



SUN POWER FOR SCHOOLS EXTENDED

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



MECO 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 Baldwin, Lahainaluna, and Molokai High School.

The solar-generated electricity is helping meet a small portion of the schools' electricity needs; MECO is gaining valuable experience with 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 help 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 **871-8461**.

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



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When to catch The Electric Kitchen

Now you can catch *The Electric Kitchen*, our popular cable TV cooking and energy show, on the air more often than ever. Watch for it on these dates and times on **AKAKU Calabash channel 44 (Maui), channel 13 (Lanai and Molokai) and channel 52 (West Maui):**

Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.: November 9 and 23, December 7 and 21

Fridays, 7:30 p.m.: November 10 and 24, December 8 and 22

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."



Who let the dogs out?

Help us make sure your electric bill is accurate. Our employees need safe access to your electric meter to take accurate readings. You can help by **keeping your dogs and other pets secured** away from the meter.

In addition:

- Keep plants, high walls and fences from blocking the view of your meter.

- If you are remodeling, do not enclose or obstruct the meter.



New generator on line

As of September, a new combustion turbine is now on line meeting the energy needs of MECO customers. The new unit — "M19" — provides an additional 21 megawatts of needed power generation. "Getting this power on line was critical to helping us meet the needs of Maui's growing economy," said MECO President Bill Bonnet.

The state-of-the-art combustion turbine is the second part of a highly efficient three-phase "combined cycle" project. When Phase three is completed in the 2004 timeframe, a heat recovery steam generator will utilize the waste heat from the two combustion turbines to produce 18 megawatts of additional power *without burning more oil*.



How do fuel prices affect your electric bill?

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.

MECO and our affiliated companies, HECO and HELCO, have helped Hawaii become one of the leading states in using renewable energy to produce electricity. However, given the cost and current state of renewable energy technology, Maui County still needs to get much of its electricity from oil.

The cost of fuel used to produce electricity is a "pass-through" for MECO 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. MECO 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 it? Energy efficiency steps always make sense and are more important now than ever. Call us at **871-8461** for simple energy saving tips or call tollfree **1-888-MECOSUN** (632-6786) for more information about how you can save money with a MECO-inspected solar water heating system.



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.

