



## Wishing you a bright holiday season...

All of us at MECO wish you, our valued customers, our very best wishes for peace and joy in the coming year.

### Light up your holidays safely



As you light up the holidays and prepare for year-end festivities, please keep these tips in mind to ensure a safe, happy holiday season for you and your ohana.

- Outdoor lights should be weatherproof and clearly marked for outdoor use. Never try to shorten or splice light strings.
- Use a fiberglass or dry wooden ladder when stringing outdoor lights. Be sure to stay away from overhead power lines.
- Remove outdoor lights after the holiday season is over. Prolonged exposure to the elements could damage them.
- Don't use indoor extension cords outside.
- Avoid overloading your circuits with too many lights. This could create a fire hazard. As a general guideline, limit the number of lights strung together to 200 "midget" lights or 50 larger bulbs. Better yet, check the instructions for your lights for specific limits.
- For safety and to save energy, put your lights on a timer or make sure you turn them off when you go to bed or leave the house.
- When celebrating at New Years, please keep fireworks away from utility poles. You may interrupt your electric, phone or cable TV service. Even worse, you risk severe shock or electrocution if you touch an energized power line.

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## Holiday business hours...

Our **Maui, Molokai** and **Lanai** offices will observe the following holiday schedule:

Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Day (1/2 day)	7:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day	Closed
Tuesday, December 31	New Years Eve Day (1/2 day)	7:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 1, '03	New Years Day	Closed



## The Haiku Connection

Customers who produce their own electricity using renewable energy sources such as wind, biomass, hydro or photovoltaic (PV) power can easily connect to MECO's grid. Pete and Jane Adams of Haiku installed a 2.5 kW PV system at their home. During the day, the system provides nearly all of the power used by their small plant nursery and home. At night, power is provided through MECO.



Pete and Jane Adams pose with their new photovoltaic system. The system is capable of powering their home and small business during the day, keeping energy costs at a minimum.

"Having come to Maui from California, and knowing that Maui faces significant challenges in energy production and costs, we decided to do our part by installing a photovoltaic system as part of the construction of our new home," said Adams. "That, plus solar hot water heating and the most energy-efficient appliances we could purchase have contributed to our monthly energy costs being nearly trivial. The process of getting the systems installed and approved was very painless for us. We attribute that to the superb efforts of our contractors (Laf Young for the PV system and Mike Biggs at Sunshine Solar for the solar water heater) and MECO's own efforts to ensure that the applications and inspections happened with a minimum of bureaucracy, despite the newness of the program."

If the Adams ever produce more energy than they use, they would be billed for zero kilowatt hours plus a minimum charge. The minimum charge covers some of the fixed costs of maintaining an electric account such as reading the meter and processing the bill. MECO's Net Energy Metering (NEM) agreement is a simple form that gives customers credit for the energy they produce. MECO currently has six NEM agreements in place. To learn more about Net Energy Metering, visit the Renewable Energy section at [www.heco.com](http://www.heco.com) or call us at 871-8461.



## Electric Kitchen airs at new time

Oceanic Cable Channel 16 will broadcast *The Electric Kitchen* show at a new time beginning Tuesday, Dec. 3. MECO's popular cooking and energy info show can be seen at 5:30 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and at 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The show will also continue to air at 8 p.m. on Mondays and 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.



## Sun Power for Schools reply card

Last month's issue of *Consumer Lines* gave you an update on HELCO's Sun Power for Schools program. The article encouraged customers to sign up as Sun Power partners by completing and returning the enclosed postage paid reply card. Auwē! The reply card was omitted to make room for another insert. So we ask that you take a moment to check out the Sun Power card included with this month's bill. Sign up as a partner and help bring Sun Power to more Hawaii schools.



## Lemon-Coconut Rice Pudding



#### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

- 1-1/2 cups rice
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1/2 cup butter
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons lemon extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups milk
- 1 can (13.5 oz) coconut milk
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar

In a rice cooker; wash rice; drain well. Add the 1-1/2 cups water; cook rice. Preheat electric oven to 300°F. Spray a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan with cooking spray. Add butter to hot rice; mix well. In a large bowl, combine, sugar, vanilla and lemon extracts, salt, milk, coconut milk, and coconut; mix well. Stir in rice. Spread rice evenly in prepared pan; sprinkle with brown sugar. Bake for 1-1/2 hours. Cool and refrigerate before serving. Makes 24 servings.

Watch *The Electric Kitchen* on Oceanic Channel 16 for demonstrations of this recipe and more! TEK recipes can be found on the website, [www.heco.com](http://www.heco.com)

