



\$115,000,000 **New Energy Plan** to save customers over \$115 million

MECO recently submitted to the Public Utilities Commission an updated long-term energy plan for Maui County that will help save customers more than \$115 million over the next 20 years.



Updated every three to five years with input from a community/government advisory group, this energy blueprint maps out the best way to meet Maui County's demands for electricity. It's not just about building power plants. The plan also includes energy efficiency and conservation programs to help slow the growth in demand for power. The overall goal: To support our county's economic recovery and continued growth by meeting its energy needs efficiently, reliably and at the lowest reasonable cost to customers.

MECO's updated plan will cost customers \$115 million less than the previous plan by meeting Maui County's growing electricity needs in the following ways:

- **Continuing and expanding energy efficiency and conservation programs.** MECO is offering \$39 million in cash incentives to customers to encourage them to use solar water heaters and more efficient lighting, air conditioning and other energy saving technologies. Thanks to programs like these, the need for future new power plants has been deferred for two years. This delay can save an estimated 2.6 million barrels of oil and \$28 million over the next 20 years.
- **Keeping existing generators on line for as long as possible.** Recent advances in testing, repair and maintenance tools, and computerized control systems help us keep our present generating units on line instead of replacing them with costly new plants.
- **Building new conventional generating facilities in increments and using the most efficient proven technologies at the time.** For example, new heat-recovery generators can capture waste heat from conventional generators to produce the electricity without burning oil. Efficient units like these are already in operation at Maalaea and are planned for future generation additions at Waena.

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- **Negotiating a new contract with HC&S to continue buying renewable biomass power.** The current agreement expires at the end of 2001.

- **Adding more wind power to Maui County's energy mix.** In fact, as we announced in *Consumer Lines* last month, MECO and Zond Pacific recently agreed on a price for power from a planned 20-megawatt wind farm at Kaheawa Pastures. Wind power, which isn't always available, doesn't displace the need for conventional 24-hour-a-day power sources. Nevertheless, renewable energy is an important part of our energy mix when it can be obtained at a reasonable cost to our customers.

The updated energy plan, formally known as MECO's "Integrated Resources Plan," must still be reviewed and approved by the Public Utilities Commission.

Save with E-Bill

Want to find out more about how you can receive and pay your electric bill with our on-line **E-Bill** service? Check out the flyer included with your electric bill this month or visit our website at www.heco.com.

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

Now you can pay your MECO bill *over the phone* with a credit or debit card. MECO 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 MECO 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 Maui Economic Opportunity offices:

Maui . . . 249-2970
 Maui (Hana) . . . 248-8282
 Molokai . . . 553-3216
 Lanai . . . 565-6665

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.

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

$$Kilowatthours\ per\ month \times 17\ cents/kWh = Cost\ per\ month$$

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.

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

$$200\ kWh \times 17\ cents/kWh = \$34/month\ or\ \$1.10/day$$

Remember: The higher the EER, the more you save in electricity costs. If you're planning to buy an air conditioner, MECO and appliance distributors are offering coupons worth up to \$40 in savings to encourage you to buy an energy efficient model (EER 9.0 or higher). Coupons were included with your May electric bill. For more coupons or information, call 871-8461.

*Molokai and Lanai customers should use 21 cents and 20 cents per kilowatthour, respectively

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Layered Cookie Dessert (Bolo De Bolacha)

- 1 container (12 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1-1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1-1/2 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 remaining frosting. Cover and chill for 3 to 4 hours. Cut into serving pieces. Makes 6 servings.

*Crisp vanilla or chocolate wafers can be substituted.