

Join Us!



DRIVE ELECTRIC EVENT

Got an EV or just thinking about buying one? Join NHEC at a special National Drive Electric Week event to be held October 3 from 3-6 p.m. at the Route 104 Diner in New Hampton. Bring your EV to receive a special gift! We'll have some of the latest EV models on display, as well as renewable energy vendors and local EV dealers.

Energy-efficient Products at Members-only Prices

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Welcome to the NHSaves® Online Storefront, your home for deep discounts on products that save you energy and money.

NHEC members can take advantage of manufacturer's discounts on top of already-rebated items. Check out their Featured Products, which right now include rebates of \$50 on Advanced Power Strips that can save you up to \$100 on standby power loss. Hurry - offer expires September 3, 2024.

NHSaves is a collaboration of New Hampshire's electric and natural gas utilities working together to provide New Hampshire residents with information, incentives, and support designed to save energy, reduce costs, and protect our environment statewide.

SHOP HERE FOR GREAT DEALS: nhsaves.com/shop-nhsaves

NH Broadband Is Now Available to Over 15,000 Members

Since 2020, NH Broadband has made tremendous progress in its efforts to bring high-speed internet to NHEC members who live in underserved or unserved areas. Funding from federal grants has allowed NH Broadband to make high-speed internet available to 10,000 more members, bringing the grand total to 15,000 members who now have access to reliable, affordable fiber-optic internet service.

So far over 1,500 miles of fiber-optic line have been installed in all or parts of more than 20 communities, and our work continues in parts of Grafton County and across the Lakes Region. In fact, service will be available to members in Meredith as soon as Labor Day! With NH Broadband you can truly Live Free – free of installation fees, free of activation fees and free of contracts. Plus, the equipment to get you started is free with plans starting as low as \$49.95/month.

Go fast, stay local! Scan the QR code to Go NH Broadband:

Check for availability in your area!



Back to School...Drive Safely!

After a long, hot summer, it's hard to believe that school will soon be back in session. We all have a responsibility to drive safely and keep our eyes out for young pedestrians! Below are some general reminders as we start another year of defensive driving in and around school zones. According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are four to seven years old, and they are walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- ✓ Never pass a bus that is stopped with its red lights blinking.
- ✓ Do not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic.
- ✓ In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection.
- ✓ Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- ✓ Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.
- ✓ Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.

Town of Plymouth Solar Array

Nears the Finish Line



Grace Garvey

When the grass grew high at the future site of Plymouth's new solar array, Grace Garvey was ready to bring her push mower. After three years and two Town Meeting votes, the Chair of the Plymouth Energy Commission wasn't going to let some tall grass delay the construction of the town's first municipally owned solar project.

"We got to the point where we either had to kill this project idea or get it going," Garvey recalled

With the support of town voters, they got it going. True to the principle of a community solar array, Garvey found mowing help across the street from the array at the Plymouth Municipal Airport. The airport manager offered to cut the grass as part of their regular maintenance. Another problem solved.

With clear sailing ahead, Garvey expects the solar panels will be installed by the end of August and the entire array commissioned by this fall. Once online, the 280-kilowatt array is designed to produce enough electricity to offset 70% of the town's average usage. The first year's generation is predicted to produce approximately 324,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean, renewable power. "An important goal of the project is for the town to implement a climate change initiative," Garvey said.

According to the Plymouth Energy Commission, the array will generate more revenue than the annual cost of the construction loan every year. Conservative cumulative revenue over the 35-year lifespan is estimated to be greater than \$1,000,000.

Thirty percent of the project cost is being offset by a grant from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that was passed by the U.S. Congress in 2022. The town has also applied for another grant that would cover an additional 10% of the estimated \$686,000 project cost. When the array is producing power, it will go directly to the NHEC distribution grid. The town will receive a check each year from NHEC for the value of the electricity generated.



Pole Testing Keeps the NHEC Grid Safe and Sound

NHEC and Maverick Corporation start work this month to test the condition of about 11,000 utility poles throughout our service area.

Maverick employees use a resistograph to test the integrity of poles below the soil level. The results help NHEC evaluate the moisture of the wood, its level of decay and whether the pole should be replaced. This annual work helps keep NHEC's electric distribution system as safe and reliable as possible.

Maverick employees carry personal identification and drive vehicles that identify them as contractors working for NHEC.



Your Co-op, Your Community



We love engaging with our communities and meeting members! That's why we were proud last month to help sponsor the 49th Annual Raymond Town Fair, which gave us a chance to meet a number of you from our Raymond District. One of our NHEC buckets trucks was a on hand to show folks how our lineworkers keep the power on. We had a lot of fun watching the Children's Parade, but unfortunately, we didn't win at Bingo...

Did you know we have been serving Raymond and surrounding towns in 1950? Today, our Raymond District provides power and energy solutions to nearly 11,000 homes, businesses and publicly owned facilities in 19 towns including Allenstown, Auburn, Brentwood, Candia, Chester, Danville, Deerfield, Derry, Durham, Epping, Epsom, Fremont, Kingston, Lee, Londonderry, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond and Sandown.

We're already looking forward to next year's fair and hope more of you will stop by to say hello and learn more about your local electric cooperative.



AUGUST 2024

Lake Winnepesaukee

Fourth Consecutive Power Rate Cut for Members

Power rates are coming down for New Hampshire Electric Cooperative members, who will benefit from the fourth consecutive rate cut in two years beginning August 1.

The NHEC Board's approval of the rates, combined with NHEC's strategy and flexibility in purchasing power, will result in a total bill reduction of 6 percent, or about \$8 per month for the average Co-op member using 500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month. The average member using 1000 kWh will see a reduction of 7 percent, or \$16.

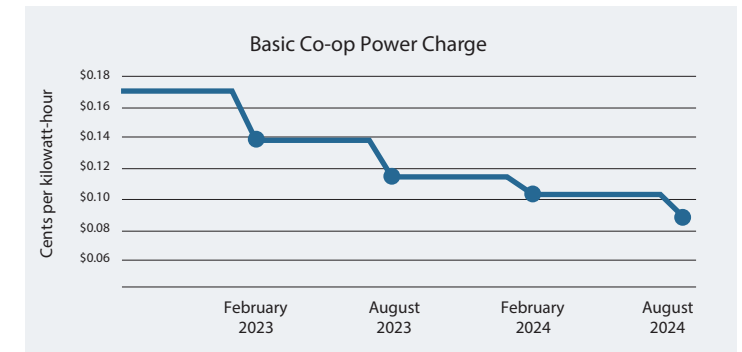
The upcoming change in August includes a 15 percent reduction in the Co-op Power rate for most members, which reflects the actual cost of power that NHEC purchases. The Regional Access Charge (RAC) will decrease by 3 percent. The RAC includes the costs NHEC pays transmission companies to deliver electricity to its distribution system. The RAC change also includes the state-required refund of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds.

"We're pleased we're able to provide another rate cut that will lower our members' bills and that the rates are lower than proposed by the other investor-owned electric utilities in New Hampshire. With our members experiencing lower bills it is my hope more of them will consider participating in our Round Up program to ensure our continued support of community

organizations and programs," said William Darcy, chair of the NHEC Board of Directors.

"Our mission is to provide our members with affordable, reliable service and that's exactly what we're doing. I'm proud of the work our team has done to deliver some of the lowest electric rates in New Hampshire to our members," said Alyssa Clemesen Roberts, President and CEO of NHEC. "We'll remain focused on affordability moving forward as it's one of the key pillars of our five-year strategic plan and we'll continue to put our members first."

For more information about NHEC's rates, including a current schedule of rates, please visit our website: www.nhec.com/rates-tariffs.



Employee Spotlight

All in the Family: Nate Grace Is a Third Generation Co-op Employee



As a third generation Grace family member to work at the Co-op, the electric utility is in Nate Grace's DNA.

His family legacy began with his grandfather Donald Grace, who retired after 38 years in 1989 as the overhead line crew foreman. Nate's dad, Tim Grace, began working at the Co-op in 2016 and is a Meter Technician.

Having graduated college to be an aircraft mechanic, Nate also had worked as an auto mechanic prior to joining the

Co-op. When an opening in line design opened up, he packed up his knowledge, creativity and problem-solving skills and signed on. Three years later, he hasn't looked back.

"It's pretty cool," said Nate, "knowing that my grandfather worked here for a long time, now my dad works here. I really would just like to stay here for the remainder of my working career."

A lot of his projects involve new construction with members trying to connect to the grid either for a new house or commercial property – maybe a hotel, industrial business or seasonal camp. His project territory spans Campton and Thornton, to Monroe, Lisbon and Easton, and west toward Haverhill and New Hampshire's border with Vermont.

"I really like being able to see a project from start to finish," Nate said. "It's rewarding to actually physically see something, show somebody something and say, 'I helped with that project!'"

NHEC Offers New Renewable Energy Rate

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) now offers an optional Renewable Energy Rate for members who wish to support the development of renewable energy in the region.

Members who enroll in the Renewable Energy Rate have the choice to purchase Co-op Power with 50 percent or 100 percent renewable attributes. For the Aug. 1, 2024 to Jan. 31, 2025 rate period, the 50

percent renewable option is 1.861 cents more per kWh than the Basic rate. The 100 percent renewable option is 3.861 cents more per kWh than the Basic rate paid by most members. The added revenue received will be used by NHEC to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which are a way to account for and encourage renewable energy production and use. For more information, please visit: www.nhec.com/renewable-energy.

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To report an outage,
please call 800.343.6432

For member service, please call
800.698.2007 (8-5, M-F) or
email solutions@nhec.com