



CO-OP CURRENTS

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The newsletter of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., East Montpelier, Vermont.

August/September 2005

Co-op Fires Up The Generators!

'Coventry' Project Now Online; Join Us at Sept. 17 'Grand Opening'

It's not just talk anymore. It's not pictures, or planning, or pitching the theoretical benefits of long-term, economical, reliable, environmentally sound, Co-op-controlled electric power. Finally, it's reality.

Washington Electric Cooperative's new 4.8-megawatt electric-generation plant went on line, producing power for Co-op members from the gas emitted by decomposing landfill waste, on July 1. It was the culmination of three years of planning by WEC's staff, Board of Directors, contractors and consultants, and seven months toil by contractors and linemen around the landfill site in Coventry, Vermont.

Notably, the new plant is Vermont's first renewable-energy generation project since the state Legislature passed a renewable-energy bill during the 2005 legislative session. In fact, it's the first significant new power-production plant, of any kind, to open in Vermont since 1997, when Green Mountain Power launched its 6-MW wind-turbine facility at Searsburg.

As it turned out, the timing could hardly have been better.

"We started production just at the

height of the summer," said WEC President Barry Bernstein, "when energy costs were going up with the heat. The plant came on line in time to lessen our exposure to those prices." (See the President's Message on page 2.)

Truly, the summer of 2005 has been characterized by exactly the kind of volatility WEC was determined to avoid by generating a large bloc of its own electricity. On Saturday, August 10, gasoline jumped 10 cents or more at many central Vermont gas stations, and on Tuesday, September 16, USA Today featured a front-page headline announcing the arrival, in some parts of the country, of \$3 (per gallon) gasoline.

Electricity is not gasoline, but high prices at the gas pump have implications for other energy costs, including home heating and electricity.

WEC's investment of some \$8 million, financed in large part through the federal Rural Utilities Service, seemed like a good idea when WEC began exploring the possibility in 2002. It looks even better now. As each day reveals the lack of control most Americans have over the cost and

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Caterpillar engines in WEC's power house at the Coventry landfill. Once fine-tuning is completed, the engines, which are fueled by methane captured from the landfill, will produce 4.8 megawatts of power for WEC members.

BOOK REVIEW

Former Co-op 'Energy Guy' Offers Reducing Tips

By Bill Powell
Director, Products and Services

"Calais energy guy" and author Paul Scheckel's first book, *The Home Energy Diet; How to Save Money by Making Your House Energy Smart*, provides a thorough "cookbook" for how to better understand our household energy patterns and their implications.

Having provided hundreds of home

energy audits during the 1990s to WEC members, Paul brings a hands-on perspective to energy awareness. Indeed, his WEC experiences are highlighted throughout the pages of *Home Energy Diet*.

Through 300 pages he breaks down the engineering and analysis into manageable portions, providing a recipe for self-assessment. Scheckel uses the

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Inside

RENEWABLE ENERGY to be the focus of a major statewide conference scheduled for Burlington this month. Read about it, and consider attending. Page 6.

2005 Capital Credits program. It's time for WEC to distribute equity payments to Co-op members. Details of this year's program, and a request to help us reach former members, on page 4.

As fuel prices rise dramatically, it's all about conservation. WEC puts the issue front and center. See President's Message, page 2.

Act now! Efficiency Vermont and ENERGY STAR can help you save energy costs, but this deal will expire. Page 7.



What it is, and what it isn't. Coming to terms with wind power. See Manager's Report, page 3.

Washington Electric Cooperative

East Montpelier, VT 05651

President's Report

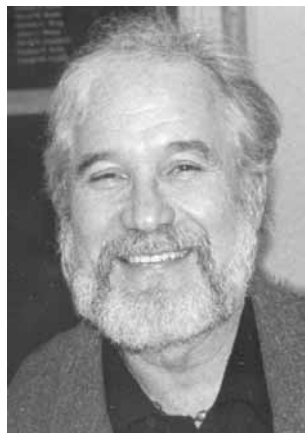
Trends In Energy Highlight Need To Conserve

By Barry Bernstein

I hope all of you have taken advantage of our unusually long and hot summer to enjoy yourselves. The summer has been a very busy and interesting one for everyone at WEC.

Coventry

As many of our members know, WEC started up our Coventry landfill gas-to-electricity generating plant near the end of June and will be holding an open house at the site on Saturday, September 17. I hope many of you will come and celebrate with us. The plant is now generating 3 megawatts (MW) of power, about 25 percent of our base load, and as we fine-tune its operations we hope to increase that to 4 MW over the next month.



Barry Bernstein

Price of Electricity & Fossil Fuel

Startup of the plant could not have happened soon enough. The long, hot summer, coupled with rising oil and natural gas prices, has caused the wholesale electricity market to skyrocket. Political instability in many places in the world, severe weather, and increasing demand for fossil fuels in China and India will continue to

affect the power market, and all of us.

Prices for electricity on the spot market (daily purchase) have lately averaged 11-17 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), and actually reached 45 cents/kWh for a few hours in August. Keep in mind that power costs represent approximately 50 percent of your Co-op's expenses; the less we are exposed to the market's high and volatile prices,

the less we need to worry about the impact of that market on what the Co-op must charge its members in rates.

Fuel Buyers Clubs

We are seeing similar pressures on the price of fuel to heat our homes, cook, and provide hot water (currently around \$2.05-\$2.50/gallon for oil).

We provided information on local fuel buyers clubs in the June *Co-op Currents* and in a mailer with your July bills, as a way to help our members get the best price they can for the coming

winter. I am happy to know that many of our members have taken advantage of the opportunity to join one of the clubs and save on their winter fuel bills. I want to thank the fuel buyer clubs and the Vermont Consumers Energy Cooperative for working with our membership and helping to keep your energy costs as low as possible.

If you did not sign up yet, check with the clubs to see if it is still possible. You can find their names and phone numbers in our June issue online, or we can provide you the information from *Currents* if you call the Co-op.

Wind Energy

As our members are aware, WEC is using the U.S. Dept of Energy grant we received through Rep. Sanders' efforts nearly four years ago to work with UPC Vermont on the feasibility of a wind electric-generation project in Sheffield. WEC is hopeful that this project will come on line by 2008, helping to fill our power needs as present contracts expire, and stemming further exposure to the volatile wholesale market.

I recently was on a panel at a public meeting in Sheffield to discuss UPC's project there. As I explained to the folks who attended, Vermonters now receive their power from plants in someone else's community, be it the McNeil woodchip generating plant in Burlington, Vermont Yankee in Vernon, Hydro Quebec in Canada, the Ryegate woodchip plant in Ryegate, or other Vermont and New England sources. Your WEC Board of Directors strongly feels that wind projects have a necessary and important place in helping Vermonters meet their future energy needs in a responsible way. Our energy choices will not be easy ones to make or inexpensive to buy into, but they will be critical to our future.

I want to thank Carol Bruha and others from the Sheffield area who hosted the forum, and although opposed to the project, provided an opportunity for everyone to hear from both proponents and opponents.

Challenge

WEC has been committed since 1991 to working with our members to lower their electric energy usage (which, altogether, we have reduced by more than \$4 million). In 2001, the WEC Board committed to a policy of replacing expiring power contracts with new sources of power that are renewable, close to home, stable, economical, and long-term. Coventry (our landfill-gas project) and hopefully the Sheffield wind project will help us meet that goal.

However our task will not be made easier by pressures in the world energy market. I therefore offer this challenge to our Board of

Directors, general manager, employees, and all WEC-membership homes, farms and businesses:

Help us reduce energy consumption

– both our electrical usage and use of other fossil fuels. If you are considering a new electric appliance look for Energy Star labels and make energy usage part of your decision. A new Energy Star 18-cubic-foot refrigerator costs \$400-\$500, uses less than 500 kWh/year, and will save you \$150 or more annually compared to your 15-year-old (or older) refrigerator. If you have a second or third refrigerator or freezer in operation please consider unplugging it, or downsizing with a smaller, more efficient unit. It will save you and your Co-op money.

If you are considering a new clothes dryer or water heater, buy one run by propane. They are far less expensive to operate than electric ones. Also, a front-loading washer uses less detergent, spins clothes drier, and uses considerably less hot water.

If you have not had a free energy audit of your house, contact Bill Powell at the Co-op and get signed up. Buy those energy-efficient low-wattage bulbs; they are better than the earlier ones made.

Recycle and compost if you are not already doing so.

Your Co-op will work to keep rates stable, increase the percentage of renewable resources in our power supply, and conserve through efficiency. However, it needs to be a team effort from all of us, because things are not going to get easier in the energy arena.

Co-op Currents

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WEC is part of the alliance working to advance and support the principles of cooperatives in Vermont.

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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Deborah Brown, 802-223-5245.

Manager's Report

Myths, Apprehensions and Certainties About Wind Power

By Avram Patt

Most Vermonters support some development of wind energy on our ridgelines. At the same time, many are concerned about how and where this is done. And there are some who strongly oppose any large wind turbines in the state.

WEC was awarded a federal grant a few years ago to study potential wind sites that could provide a source of long-term power for our members. In June, we announced that we will use the funds to help determine the feasibility of a site in Sheffield that a company named UPC hopes to develop. But well before we knew which site we might focus on or with which partners, our January/February 2004 *Co-op Currents* focused on the wind debate, including differing views from WEC's. (That issue is archived on our website, or you can call the Co-op for a copy.)

Co-op members should be informed about wind energy, about your Co-op's positions, and about the tradeoffs involved in determining our energy future. Unfortunately, it is also necessary at times to correct misinformation that continues to circulate at some public forums, in letters to newspapers, and in editorials in some newspapers (notably the *Burlington Free Press*.)

Here are some questions that have been raised in discussions about every potential Vermont wind site, from the Northeast Kingdom to the Massachusetts border. My responses are general and are not specifically about UPC's site in Sheffield or any other site.

Q. What is the aesthetic impact of a wind farm on a Vermont ridgeline?

Opponents of wind development are, in my opinion, motivated primarily by aesthetics and concern for the rural feel of Vermont, although they raise other issues which I will also address.

Towers and turbine blades on a ridgeline are very visible in the immediate area and to the project's neighbors. Depending on the location, wind turbines will also be visible at a distance in a larger "view shed."

No one disputes that the towers and blades are big and change the landscape. Opponents call them

"industrial." Others, including people who live adjacent to wind farms in other locations like rural upstate New York, refer to their gracefulness and gentle, almost meditative movement.

Clearly, the eye of the beholder determines how one views a wind farm.



Avram Patt

Every day, we each look at our human presence on the landscape: our towns and their commercial/industrial centers, dams on our rivers, and the large slashes cut up and down some of our tallest mountainsides by our ski industry. Our human presence is visible close up and sometimes at great distances.

My point is not to convince anyone that wind turbines, ski slopes, dams, or buildings where

Vermonters earn a living are always beautiful, but just to say that understanding a structure's function and importance to us does affect how we behold it. In my mind's eye I can also see what our other energy alternatives look like, and it's not very pretty.

Q. Won't wind farms scare off the tourists and skiers?

A survey of visitors to Vermont has shown that this will not affect their travel decisions. But let's not rely on surveys. Towns and regions throughout our country and the world actively promote the presence of wind turbines as an attraction that visitors should go see, or as an integral part of the landscape. Many of these places are famous for their scenery and natural beauty, and the residents and tourist bureaus tout the wind farms as a fitting complement to their environmental values.

There are real-life examples of how visitors to beautiful places react to wind turbines, and if you're looking for a good one find some recent brochures or visit websites promoting Prince Edward Island, Canada. The photos of wind turbines on their homepages and brochure covers haven't scared anyone away.

Q. What other environmental impacts might a wind farm have?

Any electric generation project proposed in Vermont must receive a Certificate of Public Good from the Public Service Board. In doing so, it must be reviewed by all the same environmental criteria that Act 250 uses.

Wind projects involve the placement of towers on ridgelines, and the construction of roads and transmission lines. Once construction is complete, they generally have a much smaller "footprint" than other types of generation, and there is limited human presence involved in maintaining the facilities.

In most cases, there is no ongoing impact on wildlife. In a few cases in other states, wind farms have caused problems for birds and bats, but this has not been an issue in the great majority of projects. Every proposed project needs to be rigorously reviewed through the public regulatory process, so that projects are not built where they will have serious negative impact.

Unlike most other sources of electricity, a wind farm does not deplete the earth's fossil fuel resources, nor does it pollute the air or water, contribute to our high-level nuclear waste crisis, or to global warming. Every choice we make has tradeoffs. A wind project will have undeniable aesthetic impact on its immediate surroundings, whether we think it looks "cool" or "industrial," but a well-sited project is on balance an environmental winner, hands down.

Q. Isn't wind power unreliable when the wind doesn't blow?

No, and it's time to put this to rest. It is one of the most frequently used arguments by wind opponents, despite the facts.

A typical wind turbine can generate up to 1.5 megawatts when the wind is blowing strongly. This is the turbine's "capacity." In Vermont, the wind blows "at capacity" some of the time, but much of the time it blows less strongly but still enough to generate; and there are times when there is not enough wind with which to generate.

On average over the course of a year, wind sites on selected Vermont ridgelines can generate at 30-35 percent capacity. This does not mean that they only run a third of the time; they are generating electricity most of the time, but not at full capacity. There's nothing new here. In fact, all of Vermont's small

hydro plants, including WEC's Wrightsville station, also generate at full or partial capacity depending on the weather, and occasionally may not generate at all for a few weeks at a time.

So, wind generation is "intermittent." But it needs to be said loud and clear that this is not the same as "unreliable." Intermittent sources are already a reliable part of a well-planned power supply mix, whether it is WEC's or any other Vermont utility's.

Q. Why Bother? Wind is an experiment, not a real power source.

Vermont-based wind energy will not meet all our future power supply need, but it can meet a real and measurable part of it.

As to whether wind is successful elsewhere, it has in recent years been the fastest-growing source of new electric generation in some parts of the world and in our own country. In Western and upper Midwestern states, new wind projects are coming on line

regularly. A number of European countries have committed to making wind a major piece of their future energy supply. And to the north, Hydro Quebec, at the provincial government's request, has contracted with developers to build 1,000 megawatts of new wind generation. For comparison, WEC's peak load is 16.2 MW.

A Hydro Quebec wind site I visited in May – one of three

projects being built for HQ – is, itself, at least five or six times the size of any project likely to be built in Vermont. And Hydro Quebec announced it intends to have 2,000 more MW of wind built!

One need only do a quick look around to see that development of wind energy is considered sound energy policy in other parts of our country, a number of Canadian provinces, and overseas. The price is competitive, especially as other energy prices keep rising and becoming more unpredictable.



No one disputes that the towers and blades are big and change the landscape... but in my mind's eye I can also see what our other energy alternatives look like, and it's not pretty.

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WEC 2005 Equity Distribution Plan

Co-op Seeks Former Members For Capital Credit Refunds

Washington Electric Cooperative is preparing to issue capital credit refund checks to current and former members, as authorized by WEC's Board of Directors. Under the 2005 Equity Distribution Plan, capital credits will be returned to eligible people who bought power from the consumer-owned electric utility during the two years 1986 and 2004. Safeguarding the Co-op's financial stability, the Board of Directors has targeted a total amount of \$275,000 for distributions in 2005.

Capital credits are returned to Co-op members (customers) for those years in which WEC's revenues exceed its operating expenses. Capital credits are a way of dividing those surplus revenues – called margins – among the member-owners. The amount of a member's refund is based on the size of the Co-op's margins in the years in question, and how much electricity the member purchased. Each co-op member has a capital credit account, which is a bookkeeping entry managed on an annual basis by the Cooperative in his/her name.

This year \$195,000 of the money earmarked for the 2005 Equity Distribution Plan will go to members from the year 1986, when WEC's margins totaled \$243,535. The remaining \$80,000 in the 2005 plan will address capital credits for 2004. WEC's margins last year totaled \$334,000; the money allocated for capital credit refunds amounts to 24 percent of that total.

For former members, no longer with the Co-op, refunds of \$20 or more will be paid by check; if an amount of less than \$20 remains in the former member's account, a check will be issued once the Co-op has received a properly executed

authorization form (contact WEC for details).

Current members who are eligible for refunds based on their 1986 and/or 2004 payments were mailed a notice explaining that they could receive a credit on their November electric bill in the amount of their anticipated refund, or they could authorize the Co-op to contribute the money instead to the Washington Electric Cooperative Community Fund, in which case they will not receive a credit on their November bill. Members were asked to return the forms if they wished to contribute. (For more information on the Community Fund contact WEC's office, or visit the Co-op online at www.washingtonelectric.coop; select the Member Info tab, then Community Fund Program.)

Beginning this year, WEC will impose a \$10 annual service charge on all patronage (capital credit) accounts for years in which the credits have been retired and went unclaimed. This service charge will be applied to unclaimed accounts annually, until the balance in those accounts is \$0.

Earlier this summer WEC sent out Capital Credit Patronage Refund Authorizations to eligible former members, using the person's last-known address. Listed below are the names of people whose authorizations were returned as undeliverable. WEC is asking friends, acquaintances and relatives of the people listed here to contact those potential recipients or their rightful heirs, and have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly at 802-223-5245, or toll-free at 1-800-932-5245.

WEC will issue this year's capital credit refunds in November 2005.

Abakan, Frank	Bessette, Michael	Priscilla C.	Dailey, Nanna	Ennis, Leland	Gittelsohn, Paul & Carolyn
Abbiati, Stuart M.	Bishop, Dolloff & Barbara	Cavalier, Marie	Dailey, Norman (executor for	Enright, Katherine	Goodwin
Adamant Credit Union	Euson	Celley, Celia M. Estate	Bessie Dailey)	Erdman, Frederi P.	Glew, Charles A.
Adsit, Suzanne	Bisson, Roland Jr.	Ceppetelli, Ronald & Ellen	Dailey, Normand	Fair, Forrest G.	Glidden, Patricia K.
Aja, Joan	Blair, Duane & Kelly	Champany, Irene	Daily, Rory M. & Sunny B.	Fairbanks, John A. Jr. &	Gokey, Catherine & Robert
Alden, George P.	Blair, Robert J.	Chapin, Dorothy	Daniels, Steven A.	Connie T.	Golbranson, John & Dorothy
Aldrighetti, Louis J.	Blais, Raymond A.	Chapin, Gary J. & Sonia Lee	Darling, Charlene	Farland, Eugene W. &	Goodine, Henry A.
Allen, Daniel R. & Roseann	Blake, Pauline A.	Chapin, Winston L. &	Davis, Diane	Katherine	Goodrich, David S. & Ann W.
Anderson, George W.	Blanchard, Edward E.	Janice S.	Davis, Lorena	Farnham, Al	Gorman, Mary M.
Anderson, Julia	Blanchard, Robert	Chaplin, Carl & Marion	Davis, Roy	Fassett, Ronald & Brenda	Gove, Robert
Anderson, Roland V.	Blanchette, Norman W.	Chatot, Jules	Deangelis, Joseph & Deborah	Featherstone, Mitchell	Grab, Eileen M.
Anspach, Denny S. & Polly D.	Bliss, Jeffrey M. & Janine A.	Chipman, Stanley J. &	Decola, Barry & M. Kelley	Featherstone, Paul &	Graham, Ernesta
Appleton, Sylvia	Blow, Paul J.	Beverly A.	Deforge, Marjorie	Maryjane	Graves, Virginia H.
Ather, Michael S. & Linda F.	Bond, Lawrence Estate of	Chisholm, Pamela A.	Deforge, Steven	Felch, Robert W. & Denise I.	Green, Raymond S.
Atkinson, Elliott R.	Bond, Lillian	Cholewa, Raymond	Dematteis, Joseph	Fenner, Ernest & Sandra	Greene, Roland
Atwater, Tim	Boulanger, Claude & Madeline	Chouinard, Dona M. & Andre	Deneergaard, Chris	Ferno, Herbert W.	Greenhouse, Rebecca
Auld, John H.	Bourdeau, Joseph Estate of	Christenson, Norman	Desilets, Thomas	Fifield, Mary	Grenier, Norman
Ayers, Charles E.	Bowell, Erlene M.	Cianciola, David P. & Kerry	Dessureau, Louis	Filiault, Constance	Griffin, Dennis R.
Badeau, Hector P. & Susan H.	Bowen, Jacqueline L.	Clark, Charles Jr. & Ann O.	Deutsch, Irving & Wendy	Fitch, Todd H.	Griffin, Robert & Cheryl
Baird, Donald P.	Bower, Ronald F.	Clark, Neal R. & Marie L.	Dexter, Robert R.	Flanyak, Robert J. & Paula A.	Griffith, Darcy & Sherry L.
Baker, Shelley	Brooks, David	Clarke, Doris M. Estate of	Dickinson, C. F.	Flood, Dave A & Lou Ann	Grossman, Sallie E.
Barbieri, Nichola J.	Brooks, Karen	Cloud, Rhoda I.	Diggins, Martin J.	Anderson	GTE Vermont
Barker, James	Brown, Dale & Judith H.	Cohen, David & Gertrude	Dion, Raymond	Flood, Shirley	Guare, Helen
Barker, Walter	Brown, Daniel G. & Joan S.	Char. Trust	Disalvo, Bradley R.	Fontaine, Fernando &	Gurnett, L. A.
Barnett, Anna F.	Brown, David	Colburn, Judith P.	Doherty, Eugene	Marguerite	Guyette, David & Janice
Barnett, Dorothy K.	Brown, Fieda	Cole, Arthur	Domencich, Thomas	Fontaine, Marc	Haggett, Clifton E.
Barnett, Frances	Brown, Kenneth	Coleman, Wilgar	Donald, Carol & Harold	Forrend, Jon	Haggett, Dana L. & Lisa A.
Barnett, Warren Jr.	Brown, Margaret	Colson, Frank A.	Donovan, William L.	Foster, James & Gertrude	Haggett, Jonathan Jay &
Barnhart, Katherine L.	Bryan, Wayne C.	Comolli, Elio	Doubleday, Elsa	Foster, Richard & Deborah	Martha K. McGinnis
Barnocky, Stephen W.	Bryant & Dailey	Comstock, Allen	Driscoll, Peter M.	Fowler, Bruce N.	Haggett, Stacia
Barrows, Michael	Bunce, Harold S. & Patricia	Condit, Gloria a.	Drown, James	Freeman, Ronnie	Hamelin, Charles E.
Bartlett, Patricia	Burdick, Louise S.	Congdon, John H.	Ducharme, Felix	French, William J.	Hammer, Kenneth & Gretchen
Beane, Marion	Burke, Patrick J.	Connary, Robert L. & Karen F.	Duggan, Rita C.	Frost, James & Susan Dubrul	Hance, Borden L. Jr.
Beauchene, Mary A.	Burrington, Winifred M.	Converse, Joseph	Dukette, Paul	Gahagen, Jacqueline	Hansen, Hans
Beaver Meadow Hill Farm	Bushey, Ralph L.	Cooney-Moore, Maureen	Dunbar, Bessie B.	Gajewski, Erban J. & Viola A.	Hanson, Lloyd
Beckler, Minnie W.	Buttersdorf, Jeffrey E.	Cooper, Jon	Dunbar, Lucille B.	Gajewski, Joseph & Helen	Hare, Constance P.
Beckley, Edwin	Byrd, Edgar C. Sr.	Cordaro, Nell	Duncklee, Norman	Galbreath, Maurice S. &	Harrington, John
Beecher, George	Calderwood, Wesley	Cote, Patty & Yvan	Durgan, Guy O.	Beverly L.	Hartwell, C. & Carmela
Beier, Deborah J.	Cameron, Sarah	Counter, Dorothy B.	Dux, Thomas J.	Gale, Pliny	Haskell, Catherine
Beiley, Janice	Cano, Victor	Courtland, Perry Jr.	Dwinell, Berton W.	Gallison, Jim Sr.	Hastings, George Estate
Belcher, Jonathan & Kate	Carlisle, Charles R. & h.	Craige, Donald & Catherine	Dwyer, Helen D.	Gandin, Dan L. & Lerinda P.	Hatch, Margaret
Belisle, David L. & Sandra W.	Madeane	Crawford, Stanley & Ruth	Eldred, Allan	Gardner, Seth & Carol	Hayden, Edward V.
Bell, Edward L.	Carlson, Katherine M.	Estate of	Emerson, Betty	Garfield, April	Hayes, Julia G.
Bellemare, Susan A.	Caron, Charles F.	Cross, Maurice w.	Emerson, Lawrence	Gates, Philip & Maureen L.	Hayes, Walter
Bello, Donna & Gary	Carrig, Blaise & Leslie	Croteau, Phillip	Emerson, Orin O.	Gehr, William G.	Hayward, Lillian
Bennett, Donald S. Jr. &	Carrington, Arthur J. &	Cummins, Halleck &	Emery, Luvia	George, Christie	Hazelton, Brian & Valerie A.
David K. Sturges	Lynnetta L.	Pamela L.	Emery, Vena S.	George, Kevin A. & Linda A.	Heald, Lester R.
Bent, Gordon A. & Cheryl A.	Carruth, Philip W.	Curtis, Alan	Engborg, Evelyn R.	Gibbs, Robert A. & Debra J.	Heath, Donald
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Berry, Arnold	Cathrew, Ralph S. &		Everett Ennis		Marlene, & Yvonne

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Henry, Tom	Lamberton, Catherine	McCarty, Charles	Pearson, Robert A.	Schnaars, Henry A. & Mary	Tuz, Charles L.
Herman, Sylvia	Lamson, Douglas L.	McCracken, Joann	Pecor, Robin A.	Chappas	
Hersey, Lee C.	Lamson, Roger F.	McDanolds, Doris	Pedizzi, Norman w.	Schobert, Thomas E. Jr.	Ulrich, Charles
Hibbert, Robert & Sue	Landino, Henry A.	McDonald, Deborah	Pendleton, Ruth E.	Schorger, Ann B.	Urcan, James
Higgins, Andrew	Lane, Dennis A.	McFarland, Stephen	Perkins, Howard E.	Schumacher, Michael	Utt, Timothy & Sally
Higgins, Robert J. Jr.	Langmaid, Stephan	McLaughlin, Anna	Perreault, Lawrence	Schwarz, Richard R. & Sandra	
Hill, Aaron L. & Sandra W.	Larabee, Donald E. & Laura J.	McLaughlin, Harold & Dona	Perrin, William	Scott, Diane L.	Vail, Edith
Hill, Charlotte	Sims	Mears, Edgar	Perry, Duane M.	Scott, James F. & Kathy	Vance, Linda
Hoblin, Harry P. II	Larow, Bruce	Meech, George	Perry, Ron & Evangeline H.	Scott, Laurette & Michael	Vanorman, Philip G. &
Hodgeman, Irma T.	Larow, Gary	Melanson, A. W. Georgiana E.	Peterson, Susan M.	Burnett	Sandra F.
Holliday, James & Lynda	Larsson, Denis & Janisse	Menard, Katherine	Pettibone, Mary	Seften, Nola	Vatnick, Itzick & Susan
Holliday, Joseph P. & Joan	Lash, Jonathan	Menard, Robert W.	Philbrick, D. J.	Senecal, Kenneth E.	Verdon, Mario & Patricia
Sheryl Green	Lawless, Rowena J. &	Mendes, Manuel R. &	Phillips, Kenneth A.	Sense, E.	Viens, Chris & Leeanne
Holloway, Leith	Morehouse Lawrence	Sharon A.	Picard, Marie	Sherlock, Wallace J.	Vigeant, Michael & Claudette
Holmes, June E.	Lawliss, Harold	Mercadante, John & Barbara	Pieper, Thomas P. & Laurie A.	Shields, M. A. & B. P.	
Holmstrom, Raymond &	Lawton, Mary B.	Merchant, Richard E. Marian	Pierce, Beverlee	Shipman, David W.	Wachtel, Deborah
Robert G. Lister	Leach, Robert W.	Messer, Richard K.	Pierce, Linda R.	Shor, Betty	Waits River General Store—
Holtslag, Joseph P.	Leclerc, Alain & Donna	Messier, Walter & Dorothy	Pike, Philip R. III	Sicard, Donald & Velma	Claire L. & Allen W. Gurney
Homer Denny Rev. Mgt. Trust	Leggett, John I & Kathryn	Metayer, Christopher	Pilbin, James B.	Sicard, Susan D.	Waldo, Elaine B.
Hooper, Gladys S.	Olmsted	Mikishka, Sophie	Pilbin, Ronald W.	Sidusky, John	Wallace, Scott & Sue Ellen
Horst, John & Kathleen	Leland, Luise G.	Miles, Dale M. & Jeannette	Pilette, Susan	Silman, Jeffrey	Ward, Clayton
Howard, Gregory W.	Lemay, George E.	Miles, David B.	Pitkin, Helen Estate of	Simard, Michael & Jeanette	Ward, David & Barbara F.
Howland, Susan Estate of	Lemnah, Leora	Miller, Douglas & Denise	Pitkin, Royce S.	Simmons Cable TV of Barre	Ward, Diane
Hoyt, Howard	Lerner, Earl	Miller, Iva	Platt, Dorothy A.	Simpson, Danita	Ward, Marion
Hubbard, Eugene C.	Lever, Roger	Miller, James O &	Pollitt, Thomas F. & Lauren G.	Simpson, Leonard P.	Washer, Robert H. &
Hugg, Robert & Pamela	Lewis, Brian L. & Stephanie A.	Constance M. L.	Pope, Arthur	Simpson, Steven & Gloria	Cynthia J.
Hughlett, R. E. & Denise A.	Schmitz	Misiak, Ronald A.	Porter, Frederick W.	Slayton, Roger & Estella	Wassell, Eleanor P.
Hull, John K. & Kimberly M.	Lewis, Janette C. Executor of	Mitter-Burke, Alan	Porter, Marie B.	Slingland, James D. Mr. & Mrs.	Watkins, Timothy P.
Humphries, Jeni	Madge Rock	Monteith, Joseph	Prall, Bob & Nancy Lee	Smiedy, Brenda L.	Watson, Christopher A.
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Hurne, Loeata G.	Lewis, Wayne R. Estate of	Moore, Mavis	Preble, W. J.	Smith, Eric	Watson, Harold
Hurwitch, David & Terry	Leytham, Thomas B.	Moore, Pearl F.	Pregent, Alice	Smith, George	Welch, Austin A. & Dorothy F.
Hutchins, Clyde H. & Cecile C.	Liebenon, John D. &	Moran, Cynthia J.	Prue, Arthur	Smith, Michael A. &	Welch, David
Hutchins, Gerald H. & Betty	Kathryn A.	Morande, Maryann T.	Pryce, Steve	Kathleen A.	Welch, David L.
Hutchins, Shannon B. & Bruce	Life & Light Center Inc. (c/o	Mori, Donald F.	Puffer, David	Smith, Peter	Welch, John & Carolyn
Hutchinson, Ann	Layla Oakland)	Morin, Weldon & Joan	Purcell, Timothy	Smith, Richard M. & Tammy	Welch, Raymond R. admn. for
Hutchinson, Delmer S. Jr.	Life & Light Centre (c/o Judith	Morris, Nicky		Smith, Sharon	Kermit/Burton Brock
	Davis)	Morris, Richard Estate of	Quinn, William & Louise G.	Sorensen, Mary	Wells, Jan P.
Ingall, Glendon W. Jr. & Judith	Life & Light Ctr. Inc.	Morse, Lucille L.		Sorrentino, Alfonso	Wernicke, Joanne
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Jennings, Carl M.	Lindner, Brian S.	Moulton, David & Carolyn E.	Ramsay, Scott J.	Spaulding, Ruth M.	Wheeler, James
Jensvold, Chris	Lindquist, Ernest A.	Mudge, George C.	Randall, Raymond	Spiegle, Andrew P.	Wheeler, Mark A.
Jewell, Adelaid R.	Liss, Bryan	Mullen, Carol & Mary Jane	Rasco, Sharlene M.	Spinella, Salvatore S.	White, Edward
Joe's Pond Ctry Store/Betty	Littlejohn, Cynthia & James	Daly	Redmond, James P.	Spoor, Ralph E. Jr.	White, Velma
M. Chase	Long, Richard K. & Roxie A.	Mullen, Jeremiah Estate	Reed, William	Sporbert, Everett	White, William J.
Johnson, Arthur & Juanita	Lord, Marian B.	Murphy, A. & D.; Foster, G.;	Restelli, Stephen & Terry L.	St. Cyr, Marcia	Whittemore, Charles L.
Johnson, John E. Jr.	Lorden, Michael	King, J.; Lakin, B.;	Reynolds, Charles R.	Stanaway, Susan D.	Wild, David
Johnson, R. E.	Lorden, Michael L.	Langmoore, D; Nickles, J;	Richardson, Robert & Lisa	Stark, Carol C.	Wild, Hazel B.
Johnson, Robert E.	Lorentzen, Doreen	& Lenard, A.	Richmond, Janice B.	Stoekel, Ronald	Wilder, Allen M. & Eleanor
Johnson, Scott R. & Melinda	Lovely, Peter L. & Deborah M.	Murray, Terrence M.	Ricker, Julie	Stone, Harvey A.	Wilkinson, Dean
Jones, Robert W.	Ludwig, Pamela D.	Myers, Charles L.	Rider, John	Stridsberg, Lawrence	Wiley, Douglas & Diane
Jones, Robin A.	Lund, Percy O.		Riendeau, Richard	Stryker, Jon	Laferriere
Jones, William B.	Lunt, Dudley C. & Anna	Nergaard, Paul	Riley, Thomas	Stuart, Richard	Wiley, Marilyn & Kevin
Jordan PD Sportsmen		Nevens, Virginia	Ripley, Beverly A.	Stuhl, Waite P.	Wiley, Nelson
Joslyn, Sharon	MacAuley, James	New England Tele. Co. Attn.	Robar, Frederick C. Jr.	Subasic, Joe	Wiley, Nelson Jr.
Joukowsky, Artemis	Machell's Radio Supply	Jan Jordan	Roberts, Jay C. &	Swann, Lorna & Jeff	Williams, Brenda
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Jurkiewicz, Helene	MacLaurin, Richard N.	Newman, Marilyn	Roddy, Roger W. Jr.	Szulc, Alfred V. & Lynda	Williss, Ann
Justice, Marjorie	Madsion, Stephen & Karen	Newton, Grant	Rogers, David A. & Lynne Z.		Wills, Craig E.
	Magnus, Patricia	Nicely, Faye E. & Peter	Rogers, John M. III	Tabor, Chuck	Wilson, Bruce L. & Beryl M.
Kalinowski, Franklin A.	Magoon, Edgar S. Sr.	Nunn, Margaret	Rogers, Kenneth A.	Tanner, Ardith S.	Wilson, Edward J. & Ilona P.
Kaplow, Roberta	Magoon, Robert R.	Nye, Karl	Rogers, Mildred R.	Tassie, Priscilla	Wilson, Robert J.
Kaufman, Nancy	Magoon, Stanton R. &	Nykiel, Jean P.	Rogers, Reeve E.	Taylor, Theophilos Estate	Wimbiscus, Ralph & Robin
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Kelly, Kevin & Christine	Mangino, Albert Sr.	Olmstead, Nelson	Rollins, Flossie	Tenney, Carlton E.	Wiseman, Warren
Kelly, Maureen A. & Duane	Mangino, Joseph D.	O'Neill, Patrick	Rollins, Philip R.	Tescher, Donald B. &	Witham, Nina A.
Dunbar	Manly, Susan S.	Ordway, Kelvin E.	Roque, Winifred	Margaret E.	Witham, Robert E.
Kervick, Paul K.	Maple Corner Waters--E.	Ortiz, Richard & Melanie	Rose, Robert C.	Thivierge, Roger J.	Witham, Wendell
Kilian, Jon	Holliday Kane	Ostrum, John P.	Roth, Juergen	Thomas, James H.	Withers, Wayland
Kimball, Earl C.	Marcotte, John A.	Overstrom, Brenda	Rouleau, Bonnie & Thomas R.	Thompson, Jason	Woodard, Charles A.
Kindestin, Joann F.	Mardin, Dona B.		Rowell, Francis E. Jr.	Thompson, Priscilla	Woodcock, Dwight
Kittredge, Roy	Marsh, Esther C.	Page, Elizabeth P.	Rueda, Richard A. & Shelley	Thorne, Nicholas	Woods, Diane
Knapp, James E. & Marilyn M.	Marsh, Marylou	Page, Laura	MacAulay	Thorne, Philip G.	Woods, Howard
Knapp, Wyness F.	Martell, Emeline	Paige, Diane J.	Ruiz, Constance	Thurber, Ethel A.	Woodward, Joanne M.
Knowles, Richard	Martin, Arlene S. & David L.	Paige, June S.	Russel, Earl	Thurston, Jason H. &	Workspace, Inc.
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Knox, William B.	Martin, Bonnie	Pappalardo, Cheryl A.	Salls, Vaughn A. & Judith K.	Thurston, Pamela	Wright, Jeffrey & Susan
Knox, William B. & M. Kate	Martin, Curtis C.	Parauka, Marion	Saltimocca, N. V.	Tierney, Patricia	Wright, Virgil
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Koss, Arnold J.	Massey, Edward & Norma	Clewley	Sanborn, Richard & Ruth E.	Tillotson, Evelyn	
Kotulak, Katherine	Matecat, Jean & pamela K.	Parker, Douglas J. &	Santamore, Joseph Estate of	Toffling, Lillian	Yarian, Stanley O. & Lucy
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Kumpf, Milton F.	Mattegat, Otto J.	Parker, Lola H.	Sargent, Charles A.	Cynthia	Young, Doreen & Stephen
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Labadie, Patricia	Matthew, Thomas M. &	Parker, Whitney F. & Burton B.	Sassone, Rose T.	Trask, Caroline	Young, J. Peter
LaCasse, Robert & Dianne	Susan W.	Parrot, Kenneth H. &	Saunders, Robert & Roberta	Treadway, Wade & Susan	
Lacey, Margie	Mattote, Mark	Claudia S.	Savedra, William C. &	Trepanier, Paul & Eldira	Zimmerman, John &
Ladd, Thurman	Matz, Joseph D. & Carol A.	Parry, John G. Sr.	Winona K.	Tripp, Yvonne L.	Valerie C.
Lafond, Stewart J. & Donna	Mayhew, Wanda	Paterson, David H. & Beverly	Sawyer, Richard P.	True, Gerald	
Lafountain, Steven D.	McAllister, Elwin			Turcotte, F. M.	

Renewable Energy: 'A Vision For Vermont'

Public Invited to Upcoming Burlington Conference

With its two major sources of electric power – Hydro Quebec and Vermont Yankee – approaching the end of their present contracts with Vermont utilities, the Green Mountain State is facing an uncertain energy future. It is time for choices to be made.

Will Vermont follow the prescription set out in recent federal energy legislation: increasing its reliance on fossil fuels, nuclear power and imported electricity to meet its energy needs? Or will it strike its own path, developing cleaner, more local energy-generation alternatives, investing in the state's renewable-energy industry, and increasing Vermont's energy independence?

These issues will be front and center

at a full-day conference hosted by Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) on Wednesday, September 21, at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington. "RENEWABLE ENERGY – A VISION FOR VERMONT," will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and interested businesses and members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend. Washington Electric Cooperative, which is a REV member, will be represented by Products and Services Director Bill Powell, General Manager Avram Patt, and members of WEC's Board of Directors.

Featured speakers will include: author Harvey Wasserman (*Harvesting Wind Energy As A Cash Crop*, 2002), who not only writes about but actively

promotes alternatives to nuclear power; Barrie Dunsmore, a former ABC News correspondent and current VPR commentator, whose keynote speech will address the linked issues of energy and the Iraq war; Gov. James Douglas (opening remarks at 9:10 a.m.) and Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie (welcoming address at lunch time).

Workshops will be held throughout the day, with facilitators from Vermont's leading alternative-energy businesses, current and past state regulatory officials, writers and researchers, and utility representatives. Topics will include "Wind Power in the Northeast," "The Climate Change Crisis Comes to Vermont," "The True Value of PV Distributed Generation," "Transportation

in Vermont – Renewable, Sustainable Solutions," and others.

"This is an important conference for Vermont," said WEC's Powell. "The choices facing our state in the immediate future will have ramifications for our economy, our security, our environment and quality of life. As one of the sponsors of the REV conference, the Co-op encourages anyone with an interest in energy issues – including builders, business people and residents trying to plan their own futures as energy consumers – to join us in attending."

For registration information readers are invited to contact REV by phone at 802-229-0099, or at REV@:http://www.revermont.org.

Manager's Report

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Q. Aren't wind developers just trying to make money, selling the power out-of-state, and taking advantage of government subsidies?

It is unfair to paint the companies developing wind generation in Vermont with the brush of profiteering and greed. Yes, people in business want to make money. And as long as we rely primarily on the private sector for our energy supply in this country, people who invest in generation expect a return.

Yet the people I have met from the several private companies hoping to develop wind projects in Vermont have a real commitment to

renewable energy sources, to the environment, and to responsible development. They are not Enron or ExxonMobil.

The energy from wind projects in Vermont can be sold to Vermont utilities like WEC, or some may be sold in other northeastern states. We are part of a regional grid, and the electricity Vermonters use comes from all over: southern New England, New York, northern Quebec, as well as from Vermont. Residents of the Northeast Kingdom and of central Vermont import much of the power they use from out of state, and from other parts of Vermont like Burlington or Vernon, depending on their utility.

Federal and state governments have created programs to encourage development of renewable energy. These include federal tax credits, and a "renewable energy certificate" (REC) market in New England. Every form of

energy we use – fossil fuel, nuclear, large and small hydro – has for many years been subsidized by federal tax policies, nuclear liability limits, and other government action. Incentives for development of renewables still remain small by comparison.

There is nothing wrong with developers taking advantage of these public programs, which help lower the cost to consumers. (In fact, as we've reported, WEC is selling the RECs associated with our landfill gas supply to

out-of-state entities, for the benefit our members.)

Q. Can't we just keep getting power from Vermont Yankee and Hydro Quebec?

Not really. Over the next eight-to-10 years those two contracts,

which supply about 60 percent of Vermont's needs statewide, will end. (WEC no longer gets power from Vermont Yankee.) This is not the place to start a whole other discussion about the enormous environmental and safety impacts of nuclear power or massive hydro projects, other than to say that our present major sources certainly have major impacts.


The relicensing of Yankee is uncertain, and HQ will need to complete massive new dams in order to meet Quebec's own needs, much less Vermont's. But even if these sources are "available," it is questionable whether Vermont Yankee or Hydro Quebec will want to enter into the long-term, stably priced contracts we might want. HQ has publicly stated that it won't.

In Closing...

Every choice we make will have tradeoffs; every source of generation will

affect the environment to a greater or lesser degree, whether in our own backyard or someone else's. We in Vermont would be wise to diversify when we have opportunities. That includes accepting responsible wind development

into our landscape, and encouraging developers to make sure that a good portion of the output benefits Vermont consumers.

Questions? Feel free to contact me or the members of your board. 



Right-Of-Way Reclearing Projects Scheduled

Additions to right of way reclearing projects for late summer and fall 2005

Affected Members with 'Special Trees' Should Call the Co-op

The Co-op will continue working to improve service reliability by reclearing power line rights-of-way in the areas described below. Right-of-way reclearing normally involves removing trees and pruning vegetation for 15 feet on either side of a single-phase distribution line. Except where noted, all of these projects involve single-phase lines, those carried by poles without crossbars. Reclearing projects often involve a tap. That's where a single-phase line takes power from another line.

Throughout the year, postcards are mailed to members notifying them that right-of-way maintenance is to take place. Also, WEC's automated message-delivery system will place a phone call (if a phone number is on file) to all households affected by such maintenance projects, up to two or three weeks before work on the property is to begin. Calls will be placed in the evening when most members are likely to be home. If no one answers, Co-op staff will attempt to reach that member during the day.

Because the evening calls are automated, they cannot hold the line if, for example, a child answers. If you believe you may have received a call from WEC, please call during office hours to check. If you have a tele-zapper you will not receive our automated calls successfully, so please notify us at WEC so we can delete you from our calling list. If you are notified that a portion of your property is to be recleared and you especially hope to save any particular trees that are within the right-of-way, call the Co-op. The Co-op's Forester and Right-of-Way Management Coordinator, Mike Myers, will be happy to talk with you about any problems.

WEC's Herbicide Policy: It has long been the Cooperative's policy not to use herbicides in power line rights-of-way. We do not use herbicides in our reclearing program or on members' property. The Co-op does occasionally make limited use of herbicides to control weed growth within our own substations.

Barre	Lines to Morgan Lane and Spruce Mountain View
Bradford	Wrights Mountain Road
Cabot	Ducharme Road from Carpenter Road to Tebbetts Road
Cabot/Peacham	Line to Robert Bartell (PE 16-B) Cow Hill Road
East Montpelier	Tap to Rock Road off of Lyle Young Road
Ryegate	Lines along Hall Road
Topsham	Willey Hill 3 phase line from Territory Road to East Topsham Village
Vershire	Judgement Ridge Area
Vershire	Lines near Vershire riding school
Williamstown	Line from Rood Pond Road to Weir Road, tap to John Taylor (WIL 120-H-20)
Williamstown	Line along Route 64 near intersection with Rood Pond Road
Williamstown	Ferno and Cold Spring Road, Line to George Parker (WIL 52-P)

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Make your home more comfortable and up to 30% more energy efficient through "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®." Your Comprehensive Home Assessment addresses such winter-related issues as:

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The average total costs of recommended improvements from a Comprehensive Home Assessment are about \$3,500.



For a limited time, the cost of a Comprehensive Home Assessment is \$150 (a savings of \$100) – and Efficiency Vermont (EVT) is offering to refund the \$150 fee if at least \$500 of recommended work is completed by, or supervised by, a certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® contractor within six months of your assessment. Making these improvements can yield up to a 30% reduction on your energy bills – an average savings of \$600 a year!

EVT is also working with local banks to offer financing with rates as low as 5%. Contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990, ext. 2000, for more details and a list of certified contractors.

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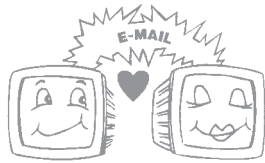
If you own a single item such as a TV, a VCR, a computer connected to the internet, a fax or phone answering machine, audio equipment, or a satellite or pay TV service, without surge protection you'll have to make up the replacement cost out of pocket in the event of a surge striking. Full protection, and an iron-clad warranty for all connected equipment.

Your equipment is exposed to power surges until you connect your equipment to one of the Panamax heavy-duty Max2 family of products. Be safe, not sorry!

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Coventry Generators

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availability of the power they use, WEC members now own a local production source that will provide a third (in the early stages) to a half (perhaps by 2008) of the Co-op's electric demand for as much 33 years, at a cost of less than 5 cents per kWh (net present value) during the initial 20-year contract period.

Come one, come all!

This is cause for a celebration. And that's just what we'll do, hosting a GRAND OPENING at the site at noon, Saturday, September 17, 2005.

Dignitaries traveling to Coventry will include Gov. James Douglas and U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders. Also expected are representatives from the many businesses that have helped bring the project to fruition, most notably Casella Waste Management Inc., the owner of the Coventry landfill and WEC's partner in developing the project.

By far the biggest contingent, however, will be WEC members.

"At the last count (before *Co-op Currents* went to press) we had 135 people from our member households signed up to join us at the opening," said General Manager Avram Patt. "That so many people want to take time on a Saturday to travel with us to Coventry and see what we have created with their support is very rewarding.

"And of course," he added, "there's

always room for more."

WEC members received an invitation to the September 17 opening via an insert in their August electric bills.

"We've chartered a 56-passenger bus that will leave from the Co-op at 10:30 a.m.," said Administrative Assistant Debbie Brown, "and we'll add additional school buses as we need them."

Other guests will include Gordon Deane of Palmer Management Corp., WEC's invaluable consultant with years of experience developing methane-generated power systems; representatives from Innovative Energy Solutions (IES), the designer and operator of the plant; La Capra Associates, the Boston-based firm that advises WEC on power-supply and economic issues; engineering firms Defresne-Henry and E-PRO Consulting; Pizzagalli, the Burlington construction company that built the plant; Vermont Electric Co-op, which put up 7.4 miles of transmission line to carry the power to the nearest VELCO substation; Milton Cat, the regional Caterpillar dealer that provided the engines that generate electric power; and other contractors and subcontractors.

State regulators, representatives from the Rural Utilities Service and the Cooperative Finance Corp. are also expected. And WEC has made it a point to invite officials and residents from the Coventry area – who are, in a sense, our hosts – to the gala event.

A special contingent is expected from



The generating station at the Coventry landfill, now in operation.

the Cape Light Compact on Cape Cod, which has contracted to purchase Renewable Energy Credits that help the Compact meet its "renewable portfolio" requirements under Massachusetts law, and provide WEC with needed income from the project.

'Woody' Hewitt

Harkening back to the 1940s when the Department of the Interior hired Woody Guthrie to compose songs lauding major hydroelectric projects that transformed the west, WEC has commissioned central Vermont poet Geof Hewitt to present an original poem about the landfill gas-to-electric project.

"We wanted to do something special and unusual to mark the event," Patt

explained. "Geof is a witty and unpredictable writer. People will enjoy seeing what he's come up with."

The gathering will convene at the construction lot for speeches and thank-yous, followed by tours of the generation station. "From there we'll go to the Eastside Restaurant in Newport for lunch," said Patt, with WEC covering the costs. "It's right on Lake Memphramagog, and is a lovely place to eat."

There's still time to sign up for the tour of WEC's new, much-heralded power station, the only large project of its kind in Vermont. Interested parties are encouraged to call the Co-op and speak with Debbie Brown.



'Energy Guy' Tips

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"strawman" approach, creating characters to illustrate some of the ways homeowners use (or misuse) energy through the examples of Ken and Connie Sumer (as in "consumer").

These supposedly typical homeowners are shown in all their consuming glory. Scheckel uses humor to expose their energy habits, as in this example where he begins a home energy audit, by knocking on the door:

"Hi, I'm from the power company. Have I found the Sumers?"

"Oh, yeah, yeah, right, I'm Connie. You're the energy guy, right? I forgot you were coming. Come on in. Excuse the mess. I can't hardly keep the place clean anymore."

I try to squeeze through the door so the dog doesn't make it in with me. It's always challenging to view other people's living space as your job site. You see right past whatever mess there may be, and even if the place is immaculate, people are compelled to

make excuses. I just want to get to work.

"So, can I get some of those free light bulbs?"

"Well, first I need to educate you about your sinful, energy-guzzling habits." I say smiling, as I launch into the Q & A portion of *The Energy Audit*.

"So, how old is this refrigerator?"

"Well, geez, we got that when we were still over in Plainfield. Yep, my daughter was four years old. But when we bought it, the salesman said it was one of them 'energy-sufficient' ones."

Gulp. "So how old is your daughter now?"

"What's that got to do with my light bill? You single?" ...and the process continues (and she does get efficient light bulbs, too)

Another mechanism Scheckel uses are "Math Boxes" — sidebar illustrations where the engineering and calculations needed to analyze energy data are laid out. Definitely not for every reader, but for those who are ready to change their household energy habits — this feature is quite useful.

Each chapter focuses on household energy sectors, including electricity,

appliance energy use, hot water, heating and air conditioning, and the building envelope. Within each chapter, Scheckel provides an energy overview in a global frame, which he then breaks down into "household" pieces. For example, in the "hot water" section Scheckel assembles data for water use for all Americans. Based on USGS 1995 data, some 400 billion gallons of water were used then, daily. An average U.S. residence uses 16 million BTUs of energy annually for heating water for domestic use; this constitutes approximately 21 percent of total average residential home energy use.

Scheckel then provides an inventory of ways to produce hot water, listing pros and cons for each. He describes the benefits of insulating hot water tanks, and the advantages of tankless (instantaneous) hot water systems. The author also lists maintenance duties for hot water systems, and details the specifications to look for when shopping for a new hot water system.

Diet for an efficient house

Throughout the book are sprinkled topics that Scheckel calls "diets": "lighting diet," "cooking diet," "waterbed

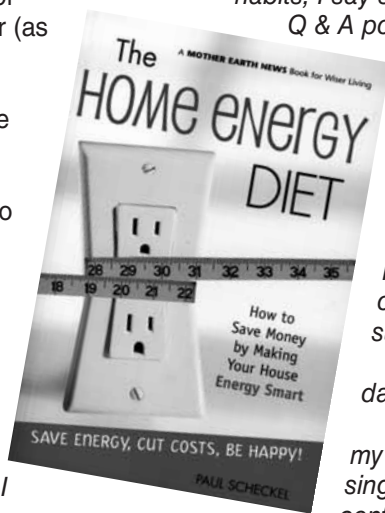
diet," and "refrigerator and freezer diet." These are short bullet lists specific to the topic, a *Cliff Notes* summary arranged by energy end-use.

One minor shortcoming of this (and other reference books citing energy costs) is that these costs have recently increased, as the global fossil fuel market has responded to higher demand and war. The references and examples cited are already somewhat dated, even in a book published in 2005.

The point, however, is that homeowners acting on Scheckel's "dietary" recommendations are likely to shed some of the weight of their energy costs, finding increased savings from energy investments in their homes.

Your book reviewer is someone who works daily with Co-op members, analyzing energy use, cost, equipment, and making energy-efficiency decisions. As such, I find this a particularly useful book. It provides good, basic information, and is written by a technical person who speaks in a clear and easily understood manner.

The Home Energy Diet (New Society Publishers, 2005) is available from the author. See: www.homeenergydiet.com.



Paul Scheckel