



SUN POWER FOR SCHOOLS EXTENDED

Good news! HELCO's *Sun Power for Schools* program has been such a success, we are extending the program for two more years.

HELCO and customers signed up as Sun Power partners have contributed money to pay for demonstration photovoltaic (solar electric) systems at public high schools. Here's what this unique partnership has accomplished so far:

- Photovoltaic systems are up and running at Kealakehe and Hilo High School. The solar-generated electricity is helping meet a small portion of the schools' electricity needs; HELCO is gaining valuable experience with the cost, installation and operation of these systems; and perhaps most importantly, students get a hands-on opportunity to see renewable energy at work in their own schools.

- To bring renewable energy lessons to the classroom, we helped secure a U.S. Department of Energy Million Solar Roofs Program grant to pay for the development of renewable energy course work for Hawaii's high schools.

With your help, we can keep this momentum going! For as little as \$1 more each month on your electric bill, you can help more schools participate. Sign up today* to become a Sun Power partner. For information, call **969-0137**.

*Current Sun Power partners will be continued in the program unless they notify us to cancel



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Pay your bill at Foodland and Sack 'N Save

For your convenience, just as many banks have done for years, all Foodland and Sack 'N Save supermarkets will now accept HELCO electric bill payments. Before or after picking up your groceries, you can stop by the customer service counter and pay your bill. The supermarket charges a 75 cent handling fee. Be sure to allow at least three working days for your payment to be credited to your account.



Is it safe to pay bills on the Internet?

We've been telling you a lot about our E-Bill service which allows you to view and pay your bills over the Internet. You may be thinking, "That's convenient but is it safe?"

Web sites use a number of security measures. For example, Yahoo! Bill Pay (<http://billpay.yahoo.com>) ensures that your information is safe and secure using these measures.

- **Yahoo! ID and Password:** Your Yahoo! ID and password are unique identifiers. As long as you don't share them with anyone else, no one can sign in as you.
- **Encryption:** Yahoo! Bill Pay employs the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) security standard that encrypts data to protect it from being read by anyone other than the intended recipient.
- **Yahoo! Security Key:** When you sign up for Yahoo! Bill Pay, you create a Yahoo! Security Key a six (or more) character combination of numbers and/or letters. Each time you attempt to access your Yahoo! Bill Pay accounts, you are prompted to verify your Yahoo! Security Key, which further ensures the security of your personal banking information.

Also, all bill payment transactions made on Yahoo! Bill Pay are managed by the CheckFree Corporation, which provides a guarantee against unauthorized transactions and processing delays.

So, before signing up to pay bills at any Web site, be sure to check the security measures used.

Here's one quick way to ensure that basic security measures are in place. Check for a padlock icon on the bottom right hand corner of your Web page and see if the Web site address starts with "https" instead of just "http."



Announcing The Electric Kitchen

Want to see some great cooking demonstrations, and pick up some ono recipes and handy energy information at the same time? Watch the cable TV program *The Electric Kitchen*, sponsored by HELCO and our affiliated companies, HECO and MECO. You can now catch the program on **Na Leo o Hawaii Channel 2 (Hilo) and Channel 14 (Kona) every week on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.** (Cable access schedules are subject to change so check the weekly TV listings just in case).



How do fuel prices affect your electric bill?

With all of the publicity about higher gas and other fuel prices, you may have wondered how fluctuations in the price of oil impact your electric bill.

HELCO, with 28% of electricity sold from renewable sources, has helped Hawaii become one of the leading states in using renewable energy to produce electricity. Despite the use of renewable energy, the Big Island's electricity costs continue to be affected by changes in the price of oil.

The cost of fuel used to produce electricity is a "pass-through" for HELCO customers. This means that the cost is passed directly to electricity users via the Energy Cost Adjustment line item on electric bills. If the cost of fuel goes up, the Energy Cost Adjustment increases. When fuel costs decline, consumers see this reflected as a drop in the Energy Cost Adjustment charge on their bills. HELCO makes no profit on the cost of fuel.

In 1998 and 1999 the price of oil on the worldwide market was at historic lows, and consumers benefited from low fuel costs. This past year, fuel prices have risen, increasing electric bills. If you've been using about the same amount of electricity but noticed your electric bill has gone up, this may explain why.

What can you do about your bill? Energy efficiency steps always make sense and are more important now than ever. Call us at **969-0137** for simple energy saving tips or call **969-0127** for more information about how you can save money with a HELCO-inspected solar water heating system.



Act now to get energy tax credits

Installing a solar or heat pump water heater saves you money in three ways. Eligible systems will entitle you to a HELCO rebate. You'll save on your electric bill. And you may save money on your state tax return. If you file a resident tax income return, the state of Hawaii provides a tax credit. Install a solar water heater in a single-family residence and you can reduce your tax liability by 35% of the cost of the system, up to a maximum of \$1,750. Investing in a heat pump can save you the lesser of 20% of the cost of the system or \$400. But hurry! You must purchase and install the solar or heat pump water heater before year-end to claim the credit on your 2000 state tax return. For more information, call the Hawaii Department of Taxation at 1-800-222-3229.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Oven Kalua Turkey

- 12 large ti leaves
- 10 to 12 lb turkey, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 bottle (3-1/2 oz size) liquid smoke
- 1/4 cup Hawaiian salt

Wash ti leaves; remove fibrous part of the veins. Line a large baking pan with foil; place leaves in pan, radiating from center. Put turkey on leaves. Rub liquid smoke and salt on the inside and outside of turkey. Fold leaves around turkey and crimp foil tightly around turkey. Add a little water to the pan. Roast in electric oven at 375°F for 6 hours. Shred turkey, adding liquid to moisten meat. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

