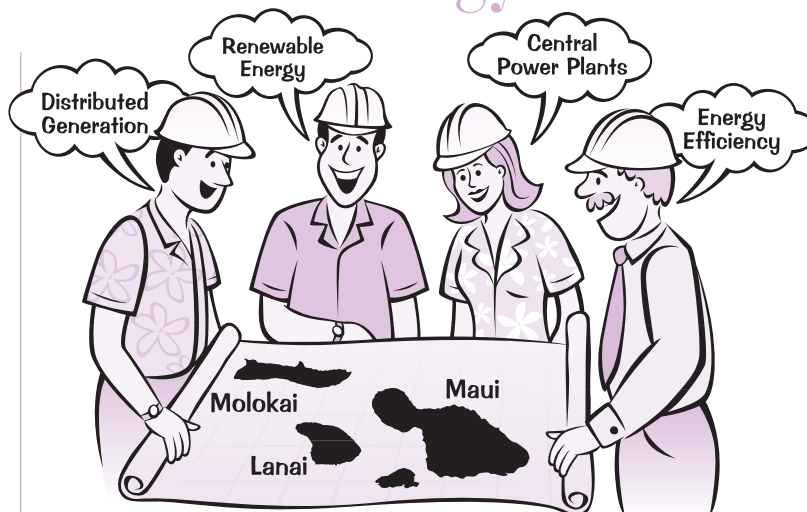


Planning our islands' energy future

Last April, in a Consumer Lines article on planning our islands' energy future, we explained that Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) is a long-term energy planning process designed to select the mix of resources that will help keep us "powered up" through the next decade and beyond. We want to update you on how that process is going.

During the past year, our advisory group, comprised of government, community, and business leaders, met monthly to discuss resource options. Mid-year we held public meetings to listen to community members and understand what you think about energy resources.

We are now in the process of analyzing the information we gathered from the public and from energy consultants and we



are reviewing our generation system's needs. This summer we expect to have developed several plans that show the possible mix of resources for our system. We will hold public meetings again to give you an opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on these possible resource plans.

In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more

about Integrated Resource Planning or attending meetings (which are open to the public), visit MECO's IRP Website, www.mecoirp.com. You will find information on MECO's IRP advisory group, general IRP information, presentations and minutes from our advisory group meetings, and notices on public meetings. Stay tuned; it's your future!

MECO is 85 years strong!



MECO employees are celebrating 85 years of service to their community.

On April 1, 1921, a group of business leaders met and formed the Maui Electric Company, Ltd. The group purchased Island Electric Company, which was in receivership, and in March 1923, MECO launched its business, determined to provide reliable electric service to the central valley communities of Wailuku and Kahului.

Electric service on Maui developed at plantations that operated generators to power their operations. Claus Spreckels

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installed the first electric lights on the island in September 1881, at the Spreckelsville Mill. The plantations later developed small electric companies that served independent communities.

Within ten years after taking over the collapsed Island Electric Company, MECO began extending its service area. During the late 1940s MECO built its first power plant, in Kahului, taking over power generation responsibilities from Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company.

MECO's expansion continued as Maui developed. In the mid 1960s MECO merged with Hana Light & Power and Lahaina Light & Power, making MECO an island-wide utility. And in 1968, MECO joined Oahu's Hawaiian Electric Company.

Today MECO provides electricity to three islands, Maui, Lanai (starting in 1988), and Molokai (starting in 1989), and continues to honor its original motto: to provide electric service to the islands, satisfaction to the customers, and success to the company.

Celebrate Earth Day April 22!

Everyone can celebrate Earth Day everyday by recycling, planting trees, and becoming more energy efficient. Here are a few things all of us can do to save energy:

- * Plant trees and shrubs on the sunnier east, west, and south sides of the home. They will reduce the need for mechanical cooling and will provide beauty and shade.
- * Keep heat from entering the home with window tinting. Select window film with a solar heat gain co-efficient (SHGC) of .40 or less.
- * Use natural ventilation or ENERGY STAR®-qualified ceiling fans instead of air conditioning. They will help you feel cooler, using far less energy.
- * Use natural daylight and light-colored interiors to reduce the need for lighting. After dark, use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) instead of standard incandescent bulbs. CFLs use 1/3 to 1/4 the energy for the same amount of light output.
- * Many consumer electronics (remote control TVs, DVDs, computers, charging devices, etc.) use small amounts of energy when they appear to be turned off. Either unplug them from the outlet or install a power strip between the outlet and the devices to switch them off. Consult with your cable or Internet service providers before disconnecting power to their devices.
- * If you're shopping for a new refrigerator or washer, look for the ENERGY STAR label and choose the most efficient model available. An inefficient model will cost more to operate.
- * Use the sun's free energy by hanging your clothes out to dry instead of using your electric dryer.
- * Eliminate most of your water heating bill with solar water heating. With MECO's \$1000 rebate and state and federal energy tax credits, there's never been a better time to install a solar water heater!

MECO encourages net energy metering

Increasing numbers of customers are installing renewable energy systems that produce electricity at their homes and businesses. MECO applauds 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 full value of 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 electric grid.

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.

MECO has two NEM agreements: 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.mauielectric.com.

Mini Popovers



1 cup milk
2 eggs
1 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon salt

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Using 3 muffin pans with 1 3/4-inch cups, grease only 6 cups in each pan (every other cup). Place pans in oven and preheat oven to 425 degrees. Put all ingredients into blender. Cover and blend at high speed for 15 seconds. Pour batter into the greased cups of the preheated pans. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Recipe makes 18 miniature popovers.