



## Safeguard your electronic equipment

Today's modern electronic equipment, such as microwave ovens, VCR/DVD players, answering machines, computers, and printers, contains sensitive



circuitry and microprocessors that can be easily affected by electrical power quality disturbances.

Sometimes, a disturbance may originate outside your home. But in many cases, conditions within your home such as loose or improperly sized household wiring or corroded connections may cause or aggravate the problems.

That's why it's important to take special care to protect the electronic equipment in your home.

### What should you do?

- **Unplug your sensitive electronic equipment during rainstorms, thunderstorms, and if the power goes out.** This will help prevent damage from potential surges during the storm and when power is restored.
- **Properly ground your cable TV, telephone, and utility service lines.** Power surges can enter your home through these lines. If you are unsure if they are grounded properly, consult a qualified electrician.
- **Use different circuits for sensitive electronic equipment.** Electronic equipment can be affected by appliances that cycle on and off, as this cycling can cause power fluctuations. For example, your computer should not be on the same circuit as your refrigerator.
- **Use a surge suppressor.** Use plug-in surge suppressors to protect individual sensitive equipment, even if you have installed a panel-mounted surge suppressor or lightning arrestor at your main circuit breaker panel. Look for the UL1449 (2nd edition) seal, which indicates the product meets minimum safety and effectiveness standards.
- **Get an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS).** A UPS filters incoming power and isolates electronic equipment from power disturbances. A UPS also provides additional power, which is stored in batteries, when the electric power drops or disappears altogether.

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## What is the price of electricity in Maui County?

To help give our customers a clear understanding of the price of electricity, following is a chart that provides the average price paid in cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in 2004, by each customer category, in each of our divisions.

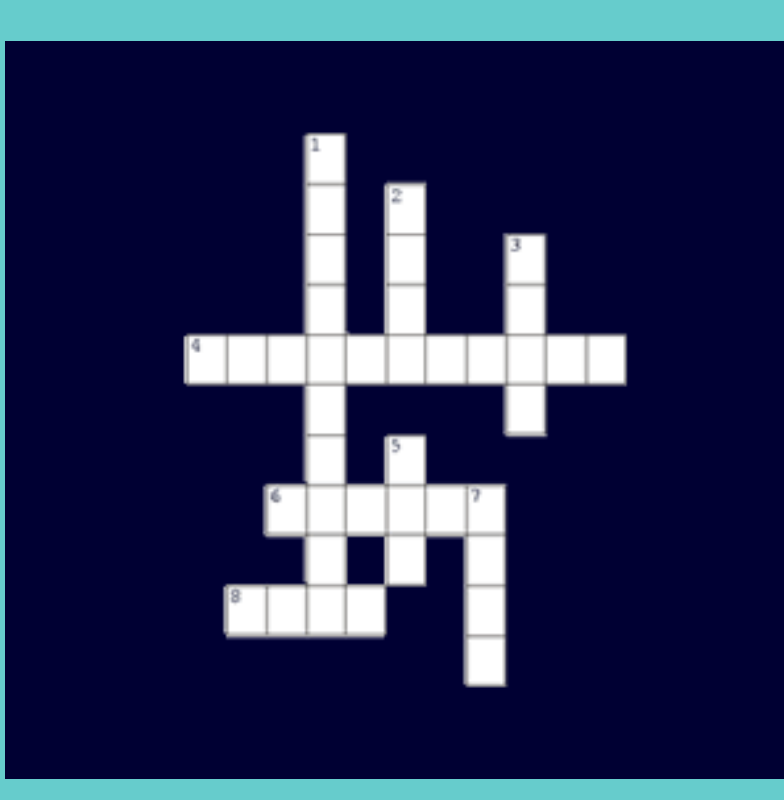
Rate Schedule	Avg. cents per kWh		
	Maui	Molokai	Lanai
Residential	20.85	25.74	25.15
"P" Large Power Use Business	17.75	22.27	21.53
"J" Medium Power Use Business	20.41	25.63	27.40
"G" Smaller Power Use Business	23.25	33.56	28.15
"H" Commercial Cooking, Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration	20.18	23.31	24.31
"F" Street and Park Lighting	18.50	23.99	23.72
"N" Off-Peak and Interruptible Service	N/A	14.98	N/A

Rates are not the same for all categories of customers. Why? It's because the rates are based on the cost of serving each category. It costs more on a cost per kilowatt-hour basis to serve residential and small business customers than it does to serve business customers consuming large amounts of electricity.

The cost of electricity in Hawaii is higher than on the U.S. mainland because our electrical systems on each island are independent and on some islands serve a relatively small customer base. There are no neighboring utility companies from which to draw power in the event of a problem with the generation or distribution systems. Therefore, to minimize the risk of not being able to deliver electricity to our customers, we must have reserve generating capacity and multiple distribution routes. In addition, our State's remote location also adds to the cost of doing business.



## Solar makes \$ense



### ACROSS

- 4 MECO pays \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward installing a solar water heater.
- 6 Converting your electric water heater to solar saves \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the electricity used to heat water.
- 8 The sun's energy is \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

- 1 The Hawaii State Tax Credit percentage applicable to qualified customers who install a solar water heating system
- 2 What interest rate do the County of Maui and MECO offer to qualified customers who finance a new solar water heating system through the Maui Solar Roofs Initiatives Program?
- 3 Installing solar helps lower MECO's \_\_\_\_\_ demand, postponing the installation of new generators and saving everyone money.
- 5 The number of dollars each household member in a family of four can save per month by using a solar water heating system
- 7 Have your solar water heating system flushed and visually inspected every\_\_\_\_\_.

Answers will be provided in next month's Consumer Lines. For information on solar water heating go to [www.mauielectric.com](http://www.mauielectric.com) or call 1(888) MECO-SUN.



## Support for low-income households

**During June**, the State's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will be accepting applications from individuals with household incomes and assets below a certain level who want to apply for a one-time credit on their electric bill to help pay for heating or cooling their home.

**To apply**, you must present your most recent, original electric bill (no copies) to one of the following Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO, Inc.) offices during the period **June 1 through June 30**. MEO, Inc. will determine whether you qualify.

- MAUI 249-2970
- MAUI (Hana) 248-8282
- MOLOKAI 553-3216
- LANAI 565-6665



### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Tzajiki (Cucumber Yogurt Sauce)



- 1 large cucumber, peeled, seeded, and finely chopped
- 8 oz. plain yogurt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons chopped mint or dill
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar

Place cucumber in a kitchen towel and squeeze out excess water. Drain yogurt in a fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth for about 1 hour; discard liquid. Combine all ingredients and chill for at least 1 hour to blend flavors. Recipe makes about 2 cups.

Note: This sauce can be served with stuffed grape leaves, fried fish, fried eggplant, zucchini, and souvlakia (grilled lamb on skewers).

Find out how to make great recipes like this one plus get energy-saving tips for your home by watching *The Electric Kitchen* on KITV4, Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

