



Put the sun's energy to work for you

There's no better time than summer to install a solar water heating system for your home. Here are 6 great reasons why:

- **Be an Energy Star home!** Homes with HELCO-approved solar water heating systems may qualify for the EPA's Energy Star Homes Program. Subsequent buyers of such homes may be able to get mortgage breaks provided by participating lenders.
- **\$1000 rebate!** HELCO will pay you a \$1000 rebate when you install a system using a contractor participating in our Residential Efficient Water Heating Program.
- **Cut your electric bill!** A properly designed and installed solar water heating system can provide up to 90% of your hot water needs. The solar system can pay for itself in a few years and save about \$6 to \$12 per person per month.
- **Custom-designed solar systems!** Solar water heating systems installed under HELCO's program are designed with your family's size, hot water needs and location in mind.
- **Highest standards in industry!** Installation by authorized licensed contractors following HELCO's standards and specifications ensures long-lasting, high performance systems
- **Peace of mind!** All systems are inspected by HELCO, at no cost to you, to ensure compliance with program standards.



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For more information, call us at 969-0127.



Another easy way *Charge it!* to pay your bill

Now you can pay your HELCO bill *over the phone* with a credit or debit card. HELCO has arranged for our customers to take advantage of the new automated EasyPaysM service from Western Union*. EasyPaysM allows you to use your MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or American Express credit card or your STAR network debit card to pay your bills quickly and conveniently. At this time, this payment option is only available by using a touch tone phone.

The next time you're rushed for time or want the added convenience, call EasyPaysM at 1-888-386-8173. All you need is your HELCO account number and your credit or debit card handy.

*Western Union charges a convenience fee for this service (amount varies depending on amount of bill payment)



Only in *June:* Apply for bill payment help

Only during the month of **June**, the State's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is offering customers with income and assets below a certain threshold a one-time annual credit against their electric bill.

To apply, take your original electric bill (no copies) during the period **June 1 to June 30** to one of these Hawaii County Economic Opportunity offices:

- Hilo . . . 935-5219
- Ka'u/Puna . . . 928-8335
- Kona . . . 322-3428
- Hamakua . . . 775-7207
- Pahoa . . . 965-9480

How much does air conditioning cost?

As the summertime mercury rises, so does the use of air conditioners. How much does it cost you to run your room air conditioner? Here are some guidelines:

Use this formula to calculate your estimated electricity costs.

$$\frac{BTU}{EER} \times \frac{Hours\ of\ operation}{1000} = Kilowatthours\ per\ month$$

$$Kilowatthours\ per\ month \times 21\ cents/kWh = Cost\ per\ month$$

The cost of running your air conditioner depends on these factors:

- BTU (size) rating of the air conditioner
- EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating
- Number of hours of operation

For example, a 10,000 BTU air conditioner with a 9.0 EER rating using 180 hours per month (6 hours per day) will cost an additional \$34 per month.

$$\frac{1,000\ BTU}{9.0} \times \frac{180\ Hours}{1000} = 200\ kWh/month$$

$$200\ kWh \times 21\ cents/kWh = \$42/month\ or\ \$1.35/day$$

Remember: The higher the EER, the more you save in electricity costs. If you're planning to buy an air conditioner, HELCO encourages you to buy an energy efficient model (EER 9.0 or higher).



Students go for Solar Sprint!

Students from Big Island schools participating in HELCO's Sun Power for Schools program got some hands-on experience with photovoltaics at the State Department of Education's recent Solar Sprint Exhibition on Oahu. (top to bottom) Hilo and Kealakehe High student teams used math, design and electronics principles to design, build and race model solar cars. Laupahoehoe High School also participated.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Layered Cookie Dessert (Bolo De Bolacha)

- 1 container (12 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1-1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 4 cups strong coffee
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 3 pkg. (7 oz. size) arrowroot biscuits*



Sweeten whipped topping with the powdered sugar; beat until the consistency of frosting. Sweeten coffee with the sugar; mix well. Dip each wafer in coffee and place in the bottom of a serving dish. Spread wafers with a layer of frosting. Repeat process, making about 10 layers. Top with frosting. Cover and chill for 3 to 4 hours. Cut into serving pieces. Makes 6 servings.

*Crisp vanilla or chocolate wafers can be substituted.

