

EASY SUMMER COOLING TIPS

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot summer sun before it enters your home; however, a surprising amount of heat comes from *inside* your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate and produce less heat.
- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.
- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.
- If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.

SAVE \$20 ON ENERGY STAR® ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS

Co-op members can receive a \$20 mail-in rebate after purchasing an ENERGY STAR-rated room air conditioner. ENERGY STAR models use 10-20% less energy and save an average of \$25 per year on your electric bill.

For more information about the full line of ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, including a list of participating ENERGY STAR appliance retailers in New Hampshire, please visit the Co-op online at www.nhec.coop.



FRED SAID: "If you replace a 10 – 20 year old air conditioner with an ENERGY STAR® qualified room air conditioner, you could save \$100 - \$220 on your electric bill over the life of the unit."

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

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

Many people buy an air conditioner that is too large, thinking it will provide better cooling. However, an oversized air conditioner is actually less effective — and wastes energy at the same time. Use this chart to determine what size unit is best for your space.

Area To Be Cooled (square feet)	Capacity Needed (BTUs per hour)
100 to 150	5,000
150 to 250	6,000
250 to 300	7,000
300 to 350	8,000
350 to 400	9,000
400 to 450	10,000
450 to 550	12,000
550 to 700	14,000
700 to 1,000	18,000
1,000 to 1,200	21,000
1,200 to 1,400	23,000
1,400 to 1,500	24,000
1,500 to 2,000	30,000
2,000 to 2,500	34,000

Make any adjustments for the following circumstances:

- If the room is heavily shaded, reduce capacity by 10 percent.
- If the room is very sunny, increase capacity by 10 percent.
- If more than two people regularly occupy the room, add 600 BTUs for each additional person.
- If the unit is used in a kitchen, increase capacity by 4,000 BTUs.
- Consider where you install the unit. If you are mounting an air conditioner near the corner of a room, look for a unit that can send the airflow in the right direction.

- Lempster Pole Test
- Free Audits
- New Lincoln-Woodstock Line
- AC Guide
- Summer Cooling Tips

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter



FEATURE ARTICLE:

At 70th Annual Meeting, Co-op Looks Ahead

PLYMOUTH, NH - Despite the economic downturn that slowed growth and pinched revenues in 2008, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative is in the best financial shape of its 70-year life, company officials reported at the 2009 Annual Meeting of Members.

Speaking to approximately 200 members and guests at the Plymouth Regional Senior Center, NHEC President/CEO Fred Anderson said a year of storms — both natural and financial — resulted in declining kilowatt-hour sales and expensive system repairs.

"Despite all the difficulties, NHEC's equity to assets ratio is as good as it's ever been and we've been able to weather the downturn with no impact on service. In fact, we achieved our highest-ever equity — 25% by 2009," Anderson said.

A strong equity position means the Co-op can rely less on the need to borrow money to finance operations and can become financially independent, remarked NHEC Board member and Treasurer Dave Talbot of North Woodstock.

"If we can't avoid nature's storms we can at least minimize the effect of storms

created by an economy in turmoil," he said, noting that NHEC still realized a 3.9% margin in 2008 on operating revenues of \$145,439,000.

NHEC Board Chairman Earl Hansen of Holderness offered members a vision of NHEC's future, detailing the company's plans to take advantage of sweeping technological changes happening now in the electric industry.

"NHEC is in the midst of a multi-year effort to install Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)," he said, "which is essential if NHEC is to bring the benefits of 'smart grid' technologies to its members."

"When the AMI project is completed, every electric meter in the Co-op system will have two-way communications with Co-op headquarters. Meters will report their own readings as well as outages," he said, "and give members a better understanding of how much electricity they are using, when they are using it and what they are using it to power."

With AMI in place, NHEC can explore different rate structures that offer members incentives to use electricity dur-

MEMBERS RAISE \$1,000 FOR SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM

Members and guests attending the 70th Annual Meeting raised \$1,000 for the Plymouth Regional Senior Center's Senior Meals program.

The donation was made possible by the generosity of the Italian Farmhouse restaurant in Plymouth, a member of the Common Man family of restaurants, which provided a spaghetti dinner free of charge for members attending the Annual Meeting. Suggested donations of \$5 per person, plus the proceeds from a post-meeting raffle, were given to the Senior Meals program.

ing off-peak hours, saving them money and reducing peak demands on the New England electrical grid.

Video of the Annual Meeting will be available for viewing on public access cable channels across Co-op service territory and on the NHEC website — nhec.coop.

BOARD MEMBERS RE-ELECTED

The results of balloting to elect four members of the NHEC Board of Directors were announced at the June 10 Annual Meeting. A total of 10,447 ballots were cast by members, who re-elected four incumbent Board members who were running unopposed. Re-elected to 3 year terms on the 11-member Board were Charles "Chuck" Braxton of Meredith, Kenneth Colburn of Meredith, Sharon Davis of Campton and Dave Talbot of North Woodstock.

Also announced at the Annual Meeting was the winner of a vehicle that was awarded to one member who returned his or her ballot to the Co-op. Congratulations to John Howe of Jackson, who was selected in a drawing to receive the Jeep Cherokee Sport that is being retired from the Co-op fleet.

New Line to Double Capacity in Lincoln - Woodstock



A new four-mile stretch of high voltage transmission line will double the amount of power NHEC can supply to the Lincoln - Woodstock area. It will also improve reliability by providing an alternate route for power in the event that the other line serving the area becomes damaged.

The Lincoln - Woodstock area is currently supplied with electric power from a single 34,500 volt NHEC line originating in Public Service of New Hampshire's North Woodstock Substation.

Due to the added load of the South Mountain land development and the new South Mountain ski facilities at Loon Mountain, the capacity of this line (the amount of power that can flow through it) is almost at its maximum during the winter months.

NHEC has leased an existing right-of-way from PSNH, originally used for a line to the Lincoln Mill, to gain access to the Lincoln area for the new 34,500 volt supply line. This new line will also originate in the PSNH's North Woodstock Substation but will follow a different route to the NHEC Lincoln Substation in Lincoln.

NHEC has worked with the NH Department of Transportation to obtain permissions for a highway crossing over I-93, with the US Forest Service for permissions to construct in a portion of the National Forest, with private citizens for easements to cross private property and with the developers at South Mountain to obtain easements to cross through their development.

The new line is approximately four miles long. It consists of approximately three miles of overhead construction and approximately one mile of underground construction. The overhead portion was recently completed. The underground portion will be 75% complete by year end 2009 with the completion of the project targeted for August 2010.

First Co-op Pole Still Standing Strong



As part of the Co-op's program to test the soundness of utility poles, the Polux pole testing equipment (blue box at base of pole) was used to test the residual strength of the very first pole ever set by the Co-op in 1939 in Lempster.

Despite weathering 70 years, the pole tested at 67% of its original strength. Based on that analysis, the Lempster pole has at least another 15 years of life left. According to company officials, it is not uncommon for poles 50 years or older to retain much of their original strength due to natural growth and long-lasting preservative treatments poles received at the time.

Signs on Poles: Illegal and Dangerous

Hanging signs on electric utility poles causes a safety hazard for line workers — and it's against the law!

New Hampshire RSA 236:75 became law to protect line workers and preserve the strength of the pole itself. Line workers use sharp steel "gaffs" attached to their boots to climb poles. Hitting a nail or other object left in a pole while climbing can cause the line worker to fall and be injured.

Also, tacks, nails and staples left in the pole can tear or puncture the line worker's rubber gloves. These gloves are a line worker's primary protection against electric shock. Even a pinprick in a glove can cause the glove to fail when it comes in contact with high voltage and can result in the line worker being severely injured or killed.

Finally, nails and tacks in a pole can allow extra moisture to enter the pole, causing premature pole rot. So for everyone's well being, please don't put signs on utility poles!

Report signs attached to electric utility poles to Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007.



Pole Testing Continues



The Co-op is in the third year of a major effort to test the soundness and strength of all 111,000 poles in our electrical distribution system.

Using a bread-box-sized device called a Polux, workers insert probes into each pole, testing for moisture content and fiber strength. The results thus far have been encouraging — the vast majority of poles tested are in good shape. When poles test below an acceptable level, they are replaced and not injected with chemicals. This testing process cannot be done once the wood is in a frozen state for the winter.

So far, 38,000 poles have been tested in the Co-op districts of Sunapee, Andover, Raymond and Alton. This year, the testing is being done in the Ossipee, Conway and Colebrook districts.

Free Home Energy Audits

New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) is now accepting applications to receive one of a limited number of free home energy audits the company is offering in 2009 as part of its Social & Environmental Responsibility programs.

To apply, you must be an NHEC member and use fossil fuels as your primary heat source. Members who choose to install recommended energy efficiency measures will receive Co-op rebates and may qualify to pay for the remainder through the Co-op's smartSTART program (Savings Through Affordable Retrofit Technologies).

Using smartSTART, a member pays nothing out of pocket for energy efficiency improvements and makes monthly payments that are set to be less than the savings realized.

The deadline to apply is August 31, 2009. Applications are available for download at the NHEC energy conservation web site: www.smallsteps.coop, or by mail by calling Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007.

The home energy audit, a \$350 value, includes blower door testing, building shell assessment, lighting and appliance evaluation and a comprehensive report outlining recommended improvements and potential energy savings. Members will be selected based on the amount of energy used and the potential for greatest savings. In-home businesses are not eligible for this program; nor are members who have received a free energy audit from NHEC within the past three years.

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.

It's Easy to Take smallSTEPS

You don't have to change your life to change your carbon footprint. That's the message of smallSTEPS.coop, the Co-op's online home for energy efficiency advice and information. Get the latest on rebates now available for Co-op members who install renewable energy systems, plus a host of resources that will help you save energy and money.

Win!!

A Weekend Getaway to the White Mountains

A weekend for two at one of New Hampshire's White Mountains grand hotels is the top prize in the raffle following the 4th Annual Cooperative Covered Bridge 5K on September 5, 2009. You do not have to be present at the race to win. To enter, fill out the form, return to NHEC 5K, 579 Tenney Mountain Highway, Plymouth, NH 03264. Include a check made payable to NHEC for the number of tickets you wish to purchase. We will photocopy your entries and place them in the drawing. Ticket prices: 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5. No limit to number of entries. Winner drawn September 5, 2009.

Name

Daytime Phone Number

Number of Entries

clip & return! 