

april 2007

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ELECTRIC CO-OP NEWSLETTER



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Where does NHEC's 'Co-op Power' come from?

NHEC's current energy purchases are largely covered through contracts with two major suppliers that were selected through a competitive bidding process in 2006. The first provides about 30% of our members' energy needs for 2007. The second provides about 45% of our needs for 2007 through mid-2009. Another 20% is currently purchased on the short-term, or "residual" or "spot" markets administered by ISO - New England (the independent system operator that directs wholesale generation and transmission operations and markets for all who use the New England bulk power system).

The energy purchased through these contracts comes from many sources in the wholesale market, thus the mix of fuels and generating plants supplying most of the energy we buy literally changes minute-by-minute. A tabulation of energy sources used to produce electricity for New England's 2006 "system mix" is shown below.

2006 New England Generation Energy Sources

Natural Gas	30%
Nuclear	28%
Coal	11%
Oil/Gas	10%
Renewables	12%
Other	8%

NHEC currently buys about 5% of our members' energy needs from a landfill methane gas fueled power plant located in Rochester, NH.

Our prices for the energy piece of our consumers' bills (the "Co-op Power" line on your bills) increased significantly in late 2006 as a contract with prices negotiated in 2002 came to an end and was replaced with new contracts reflecting today's much higher energy prices. Still, with our current mix of resources, our members continue to have one of the lowest cost energy components compared with customers of the other deregulated utilities in New Hampshire and New England. That's important for our members because, as a rural utility with low consumers per mile of line, our delivery service charges are higher than the larger, more urban, utilities.

With fossil fuel prices continuing to be high, NHEC, together with nearly all in this business are working harder to bring in a variety of new energy resources, including renewables to lower our dependence on any single resource or fuel. It won't happen overnight but we are working toward it. NHEC is currently working on the potential to purchase energy and green attributes (Renewable Energy Certificates and possible future carbon credit products)

from a few new projects both in NH and other New England states to continue to provide competitively low energy costs for our members.

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

Waterville Valley New Hampshire June 9-11, 2007

Free Family Play Day June 10, 2007 – FREE ACTIVITIES! Free golf, boat rentals, bike rentals, kids activities, skateboard park access, and chairlift rides. **NHEC members receive 20% off select lodging in Waterville Valley and special deals at Valley restaurants.**

More information: (603) 236-8175
Or 1-800-GO-VALLEY
www.waterville.com

Show this coupon to receive your discounts!

Half-price Golf at Owl's Nest May 6, 2007

Present this coupon on Sunday, May 6, 2007 for **half-price greens fees (\$25 including cart)** at Owl's Nest Golf Club in Campton, NH.

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

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

Show this coupon to receive discounts!

Plymouth State Residence Hall 'LEEDS' the Way to Energy Efficiency

Langdon Woods, Plymouth State University's (PSU) newest residential hall, was completed in September of 2006. This state-of-the-art residence hall houses 347 students in a five story, 114,000 square foot building.

Designed by Cannon Design of Boston, MA, Langdon Woods is the first PSU structure built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards, a set of stringent sustainability specifications. PSU is preparing to apply for a Silver Certification rating from LEED, whose Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary national standard for developing high performance, sustainable, and energy-efficient buildings. If approved, this facility will be the first college and university building in New Hampshire to receive a LEED Certification.

New Hampshire Electric Co-op is proud to have played a part in the "greening" of Langdon Woods. NHEC's energy efficiency programs provided rebates totaling \$10,000 on the installation of four Energy Star® transformers at the site and five variable frequency motors that will result in significant energy savings.

Some of the design elements and green technologies used in the construction of Langdon Woods include:

- **Almost 60% Energy Use Reduction:** A high performance design is enhanced by an innovative use of the excess waste heat from an adjacent cogeneration plant as the primary heating source for the building.
- **30% Water Use Reduction:** Water efficient appliances, low-flow faucets, dual-flush toilets, and waterless urinals all act to significantly reduce water use throughout the building.
- **Sustainable Materials:** 20% of the materials used in construction were manufactured locally thereby supporting the local economy and reducing the environmental impacts resulting from transportation and shipping.
- **Healthy Environmental Air Quality:** Carpeting, adhesives, sealants, and paints were chosen for their very low or no VOC emissions. The building is also smoke free.
- **Construction Waste Recycling:** 75% of the building site waste was salvaged or recycled through a waste management program.
- **Reduced Heat Island on Site:** Energy Star® roofing saves energy by reflecting heat away from the building and lowers the summer cooling demand.

NHEC, PSU Partner to Host Annual Meeting

The Co-op Annual Meeting of Members has a new home – Plymouth State University. This year's meeting will be held on the PSU campus at the Silver Cultural Arts Center on Tuesday, June 12, 2007. Registration opens at 9 a.m. The business meeting will get underway at 10 a.m. Make your plans now to join us in June – there will be refreshments, music, door prizes and the opportunity to hear about the performance of your Co-op over the past year. An important energy-related message will be delivered by a keynote speaker. Plans are underway to stream a broadcast of the meeting on our website at www.nhec.coop. Directions and parking information are also available on our website. See you at the Annual Meeting!

'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. 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 bill will now read:

YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION FOR 2006 IS \$X.XX. THIS AMOUNT WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR PATRONAGE CAPITAL ACCOUNT. PLEASE SEE NEWSLETTER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

Watts Happening

Return Your Ballot, Win a Truck

The Co-op will again be giving away a pick-up truck to one lucky member who returns his or her ballot before June 6. Members will be receiving their annual ballot by mail in May. The ballot will contain the names and biographical information of candidates seeking election to the Co-op Board of Directors. One returned ballot will be selected at random and the winner announced at the Annual Meeting on June 12, 2007. But you can't win if you don't enter, so look for your ballot mailing next month and return it for your chance to win!

Board of Directors Meeting

The Co-op Board of Directors meets the second to last Tuesday of each month at the Co-op's facility at 287 Highland Street, Plymouth, unless otherwise noted. The Board will meet next on Tuesday, April 17, 2007. The May meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2007. For more information, contact Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801, or nhechq@nhec.com.



For member services please call
1-800-698-2007 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

www.nhec.coop

the BACK PAGE

RESOURCECORNER

It doesn't take a lot of time and money to make a positive impact on the environment. In fact, it's the little things that count.

FACT: Each year, Americans throw away 100 billion polyethylene plastic bags. Made from petroleum, the processing and burning is one of the main contributors to global warming.

FACT: Conventional paint products contain solvents, toxic metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These cause smog, ozone pollution and indoor air quality problems. Look for low VOC paints, available from most paint manufacturers.

FACT: Each American receives an average of 560 pieces of junk mail, almost half of which is thrown directly in the trash. Try to get removed from their mailing lists.

FACT: Household cleaners with natural ingredients are widely available. They're less toxic to you and the environment and just as effective.

FACT: Distance California tomatoes sold in Washington, D.C. have traveled: 2,800 miles; amount of CO₂ produced by transport truck to get them there: 165,000 pounds.

FACT: Estimated amount of air pollution emitted by a gasoline powered lawn mower: 11 times more than that of a new car for each hour of operation.

FACT: Estimated gallons of gasoline spilled each year from refueling lawn and garden equipment: 17,000,000 gallons.

FACT: Percentage of Americans today who worry about the environment "a great deal" or "a fair amount" – 77%.

Source: Green Builder Magazine

Check out these Co-op programs that are... Friendly to the Environment, Friendly to Your Wallet

Solar Hot Water

With the cost of energy increasing dramatically, solar-powered water heating makes as much economic sense as environmental sense. Solar water heating systems cost 50%-85% less to operate than traditional water heating and property owners who install solar systems can qualify for sizable tax credits. Under the 2005 Federal Energy Bill, taxpayers may claim a 30% tax credit for the installed cost of a system that is operational before January 1, 2008 (\$2,000 maximum for residential installations, no maximum for commercial or industrial installations).

To begin your solar water heating conversion, call the Co-op at 1-800-698-2007. We'll help you assess the feasibility of your site by reviewing your property's solar exposure and the suitability of your roof and open yard areas. We'll also discuss what you can expect for energy savings, installation costs and update you on the latest tax credits available from the federal government. Should you decide to proceed, we'll refer you to a qualified solar installer, review all correspondence and act as your liaison to your contractor. These services are provided free of charge to Co-op members.

Geothermal Heating and Cooling

With big rebate incentives and the uncertainty of oil and propane prices, more and more Co-op members are turning to geothermal heat pumps to heat and cool their homes.

Geothermal heat pumps are electrically powered systems that take advantage of the earth's relatively constant ground temperature to provide heating, cooling and hot water for homes and commercial buildings. Rather than creating heat-like conventional systems, geothermal heat pumps move heat that already exists.

In the winter, the ground heat exchanger collects heat from the ground and carries it through the system and into the indoor air delivery system. In the summer, the system reverses itself to cool the building by pulling heat from the building and depositing it in the ground.

The Co-op's Geothermal Heat Pump Program is your connection to rebate incentives of up to \$6,000 on the installation of clean, ultra-efficient geothermal heat pump systems. If you're planning on building new, consider these facts: The owner of a 2,500 square-foot home will pay more than \$1,900 per year just for heat and hot water with an oil-fired system. But the same homeowner will pay an annual operating cost of \$1,300 with a geothermal system – a cost that includes air conditioning in the summer.

The Co-op makes rebate money available to members on a first-come, first-served basis. For an information packet detailing the many benefits of this renewable energy source, call Co-op Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007. Program information is also available online at the Co-op website – www.nhec.coop.

About Our Cover

Cover Image: An artist's rendering of the new energy efficient Langdon Woods complex on the campus of Plymouth State University. Check out the NHEC Co-op Cover Collection at: www.cafepress.com/nhec_art.