

New Hampshire Electric Co-op TODAY

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FEBRUARY 2008

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter



FEATURE ARTICLE:

Winter Heating Assistance

If you or someone you know is having trouble paying for heat during the winter season, the Co-op can put you in touch with at least three programs that can help.



Statewide EAP

Qualified members of the Co-op can receive discounts on their monthly electric bills through the Statewide Electric Assistance Program (Statewide EAP), ranging from 5 –70% of their total bill. Co-op members and electric ratepayers throughout the state support the Statewide EAP through the System Benefits Charge portion of their electric bill.

Fuel Assistance Program (FAP)

Members can also take advantage of the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services Fuel Assistance Program (FAP). As funds become available, the FAP provides benefits to qualified New Hampshire households to assist with heating costs. Renters and homeowners are eligible for the FAP. The FAP can also help households in a heating emergency by securing an emergency delivery of fuel, delaying a shut-off notice, or referring clients to another source of assistance.


To receive assistance from both the Statewide EAP and the FAP, recipients must meet income eligibility guidelines. To apply for assistance or for more information, contact your local Community Action Agency, or visit our website at

www.nhec.coop/residential_energysistance_eap.php.

Project Care

Project Care is a nonprofit, charitable organization developed to provide assistance paying electric bills for NHEC members who are in an emergency situation. The majority of Project Care's funding comes from the NHEC Foundation, which is funded by Co-op members who agree to have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar with the proceeds benefiting the Foundation. Applicants are eligible for Project Care emergency assistance only once in a twelve-month period. Project Care is intended to be used as an option of last resort. Members should apply to the programs listed above before considering application to Project Care. For program guidelines or more information, contact Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007.

**REVISED
GUIDELINES**
Effective January 24, 2007



**New
Hampshire
Electric
Assistance
Program**

**You may be eligible
for a DISCOUNT of
5% to 70% on
your electric bill.**

**This brochure is available to Co-op
members by calling 1-800-698-2007.**

Peace of Mind, Year Round

Your Co-op Has a Product for Every Season

From the cold of winter to the dog days of summer, New Hampshire Electric Co-op has a range of innovative products to keep you comfortable.

FreezeAlarm

Seasonal homeowners and vacationers can rest easy in winter when the FreezeAlarm is on duty. This product monitors your home's temperature and electricity and calls you anywhere in the world if the power goes out or the temperature dips below a pre-set point.

Three models are available, including the Deluxe, which can detect a water leak and notify you by phone. Heading to your seasonal home for the weekend? Call your FreezeAlarm to turn the heat up before you arrive.

Convectair Electric Heater

Forget the usual worries about portable heaters – the Convectair Aperio, Convectair Jazz and Convectair Calypso are the safe alternatives. The slim, lightweight Convectairs mount to your wall so there's no danger of knocking them



over. Their unique "convection" air flow takes cold air in and gently diffuses heat outwards, resulting in even heating of cold spots or rooms with a thermostat accurate to one-fifth of a degree.

Whole House Surge Protection

Protect your home and valuable electronics against damaging summer storms with whole house surge protection from your Co-op. This package of products safeguards your home with two levels of protection. The first blocks electrical surges from entering your home with a device installed at your

electric meter. A second level of protection guards against surges that can damage your television, computer and other sensitive electronic devices. Don't think you're safe with that \$10 plug strip – only whole house surge protection from the Co-op gives you the protection you need.

Marathon Water Heater

The ultra-efficient Marathon water heater is your best choice for year-round comfort. Its plastic-lined tank will not rust or corrode and it's backed by a lifetime warranty against leakage. A layer of Envirofoam® insulation dramatically reduces heat loss, meaning you'll use less energy and get more hot water when you want it. Take advantage of special members-only pricing, including added discounts for new construction and oil or LP conversion.

For more information about all of our Co-op Energy Solutions products, please visit our website at www.nhec.coop, or call 1-800-698-2007.



Attention Small Business Owners!

The Co-op is your connection to Questline® - a toll free "800" number or Web-based service that NHEC offers free of charge to help your business be as competitive as possible.

Twice a month, Questline offers you the latest news, energy efficiency advice and technical know-how to maximize the profitability of your small business. Each issue features stories from national experts, plus content written specifically for New Hampshire businesses by the Co-op's Energy Solutions professionals.

When you sign-up to receive Questline, you'll have access to Ask an Expert – a small business hotline that is available to you, free of charge, to help solve your energy or equipment-related problems. Questline also features online energy calculators, a searchable news archive and an online reference tool that covers a wide range of topics from HVAC and lighting to process heat recovery.

To receive your free subscription to Questline, click the Quick Link on the Co-op's home page: www.nhec.coop. Or, sign up on the Small Business Energy Solutions page on our website.



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.

Thanks for Shoveling!

Deep snow this winter has been a challenge for Co-op meter readers. NHEC wishes to thank members who have shoveled a path to their meters and encourage others to do so. Clearing a path to your meter saves us all money and avoids the need for estimated bills. Thanks for the effort!

D.C. Youth Tour – Last Chance!

High school juniors have until February 29, 2008 to apply for a spot on the 2008 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. More information is available under the Community menu on our website: www.nhec.coop.

Double Check That Account Number

Paying online through your bank? Check your NHEC account number and make sure you're entering it correctly. Incorrect account numbers can cause payment delays.

Local Builder Betting on Geothermal Energy

With no end in sight to high oil prices, Tom Robie's gamble on geothermal energy is looking like a good bet.

The Meredith contractor is putting the finishing touches on a spec house that will be one of up to seven new homes in the development that use geothermal energy to heat and cool.

High Ridge Country Homes, located off Route 104 in New Hampton, are joining a growing number of

New England houses that are using the consistent temperature of the ground or groundwater to generate clean, renewable energy. Robie's spec house uses an "open loop" system, in which ground water is drawn from an aquifer through a well, passes through a heat pump's heat exchanger, and is discharged back to the well.

Geothermal systems can cost more upfront than traditional oil or propane-fired systems, but the

combination of Co-op rebates and long-term energy savings are making geothermal systems more affordable than ever, especially when building new. Robie qualified for a \$6,000 rebate from the Co-op, making the decision to go geothermal that much easier.

A quick look at the projected cost savings shows the wisdom of his choice. With oil hovering at \$3.20 per gallon, a geothermal system will

provide heat and hot water at about half the cost per year of oil. Plus, geothermal systems provide cooling in the summer at no extra cost. If a home meets Energy Star® standards for energy efficiency, as Robie's does, the savings can be even greater.

A typical geothermal system operates at 400% efficiency, compared with just 85% for the typical oil-fired system. Geothermal systems require no on-site fuel storage and keep

indoor air cleaner because there's no combustion. And because they're protected from harsh outdoor weather, geothermal systems last longer than conventional systems.

If you're interested in learning more about this clean, renewable alternative and how you can qualify for Co-op rebates, visit our website at www.nhec.coop, or contact Program Administrator Chris Johnson at 603-536-8672.



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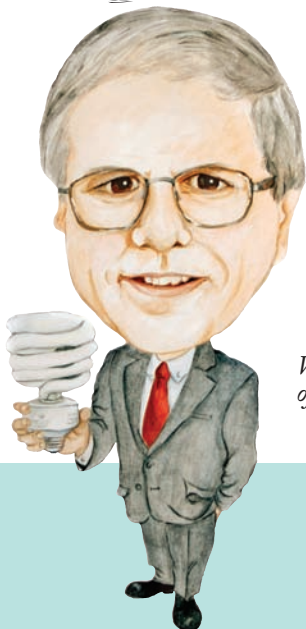
All About Paper Recycling

Paper recycling isn't just a fad from decades past; it is alive and well and making even more of a difference now than it did then. With huge increases in population and demand, global paper use has grown more than six-fold since the 1950's. In fact, one-fifth of all wood harvested in the world ends up in paper. And as of 1996, more paper and paperboard packaging is recovered for recycling, on a weight basis, than all glass, plastic, metal, and other materials combined!

Paper Facts:

- It takes 2 to 3.5 tons of trees to make one ton of paper. (Earth911.org)
- Pulp and paper is the 5th largest industrial consumer of energy in the world, using as much power to produce a ton of product as the iron and steel industry. (The Worldwatch Institute)

FRED SAID: "Recycling is easy to do and has a highly positive impact on the environment. As individuals, we should continue to take small steps toward energy efficiency, like teaching our children and co-workers about recycling."



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

- In some countries, including the United States, paper accounts for nearly 40 percent of all municipal solid waste. Making paper uses more water per ton than any other product in the world. (The Worldwatch Institute)
- Every year, enough paper is thrown away to make a 12' wall from New York to California. (Earth911.org)

Recycling Facts:

- Each ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees and 7000 gallons of water. (EPA)
- Production of recycled paper uses 80% less water, 65% less energy and produces 95% less air pollution than virgin paper production. (Center for Ecological Technology)
- Out of the 521 paper, paperboard, and building products mills in the U.S., 450 use recovered paper, and 22 rely on it exclusively. Worldwide, over 95 million metric tons of paper is recovered each year to be made into recycled paper and paperboard. Recovered fiber makes up over one-third of the total fiber used to make the world's paper. (TAPPI)
- If offices throughout the country increased the rate of two-sided photocopying from the 1991 figure of 20% to 60%, they could save the equivalent of about 15 million trees. (*Choose to Reuse* by Nikki & David Goldbeck, 1995).
- Recovery of office paper has more than doubled since 1998. In 1996, 3,810,000 tons of office paper was recovered, up from 1,600,000 tons in 1990. (TAPPI)

RESOURCE CORNER



The Life Cycle of Recycled Paper

Step 1: Throw paper in the recycling bin.

Step 2: Maintenance staff removes the paper and deposits it into large recycling containers.

Step 3: Recycling company picks up the paper.

Step 4: The paper is brought to a recycling plant.

Step 5: The paper is separated by type/grade.

Step 6: The separated paper is put into a large vat (similar to a giant kitchen mixer) and mixed with water creating a product called "slurry".

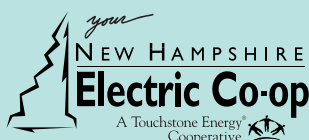
Step 7: The slurry is spread on racks and big rollers push all the water out.

Step 8: Once dry, the paper is then rolled up for later cutting into whatever size is needed for the new product.

The slurry is also the basis for paperboard (used for cereal boxes, etc.), corrugated cardboard, telephone books, and newsprint.

By adding wood or cotton fiber, the slurry is turned into office-grade paper.

(Parliament of Canada)



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