

HELCO welcomes more wind power

HELCO continued its commitment to use increasing amounts of renewable energy resources, as a third, Big Island wind farm became fully integrated with the utility's electric grid in May. Located at Upolu Point in North Kohala, the Hawi Renewable Development Wind Farm is capable of producing up to 10.56 megawatts of power.

Site Constructors, Inc. built the wind farm, which consists of 16 Vestas American Wind Technology, 660-kilowatt wind turbines. Hawi Renewable Development, LLC is operating the facility and selling the power to HELCO.

HELCO installed a new higher-voltage power line, supported by taller and stronger utility poles, along Upolu



The Hawi Renewable Development Wind Farm at Upolu Point came online in May 2006.

Airport Road and Akoni Pule Highway to transport the power generated by the wind turbines to HELCO's Hawi Substation for subsequent distribution to customers.

Of all the renewable energy resources available today, the

fastest growing is wind. And at HELCO we are proud to be leading the state with the largest number of wind farms and the highest percentage of our electricity—over 22%—generated by renewable energy resources.

HELCO encourages net energy metering

More customers than ever are installing renewable energy systems that produce electricity at their homes and businesses. HELCO commends these customers and encourages others to consider doing the same. These systems help Hawaii become more energy self-sufficient.

Customers who install photovoltaic, wind, biomass, or hydro-electric systems may qualify for net energy metering (NEM). Under NEM, a customer not only benefits from the electricity the system produces that is used at the customer's premises, but also receives full retail

credit for any electricity exported to the grid, up to the annual amount of electricity consumed.

If a renewable energy system is connected to the utility's grid, the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission requires the customer to sign an interconnection agreement with the utility to help ensure the public's safety and the safety of electrical workers.

There are two NEM agreements available: one is for renewable energy systems rated 10 kilowatts or less; the other is for systems larger than 10 kilowatts, but not larger than 50 kilowatts. These agreements and additional information are available online at www.heco.com.

Customers with solar water heating systems do not need to sign a net energy metering agreement because these systems do not produce electricity.



HELCO receives ENERGY STAR® award



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented HELCO with the 2006 ENERGY STAR for Homes Outstanding Achievement Award. HELCO was recognized for working with local solar water heating and building industry ENERGY STAR partners to sponsor 395 ENERGY STAR homes on the Big Island during the past year.

Are you interested in having your home designated as an ENERGY STAR home? In Hawaii, qualifying for this recognition always starts with installing solar water heating in a new or existing home. With the opportunity to receive a \$1,000 rebate from HELCO, a 35% state tax credit, and

a 30% federal tax credit, there has never been a better time to add solar water heating to a home.

As a sponsor, HELCO inspects the solar water heating systems to ensure they meet high standards and are sized to provide at least 90% of the home's hot water needs. Additional energy savings can be achieved through a combination of measures that contribute to improved home quality, greater homeowner comfort, lower energy demand, and reduced air pollution.

For more information about HELCO's residential solar water heating program, or to request a list of ENERGY STAR partners, call 969-0127.

Students demonstrate the power of sunshine

Sunshine really can produce energy—the energy required to power an electric motor that will turn the wheels of a toy solar car fast enough to move it down a 60-foot track within 20 seconds. That is what elementary and

middle school students demonstrated May 11 at the 7th Annual Solar Sprint, at Keaau Middle School.

Almost 120 students from three Big Island schools built their own vehicles powered by a single, small photovoltaic panel. Many not only



Students from three Big Island schools tested their light-weight, solar-powered, toy vehicles at the Solar Sprint.

met the basic standards but also exceeded them by adding 12 ounces of weight to their vehicles to prove they could travel the same 60 feet in 40 seconds!

Participating at this year's event were students from Haaheo Elementary, Keaau

Middle, and Waiakea Intermediate schools.

Educational programs such as the Solar Sprint, which we cosponsor with the State of Hawaii Department of Education, are part of our support of solar energy and our efforts to help teach budding engineers about the use of renewable energy.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Guava Ice Cream



- 3 cans (6 ounces each) frozen guava juice base, thawed
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup light cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar

Combine guava juice base and lemon juice. Add remaining ingredients. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Freeze mixture in electric ice cream freezer using 1 part salt to 8 parts ice. Recipe makes 1 1/4 quarts.