summer, you'll get cheaper, off-season rates). Clean or replace the filters in your forced-air heating system each month. Dust or vacuum radiator surfaces frequently.

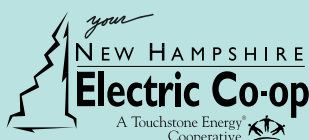
10. Upgrade your appliances. When you replace your appliances, choose Energy Star models, which use 10-50% less energy and water than the standard alternatives.



A programmable thermostat allows you to predetermine temperatures for daytime and evening comfort as well as energy savings.

FRED SAID: "Make it your New Year's resolution to replace at least one standard light bulb with a Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL). They use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer!"

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



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

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