

## CO-OP MEMBERS BEAR BURDEN OF HUGE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASES

Over the last five years the Co-op has experienced a nearly 70% increase in the municipal property taxes we pay because a number of towns where we do business increased their assessments of the value of our property by enormous amounts.

For example, one town tripled the assessed value of the Co-op's property in a single year. In another town, we added \$2 million of property in 2015, yet our assessment went up by \$8 million. In yet another town, our property valuation was doubled in 2014 and was increased by another 25% in 2015.

Because the tax bills from all towns where we do business are lumped together in our rates, all Co-op members pay a share of the taxes for all towns, including those that impose huge, unreasonable increases in how they value our property. This makes power more expensive for everyone. We don't believe that's fair, and we don't believe it's good energy or tax policy. A utility pole in one town should not be assessed at two or three times the value of an identical pole in the next town over, but that's exactly what's happening.

The Co-op is part of a statewide coalition working to make changes through the legislature that would bring fairness and consistency to the assessing process to benefit our members. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) already assesses utility property for the statewide utility property tax. Rather than each town valuing individual poles and sections of wire (which is what some towns do), we support using the DRA's valuation which determines their value as part of the overall electric system that serves you. We think that makes much more sense.

This statewide common sense approach to utility valuation is about lowering energy delivery costs by ensuring that all municipalities value utility property consistently and fairly, and that no town is able to shift its tax burden to other towns by exponentially hiking the tax it imposes on utility property.

The NH Legislature is looking at this issue. Help us tell lawmakers in Concord this problem must be fixed! Email us at [propertytax@nhec.com](mailto:propertytax@nhec.com) or call 1-800-869-2007.

## MAKE A SAVINGS SPLASH WITH REBATES ON ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED POOL PUMPS

New for 2017, New Hampshire Electric Co-op is offering rebates up to \$500 on the installation of energy-efficient ENERGY STAR certified pool pumps.

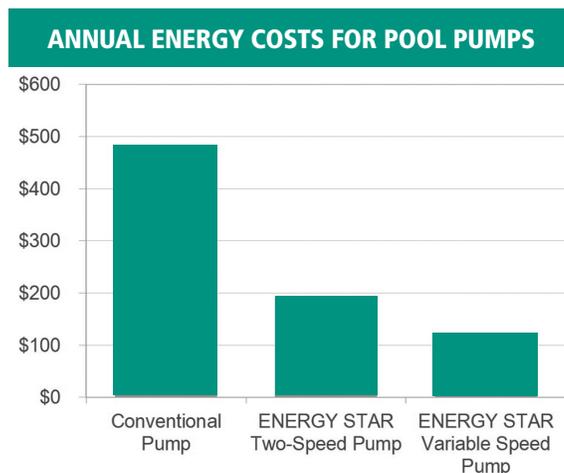
Pool pumps that have earned the ENERGY STAR certification are independently verified to save energy and save you money. In fact, they:

- Use up to 70% less energy than standard pool pumps
- Save you \$290 - \$350 per year in energy bills
- Run quieter and prolong the life of your pool's filtering system
- Use reliable two-speed or variable-speed technology

Conventional pool pumps use the same high pump speed regardless of the task assigned—even though filtration, the number one task of a pool pump, requires one-half the speed (using one-eighth the power) of pool vacuuming.

ENERGY STAR certified pool pumps can run at the lower speeds ideal for filtration to save energy and are available in two types:

- Two-speed models that use a low speed for filtration and a high speed for cleaning.
- Variable speed models that can be programmed to deliver the right flow for multiple tasks.



**Download mail-in rebate form on the ENERGY STAR Appliance page at [www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com), or call 1-800-698-2007**

# NHEC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$20,000 TO HELP LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

A \$20,000 grant awarded by the NH Electric Co-op Foundation to the NH Food Bank will be dispersed to 33 food pantries across the state. The donation is being awarded in the form of an account credit at the Food Bank, where pantries can shop at prices that are often much lower than local grocery stores.

The NH Electric Co-op Foundation has been a long-time supporter of the NH Food Bank. Since it was formed in 2006, the Foundation has granted nearly \$400,000 to the NH Food Bank to help New Hampshire residents in need.

“This year the Foundation Board of Trustees wanted to make an even greater impact to those directly served by New Hampshire Electric Co-op,” said Board Chair Sharon Davis. “By giving each pantry an account credit, this allows them to purchase the items they really need at a much lower cost through the NH Food Bank.”

*“We purchase items weekly from the Food Bank and the amount of this generous credit will cover our typical purchases for nearly a month!”*

- *Daisy Blaisdell, Board President  
Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry*

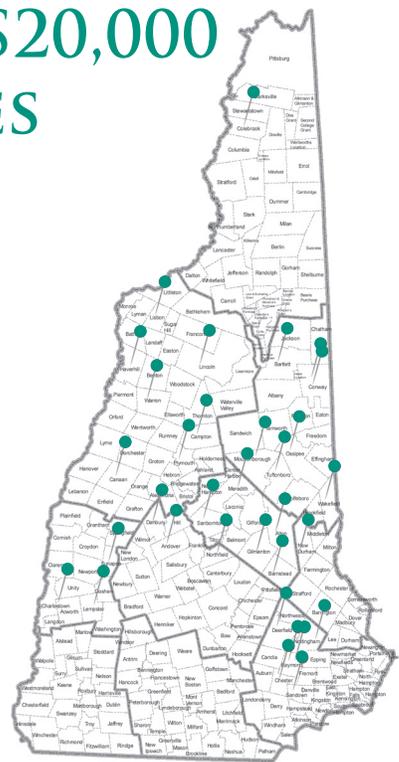
## ELECTRONIC VOTING OPTION FOR 2017 BOARD ELECTION

For the first time, Co-op members will have the choice to vote online or by regular mail during the upcoming Board of Directors election.

Electing your Board of Directors is one of the privileges of belonging to a member-owned cooperative. Three seats on the 11-member Board will be up for election when voting opens in May. Traditionally, Co-op members have received paper ballots, which are returned to NHEC in postage-paid envelopes. This year, members will have the opportunity instead to cast their votes online.

Members with email addresses on file with NHEC can choose not to receive a paper ballot this year and cast their votes online, but every member will receive directions for online voting with their ballot mailing package that will be sent in mid-May.

So what happens in the event that you vote online AND return a paper ballot? Paper ballot return envelopes will be cross-checked with online returns and in the event of duplicates, only the paper ballot will be counted. As always, and even with these changes, your ballot will still be secret and secure.



*This map shows the locations of the 33 food pantries that will benefit from the NHEC Foundation grant.*

## WATTS HAPPENING

### Update Your Phone Number to Stay in the Know

NHEC offers a number of automated services that can make it easier to do business with NHEC, but only if we have a current phone number for your account. With a current phone number associated with your account, you can report outages automatically or be notified when right-of-way clearing is occurring in your neighborhood. To update your phone number, please call Member Solutions (M-F; 8-5) at 1-800-698-2007; or update your account anytime online at [www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com).

### Apply Now for a \$1,500 NHEC Foundation Scholarship

The New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation will be offering six \$1,500 scholarships in 2017 (one of which will be reserved for a student entering a vocational/technical institution) to support and enhance the education and resulting careers of our members and their children. Applicants must be at least a senior in high school at the time of applying and must either be a Co-op member or the child of a Co-op member. College and non-traditional students are eligible and welcome to apply. The deadline for applications to be received at the Co-op is April 21, 2017. For complete eligibility requirements and application, please visit the Community tab on our website at [www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com).

### Board of Directors Meetings

The NHEC Board of Directors regularly meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Cooperative's office at 287 Highland Street in Plymouth. Please check the Board of Directors page on the Co-op web site at [www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com), or call Sharon Yeaton at (603) 536-8801 to confirm the current month's time and location.

For member service  
please call

1-800-698-2007

Monday-Friday, 8-5:00

or visit us online at [www.nhec.coop](http://www.nhec.coop)



To report an outage please call 1-800-343-6432

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