

New Hampshire Electric Co-op

TODAY

- 2009 Renewable Energy Rebates
- Youth Tour Winners
- Online Services
- Common Man Inn Goes Solar
- Hanging Out to Dry

JUNE 2009

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter



FEATURE ARTICLE:

NHEC Makes Member Voices Heard in Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. - The leadership of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) traveled to Washington D.C. last month to encourage the New Hampshire Congressional delegation to enact legislation that keeps electric rates affordable while supporting the growth of renewable energy.

NHEC board members Jerry Hopkins, Gail Paine, Ken Colburn and Bob Reals along with President/CEO Fred Anderson met with Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) as well as the legislative staffs of Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Congressman Paul Hodes (D-NH) and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH) to discuss a range of energy issues including: regional transmission planning and coordination, joint ownership of transmission infrastructure, incentive rates for the development of new facilities, federal renewable electricity standards, and the best way to implement a 'cap-and-trade' carbon emissions solution.

NHEC urged the delegation to pass carbon market 'cap-and-trade' legislation that allots up to 40% of emission allowances to electric utilities like the Co-op that do not generate electricity but provide it to member-consumers. Specifically, NHEC favors allocating these allowances at no cost to mitigate increases in energy costs to consumers and encourage the further development of energy efficiency programs.



NHEC leadership met in Washington D.C. last month with members of New Hampshire's Congressional delegation to discuss a range of energy issues. Pictured above are, from left, NHEC President/CEO Fred Anderson, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), NHEC Board Member Gail Paine, NHEC Board Member Ken Colburn.

NHEC also expressed continued support for the development of performance standards to encourage the growth of renewables and energy efficiency measures. The Co-op pointed out that it does not favor a separate federal energy efficiency mandate on electric utilities because it limits our flexibility and undercuts least cost planning.

2009 Renewable Energy Rebates

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) is offering rebates to members who install qualified solar hot water, solar electric or wind turbine systems in NHEC service territory.

The rebates are being offered for the third year by NHEC as part of its Social & Environmental Responsibility programs, which aim to help members conserve energy, reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and promote the growth of renewable energy.

Rebate amounts vary according to the type of renewable energy system installed.

Solar Hot Water: \$1,500 max.

Solar Photovoltaic: \$3,500 max.

Small Wind Turbine: \$3,500 max.

Each member can participate one time in each of NHEC's 2009 Social and Environmental Responsibility rebate programs. For example, a member who installs all three systems is eligible for rebates up to \$8,500.



Applications to receive renewable energy rebates are available for download on the NHEC web site (www.nhec.coop) or by calling NHEC Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007. Members are encouraged to act quickly as 2009 program year funds will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis. **In order to receive a rebate, members must receive pre-approval from NHEC before starting work on renewable energy systems.** Rebates will be awarded only for systems that are installed and operating by the end of the calendar year.

Last year, NHEC awarded more than \$280,000 in rebates to 107 members who installed renewable energy systems. Over their lifetime, these projects will avoid the need to produce an estimated 2,836 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

'Triple Dip' and Save Even More

2009 is a great year to go green, thanks to at least three sources of money that can offset the cost of your new renewable energy system by up to 75%.

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as the Stimulus Package, provides tax credits for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects installed at your home or business. These incentives can be coupled with Co-op and State of New Hampshire rebates to add up to big savings.

Members should consult a tax advisor for a federal tax credit qualification determination. Also, members should consult the NH Public Utility Commission (Sustainable Energy Division) for qualification of renewable energy projects rebates.

What Makes a Marathon Water Heater GREEN?

(and the competition GREEN with envy?)

- Lifetime warranty non-metallic tank
- Highest energy efficiency ratings in industry
- Lowest stand-by heat loss of any tank-type water heater
- First in industry to use Envirofoam[®] insulation – CFC and HCFC free
- No combustion by-products



Buy your Marathon direct from NHEC and save with members-only pricing.

1-800-698-2007

www.nhec.coop

C-Man Goes Solar



With help from a \$1,500 Co-op rebate, the Common Man Inn of Plymouth has installed a solar hot water system that is substantially reducing its energy costs and attracting guests who appreciate the Inn's commitment to renewable energy. Regarding the cost of the 24-panel system, owner Alex Ray says: "I consider it a marketing expense."

Buy and Sell with Co-op Classifieds

What does a water heater, a compound bow and a 1975 Corvette have in common? They were all up for sale last month on the Co-op Classifieds.

Located online at www.nhec.coop, Co-op Classifieds are free to all Co-op members with no limit to the number of ads you can place. To post your items – wanted or for sale – log on to the My Account page at www.nhec.coop and follow the links to Place a Classified Ad.

Anyone can browse the Co-op Classifieds but only members can post. There's always something interesting online, so check it out today!

2009 Youth Tour Winners

Four talented teens are representing New Hampshire this month in Washington D.C. at the 2009 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour.

The winners were chosen on the strength of personal interviews and letters they wrote to elected officials expressing their views on a variety of subjects. The New Hampshire teens are joining more than 1,500 high school juniors representing electric co-ops from 46 states. While in D.C., the youths are visiting historic sites, taking part in leadership training sessions and meeting personally with members of New Hampshire's Congressional delegation.

Congratulations to this year's winners:



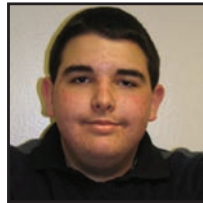
Brooks Bergholm
Newfound Regional
High School



Hayley Fallon
InterLakes Regional
High School



Caitlyn Greene
Newfound Regional
High School



Nick Mignanelli
Plymouth Regional
High School

Learn more about the Washington D.C. Youth Tour at youthtour.coop.

On The Web

NHEC.COOP: More Information When You Want It

Click your way to the redesigned My Account page at nhec.coop and check out the new tools and information that are making it easier than ever to do business online with the Co-op.

Online Bill View

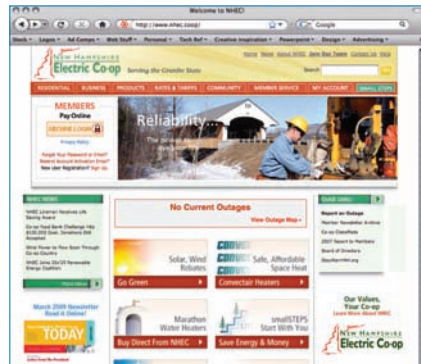
See a copy of your current bill, plus an archive of past months to follow your kWh usage and balance due.

Pay Online

When you're ready to pay your bill, choose from two electronic options: a one-time payment of any amount, any time; or a recurring payment that automatically drafts your balance due two days before each due date. Both options allow residential members to pay via credit/debit card, checking or statement savings account.

Energy Calculator

How much does it cost to run that appliance? How much can you save? Get the answers



with our online calculator. Choose 'Single Appliance' to check the energy used by one device, or 'Entire Household' to get the big picture.

Place a Classified Ad

Buy or sell online at the Co-op Classifieds. Ads are free to members and there's no limit to the number of ads you can post.

Savings Tips

Links to our energy conservation website (smallsteps.coop) will have you taking the small steps that add up to big energy savings.

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.

4th Annual Cooperative Covered Bridge 5K is September 5

Mark your calendars for one of the best events in the New Hampshire road race season – the 4th Annual Cooperative Covered Bridge 5K!

This year's race will benefit two non-profit groups – the Pemi Youth Center of Plymouth and Keeping You, Me & Memories Alive, Inc., which provides support to individuals and families who are battling cancer.

A scenic course that begins and ends inside the Smith Covered Bridge in Plymouth attracted more than 230 runners and walkers to last year's race. Complete race details are available on our website – nhec.coop.

MEMBER DISCOUNT



31-2 Rt. 25w Plymouth, NH 03264
603-536-8902 www.theninthstate.com

NH ELECTRIC CO-OP Member Discount

NEW MEMBER SUMMER FITNESS SPECIAL!

**SIGN UP FOR 2 MONTHS,
GET 3RD MONTH FREE!
PLUS NO REGISTRATION FEE!**

Good For 9th State Fitness Class,
Boxing, & Gym Memberships.
New Members Only.
Must sign up by July 1st, 2009.
Class Schedule Available At
www.theninthstate.com.



The BACK PAGE

HANG OUT AND SAVE!

THE HUMBLE CLOTHESLINE IS MAKING A COMEBACK AS A SIMPLE WAY TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY.

According to the US Department of Energy, the average household (2.64 persons) runs 392 laundry wash cycles per year (a little over 7.5 loads per week). Clothes dryers use anywhere from 1800-5000 watts, depending on the heat setting, the age and model, how well maintained it is, etc. According to Project Laundry List, the median American household can probably attribute between 10-25% of its electricity bill to the electric clothes dryer.

Line drying has other benefits beyond saving energy and money. For starters, line dried clothes last longer. Did you ever think about how much lint is in your dryer when you are done drying it? That is actually all of the worn-away fabric that would have remained on your garments if you had line dried them. Your clothes also come off the line with the scent that every detergent company is trying to capture.

Not surprisingly, it's easy to begin line drying your clothes. Many stores sell line drying kits for under \$10 that include a plastic line and clothes pins. Be sure the clothesline is pulled very taut so the clothing does not cause the line to sag when you hang it. The only maintenance you will need after hanging your clothesline is to wipe it down once a month with a damp rag.

PROJECT LAUNDRY LIST

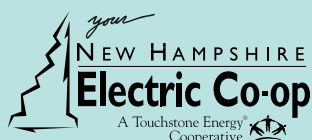
Project Laundry List (laundrylist.org) is devoted to making air-drying laundry acceptable and desirable as a simple and effective way to save energy. In addition to a wealth of tips and advice about line drying, it's also the portal to a community of people who enjoy the Zen-like rhythm of hanging clothes.

Among the features of the group's web site is a Laundry Art Gallery "to promote the beauty of the clothesline," and an Art on the Line Competition.



FRED SAID: "At 16 cents per kilowatt-hour, the average household drying eight loads of laundry per week will spend about \$30 per month operating a 5,000 watt electric clothes dryer."

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

LINE DRYING FAQ

Q: How can I minimize wrinkles on line-dried clothes?

A: "Snap" the clothes. This shakes off debris and prevents wrinkling. You want to shake them one time so hard that they make a cracking sound. Hang the clothes carefully. You can even use a hanger on the clothesline to save yourself a step.

Q: What does vinegar have to do with laundry?

A: Adding 1/2 cup of vinegar to the rinse cycle of your washing machine saves you from buying a separate laundry softener. Vinegar works naturally to soften your laundry and has the added benefit of breaking down laundry detergent very effectively. This added benefit means less detergent sensitive allergies for families that struggle with sensitive skin. Don't be put off by the fragrance of vinegar. The odor disappears when vinegar dries. So go ahead and try a bottle of vinegar in place of your laundry softener.

Q: Can you hang out clothes in the winter?

A: Because of "sublimation," it is possible to hang out on many below-freezing days. As long as it's sunny, your sheets and other laundry will dry quickly. You just need tough fingers! A wooden drying rack or another apparatus also works well for indoors.