

## WINTER FUEL COSTS RESULT IN 8% BILL INCREASE

Rate changes effective with bills rendered November 1, 2017 are resulting in an overall bill increase of 8%, or \$8.15 per month, for a typical residential member using 500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month.

The rate increase is the result of increases in two portions of members' bills – Co-op Power (the actual electricity used) and the Regional Access Charge (the cost to access the regional transmission grid in order to get power to the NHEC distribution system). For most residential members, the Co-op Power rate is increasing from 7.5 cents per kWh to 9.1 cents per kWh.

For most residential members the Regional Access Charge (RAC) is increasing during this winter period from 2.7 cents per kWh to 2.8 cents per kWh.

The increased costs to the Co-op Power rate are primarily due to the expected increase in the winter price of natural gas, which is used to generate nearly half the power produced in New England. NHEC expects natural gas costs to fall during the summer period rate adjustment. The small increase in the Regional Access Charge is primarily due to an increase in the costs to deliver energy to the NHEC distribution system.

## FOR LOWER BILLS, SUPPORT PROPERTY TAX REFORM!

If your town doubled the assessed value of your property in one year and jacked up your property tax, you'd likely cry foul. But that is exactly what some municipalities have done with Co-op property such as poles, transformers, substations and the various components of our electric distribution system. We have posted a new chart that dramatically demonstrates the problem. It shows 68 of 115 municipalities assessing Co-op property above the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration's (DRA) calculations. Some assess the same, or less. But overall, Co-op property was assessed \$115.7 million more than the DRA's valuation.

View Chart: [www.nhec.com/propertytax](http://www.nhec.com/propertytax)

Unjust assessments translate into higher property taxes paid

by utilities, which end up on your electric bills. A recent NH Supreme Court ruling said it is up to the legislature to fix the problem, which is what House Bill 324 is about, using the DRA's method as the uniform standard by which municipalities can fairly and consistently assess utility property.

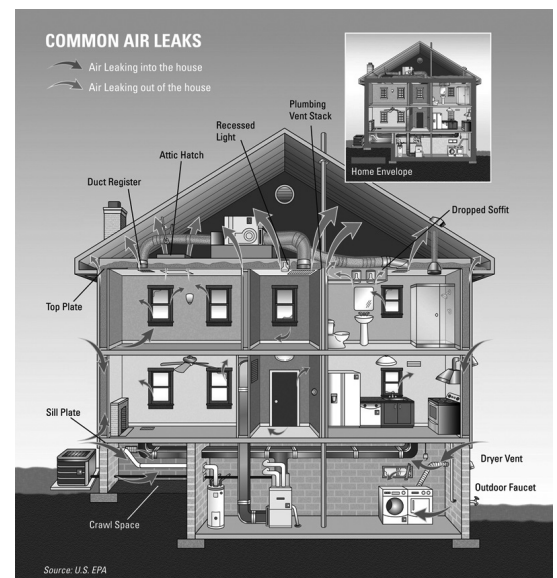
The NH House Science Technology and Energy Committee continues to work on HB 324. Hopefully the Committee will draft a workable solution that can be passed by the House in early 2018. Otherwise, it could be years. The committee needs to hear from our members on the importance of moving forward now. Make your voice heard! Contact the Committee Chair, Richard Barry by email at [richard.barry@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:richard.barry@leg.state.nh.us). A full list of Committee members and contact information is available at [www.nhec.com/propertytax](http://www.nhec.com/propertytax).

## MAKE YOUR HOME AN ENERGY PERFORMER

Even small gaps in your home's insulation – 3% or less – can reduce its overall effectiveness by 50%! With winter right around the corner, now is the time to make sure your home's insulation is performing the way it should.

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program offers cost-effective solutions to improve the comfort and efficiency of existing homes. With incentives of up to \$4,000 offered on qualified measures, this program will match you with a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified Building Analyst who will recommend measures that improve the efficiency of your whole house, from the attic to the basement.

Want to get started? See if your home energy use qualifies for the Home Performance program using our online energy calculator under the 'FOR HOME' menu at [www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com).



Happy Thanksgiving!

# NHEC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER GRANTS

With the holidays approaching, nearly 30 local food pantries are receiving a welcome boost in the form of an account credit at the New Hampshire Food Bank thanks to a grant from the NHEC Foundation. A \$15,000 grant will be dispersed to local food pantries across NHEC's service area just in time for the holiday season when the need for food is at its highest. An additional \$5,000 was granted to the NH Food Bank in order to host a Mobile Food Pantry in Colebrook, NH in early 2018. Other grants awarded by the NHEC Foundation this fall include:

## **Granite United Way/Whole Village Family Resource Center**

*Located in Plymouth*

**\$4,750**

Funding will support a new program initiative called, RAISE, which aims to raise children who are: Resilient, Active, Independent, Strong and Engaged.

## **Interlakes Community Caregivers (ICC)**

*Located in Moultonborough*

**\$2,000**

Funding will support the publication of ICC's quarterly newsletter.

## **Plymouth Area Community Closet (PACC)**

**\$10,000**

Grant will fund PACC's annual Christmas/Holiday Basket project.

## **Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI)**

**Up to \$10,000**

NHEC Foundation awarded a grant to match donations up to

\$10,000 made by individuals in October to NH Solar Shares, which will design and install solar PV arrays to share solar energy with low income families and increase the amount of clean renewable energy on the grid.

## **Speare Memorial Hospital**

**\$1,750**

Grant will fund upgrades and renovations to palliative care room.

## **Carroll County YMCA, Camp Nellie Huckins**

*Located in Freedom*

**\$5,000**

Grant will support scholarships for girls living in NHEC service territory to attend the 2018 season of Camp Huckins.

Your non-profit organization could be the next recipient of a grant from the NHEC Foundation! For more information visit [www.nhec.com/nhec-foundation](http://www.nhec.com/nhec-foundation), or call Sara Thielbar at 603-536-8884.

## WATTS HAPPENING

### **Candidates Wanted for Board of Directors**

Have you considered playing a more active role in your Co-op? How about running for a seat on the Board of Directors? NHEC is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors, which is elected by the members themselves. In 2018, four seats will be up for election to three-year terms. NHEC seeks broad representation from a diverse group of individuals and encourages all qualified members from all parts of our service territory 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](mailto:yeatons@nhec.com).

### **New Date for December Board Meeting**

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 note that the Board's December meeting has been moved to December 19. Check the Board of Directors page on the Co-op web site at [www.nhec.coop](http://www.nhec.coop), or call Sharon Yeaton at (603)536-8801 to confirm the current month's time and location.

## ATTENTION ELECTRICIANS!

### **Don't pull that meter until you've notified us...**

All electricians must contact New Hampshire Electric Co-op BEFORE breaking the seal to remove any electric meter served by NHEC.

The digital electric meters installed by NHEC will automatically report an outage when the meter loses power. If we don't know you're removing a meter, we may assume there's an outage at that location or that the meter is being tampered with and dispatch a crew to make repairs. That may result in the member being billed a charge.

According to NHEC's Terms & Conditions, only licensed electricians and trained NHEC employees are allowed to remove an electric meter from its socket. Before removing an NHEC electric meter, please call 1-800-698-2007 to reach our Member Solutions Department during regular business hours, or our Control Center, which is staffed 24/7/365.

## ENERGY EFFICIENT THANKSGIVING COOKING TIPS

- Don't peek in the oven! Even a quick look loses 25 degrees.
- Lower your house thermostat. The oven will keep the house warm.
- Use ceramic or glass pans.
- Cook in the microwave whenever possible.
- Skip the dishwasher heated dry cycle; just open the door and let dishes air-dry.

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**

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative

579 Tenney Mountain Highway

Plymouth, NH 03264