

Green Christmas

This year, give the earth a gift too

The holidays don't have to be all about the "stuff." You can adhere to eco-conscious values and still give great gifts. Check the list below for some gift ideas that they might like better than another scarf or tie. This list is by no means exhaustive. Type

"green gifts" into any Internet search engine and browse to your heart's content.

Stocking Stuffers:

Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) and tire gauges. CFLs use up to 75% less energy than standard incandescent light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. A tire gauge helps keep tires properly inflated, which saves gas and helps cut greenhouse gas pollution

Composter: A number of styles and sizes are available. Throw in things like junk mail, fruit and veggie waste, grass clippings, wood chips etc., keep moist for a summer and you've got soil for the garden that's rich in organic nutrients.

National Parks Pass: The National Parks Service's new Annual Interagency Pass offers access to all public lands across the country that currently charge entrance or standard amenity fees offering visitors a simple and cost-effective way to visit multiple recreation sites. The new Annual pass is available for \$80 online at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>.

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



FRED SAID: LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes) make great Christmas tree lights. They use one-tenth the current of incandescent bulbs and last much longer. The best part? They don't have a filament inside that can burn out and take the entire string of bulbs with it!



Give a Green Gift that Isn't a Thing:

- a gym membership
- tickets to whale watching trips
- a pair of weekend tickets to a ski area
- a museum pass or membership
- give an experience (a day kayaking)
- a gift certificate for a lesson (tennis, swimming, drums, for example)
- a gift certificate for a dinner for two
- donate something in the name of a friend or relative, in a subject area of interest to them
- a gift certificate to a used book store
- a plant or a tree

www.smallSTEPS.coop

- Watts Happening
- BOD Election Process
- Signs On Utility Poles
- Green Gifts
- Fred Said

Your Electric Co-op's Newsletter

FEATURE ARTICLE: Alternative Energy In Action

Co-Op Member Greg Kelley Shows How It's Done

The leaves are just beginning to turn at Greg Kelley's place, but the most beautiful sight is attached to his house – an electric meter spinning backwards.

With the sun warming a roof full of solar panels and a gentle breeze turning a 50-foot tall windmill in his side yard, Kelley's electric consumption for the past 30 days drops from 27 kilowatt-hours (kWh) to 26. This is the payback for a Co-op member who used to consume over 700 kWh per month and more than 1,000 gallons of oil per year.

Kelley's New Durham home is a showpiece of alternative energy. The solar photovoltaic system is generating 400 kWh of electricity per



month; the Skystream wind turbine adds another 200 kWh per month; a bank of solar collectors provides hot water, part of which is used for radiant floor heat; every light fixture contains Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs), every appliance is ENERGY STAR® rated; every window is Andersen® 400 Series Low-E argon filled glass; the house is wrapped in R 30 insulation; the whole house generator is powered by a tractor that runs on bio-diesel...the list goes on and on. Kelley knows not everyone will make the investment he has, but he believes the mindset that underlies it is becoming more common.

"We're in a momentum building stage right now," he says, "this is an exciting growth field. There is an opportunity for America to

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become a clean, renewable energy manufacturer and every spike in oil prices will help get us there.”

After 25 years in information technology, Kelley founded Sol R Heat Systems, a renewable energy equipment installer. He says he's glad to see the Co-op offering rebate incentives on the installation of solar hot water systems and wind generators. In fact, he's using his \$2,700 rebate check from the Co-op to help pay for his new windmill. To learn more about the Co-op's renewable energy incentives or to just pick up a tip about energy efficiency, visit our new website – smallSTEPS.coop.

Whether you're taking big steps like Greg Kelley or small steps like replacing a standard light bulb with a CFL, the Co-op is here to help. Call us at 1-800-698-2007 or visit NHEC.coop.

Signs On Utility Poles: Illegal and Dangerous

Yard sales and political campaigns are a part of the New Hampshire cultural landscape. Yet, the seemingly harmless signs used to advertise yard sales, political aspirations and other news can have unintended dangerous consequences when hung on utility poles.

Lineworkers at the New Hampshire Electric Co-op use sharp steel “gaffs” attached to their boots to climb utility poles. Hitting a nail, staple, tack or other object left in a pole from a sign with a gaff while climbing can cause the lineworker to fall and be injured.

Also, nails, staples and tacks left in the pole could tear or puncture the lineworker's rubber gloves. These gloves are the lineworker's primary protection against electric shock. Even a hole the

size of pinprick can cause the glove to fail when it comes into contact with high voltage and result in the lineworker being severely injured or killed.

There is also an economic incentive for not hanging signs on utility poles. The fasteners allow extra moisture to enter the pole, causing premature pole rot and adding to the cost of maintaining the electrical system.

We understand that the safety hazard created by hanging signs on utility poles is unintentional. But we remind you that it is against the law (NH RSA 236:75) to attach signs of any kind to utility poles. You can help by reporting signs attached to electric utility poles by calling Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007. It could save a life.



Marathon Water Heaters – the Smart Choice for Winter

Winter is almost upon us and for many Co-op members that means the price of oil and propane are going up. Do you want to get off the winter fuel price rollercoaster? The ultra-efficient, electric Marathon water heater is for you.

Oil and propane prices have swung back and forth as much as 50 cents per gallon in the past year while electric rates have remained stable. With

another long, cold winter on the way, it's time to add some stability to your household budget with the purchase of a Marathon water heater.

A plastic inner and outer liner makes the Marathon the most durable water heater on the market – it will never rust or leak and comes with a lifetime warranty. Envirofoam™ insulation makes it the most energy efficient water heater on the market.

Co-op members can now purchase Marathon water heaters at discount prices directly from the Co-op and tap into our network of local plumbers for installation or service. Even deeper discounts are available for new construction or conversion from oil or propane. For more information on our hot water solutions, contact the Co-op at 1-800-698-2007, or visit us online at www.nhec.coop.

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.

U 2 DC 4 FREE!

Attention high school juniors – want a free trip to Washington D.C.? Apply now for a spot on the 2008 Youth Tour. A handful of New Hampshire

students will again be joining high schoolers from across the country for a week of sightseeing and meetings with the state's Congressional delegation. The 2008 Youth Tour is June 13-19, 2008. You've got until Friday, February 28, 2008 to apply, so don't wait til it's too late... For complete details, visit the Co-op website at www.nhec.coop/community_dcouthtour, or call Youth Tour coordinator Audrey Simpson at 603-536-8685.

How Is the Board Elected?

The business and affairs of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) are governed by a Board of 11 Directors chosen by and from the membership. Directors are elected for three-year staggered terms, with at least three to be elected each year.

Q: How are Board members chosen?

A: Board members are elected by a mail ballot vote of Co-op members.

Q: How can a Co-op member become a candidate for election to the Board of Directors?

A: In accordance with the Co-op's bylaws candidates can be nominated by a Nominating Committee or may petition to be included on the director election ballot.

Q: What is the Nominating Committee?

A: Each year, the Board of Directors appoints a Nominating Committee of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who are selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the membership of the Cooperative. In preparing its list of nominations, the Nominating Committee meets numerous times to review resumes and questionnaires and interview candidates. The Committee considers a candidate's background, skills and the value he or she could bring to the governance of the Cooperative. The Nominating Committee must prepare

and post its list of nominations for director at least 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting in June.

Q: How many candidates are nominated by the Nominating Committee?

A: There are no bylaws governing the number of candidates put forward by the Nominating Committee. The Committee may nominate more candidates than there are open seats, or fewer.

Q: Are there alternatives to the nomination process?

A: Yes. In accordance with the Co-op's bylaws any one hundred (100) members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Qualified petition candidates will have their names listed on the director election ballot with candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee. A notation on the ballot will indicate whether a candidate was nominated by the Nominating Committee or by petition.

Q: Where can interested candidates get more information?

A: A copy of the NHEC Code of Bylaws is available online at www.nhec.coop, or contact Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801 or yeatons@nhec.com.

SEEKING CANDIDATES

Board of Directors

Three seats on the 11-member Co-op Board of Directors will be up for election to three-year terms in 2008. In a cooperative, the members themselves elect candidates they feel will best represent them on the Board of Directors. Voting takes place by mail ballot in May 2008 with board members installed at the June annual meeting. The Co-op seeks broad representation from a diverse group of individuals and encourages all qualified members to consider running for one of the open seats. You must be a Co-op member in order to run for a position on the Board. For more information about how to get your name on next year's ballot, contact Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801, or yeatons@nhec.com.

NHEC also seeks Co-op members interested in serving on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is a panel that reviews the qualifications of potential candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors and nominates a slate of candidates to run for open seats on the Board. Time commitments typically include three to four all-day meetings between mid-January and mid-March, as well as a substantial amount of time reviewing candidate material. If you're interested, please provide a summary of your background and why you'd make a good member of the Nominating Committee and send it to Sharon Yeaton at yeatons@nhec.com, or by mail c/o NHEC, 579 Tenney Mountain Highway, Plymouth, NH 03246.

The deadline to submit your qualifications is Friday, December 7, 2007.