

New Hampshire Electric Co-op TODAY

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APRIL 2008

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter

Annual Meeting 2008: Head to the Mountains!

What: 2008 Annual Meeting of Members

When: Saturday June 21, 2008

Registration opens: 8:30 a.m.

Breakout sessions: every 20 minutes, starting at 9 a.m.

Business meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Where: Mountain Club on Loon, Loon Mountain
Route 112, Lincoln, NH

Please join us in the heart of the White Mountains on Saturday, June 21 for the 69th Annual Meeting of Members.

This year's meeting will be held at the Mountain Club on Loon, the slope side hotel and conference center located at the base of Loon Mountain in Lincoln, NH.

The day kicks off at 8:30 a.m. when member registration opens. We've got a full slate of activities prior to the start of the Annual Meeting at 10:30 a.m., including breakout sessions every 20 minutes that cover the latest advances in energy efficiency, renewable energy and more.

Free health screenings will be available all morning. We've also got a post-meeting raffle where you'll have a shot at winning some great prizes.

The business meeting will get underway at 10:30 a.m. This is your chance to hear about the performance of your Co-op in 2007 and pose questions to the company's management and Board of Directors. The results of the Board of Directors election will be announced, as will the winner of a pick-up truck being awarded to one lucky member who returns his or her election ballot by the June 15 deadline.

Stick around after the conclusion of the meeting and enjoy members-only discounts on summer activities. Take a gondola ride to the summit of Loon Mountain (weather permitting) and then test your skills on the Loon climbing wall for just \$8!

Remember - it's your cooperative and your chance to make your voice heard. See you in the mountains!

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(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

Dig Smart, Dig Safe®

By proclamation of the governor, April is Dig Safe® Month in New Hampshire. It's a great time to stress the importance of avoiding underground utilities when you're digging or excavating this summer.

When digging in the ground anywhere near NHEC's underground primary or service lines (or any other utility's lines), call 1-888-DIG-SAFE at least 72 hours prior to digging, even on private land. Participating utilities, including the Co-op, will be notified of your plans and mark underground wires. Dig Safe is a free service that notifies participating member companies of excavation plans in their service territories. Note: Not all municipalities belong to the Dig Safe Call Center so when in doubt contact your local town services to locate water and sewer lines.

Marking underground service wires beyond the meter is the responsibility of the land



owner. You will find a listing of underground locators at the Dig Safe website: www.digsafe.com.

Not only is Dig Safe a good idea, it's the law if you're digging within 100 feet of any buried utility line. To learn more about Dig Safe and smart excavating practices, visit their site online at www.digsafe.com.

Half-price greens fees at Owl's Nest Golf Club

Co-op Members - present this coupon on Sunday May 4, 2008 for half-price greens fees (\$30 including cart) at Owl's Nest Golf Club in Campton, NH.

Coupon is good for up to four people. Call ahead for tee time information.

For more information about Owl's Nest Golf Club, visit them online at owlsnestgolf.com



Discount is valid on Sunday, May 4, 2008 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.

Surge Protection



Q: Why do I need surge protection, doesn't NHEC deliver safe and reliable power?

A: NHEC does deliver safe and reliable power, however, research indicates that surges are caused by many sources out of the control of the electric utility

Ballots Mailing in May

Return Your Ballot for a Chance to Win a Pick-up Truck!



Three open seats on the 11-member NHEC Board of Directors will be filled by voters this year. Candidates running for election will be profiled in biographies to be included with the ballots mailing to all members in mid-May. Ballots must be returned to Co-op headquarters no later than June 15, 2008. Results of the Board election will be announced at the Annual Meeting on June 21 (see front page story), with new directors being sworn-in immediately following the meeting.

As an added incentive to return your ballot, the Co-op will be awarding a 2002 Dodge Dakota 4X4 pick up truck to one lucky member who returns his or her ballot by the June 15 deadline.

For more information about the NHEC Board of Directors and the election process, visit our website at www.nhec.coop/boardofdirectors.

'Capital Credits' To Be Listed on April/May Bills

The New Hampshire Electric Cooperative will be allocating positive operating margins to each of its members' accounts based on their individual usage during 2007. As a result, a line item pertaining to "capital credits" will appear on the bottom of the April and/or May bills (see message below). It will indicate the amount that is being set aside in each member's capital account. Please note that this is an equity account, not a cash account. It represents the members' ownership interest, or equity, in the cooperative.

YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION FOR 2007 IS \$0.00. THIS AMOUNT WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR PATRONAGE CAPITAL ACCOUNT. PLEASE SEE NEWSLETTER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

WATTS HAPPENING!


NHEC Wins National Energy Efficiency Award

The Co-op was honored recently with the Community Service Award for Energy Efficiency for its efforts to help New Hampshire ski areas save energy and money. Presented by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the award specifically recognizes NHEC's partnership with Cranmore Mountain in North Conway. The Co-op provided rebates and additional funding for the mountain's purchase of new snow guns that use up to 60% less energy. As a result, Cranmore will save over \$1 million in electric costs over the lifetime of the measures. Complete details are available in the News section of our website at www.nhec.coop.

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.

Protection – Why Do I Need It?



(NHEC). Some of these surge sources include: lightning; cars hitting utility poles; animals getting into transformers; branches falling on power lines; ice build up on power lines, etc. Also, the majority of surges are generated within the home by motors (i.e. appliances)

cycling on and off and other causes (i.e. circuit overloads). Additionally, surges may enter the home via telephone and cable lines.

The Co-op sells and installs high-quality, whole house surge protection.

Our surge protection package offers two lines of defense – a unit that installs at your meter to block outside surges and various plug-in units to protect sensitive electronics inside your home. For more information, call 1-800-698-2007, or visit us online at www.nhec.coop.

Power Supply Also Available

Members investing in the whole house surge protection system can also purchase our Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) system. In the event of a power outage, the UPS acts as a battery back-up for your computer, giving users between 5 to 15 minutes (depending on the computer electrical load) to shut down your system. Two units are available, starting at \$129. Ask for details.

The BACK PAGE

Green – What Does It Mean?

With growing concerns about the environment, natural resources, global warming and energy efficiency, green is becoming a popular word today. But what exactly does it mean?

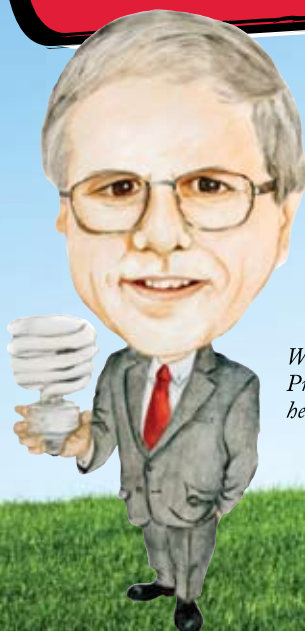
"A green home uses less energy, water and natural resources, creates less waste and is healthier for the people living inside compared to a standard home. It's as simple as that!" (US Green Building Council)

In order to make our lives greener, everyone needs to use less, recycle more and utilize products and materials which last longer and improve air quality. As individuals, we can make decisions which will conserve energy and protect resources. Every little bit helps, here's how you can do your part:

1. **Clean green.** Stop buying household cleaners that are potentially toxic to both you and the environment. Use simple ingredients such as plain soap, water, baking soda (sodium bicarbonate), vinegar, washing soda (sodium carbonate), lemon juice and borax, and save money at the same time.
2. **Remove yourself from junk mail lists.** Each person will receive almost 560 pieces of junk mail this year, which adds up nationally to 4.5 million tons, according to the Native Forest Network. About 44% of all junk mail is thrown in the trash unopened and unread, and ends up in a landfill.
3. **Buy unbleached paper.** Many paper products, including some made from recycled fibers, are bleached with

FRED SAID: "Recycling of one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours."

(Reynolds Metal Company)



More Inspiration to "Go Green"

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



Join your NH Electric Co-op today in the effort to live greener and make positive changes for our environment!

chlorine. The bleaching process can create harmful byproducts, including dioxins, which accumulate in our air, water and soil over time.

4. **Use low VOC Paints.** Conventional paints contain solvents, toxic metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can cause smog, ozone pollution and indoor air quality problems with negative health effects, according to the EPA. These unhealthy ingredients are released into the air while you're painting, while the paint dries and even after the paints are completely dry. Opt instead for zero- or low-VOC paint, made by most major paint manufacturers today.
5. **Stop using chemical pesticides.** American households use 80 million pounds of pesticides each year, according to the EPA. These toxic chemicals escape gardens and concentrate in the environment, posing threats to animals and people, especially children. A better alternative is to try a variety of organic and physical pest control methods, such as using diatomaceous earth to kill insects, pouring boiling water on weeds or using beer to bait slugs.
6. **Use locally sourced materials to reduce carbon emissions associated with the transportation of those products.** Buy building supplies, food and other products that are manufactured from natural local supplies.
7. **When replacing flooring in your home, consider using wood or other composite materials.** They are more easily kept clean and free of harmful dust and pollutants than carpet. Wood also lasts much longer and can often be recycled.

Sources: <http://realestate.msn.com/Improve/Green/Article2.aspx?ep-documentid=440485>
<http://www.usgbc.org/>

- Percent of Americans who worry about the environment "a great deal" or "fair amount" – 77% (Gallup Poll).
- Percent of a refrigerator that can be recycled: 95%.
- Air pollution emitted by a gas powered lawn mower – 11 times that of a new car per hour of operation.
- Percent by which humans are consuming the planet's resources faster than the earth can renew them: 25%.
- Amount of water an average household can save per year by using conservation practices and water-efficient products: 30,000 gals.
- Number of beverage cans and bottles discarded in landfills, littered, and incinerated in the US this year: 72,536,071,176.
- The U.S. generates about 208 million tons of municipal solid waste a year, according to the National Institutes of Health. That's more than 4 pounds per person per day.

Source: Green Builder Magazine

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
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