



Looking back on 2001

2001 was a year that will forever change our lives. The events of September 11 served us with a sobering reminder of all that we have to be grateful for in America. Though September's events take center stage, here's a look back at some of the year's other highlights:



Maui's Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale Sanctuary in Kihei is the first MECO customer to take advantage of Hawaii's renewable energy law allowing net energy metering. Photo by Carl Shaneff.

Lessons from California energy crisis

Californians won't soon forget the crisis that resulted when the state altered laws to promote electric competition with the intention of lowering prices. The intent was honest; the result was chaos. But the crisis provided valuable lessons for Hawaii, driving home the complexity of deregulating the electric utility industry, the criticality of adequate power infrastructure and the need for accountability.

Community partner of the year

At mid-year commencement exercises, Maui Community College recognized MECO as "Community Partner of the Year." Together in 2001, MCC and MECO dedicated the Instruction in Sustainable Technologies (MIST) lab on the MCC campus. Students are using the lab to learn how to install solar water heating systems and research ways to improve their current design. Other benefits of the MCC/MECO partnership: Development of energy efficient design for future buildings, a sub-metering system to better manage campus electrical usage, and MECO rebates totaling over \$12,000.

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Build your dream home and save

MECO's Energy Star program sponsored "Build your Dream Home" seminars with the Maui Contractor's Association and Maui Energy Star builders. Energy Star builders offer MECO-approved solar water heating systems as a standard feature in the construction of new homes. What's the benefit? Homes built with these systems can qualify for Energy Star savings and mortgage discounts from participating lenders.

Developers go solar

Stanford Carr Development International began work on 63 all-solar homes at the Olena subdivision at Kehalani. By participating in MECO's solar program, SCD was able to pass MECO's \$1,000 rebate on to its customers. Towne Brown LLC's Ke Alii Kai is Maui's first EPA Energy Star subdivision. In addition to solar water heating, all 95 house and lot packages will include double glazed windows and wall and ceiling insulation, with optional efficient air conditioning. Buyers in both developments are eligible for the state energy tax credit, MECO's \$1000 rebate and quality inspection, and closing cost discounts from Energy Star lenders.

Partnership promotes ultimate energy efficient home

In August, MECO, the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and the UH School of Architecture teamed up for a seminar promoting the ultimate energy-efficient home. Builders, architects, designers and home buyers learned why solar water heating, radiant barriers and natural cooling are the three most effective measures to reduce residential energy use in Hawaii. For more information about the features highlighted, pick up a copy of the DBEDT's booklet, **Field Guide for Energy Performance, Comfort and Value in Hawaii** at MECO's Kahului office while supplies last.

New renewable energy laws

MECO supported the passage of a new law to promote renewable energy in Hawaii. The law includes **Renewable Portfolio Standards**, or targets for renewable energy use by all of Hawaii's electric utilities, and **net energy metering** which allows residential and small commercial customers with eligible solar, wind, biomass and hydro generators connected to the utility grid to run their electric meter backwards to zero when their renewable energy generator is producing excess electricity and feeding it back into the utility grid.

PowerQuest: On-line energy lessons

Thanks to a grant from the federal Million Solar Roofs Initiative, *PowerQuest* renewable energy course work is now available to all schools on-line. The *PowerQuest* workbook can be found at any public high and middle school library or log on to <http://powerquest.heco.com> to check out the website.



MECO's newest Energy Star builder

Clifford Rosa, president of J.C. Builders, Inc., Maui's newest Energy Star builder, knows that including a MECO-approved solar water heater in his construction will pay off for his customers. "Buyers start saving on electricity costs immediately and it's another way to add extra value to a home," says Rosa.



J.C. Builders, Inc. joins YM Homes, Seaside Construction, 3D Builders, Betsill Brothers, Steel Frame Homes Construction, Pono Building Company, Graham Builders and Webb Construction. MECO offers a \$1,000 rebate and a free quality inspection for company-approved solar water heating installations.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Shanghai Microwave Gau



- 1/2 pkg (12 oz size) dried red dates (about 1 cup)
- 1 lb mochiko (sweet rice flour)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup salad oil
- 3/4 to 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup shelled pine nuts

In a saucepan, cover dates with water. Bring to a boil, lower heat, and cook for 45 minutes or until dates are soft; drain. Remove and discard pits from dates. Line a 10 x 5-inch microwave safe dish with plastic wrap. In a bowl, combine mochiko, sugar, oil, and water; mix well. Stir in dates and nuts. Pour mixture in prepared dish; cover with plastic wrap. Rotating dish several times during cooking, microwave on high power for 7 minutes. Carefully turn gau over; cook another 3 minutes. Let stand uncovered for about 30 minutes. Pull gau from sides of dish and invert onto a platter. Cut into serving pieces. Makes 20 servings.

