



Building a solar community

MECO's solar family of energy efficient builders continues to grow. Joining **3D Builders and Design, Betsill Brothers Construction** has also committed to include solar water heating as a standard feature in all of its new residential projects.

Builders know that long-term solar energy savings will lower total monthly expenses for the buyer. The savings from reduced electric bills will allow an average family of four to enjoy a couple of extra movie tickets each month, a long distance call to grandma, or lunch on the way to the beach—every month!* With Maui Electric's rebates, 3D and Betsill will help an estimated 200 families move into quality, energy efficient homes in the year 2000. For more information on solar water heating for your new or existing residence, call 1-888-MECO-SUN (1-888-632-6786).

*savings will vary



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Help more schools get Sun Power

Maui Electric's **Sun Power for Schools** program continues to bring the sun's energy to public schools around the state. **Lahainaluna High** is the latest Maui County school that will benefit, receiving a photovoltaic (PV) lighting system for its campus. Previous installations at **Baldwin** and **Molokai High Schools** were 1 kilowatt roof top PV systems. Lahainaluna's lighting system is another practical application of the solar technology. In addition to the benefits of security lighting, the students in science and other related classes will be able to learn more about renewable energy issues and opportunities through related coursework. To extend the Sun Power educational partnership even further, Lahainaluna's PV system is being designed by University of Hawaii electrical engineering students. They hope to have the system installed before summer.

Customer contributions, together with MECO's \$20,000 contribution, have helped pay for these systems, but you can help more schools benefit. It's easy. Become a Sun Power partner by contributing as little as \$1 a month more with your electric bill. Just fill out the postage-paid sign up card included with this month's electric bill. For more information, call 871-2323.

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On-line bill payment

With a few clicks of your mouse, you can view and pay your electric bill online via the Internet. No paper bills, no checks, no stamps. It's easy! Our new **E-Bill** service, offered through **CheckFree**, the nation's leading provider of electronic commerce services, is up and running. For more information, log on to our web site at www.heco.com.



Do you qualify for \$3,816?

If you earned less than \$30,580 in 1999, you may be eligible for a tax refund. The **Earned Income Credit (EIC)** allows working families to get as much as \$3,816 from Uncle Sam. The amount of the credit depends on the number of dependent children in your household and your taxable income. Families earning less than \$30,580 in 1999 and with more than one dependent child may be eligible for a credit of \$3,816. Households earning less than \$10,200 may still qualify for a \$347 credit, even if they have no children.

Filing for the EIC is simple. You must file a 1999 federal tax return and attach a completed Schedule EIC. If you are eligible for the credit, you either owe less in taxes or you get a bigger refund. For more information on the Earned Income Credit, see your 1999 federal tax package, or call the IRS's Tele-Tax information service at 1-800-829-4477 and ask to listen to topic #601. Or check out the IRS website at www.irs.gov/tax_edu/teletax/tc601.html.

Cookbook offers MECO favorites

Local dishes and energy efficiency tips are a sure recipe for a successful cookbook — and that's exactly what Maui Electric has put together. Look for MECO employees' favorite recipes and handy cooking tips throughout the book. Copies of *MECO's Recipes for a Millennium* will be available at the end of March at our customer service locations on Maui and Molokai. Lanai customers can call 565-6445. Cost is \$6 (\$8 if mailed). Proceeds will go to local charities. For more information, call Ruth Yamamura at 871-2323.



New channel for Electric Kitchen

Want to learn how to cook fast and easy dishes and pick up useful energy information at the same time? Just tune in to *The Electric Kitchen*, our cable TV cooking and energy show. Featured during the first half of March: Vegan dishes using no meat, milk or egg products, like this month's Great Gazpacho. Catch the show on Maui on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. on Calabash (formerly AKAKU) Channel 44 and Channel 52.

The Electric Kitchen

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Great Gazpacho

- 1 cucumber, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups tomato or tomato-vegetable juice
- 1 can (14-1/2 oz.) diced tomatoes, including liquid
- 3 tablespoons chopped cilantro (Chinese parsley)
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce (optional)



Combine all ingredients. Put 1/2 of mixture into a food processor or blender; blend to desired consistency. Combine blended mixture with chunky mixture. Chill for several hours. Soup can be garnished with croutons or crumbled baked tortilla chips. If soup is chunky, it can be ladled over a plateful of pasta. Makes 4 to 6 servings.