

## NHEC UNION EMPLOYEES STRIKE OVER CONTRACT DEMANDS

Eighty-three of NHEC's 200 employees are represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local #1837. On May 7, 2018, union employees went on strike after voting to reject the company's employment contract offer. Union and NHEC reps have held more than 20 negotiating sessions in an effort to produce a successor agreement to a union contract that expired on April 30, 2018.

The union employees, including all NHEC lineworkers, remained on strike at the time this newsletter went to print. While we are hopeful that the strike will have been resolved by the time you read this, here is some background to help you understand what's going on.

### What's the issue?

At issue is pension and 401k benefits for union employees. The union requested that the company offer union employees the same 401k and pension benefits as non-

union employees. The company responded to the union's request by proposing pension and 401k benefits at the same level as non-union employees, including senior management. The proposal represents a dramatic increase in pension and 401k benefits for union employees. Despite the generous proposal, the union objects to language in the company's proposal that it be able to make the same changes to the pension plan at the same time changes are made to the pension plan for non-union employees. The intent of the company's proposal is to maintain the same level of pension and 401k benefits for union and non-union employees.

### How is the strike impacting NHEC operations?

NHEC has activated a contingency plan that provides coverage for power outages and protects public safety. Certified line crews have been engaged and are being accompanied on any outage calls by non-union NHEC

employees who are familiar with the service territory. NHEC's Control Center is still staffed 24 hours a day, and members should still report outages to the NHEC outage line at 1-800-343-6432.

Much of NHEC's day-to-day business is not impacted by the strike. Services like billing and payment processing are not impacted. The Member Solutions call center is fully staffed and open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-800-698-2007. NHEC's energy efficiency rebate programs are also unaffected.

Depending on the duration of the strike, there may be some delay in the performance of service work. If you have questions about an open service order, you can call NHEC Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience as we respond to this unusual situation.

## FLIP YOUR FRIDGE AND WE'LL FLIP YOU \$30

### Do you have an older refrigerator or freezer?

Now you can recycle it and receive \$30 for doing the right thing.

Appliances manufactured before 1990 can use three to four times more electricity than newer models so getting rid of these old, energy hogs is a smart choice. Recycling old appliances saves energy, helps curtail growing peak load demand, and prevents the release of greenhouse gases. With this program your old appliance will be disposed of properly, with over 90% of the unit being recycled by ARCA Recycling.

### What do you get?

- Free haul-away
- Savings of up to \$150 per year in energy costs by not running the extra appliance
- \$30 incentive check from NHEC.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Must be a residential member of NHEC
- Appliance must be picked up at the service address on your billing account number, and you must provide your electric utility account number at the time of scheduling.
- Refrigerator or freezer must be in working condition/cooling



at the time of pick-up, 10-30 cubic feet in size, and owned by the utility customer.

- Limit of 2 units per year per residential account

Crews will need clear access to the appliance for safe removal, and the unit must be empty and defrosted at the time of pick-up.

### Terms:

This program is a limited time offer, while funding is available. To schedule a free pickup, please have your NHEC account number ready and call the recycling contractor, ARCA, at 1-877-889-4763; or apply online at <https://www.nhec.com/recycle-your-refrigerator>.

# TAKE CHARGE, DRIVE ELECTRIC!

## Rebate and a New Rate for EV Drivers

New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) is rolling out rebates of up to \$300 combined with low off-peak rates for residential members who install qualified Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at their homes.

## Charging Station Rebate

NHEC will provide rebates to residential members who install Level 2 or larger EV charging stations (240 volts) in our service territory. Rebates will help offset the cost of installing the required electric sub-meter that will record your EV charging usage AND let you take advantage of a low off-peak rate when charging your EV.

## Off-Peak Rate

When you participate in this program, you'll be able to charge your EV during off-peak hours at a rate that is lower than the basic residential rate. (See accompanying chart)

## How Much Can I Save?

Your potential savings will vary depending on the type of EV you drive, how many miles you drive and when you charge, but the owner of an EV like the Chevrolet Bolt who drives 16,000 miles a year can save about \$20 a month by charging during off-peak times.

## Already Have a Level 2 Charger?

Members who already have a Level 2 EV charger installed in Co-op service territory are also eligible for the rebate if they sign up for off-peak charging!

## Ready to Roll?

Visit the EV page on our website at [www.nhec.com/drive-electric](http://www.nhec.com/drive-electric) for important program details and application, or call NHEC Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007. Funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Buying an EV?

Don't forget about our rebates up to \$1,000 for the purchase or lease of a new or used EV!

## CHARGE OFF-PEAK AND SAVE!\*

BASIC RESIDENTIAL RATE	OFF-PEAK EV CHARGING RATE	ON-PEAK EV CHARGING RATE
All hours, all days	9 p.m. – 7 a.m. Monday - Friday; all hours on week-ends and holidays	7 a.m. – 9 p.m. non-holiday week-days only
\$0.149 per kWh	\$0.086 per kWh	\$0.225 per kWh

\*EV rates do not include monthly EV meter charge of \$3.10. On-Peak and Off-Peak EV charging rates will change with the regular seasonal rate adjustments that occur in May and November. For current rates, see Billing & Rates at [www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com).

## WATCH THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE

The 79th Annual Meeting of Members is Tuesday, June 19 from 10-11 a.m. at Merrill Place Conference Center on the campus of Plymouth State University. You can attend in person, watch the meeting live online, or watch a recording of the meeting anytime thereafter.

To join the live stream of the Annual Meeting, or to watch coverage of the meeting after the fact, open your internet browser and type this URL:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/YWLRQpQwmgj>

## WATTS HAPPENING

### Free Peak Demand Alerts

As the temperature rises, so does the demand for electricity. High usage periods or "peaks" affect future rates. If you are enrolled in Peak Days, our voluntary free alert program, you will receive notifications when we predict peak demand events will be happening. Any voluntary efforts you make to reduce your electric usage during these events will help reduce peak demand, which is good for the environment and good for future rates. To receive free peak event notifications by text or email, Please visit [www.nhec.com/energy-management/peak-days](http://www.nhec.com/energy-management/peak-days), or call NHEC Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007.

### NH House to Address Utility Property Tax Increases

NHEC has made great strides this legislative session. House Bill 324 will create a commission to study the current problem and propose

informed, reasonable solutions. Thank you to all of our members who have voiced their support for utility property tax reform – this victory would not have been possible without you.

### Thank You for Voting

Voting in the annual NHEC Board of Directors election runs from May 15 to June 13. Members are voting to fill four open seats on the 11-member Board. Results of the election will be posted at [www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com) following the NHEC Annual Meeting on June 19.

### 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.com](http://www.nhec.com)



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

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative

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