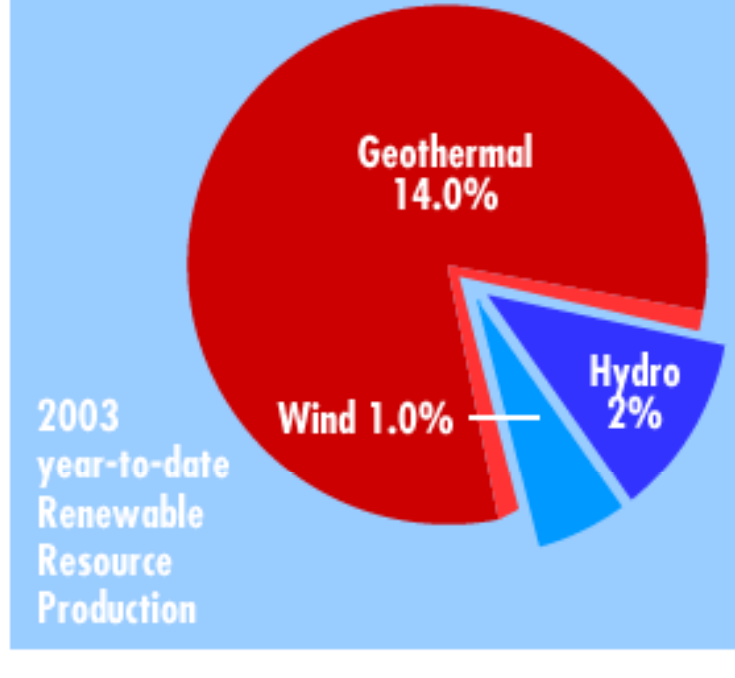




The Big Island's renewable energy track record

The Big Island is blessed with renewable energy resources, including geothermal, run-of-the-river hydroelectric, wind and solar. These renewable energy resources are tapped to produce a significant amount of the power supplied by HELCO and independent power producers.



Renewable energy resources such as solar and wind can fluctuate daily and seasonally and may not always be available on demand. Still, they provide a valuable supplement to HELCO's energy supply. Seventeen percent of the Big Island's power is provided by renewable energy. Consider these accomplishments:

- Today, hundreds of photovoltaic (solar electric) power systems produce electricity for our island. Since the State of Hawaii passed a law in 2001 allowing net energy metering, seven HELCO customers have connected their systems (up to a maximum of 10 kW) to HELCO's grid. Net energy metering provides savings to customers who generate their own power from renewable energy resources and connect to HELCO's grid. Under net energy metering, any power your renewable energy generator produces and feeds back into the grid will be subtracted from the electricity obtained from HELCO to determine the net amount of electricity you'll be billed for.
- Over 3,000 HELCO customers have purchased solar water heating systems, taking advantage of our abundance of sunshine and reducing the electricity they need to make hot water. Eleven of the Big Island's contractors have become Energy Star Builders and embraced this renewable resource as well. Energy Star Builders incorporate solar water heating systems under **HELCO's Residential Water Heating Program** into their energy efficient homes.

All these efforts are helping HELCO reinforce its commitment to explore and incorporate renewable energy technologies, protecting our environment and reducing the use of oil.



Free trees for Arbor Day

To celebrate Arbor Day on the Big Island, HELCO and its partners, the State of Hawaii Fish and Wildlife Kaulunani Program, Ho'oulu Lāhūi and Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School will be giving away free native trees and shrubs at **HELCO's main office, 1200 Kilauea Avenue on Saturday, November 8, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

As a component of their environmental curriculum, students at Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School have been studying and propagating the milo, kamani, hala, niu and ti plants that will be given away at the Arbor Day event. Come, pick up a free tree or shrub while supplies last and a free *Right Tree, Right Place* brochure with lots of tips on how to plant and care for your new tree or plant.



IN NOVEMBER...

The U.S. Department of Energy's Million Solar Roofs (MSR) Program, the Island of Hawaii MSR Partnership and HELCO, together with the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants, will hold two workshops for CPAs to focus on the economics of solar technologies. The *Energy Economics for Hawaii Business Advisors* workshops will be held on 11/12 (Honolulu) and 11/13 (Hilo) from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. For information on HSCPA continuing education credits and registration call **(808) 537-9475** or visit www.hscpa.org.



Check it out... free automatic bill payment

In today's busy world, it's nice to discover easier and faster ways to manage routine tasks. With HELCO's automatic bill payment service you'll never have to worry about paying your electric bill again - no need to think about mailing a check or standing in line to pay your bill in person.

Once you sign up for HELCO's free automatic bill payment program, the amount you owe each month will be electronically deducted from your designated checking or savings account.

Just fill out an Automatic Bill Payment application and mail it in to HELCO at **P.O. Box 1027, Hilo, HI 96721-1027** or include it in your next bill payment envelope. You'll continue to receive a bill each month; the automatic deduction from your designated account won't be made until about 13 days after you receive it. You'll have plenty of time to examine your bill and call if you have a question. That's all there is to it! To get an application, call us at **969-6999**. You can also download an application at www.heco.com under online services.



POWER TIPS

Do 'phantom loads' haunt your home?



The switch says "off," but does that mean it isn't drawing power? Many home electronic devices and appliances consume small amounts of electricity even when they appear to be inactive or turned off. 'Phantom loads' most commonly occur in electronics that have a clock, timer or an automatic-start such as remote control TVs, VCRs, alarm clocks, cable boxes, computers, and microwave ovens. 'Phantom loads' are also found in telephone answering machines, cordless phones and other devices with plug in "wall cubes." Cable boxes for cable and satellite transmission currently use nearly equal amounts of energy in active and standby modes.

These modern appliances are designed for the convenience remote control features, to deliver appropriate voltage, or to up-grade software automatically. They may consume over half their energy when they are not "in use."

Currently, the total amount of electricity produced by 'phantom loads' across the nation is estimated to be enough to power Maui, Molokai and Lanai for over 50 years! For a typical household, the simplest solution is to plug these electronic appliances into a power strip. This allows them to be effectively disconnected by the strip's on and off button. Follow manufacturers' recommendations to avoid overloading power strips. And be sure to ask your cable and Internet service providers about their power requirements before disconnecting.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Asian Coleslaw



- 1/2 cup dry roasted, unsalted peanuts
- 3 cups shredded won bok (celery cabbage)
- 2 cups torn green lettuce leaves
- 1 cup grated carrot
- 1 small red bell pepper, diced
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1/4 cup reduced fat mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons reduced sodium soy sauce
- 4 teaspoons rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon Chinese chili paste with garlic
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger root
- 1 garlic clove, minced

Toast peanuts in a small, dry, heavy skillet over medium-low heat, stirring constantly until lightly browned and fragrant, about 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to a plate to cool. Put cabbage, lettuce, carrot, bell pepper, and green onions into a large salad bowl. In a small bowl, whisk remaining ingredients until smooth; pour over salad and toss gently. Top with toasted peanuts. Makes 6 servings.

