



Remodel **AND SAVE**

For many homeowners, summer is a time to tackle those long contemplated home remodeling projects. Incorporating energy efficiency into the design, materials purchase and construction of your home can reward you with years of lower energy costs. Here are a few ideas:



Water conservation.

- Select shower fixtures that have a maximum flow of 2.5 gallons per minute.
- Select faucets with low-flow aerators to reduce water flow by up to 60 percent.

Cooling.

- Use light colored roofing and wall surfaces.
- Use metal roofing and reflective paint to further increase reflectivity.
- Use roof overhangs, awnings and other shading devices to reduce heat gain through walls and windows.
- Leave a gap at all awning-to-wall connections to provide a heat vent.
- Plant shade trees to provide further cooling around your home.

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- Limit the use of blacktop and concrete adjacent to your house to reduce reflective heat gain.
- Install ceiling insulation in attics to absorb heat.

Lighting.

- Use compact fluorescent lights or T-8 or T-5 tube fluorescent lamps.
- Use electronic ballasts for T-8 or T-5 fluorescents.
- Incorporate dimmers to save energy and extend lamp life. Make sure your compact fluorescents are designed for use with dimmers.
- Consider sensors to switch lights on and off as needed.
- Use reflector lamps to maximize available light.
- Incorporate skylights and additional windows to increase natural lighting.

Look for more energy efficient remodeling tips in next month's *Consumer Lines*.

(Many of these ideas are from the Hawaii Advanced Building Technologies Training Program, State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism - Energy, Resources and Technology Division).

Things you should know...

ASB stops utility payments

Beginning in August, American Savings Bank will no longer accept payments for utilities such as electric, telephone, and water. You may want to consider one of these other convenient bill payment methods:

- **Automatic bill payment** allows your payment to be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account, but only after about 13 days from the time your bill is mailed. That allows you plenty of time to review the bill and call us if you have questions. About nine percent of our customers pay their bills automatically, saving time and the cost of checks and stamps each month.
- **Internet bill payment.** See "[Pay your bill via the Internet](#)" in this issue for more information on how you'll soon be able to pay your electric bill via the World Wide Web.

Power out? Please tell us.

Just a reminder that if you're having a power outage at your home, you should call our Trouble line at **871-9777** (Maui), **553-3234** (Molokai) or **565-6445** (Lanai) to report it. Sometimes, customers call the radio stations instead of us. While the radio stations are great partners in helping get the word out to customers in a community, the sooner we know about a problem, the faster we can respond. Please call us directly.

Note: If the power goes out in your home, check with your neighbors to determine whether they're experiencing the same problem. If not, your power loss may be due to problems with the appliances, wiring or circuit breaker panel in your own home rather than with our electric system.

Your electric rates

Enclosed with your electric bill this month is a brochure detailing your current electric rates as approved by the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. We hope you find the information helpful.



Molokai High School is the second Maui County school to receive a solar electric photovoltaic (PV) system under MECO's Sun Power for Schools program.

Molokai High's PV system, in-stalled on May 21, consists of four 4x6 foot PV panels, weighing 110 pounds each. The system produces one kilowatt of electricity, or about 150 kilowatthours a month — roughly one-third the power needed for a typical residential home on Molokai. The school will receive the electricity for free, saving a small amount on its electric bill each month.

Just as important, students will be able to monitor and analyze data from their PV system as part of integrated renewable energy lessons being developed by the State Department of Education.

Under the program, MECO committed \$20,000 to help install photovoltaic systems and other PV equipment at Maui County schools. (Baldwin High School has also received a system.) You can help, too! Sign up to contribute as little as \$1 a month more with your electric bill payment so more schools can receive PV equipment under the program. For more information on how to sign up as a Sun Power partner, call 871-8461, or visit our Sun Power for Schools web site.



Cheryl Corbiell and Susan Goodhue, Molokai community members of MECO's energy planning Advisory Committee, check out Molokai High School's new Sun Power for Schools PV system at a recent briefing about the system.



Coming soon! Pay your bill via the Internet

MECO and CheckFree, a leading provider of financial electronic commerce services, have signed an agreement that will enable you to receive and pay your electric bill via the Internet.

When the free service is **offered this fall**, you'll be able to visit any financial services web site offering the CheckFree E-Bill^(SM) service to receive and pay your electric bill with a few clicks of a mouse! Unlike most other online services that offer bill payment only, our E-Bill customers will actually see online electric bills—complete with graphics, logos, and total billing details, just like your paper bill.

We hope this new service will provide you with more flexibility and convenience in paying your electric bill. If you're not sure if electronic bill payment is for you, don't worry. Customers who don't sign up will continue to receive their bills via regular mail. We'll let you know when this new convenient service is available for sign-ups later this year.



Meat Jhun

- 1/2 block (20 oz. size) firm tofu
- 1/2 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- 1 stalk green onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- Salad oil for frying
- Flour
- 5 eggs, beaten



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Using a clean cloth, squeeze excess liquid from tofu; place tofu in a bowl. Add ground beef, the 1/2 cup flour, garlic, green onion, salt, pepper, and sesame oil; mix well. Shape into bite-sized patties. In a skillet, heat oil. Dredge patties in flour, dip in eggs, and fry until browned on both sides. Makes 6 servings.

For other onolicious recipes, visit the Electric Kitchen website.