



## The electric backyard

Did you know you can help the environment right in your own backyard? That's right. Whether you're grilling hot dogs for the kids or manicuring your lawn, there's a range of outdoor electric gadgets to do the trick.

For example, an electric grill can help reduce air pollution on hot days. The EPA estimates that "to equal the amount of carbon dioxide that is released when cooking one pound of meat on a charcoal grill, a (state-of-the-art) electric grill would have to cook 18 pounds of meat."

According to the EPA, an electric grill uses 91% less energy than a charcoal grill and 29% less than a standard gas grill. An electric lawnmower uses 66% less energy than a gas mower. Likewise, an electric leaf blower uses 62% less energy than a gas-powered trimmer. There are electric hedge trimmers, electric weed wackers, electric coolers and more.

Plus you can avoid noise, annoying fumes, the cost of gasoline and the risk of storing it. Your "electric backyard" — it's a great way to enhance the quality of your life and the environment.



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## Free trees on Arbor Day

Want to save money, improve the value of your property and help the environment, all at the same time? These kinds of benefits are waiting for people who pick up a free tree on **Saturday, November 6**, which is Arbor Day in Hawaii.

MECO will sponsor the give-away of some 1,000 trees and ornamental shrubs in collaboration with the County of Maui Arborist Committee. Customers will also receive a copy of our *Right Tree, Right Place* brochure, with handy tips on choosing the right tree and how to plant and take care of it.

- Trees help the environment by absorbing carbon dioxide and, at the same time, by providing the oxygen we need. A single tree can produce enough oxygen in a day for a family of four.

- Trees can also boost the value of a house lot by 5 to 7%, according to U.S. Forest Service estimates. And they can save money by lowering your electricity bills. The right trees and shrubs planted in the right place can cut air conditioning costs by an estimated 10 to 50 percent.

- The Arbor Day give-away will also help the public avoid planting the kinds of trees that may later grow into overhead lines.

### Date:

Saturday, November 6

### Time:

From 8:00 a.m. until supplies last

### Where:

MECO offices, 210 Kamehameha Ave.

### For info:

Call Mike Sylva at 871-2394 or Sue Kiang at 243-7325



## More on Y2K

Here's the latest update on our efforts to get ready for Y2K.

- We have now satisfactorily tested enough generating equipment to supply power to meet the expected demand throughout the entire year 2000.

- MECO recently made it through the date 9/9/99 without a problem. What's so important about that date? Similar to the Y2K issue, some computer experts had predicted that the date 9/9/99 might be a problem for computers because software programmers often used the digits "9999" to mark the end of a computer program. Some thought computers might see the date "9/9/99" and abort operations. Our systems (and all mainland utilities) made it through without a hitch.

- In September, our employees also successfully ran through a Y2K drill. Thorough Y2K preparedness means contingency planning for the unlikely event of a Y2K problem. As part of the drill, employees responded to simulated problem situations and fine-tuned key operations, communications and other emergency activities.

## Meco in Our Community

MECO volunteers offered fun and facts at our September 11th MECO in Our Community Fair at Kaahumanu Center.

MECO lineman Brian Speelman demonstrates electric safety.



Field Service representative JoAnn Orikasa shares energy information with future customers.

Below: McGruff the Crime Dog greets fans.



## Coming up: Holiday cooking class

Join us on **Thursday, November 18** at 6 p.m. in the MECO auditorium for a cooking demonstration of special holiday recipes. For more information, call 871-2323.



### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Seared Ahi

- 1/2 to 3/4 lb. ahi (yellow fin tuna)
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon wasabi (horseradish) paste
- 1/4 teaspoon hichimi (Japanese 7-pepper seasoning), optional
- Salad oil
- Shredded daikon (white radish)
- Shredded carrot
- Sliced cucumber

Cut fish into 8 x 1-1/2 x 3/4-inch rectangular pieces. Combine soy sauce, sesame oil, wasabi, and hichimi. Add fish and marinate for 5 minutes. Heat a skillet over high heat; brush lightly with oil. Sear fish for 4 seconds on each side. Slice and place on bed of shredded vegetables. Serve immediately. Makes 3 to 5 appetizer servings.

