



Keeping the lights on

In the wake of recent power supply shortages on the Big Island, we'd like to express again to our customers how much we appreciate your patience and understanding. We also want to offer some energy saving tips that can help us keep the lights on. Keep in mind, the demand for electricity is at its highest between the hours of 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Using less electricity during this time can help us avoid power generation shortages.

You can help most by doing your laundry, running the dishwasher and bathing before or after the evening peak. Here are more ways to conserve energy:

- If you have a timer on your water heater, set it to provide hot water during off-peak hours (before 5:30 p.m. and after 7:30 p.m.)
- Dishwashers use one-third less water than washing by hand, if you wash full loads and use the short cycle.
- Unplug your second refrigerator or freezer if you can do without it.
- Use a microwave if you're cooking or heating a small amount of food.
- Plan meals so you use your oven to cook more than one dish at a time.
- Use lower wattage bulbs whenever possible and turn off lights not in use.
- Use fluorescent lights. Compact fluorescents use 75% less energy and last ten times longer.
- When doing the laundry, use the cold water rinse cycle. Rinsing in warm water won't make clothes any cleaner.
- Dry full loads of clean laundry, but don't overload. Dry loads in succession to use retained heat.

Also in this issue:

[2002 HELCO highlights](#)

[New renewable energy park planned](#)

[Solar facility could be Hawaii's largest](#)

[Recipe of the month](#)



2002 HELCO highlights

HELCO boosts Million Solar Roofs Program

In support of its role as a Million Solar Roofs Initiative partner and the partnership's commitment to install one million solar systems on U.S. roofs by 2010, HELCO is focusing on developing programs that make solar technology accessible to more Hawaii residents. In 2002, these efforts included strengthening local demand for solar energy products, conducting workshops for customers on how to finance solar systems and developing guidelines for the installation and inspection of code-compliant photovoltaic systems. For more information about the Island of Hawaii MSRI Partnership, check the website at www.hawaiiislandsolar.org or call 969-0136.

Last year, HELCO's solar electric demonstration trailer added a new feature. In addition to the scaled-down version of a residential solar electric system, the trailer is now equipped with its own 400 watt wind turbine to show the viability of two renewable and sustainable energy sources - the sun and the wind. Look for the solar trailer at community events or call 969-0137.

Demo trailer adds wind power.

Last fall, Hawaii Tribune Herald readers named HELCO as the best place to purchase a solar system. Although we're really not in the business of selling water heating systems, we can help make

HELCO named best place to buy solar.

purchase one more affordable through our rebate programs. A total of 26 contractors on the Big Island furnish and install HELCO-approved solar water heating systems. For more information about the Residential Water Heating Program visit www.heco.com or call HELCO's Customer Service line at 969-0127.

Online Energy survey debuts



To help customers better manage their electricity bills, HELCO's online My Home Energy Check survey now provides a customized energy report, including an estimate of how much it costs to run your appliances annually and a tailored list of money saving energy tips. Look for the My Home Energy Check icon at www.heco.com.

Need for Keahole generation grows.

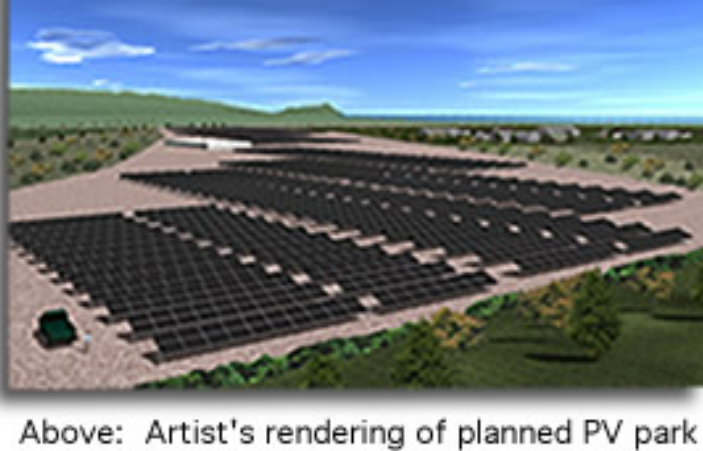
Efforts to add urgently needed power generation at Keahole continued. Construction on the project was halted in the fall when the Circuit Court overturned the State Board of Land and Natural Resources' decision to allow construction to continue. The decision is being appealed before the Hawaii Supreme Court, which may take some time to resolve. In the meantime, the shortage of reliable power generation due to problems with Hamakua Energy Partners', Puna Geothermal Venture, and HELCO's aging plants, contributed to several instances of power interruptions and rolling blackouts. HELCO will continue our efforts to get this needed power from Keahole online so you, our customers, will have the reliable service you need and deserve.



New renewable energy park planned

Solar facility could be Hawaii's largest

The Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) of the University of Hawaii's School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology, the Office of Naval Research (ONR), Navy Region Hawaii, and HELCO's parent company, HECO have announced a joint project to develop what could be at full build-out the largest photovoltaic project in Hawaii.



Above: Artist's rendering of planned PV park

The energy park will be built on 34.5 acres of Navy-owned land in Ewa. The first increment of the park will include a 200 kilowatt photovoltaic generating system, enough to power approximately 60 homes. The PV facility could expand to produce between 2000 to 3000 kilowatts, pending additional funding and increased commercial viability.

In addition to producing electricity from sunlight, the partners will conduct research to link power generated from the solar electric panels with the latest technology - using solar power to make hydrogen, improving hydrogen storage technologies and then using the hydrogen fuel cells to produce more electricity.

The first phase of the project will be financed through a \$2.5 million federal appropriation recently signed by President Bush.

"Reducing Hawaii's use of fossil fuels is going to take a variety of solutions, and as Hawaii's primary electricity provider, we have a responsibility to support the research and development," says T. Michael May, President and CEO of HECO.

An environmental assessment for the PV Park is currently planned for early 2003, with construction of the initial PV system to begin in mid-2004 and full operation by 2005.



Cabbage and Cucumber Kim Chee

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



- 3 lbs head cabbage
- 1/4 cup Hawaiian salt
- 3 cups water
- 1 Japanese cucumber, thinly sliced
- 1 stalk green onion, cut in 2-inch lengths
- 1/4 cup Korean hot pepper powder
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 1 tablespoon Korean beef soup powder (sogogi dashida)
- 1 tablespoon salt 1/4 cup water

Cut cabbage into bite-size pieces. Mix the Hawaiian salt and 3 cups of water. Add cabbage and let soak for 30 minutes, turning occasionally. Drain cabbage and rinse; drain again. Add cucumber and green onion. Combine remaining ingredients; add to cabbage mixture and mix well. Makes 1 gallon.

